



June 1, 2017

VIA EMAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Ms. Kim Oliver
Department of the Interior
Office of Natural Resources Revenue
1849 C Street, NW, MS 5134
Washington, DC 20240
Kimiko.oliver@onrr.gov

Re: Nominations to DOI Royalty Policy Committee
FRN 82 FR 20610, 05/03/2017; <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/05/03/2017-08934/30-day-extension-of-nomination-period-for-the-royalty-policy-committee>

Dear Ms. Oliver:

On behalf of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), I am writing to nominate **David Crabtree**, **Michael Sorenson** and **Doreen Heuck** to the Royalty Policy Committee per the referenced Federal Register Notice.

David Crabtree is Senior Vice President and General Counsel at Deseret Power, a generation and transmission cooperative located in South Jordan, Utah that provides wholesale electric service to six electric distribution members that, in turn, provide retail electric service to over 45,000 customers in Utah and surrounding states. As General Counsel, Mr. Crabtree is responsible for all regulatory and legal matters at Underground Coal Mining Entity with operations in Rio Blanco County, Colorado, as well as regulatory, legal, environmental compliance and policy for a member-owned electric generating utility with significant operations located within the jurisdictional boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation, which serves customers located in tribal and state lands within a five State region.

Mike Sorenson is Senior Manager of Fuels and Water Resources at Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, a generation and transmission cooperative located in Westminster, Colorado, that provides wholesale electric service to 43 electric distribution cooperatives and public power districts in Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming. In his role at Tri-State, Mr. Sorensen directs the development, implementation and management of all coal resources, including coal lease maintenance with the BLM Little Snake Field Office. He also is responsible for developing and recommending short and long term strategies for economic fuel planning and scheduling, coal mine production and marketing. Tri-State is the 100% owner of the New Horizon and Colowyo mines in Colorado, has a 50% ownership share of Dry Fork in Wyoming, and a 24% ownership share of Trapper mine in Colorado.



June 1, 2017

Page 2

Doreen Heuck is the Business Manager for the Western Fuels Wyoming Dry Fork Mine, a coal production mine located in Gillette, Wyoming. In this capacity, Mrs. Heuck has many years of technical expertise in reporting coal royalty valuations across a wide range of coal mining entities. During her career, Mrs. Heuck has prepared and submitted required production tax and royalty filings, and has also managed tax and royalty audits over multiple coal mining operations across several states including Wyoming, Montana and Colorado.

As representatives of not-for-profit cooperative utilities whose infrastructure covers much of the rural West and who own mining interests that overlap with Federal and tribal lands, Mr. Crabtree, Mr. Sorenson and Mrs. Heuck are uniquely qualified to participate in the Royalty Policy Committee. In addition, as employees of cooperatives dedicated to providing reliable and affordable electric service to the communities they serve, they will bring a valuable perspective to the Committee's goal of "ensur[ing] that the public receives the full value of the natural resources produced from Federal lands."

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million people in 47 states. We urge the Department of the Interior to accept these nominations and appoint David Crabtree, Michael Sorenson and Doreen Heuck to the Royalty Policy Committee.

Thank you for your attention.

Kirk Johnson
Senior Vice President
Government Relations