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Nevada Minerals Industry Fact Sheet – 2017

Mineral Production

- Nevada led the United States in the production of gold in 2017. Nevada's mines produced 5,641,538 ounces compared to 5,467,646 troy ounces in 2016. Nevada's silver production was 8,477,388 ounces in 2017 versus 8,885,873 ounces in 2016.
- Nevada's gold mines contributed 71% of the U.S. gold production in 2017, and ranked 5th in world gold production. Only China, Australia, Russia, and Canada produced more gold than the State of Nevada.
- In addition to gold and silver, Nevada produced barite, copper, diatomite, dolomite, gypsum, lapidary and gemstones, limestone, lithium compounds, magnesium compounds, molybdenite, perlite, salt, silica sand, specialty clays, and specialty aggregates in 2017.
- In 2017, over \$8.0 billion in mineral commodities were produced in Nevada excluding construction aggregates.

Employment

- In 2017, there were on average 14,387 Nevadans directly employed by the mineral industry at an average salary of \$95,121. It is estimated that another 10,285 jobs are involved in supplying goods and services to the industry.

Geothermal

- There are 25 geothermal electric generating plants that sold 3.3 million megawatt hours of electricity in 2017. That is enough power to supply 262,000 typical homes.

Oil and Gas

- In 2017, approximately 280,970 barrels of oil were produced from oil wells in Elko, Eureka, and Nye counties.

Mineral Exploration

- Mineral exploration spending increased slightly from \$325 million in 2016 to \$351.2 million in 2017, possibly due to a slight increase in gold prices. In 2016, gold averaged \$1,250.74 and averaged \$1,257.12 in 2017. Exploration spending for lithium showed a slight decrease and accounted for \$20.7 million in spending.

Reclamation

- Approximately \$2.78 billion in reclamation bonds and other financial assurance were posted by operators, as of 2017, to ensure complete reclamation such that mined areas are returned to productive uses such as livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, or other natural resource uses.

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