



Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority
723 Railroad St. * Elko, NV 89801 *775-738-2100
www.eceda.com

Railport helping to diversify economy

September 14, 2012 Dylan Woolf Harris, *Elko Daily Free Press*



ELKO — In the event that one day the gold-laced ground dries up, the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority is banking on bringing other industry to the area to keep towns and communities from going belly-up.

Interestingly enough, one target business NNRDA is catering to diversify northeastern Nevada's mining economy is: Mining.

"We have gold mining here. So (bringing) other types of mining — that's diversifying. It uses the exact same resources we have to offer, the training that our college provides," said Pam Borda, NNRDA's executive director.

Factors that affect one mining industry don't always directly influence another, and the fluctuation of gold prices isn't as tightly tethered to businesses that support diverse mining.

"If the price of gold drops, it's not going to affect this molybdenum mine over here, or this processing facility over there," Borda said.

General Moly's molybdenum mines, and NOV's barite processing plant to open soon at the Northeastern Nevada Regional Railport, are recent examples of this type of diversification.

"We have Pacific Steel at the railport," Borda said. "Yeah, they're doing a lot of business with the mines, but their business isn't about mining, it's about recycling."



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NNRDA, formerly Elko County Economic Diversification Authority until the Legislature mandated funding for economic authorities go to regional bodies instead of counties, has actually been doing this type of diversification for some time. Now though, it's looking at the supply chain.

"We've got mining, we've got mine support companies, why don't we have the manufacturers of mining equipment and supplies? They should be here," Borda said. "Let's say gold prices go down and things aren't going so well for the gold mines, these guys that are manufacturing are still selling products all over the world and all over the nation," Borda said.

The railport itself is another diversification measure, Borda said. Recently, the Elko County Commission agreed to pay \$20,000 of upfront engineering costs, with an expectation of eventual reimbursement, to get a gas line to the property.

"It makes it much, much more valuable if you've got gas out there and companies don't have to use propane," Borda said.

Elko County, as a member, has been a strong supporter of the goals of NNRDA. At the meeting, Elko County Commissioner Charlie Myers confirmed that sentiment.

"You've had a busy year. It's been a great year, and NNRDA has done a great job," he said.

Attached to the commission's unanimous vote to fund engineering costs, the county also agreed to ask the city to consider chipping in for the upfront costs as well.

"I think the City of Elko benefits greatly from the railport with sales tax," Elko County Commissioner Glen Guttry said.

A new mining specialist position is also expected to benefit the cities and counties of northeastern Nevada. The Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Nevada Mining Association will split the cost and hire a mining specialist who will be housed at NNRDA.

"I couldn't be more excited. I'm just ecstatic," Borda said. "It's a resource we desperately need out here in the mining counties. It gives us a person that works with us and the state and can go out and help, not just us but all the counties, to expand in the mining, mining support, and mining supply chain."



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NNRDA is equally funded through state grants, governing members (such as county and municipalities based on population), and private business memberships.

For more information on NNRDA, visit eceda.com.