

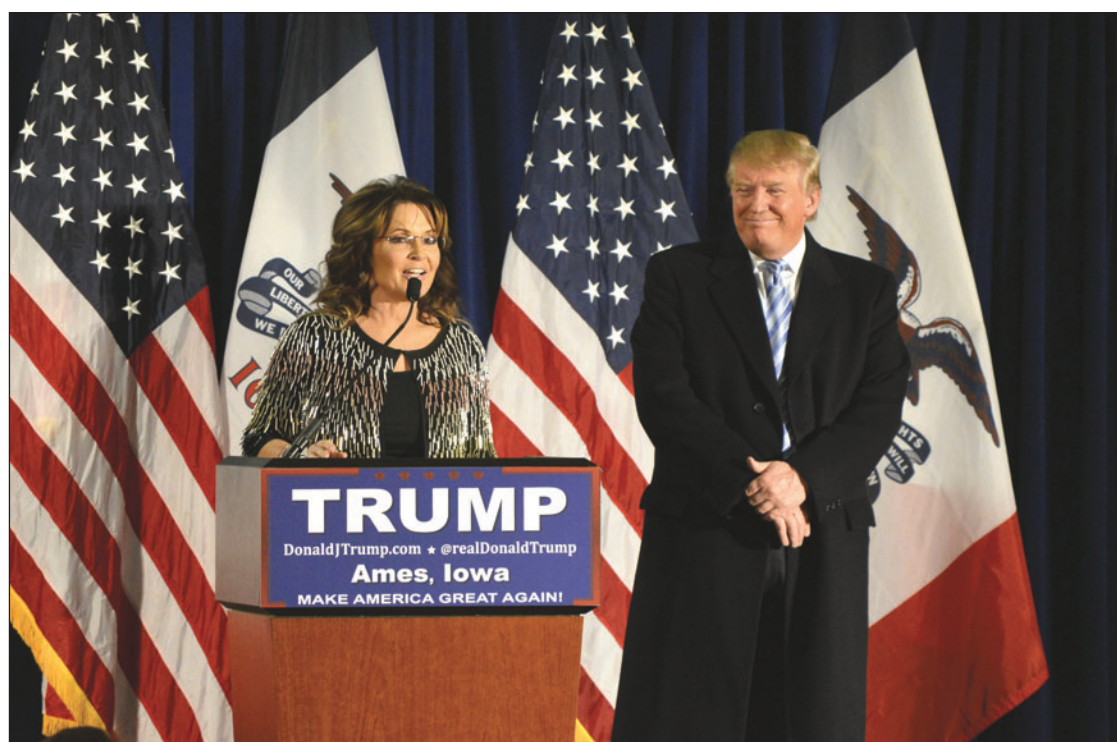


NEWS NUGGETS

Compiled by Shane Lasley

Ucore adds engineering strength to board with chairman, director picks

Ucore Rare Metals Inc. Nov. 22 announced the appointment of Patrick Ryan as chairman of its board of directors. He is the founder of Neocon International, a Nova Scotia-based plastics manufacturing company that serves as a tier one supplier to leading automotive enterprises such as Toyota, Nissan and General Motors. Since Neocon's inception in 1993, Ryan has been the company's strategic architect, responsible for sales growth and capital acquisitions, while directing a team of research and development engineers and promoting stringent production standards. Under Ryan's direction, Neocon was acquired in 2002 by Exco Technologies Ltd., a Toronto Stock Exchange listed company. "Tier one companies are the most technically-capable suppliers in the automotive manufacturing chain," explained Ucore President and CEO Jim McKenzie. "As chief architect of Neocon, Mr. Ryan brings a vast skill set to Ucore as we transition to a revenue business model with energy metal production. The end customers of our strategic metals complex will be tier one, two and three in a sophisticated supply chain, all of which Mr. Ryan is very attuned to serving, including such Global 1000 customers as General Motors, Nissan and Toyota among others." Ucore also announced the appointment of Steven Meister to its board. Meister is director of client development and delivery with Williams Engineering Canada Ltd., an engineering firm with offices across western and northern Canada. As a member of the senior leadership team at Williams, his key responsibilities include managing the northern Canada operating region, as well as directing business development and project management. Since 1995, Meister has been strategically involved in business initiatives throughout the mining, oil and gas, and utilities industries across northern and western Canada. He previously served as northern Canada operations manager for Stantec, and for ARDICOM, an aboriginal partnership between Northern Aboriginal Services Company, Arctic Cooperatives Ltd. and Northwestel. "Mr. Meister is a specialist in senior business development, targeting leading companies in the mining, (oil and gas), and utilities sectors. Together, these specialists make for an exceptional complement to Ucore's governance, management and advisory resources," added McKenzie.



Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin speaks at a rally after endorsing Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump at Iowa State University in January.

PHOTO BY ALEX HANSON

POLITICS

Alaskan for Interior?

Will Trump tap Palin, Gillam to lead federal land management agency?

By SHANE LASLEY
Mining News

The United States Department of Interior manages roughly 198 million acres of federally owned lands in Alaska, a block that is 10 percent larger than the entire state of Texas. So, it is only fitting that two Alaskans – Robert Gillam and former governor Sarah Palin – are being floated as contenders for secretary of Interior as President-elect Donald Trump builds his cabinet.

"Over 50 percent of our nation's federally protected lands are located in Alaska. This is why it makes so much sense for an Alaskan to lead the Department of the Interior and champion our great state while guiding our nation," Gillam explained

in a written statement explaining his interest in the job.

While both of these candidates would likely be more open to access and development of federal lands in Alaska than current Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell, Alaska's mining community would much rather see Palin take the job, or someone from outside of the state, than to have Gillam hold such a high post in the Trump Administration.

Gillam aspirations

While Gillam may not be a household name, as founder and CEO of McKinley Capital Management, an Anchorage-based advisory firm

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