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- Trends
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# STILLWATER ROCK MAY SIMULATE MOON DUST

By The Associated Press

Story Published: Oct 1, 2009 at 10:49 AM MDT  
(Story Updated: Oct 1, 2009 at 10:49 AM MDT )

NYE - The Stillwater Mine, the only platinum and palladium mine in the United States, appears to be the only place in the country that NASA can find rocks with a combination of minerals similar to moon rock. This week, scientists from NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey collected rock samples to be processed into a fine gray powder that is very similar to moon dust. NASA is looking for rock similar to what would be found on the moon to test new technology that would be used in a permanent lunar station.

The technology includes using lunar material in construction, reducing the health effects of dust, extracting oxygen from the broken rock to make water and air and making rocket fuel for space travel. NASA project manager Mark Hyatt says the agency wants to return to the moon by 2020.


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


47.0 °  
Current Temp  
F

Mostly Cloudy

Wind : Calm  
Pressure : 1020.7 mb  
Humidity : 39 %  
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**Butte**







44.0 °  
Current Temp  
F

Fair

Wind : Calm  
Pressure : 1019.2 mb  
Humidity : 41 %  
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