



COVID-19 UPDATE



Issue 2 - April 15, 2020

This Week in COVID-19 News

The National Mining Association (NMA) remains actively engaged with the White House and multiple branches of government in the response to the COVID-19 crisis. The effort includes public communications regarding the essential nature of mining, safety actions taken by our members, and contributions being made by NMA member companies. Plus we have updates on both the crisis and its impact on energy and mining markets.

SAFETY SHARE: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published guidance on [how to run essential errands](#) during periods of social distancing.

NMA Named to White House Economic Revival Industry Groups

NMA President and CEO Rich Nolan was selected to represent mining on the [White House's Great American Economic Revival Industry Groups](#). One of 12 trade association leaders joining a roster of top business executives from all sectors of the economy, he will participate today in the first conference call with President Donald Trump. The White House indicated it will hold a series of calls with industry leaders to get their perspectives and hear their challenges in the next period of economic recovery.

Royalty Relief

Based on feedback from NMA member companies, state mining associations and congressional offices, the NMA initiated an effort to reduce or suspend federal coal royalty payments on public lands to the U.S. Treasury. Members of Congress helped with letters ([Senate letter](#) and [House letter](#)) to the Department of the Interior (DOI). DOI responded that, although open to royalty relief, it would evaluate it on a case-by-case basis.

Companies may apply for discretionary royalty relief following the Bureau of Land Management's [Manual 3485](#). The operator or payor normally initiates the royalty reduction process by submitting an application to the BLM under 43 C.F.R. § 3103.4-1(b). A detailed memo on DOI's royalty relief response is [available to NMA members](#). NMA is continuing to work with DOI, member companies and other trade association partners to ensure interested NMA members can take full advantage of relief.

Critical Manufacturing Sector Council

The NMA was invited to become an associate member of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's [Critical Manufacturing Sector Coordinating Council](#), joining more than 70 other private sector companies to better facilitate the government's collaboration with the critical manufacturing sector on topics such as infrastructure security, sector safety and operations, while utilizing this new role to provide additional information to our members.

Supporting Recovery Efforts

The NMA is assisting U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency in mapping personal protective equipment (PPE) supply across the country to respond to COVID-19-related shortages. In the event of a regional emergency and need for supply, FEMA would contact organizations directly about donations or to purchase PPE. The highest priority item in demand is N95 respirators, but supplies of goggles, gloves, gowns, protective suits or any

other PPE equipment are also of interest. If your organization has any supply of PPE items for sale or donation, please contact [Graham Palmer](#) and describe the quantity of items available, price and where the items are currently located.

Telling Member Stories

The NMA has pushed for coverage of the importance of minerals to the fight against COVID, contributing to *National Journal's* piece "Coronavirus crisis spurs calls for [more U.S. mining](#)," and launching a new ["Smart Surfaces" infographic](#).

We also continue to share stories of our [members doing their part](#) for the communities in which they live and work by providing financial assistance, educational tools and personal protective equipment for coronavirus response teams. NMA's Count on Coal and Minerals Make Life websites and social media also featured [member company actions](#).

NMA and Third Party Voices

The NMA and its third parties continue to place editorials across the country on the importance of our industry to the country and economy.

New this week :

- The [Montana Standard](#) and the [Elko Daily](#) published an op-ed by Rich Nolan in which he discusses the important role mining will play in our nation's economic recovery.
- The [Towanda Daily Review](#), [Rockland County Times](#), [Pottstown Mercury](#), [Exton Daily Local](#), [Swarthmore Times Herald](#), [Phoenix Reporter](#), [Mainline Media News](#), [Lansdale Reporter](#), [Troy Daily News](#), [Piqua Daily Call](#) and [Deseret News](#) all ran an op-ed by Matthew Kandrach, president of Consumer Action for a Strong Economy (CASE), in which he argues more surfaces should be made of antimicrobial metals like copper.
- [The Marietta Times](#) carries an op-ed from Mike Cope, president of the Ohio Coal Association, in which he argues the coal industry remains essential and is worthy of smart, targeted support to weather the crisis.

- [Morning Consult](#) ran a piece by Tom Madison, a former U.S. Federal Highway Administrator, in which he advocates for regulatory reforms in the upcoming infrastructure legislation to support minerals mining activity.
- [The Ogden Standard-Examiner](#) carries an op-ed from Gary Sandquist, a professor emeritus at the University of Utah, calling for mine permitting reform to aid the nation's economic recovery and address our alarming mineral import reliance.

U.S. Virus Response Updates

U.S. House and Senate leaders pushed back Congress's previously expected return date of April 20, 2020, to a new date of [at least May 4, 2020](#).

Republicans and Democrats [remained at an impasse](#) over proposals to replenish funds for the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program.

The Department of Treasury released [additional FAQs](#) on the Paycheck Protection Program and updated its CARES Act website to include specific sections on assistance for American [workers and families](#), assistance for [small businesses](#), assistance to [state and local governments](#), and preserving jobs for [American industry](#).

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) [issued guidance](#) regarding the CARES Act provision allowing taxpayers with net operating losses arising in 2018, 2019 or 2020 to carry those losses back five years. The IRS also granted a [six-month extension](#) to file an application for tentative carryback adjustment. In addition, the IRS issued guidance allowing eligible partnerships to file [amended partnership returns](#).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued interim guidance on [Implementing Safety Practices](#) for Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19."

The Occupational Safety & Health Administration [issued interim guidance](#) stating it will not require employers (other than those in the health-related industries) to record COVID-19 illnesses on their 300 log except in certain instances.

Energy and Mining COVID-19 Impact News

The NMA contributed to *National Journal's* piece "Coronavirus crisis spurs calls for [more U.S. mining.](#)"

Seventeen Republican U.S. Senators urged the federal government [not to exclude coal](#) from economic stimulus actions.

POWER and *Utility Dive* examined declining electricity demand related to coronavirus.

GlobalData forecast that world coal production would [increase 0.5 percent](#) by the end of the year despite COVID-19 constraints.

GlobalData also forecast that COVID-19 will reduce China's iron ore output this year [by 3 percent](#), while India's iron ore exports are expected to [drop by 25 percent](#).

International Copper Study Group data through December 2019 showed copper production in a number of countries [increasing from constrained output in 2018](#).

The CRU Group forecasted [steady capex investment growth](#) mid-term for base metals and precious metals, although it is too soon to know the impact of COVID-19.

Association of American Railroads carloadings data, a good real-time measure of industry health, showed [declining shipments of mining products](#) with coal down 17.2 percent, metals down 1.4 percent, and nonmetals down 7.1 percent.

NMA COVID-19 Resources

The NMA is maintaining a comprehensive suite of online resources for [Coronavirus Assistance and Response](#). Resources include both [health, safety and business assistance](#) for NMA members and a chronicle of the American [mining industry's response to the current crisis](#).

Tell Us About Your COVID-19 Response

National Mining Association is continually working to gather information about how the COVID-19 crisis is affecting our members. Information will be used in discussions with policymakers and decision makers at all levels of government and will help illustrate how mining is giving back to the communities where we live and work.

Please **contact Ashley Burke** with on-going accounts of your responses to the global pandemic.