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MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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Brought to you by the National Mining Association

This Week in The News

Congress remains out of session until after Labor Day, but executive actions continue to show no signs of taking a summer recess. The National Mining Association (NMA) remains focused on actively engaging to advance mining's interests at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. Plus, we have updates on how the mining and energy markets are faring.

Safety Share

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's annual "[Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over](#)" campaign is under way. One person is killed about every 42 minutes in a drunk-driving crash, totaling more than 12,000 lives lost each year.

NMA Launches Industry Careers Video



To support industrywide recruitment efforts, the NMA this week launched a new video intended to highlight the extraordinary job opportunities available in mining and dispel misperceptions about our industry. The video can also be viewed [here](#).

In the coming weeks we will be promoting this video – the first in a series – across the NMA's digital channels through both organic and paid media promotion. We will be targeting graduates and soon-to-be graduates looking at career opportunities; policymakers and their staff in both Washington, D.C.,

and mining states; and mining fans, friends and other interested individuals. We will be focusing on NMA, Minerals Make Life and Count on Coal channels including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Truth Social and YouTube channels, while embedding the video in our own e-newsletters and blogs. We encourage our members to share this video on their own channels. This initial video will be followed next week by a series of shorter employee interviews and, in September, by a video that focuses on the mining industry as a good neighbor.

Importantly, none of these videos would be possible without the extraordinary time and effort spent by the teams at Core Natural Resources and Perpetua, who spent months with the NMA planning in advance, and hosting us on-site for extended shoots and interviews; we thank them and all of their employees for their contributions.

MSHA Confirms Silica Compliance Deadlines Stayed



As reported in April, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit issued an [order](#) granting the NMA's motion to stay compliance deadlines in the Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) silica rule pending judicial review. As a result, MSHA cannot legally enforce the rule until litigation is resolved. Last week, the NMA received reports that some MSHA inspectors did not fully understand the breadth of the court order and there was confusion regarding

the expiration of MSHA's separate April enforcement pause on Aug. 18, 2025. That expiration does not undermine the effectiveness of the court order. In a [notice to stakeholders](#) this week, MSHA confirmed that court's order prevents enforcement of the silica rule until the litigation is concluded.

The NMA Supports EPA's Carbon Power Sector Standards Repeal

The NMA recently filed [comments](#) responding to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) [proposal](#) to repeal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions standards for the power sector under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act (now called the Carbon Pollution Standards). For additional information on this rule, please review NMA's [memorandum](#) distributed on June 20, 2025. The NMA's comments support EPA's decision to rescind the unachievable and unlawful 2024 rule that imposed 90 percent carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) and natural gas "co-firing" based standards on coal-powered electric generating units (EGUs). The NMA also supports EPA's decision to address its failure to properly conduct an appropriate significant contribution analysis under Clean Air Act section 111(b)(1)(A). The NMA asks EPA to finalize its repeal of the 2024 emissions standards first, its significant contribution finding determination second, and separately propose and finalize a repeal of the 2015 rule that imposed 40 percent CCS on new coal-powered EGUs.

The NMA Supports EPA's MATS Repeal

The NMA last week filed [comments](#) responding to EPA's [proposal](#) to repeal the 2024 amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air

Pollutants for coal- and oil-fired electric utility steam generating units (EGUs) (commonly known as the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, or simply MATS) under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act. For additional information on this proposal, please review NMA's [memorandum](#) distributed on June 20, 2025. Our comments support EPA's decision to repeal the 2024 MATS revisions and to restore the formerly applicable standards in light of both its determination that MATS already provides an ample margin of safety and its failure to identify new developments that warrant revising the standard. Specifically, we defend EPA's decision because: (1) the costs associated with the new filterable particulate matter standards are not reasonable; (2) the new mercury standards for lignite facilities are not achievable; (3) the new requirement for particulate matter continuous emission monitoring systems is not justified; and (4) the MATS revisions were unnecessary due to the lack of residual risk. We also argue that EPA should reinstate the "low-emitting EGU" policy.

DOE Announces Intent to Issue Notices of \$1 Billion in Funding Opportunities



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY**

The Department of Energy (DOE) has [announced](#) plans to issue nearly \$1 billion in funding opportunities to strengthen domestic critical minerals and materials supply chains, in line with President Trump's Executive Order on Unleashing American Energy. The funding will support technologies that reduce reliance on foreign sources and bolster U.S. energy security, defense, and industrial competitiveness.

The funding opportunities include \$50 million for technology acceleration in areas such as rare-earth magnets and direct lithium extraction, \$250 million for byproduct recovery pilots at domestic facilities, \$135 million for a rare earth elements demonstration facility, and up to \$500 million to expand U.S. battery materials processing, manufacturing, and recycling. An additional \$40 million under ARPA-E will fund technologies to recover critical minerals from industrial wastewater. The NMA will continue to work with DOE to promote funding opportunities for domestic mining.

USGS to Hold a virtual pre-briefing of Updated Critical Minerals List

As it prepares to release its updated, 2025 draft list of critical minerals, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will hold a virtual briefing on Thursday, August 21 at 3 p.m. Eastern, to discuss timing and processes of the updated list. Dr. Teresa Kirschling, acting USGS Associate Director for Energy and Minerals, will lead the briefing and is expected to take questions specifically related to timing and process of the USGS's activities. Please find a Teams link to the briefing [here](#). Additionally, the USGS anticipates holding a similar session the day the draft 2025 List of Critical Minerals is released. The effort follows President Trump's March 20 EO ([14241](#)), titled *Immediate Measures To Increase American Mineral Production*, which defined "mineral" as a "critical mineral, as defined by 30 U.S.C. 1606(a)(3), as well as uranium, copper, potash, gold, and any other element, compound or material as determined by the Chair of the National Energy Dominance Council (NEDC)." The NMA will participate on Thursday's briefing and continue to advocate for further expansion of the Critical Minerals List.

Workforce: Departments of Labor, Commerce and Education launch America's Talent Strategy



The Departments of Labor, Commerce and Education recently released ***America's Talent Strategy: Building the Workforce for the Golden Age***, a comprehensive proposal to strengthen workforce development through training, worker mobility, integrated systems, accountability, and innovation. This presents opportunities for mining companies to strengthen workforce pipelines, upskill employees, and attract new talent.

For mining, the strategy encourages apprenticeships in areas such as equipment operation, mineral processing, safety compliance, and emerging skills in automation and AI. It also promotes credential-based hiring, closer partnerships with state workforce boards, and performance-driven training programs. The NMA will continue to work with the administration to advance policies that help address the workforce needs of the mining community.

David Rosner Named New FERC Chair



President Trump has elevated David Rosner, a centrist Democrat and Biden-appointed Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Commissioner, to serve as Chair of FERC. However, with two Republican-leaning nominees, Laura Swett and David LaCerte, still awaiting Senate confirmation, Rosner's tenure as Chairman is expected to be short-lived. Once confirmed, one of Trump's appointees will be expected to assume the chairmanship of the five-member commission.

The NMA Files Comments on EPA's CWA 401 Certification Pre-Rulemaking Docket

The NMA recently filed [comments](#) in response to the EPA's [pre-rulemaking docket](#) on Clean Water Act (CWA) section 401 implementation challenges. EPA requested comment on several questions related to defining the scope of certification and certification conditions, water quality requirements,

neighboring jurisdictions, categorical determinations, and other stakeholder input on experience with the existing rule.

See NMA's [memorandum](#) distributed on July 10, 2025, for additional details. EPA will use feedback received to determine next steps to address "identified areas of regulatory uncertainty or implementation challenges regarding the scope of certification." The NMA's comment letter is based on previous positions taken during the last two rulemakings on the CWA section 401 program, while including additional concerns related to the "may affect" determination under section 401(a)(2) in response to member company feedback. The NMA also supported a coalition [letter](#) led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and signed by 15 other industry trade associations.

EPA Publishes 2024 Preliminary TRI Data

EPA published preliminary toxic release inventory (TRI) data for the 2024 reporting year. Access to this information can be found through the [TRI website](#) or on EPA's [Envirofacts](#) website. The public can use this data to identify facilities that reported to the TRI program and the quantities of TRI chemicals that facilities reported as "released" into the environment or otherwise managed as waste, as well as details about pollution prevention activities initiated by individual facilities during 2024. This dataset contains the data as submitted by over 21,000 facilities and does not include any summary or trend analysis and has not yet been through the complete TRI data quality process. In 2024, EPA collected some new TRI data, including [seven per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\)](#) and a [diisononyl phthalate category](#), to the TRI list. This preliminary data set is available to the public from July to September, with the final dataset released in October 2025. EPA will use this data to create the 2024 TRI National Analysis, which is typically released in the Spring. Notably, EPA has not released the 2023 TRI National Analysis. We are

actively monitoring for its release and have reached out to the agency regarding the delay.

The NMA Comments in Support of Revisions to Powder River Basin Resource Management Plans



The NMA last week filed comments in support of revisions to the Bureau of Land Management’s resource management plans (RMPs) for the [Miles City](#) and [Buffalo](#) field offices. The NMA comments supported the revisions as necessary to reverse the Biden administration's de facto coal moratorium on new federal coal leasing in the Powder River Basin, the largest coal producing region in the U.S. To remedy a major failure in the 2024 RMP amendment process, the NMA urged BLM to adequately analyze the impacts to the reliable and affordable electricity. To assist the BLM with that analysis, the NMA provided information on energy demand trends and the integral role of dispatchable coal baseload power in maintaining a healthy, safe, and modern standard of living.

NMA Participates in West Virginia Coal Association Annual Meeting



The NMA's Richard Russell, Ashley Burke and Jerry Mullins participated in the West Virginia Coal Association's Annual Meeting Aug. 7-10. Speakers included Sen. Jim Justice (W. Va.); Chris Hamilton, President, WV Coal Association; Jimmy Brock, Executive Chair, Core Natural Resources; Mike Day, Chief Executive Officer, Eagle Summitt Resources; and many others. The NMA's Richard Russell sat down with Adam Tomlinson, Staff Director for the Senate EPW Committee to discuss developments from the Hill, while Ashley Burke discussed polling and messaging in the current environment.

NMA Participates in Inaugural Critical Minerals Leadership Academy

Last week, Martha Newell, Director of Government and Political Affairs at NMA, joined the inaugural cohort of the Critical Minerals Leadership Academy,

sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and hosted at the University of Wyoming's Energy Resource Center. The program brought together academics and industry professionals from across the critical minerals supply chain, including engineers, geologists, economists, social scientists, and policy experts.

Through the program, participants heard from leading experts at DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory, the Colorado School of Mines, the University of Wyoming, the U.S. Geological Survey, Sandia National Laboratories, and the Department of Commerce. Mel Sanderson of American Rare Earths shared insights on the industry perspective for domestic mineral extraction and processing. The group also toured Dry Fork Mine in Gillette, Wyo., and Rare Element Resources in Sundance, Wyo., gaining a first-hand look at mining operations and the reclamation process.

**Register TOMORROW for the NMA Fall
Board of Directors and Members Meeting**

Fall Board of Directors and Annual Members Meeting



Tomorrow you will receive a link to register for this year's NMA Fall Board of Directors and Members Meeting, which will be held Sept. 21-23, 2025, at The Broadmoor, in Colorado Springs, Colo. We are developing a robust agenda including speakers who will lead thoughtful discussions, NMA business meetings and plenty of time for visiting, networking and socializing with colleagues and their families. Below is a tentative agenda for the meeting. A more detailed agenda will be provided in the coming weeks.

Hotel rooms in the NMA block are on a first-come, first-serve basis. The group rate (\$409/night) will be available until August 29, 2025, or until the block is

full. Click [here](#) to reserve a room at The Broadmoor.

Members are invited to bring their families, and there will not be an additional charge for family members who attend, although individuals who work in the industry cannot be registered as family.

Should you have any questions, please contact [Katie Coon](#).

NMA and Third Parties In the News

[The Washington Times](#) (D.C.) carries an op-ed by Rich Nolan in which he argues if the U.S. is to seize the AI moment and ensure this technology is developed under American safeguards, electricity availability is key, and the coal fleet is uniquely positioned to meet the moment.

From our third parties, [Real Clear Energy](#) (D.C.) carries an op-ed by Thomas Madison Jr., an infrastructure consultant and the former administrator of the U.S. Federal Highway Administration, in which he argues now is the time to empower U.S. producers with the regulatory certainty they need to mine and process the copper in our own backyard.

The [Marin Independent Journal](#) (Calif.), [Citrus County Chronicle](#) (Fla.) and [Jacksonville Journal Courier](#) (Ill.) carry an op-ed by Syd Peng, the Charles E Lawall Chair of Mining Engineering emeritus in the Department of Mining Engineering at West Virginia University, in which he argues more efficient, more flexible and lower-emission coal plants are the future.

Mining and Energy News

[**Argus**](#) reported that Powder River Basin (PRB) coal production climbed from year-earlier levels for a second consecutive quarter in April-June, supported by recent upticks in U.S. coal generation and shifting energy regulations. PRB coal production jumped to 53.3 million short tons.

[**Washington Examiner**](#) reported that Australia is working to establish itself as a dominant producer in the critical minerals and rare earth space and looking to set a price floor to support critical minerals and rare earth projects.

EIA's recent [**Today in Energy**](#) report found that electricity demand in the Lower 48 states exceeded previous peaks on two days in the last week of July amid hot weather and underlining demand increases.

[**Politico Pro**](#) reported that the Interior Department has approved an expansion of Westmoreland Coal's Rosebud mine in Montana, allowing the site to continue producing coal through 2039.

[**Energywire**](#) reported that companies in the uranium enrichment business are struggling to keep up with America's growing nuclear energy ambitions.

[**Real Clear Energy**](#) reported that rising energy demand calls for greater use of coal-based power plants.

[**Argus**](#) reported that monthly U.S. thermal coal exports of 2.91 million short tons dropped below 3 million tons for the first time in almost two years in June due to lower exports out of the New Orleans, Baltimore, Mobile and Seattle districts. Thermal coal exports were lower to most counties compared to June 2024.

[**Climatewire**](#) reported that the Department of Energy faces a monumental decision this month over the future of a Michigan coal plant. What it decides could forecast how far President Trump is willing to go to save the U.S. coal

industry.

[Argus](#) reported that coal generation in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) rose from year-earlier levels for an eighth straight month in July, as elevated natural gas prices led to fuel switching.

[Politico Pro](#) reported that the Interior Department has moved forward with fast-track approval of Wolverine's Skyline coal mine expansion and lease sale in Utah.

[EIA's](#) Domestic Uranium Production Report for 2024 indicates that U.S. uranium mines produced 677,000 pounds of tri-uranium octoxide (U_3O_8), or uranium concentrate, in 2024, a significant increase from the 50,000 pounds produced in 2023. Exploration and development drilling activities in 2024 were at the highest levels since 2013 for number of holes drilled and for total footage drilled.

[Greenwire](#) reported that researchers say they have once again seen an elusive jaguar in southern Arizona, as environmentalists contend a federal border wall and copper mining threaten the animal's historical habitat.

[Climatewire](#) reported that Wyoming expects to collect \$50 million less each year from coal mined on federal lands after President Trump's signature legislation lowered royalty rates.

[Argus](#) reported that Core Natural Resources is idling most of its Itmann coal mine in West Virginia, citing higher production costs.

[FreightWaves](#) reported that a trade group representing 3,500 chemical, manufacturing, agriculture, and energy companies warned that past history shows that a proposed merger of Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern may push up shipping costs without improving service.

[**DOI.Gov**](#) announced the approval of a mining plan modification that will unlock 14.5 million tons of federally owned coal at NTEC's Antelope coal mine in Converse County, Wyoming. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement issued the decision following completion of a rigorous environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

[**Morningstar**](#) reported NTEC announced the return of a 2,211-acre parcel of Navajo land first leased for coal mining in 1957. This is an historic event since no other mining company has previously fully reclaimed coal mine land to today's standards to allow for its proper release from Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) jurisdiction back to the Navajo Nation. The parcel is located at the north end of NTEC's Navajo Mine.

[**Reuters**](#) and others reported that explosions at a U.S. Steel's Clairton coke plant near Pittsburgh left two dead and multiple injuries last week.

[**Energywire**](#) reported that Arizona Public Service (APS) plans to extend its use of its Four Corners coal plant on Navajo Nation land in New Mexico until 2038 rather than retire it in 2031 to help avert an electricity reliability crunch in the West.

[**Pennsylvania News**](#) reported that Cleveland Cliffs has notified United Steelworkers (USW) leaders that the status of the company's Conshohocken-area steel plant will change from "indefinite idle" to "closed" on November 4.

[**Argus**](#) reported that coal generation in the PJM Interconnection increased sharply in July from a year earlier while taking market share from natural gas and nuclear power to meet higher load demand.

[**Energywire**](#) reported on new analysis from Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) forecasting that exponential growth in artificial intelligence could push

total AI peak power requirements to 50 gigawatts by 2030.

The [**Department of Energy**](#) announced its intent to issue notices of funding opportunities (NOFO) totaling nearly \$1 billion to advance and scale mining, processing, and manufacturing technologies across key stages of the critical minerals and materials supply chains.

[**E&E News PM**](#) reported that House lawmakers used a hearing on the Defense Production Act (DPA) last week to highlight the growing need for federal investments in critical mineral supply chains. Congress is looking to reauthorize the DPA before its September 30 expiration date.

[**Argus**](#) reported that U.S. thermal coal exports this year and in 2026 may be lower than previously thought, the Energy Information Administration said.

[**E&E News PM**](#) reported that House democrats are calling on the Trump administration to provide more information about ongoing negotiations with the mineral-rich Democratic Republic of the Congo and warned about conflicts of interest and a lack of congressional consultation.

[**Washington Examiner**](#) reported that the price of electricity rose by more than double the rate of inflation in July. Electricity price gains have outpaced inflation for more than two and a half years.

[**E&MJ**](#) reported that Mitsubishi Corp. will acquire a 30 percent interest in Copper World LLC, a subsidiary of Hudbay Minerals that owns the fully-permitted Copper World project in Arizona, for \$600 million.

[**Argus**](#) reported that the U.S. Interior Department intends to expedite its review of a proposed coal mining expansion on federal land in Wyoming. It will prepare an environmental impact statement evaluating a change to Black Butte Coal's mining plan that would access an additional 9.2 million short tons of

federal coal reserves and complete the review by September 9, under speedier National Environmental Policy Act timelines.

[E&MJ](#) reported that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) signed the Record of Decision (ROD) during July for Waterton Mining's Spring Valley gold project, located 50 miles south of Winnemucca, Nevada, in Pershing County, just north of Coeur's Rochester mine. The decision marks the first Federal approval of a domestic gold mine project in more than a decade. Spring Valley could soon become the largest independent gold mine in the U.S.

[Argus](#) reported that coal generation in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) climbed from a year earlier in July, winning favor over natural gas as hot weather increased overall electricity demand in the region.

[Mining.com](#) reported that Peninsula Energy announced it has received approval from Wyoming's Uranium Recovery Program (URP) to commence start-up of Phase 2 of the central processing plant (CPP) at the Lance project.

[Energywire](#) reported on Wood Mackenzie research finding that U.S. utilities may face soaring costs and worsening shortages in the supply of electric power transformers, threatening to slow the growth of data centers and artificial intelligence expansion.

Trade Corner

This week, U.S. trade policy developments continued to impact the mining sector. On August 19, the Commerce Department expanded Section 232 steel and aluminum tariffs to more than 400 additional product categories, raising costs on critical inputs such as railcars, construction machinery, electrical steel and wind turbines. A Section 232 investigation into processed critical minerals is still underway, with a final report due in October that could recommend

further action. Copper tariffs of 50 percent on semi-finished goods, imposed August 1, remain in effect. At the same time, reciprocal tariffs that took effect August 7 now apply to over 60 countries at rates up to 50 percent, with India and Brazil facing steep penalties and allies like Canada seeing rates near 35 percent on top of most favored nation rates. The U.S. and China also extended their tariff truce for another 90 days, through November 10, maintaining U.S. tariffs at 30 percent and China’s reciprocal duties at 10 percent. While this pause avoids further escalation, supply chain risks and pricing volatility for the sector remain significant. Legal challenges to the administration’s tariff authority are ongoing, but for now tariffs remain in place. As always, to stay up to date on these fast-moving issues, please join the NMA Weekly Trade Call every Wednesday at 1:00 PM Eastern.

Commodity Prices

Commodity Prices - Snapshot				
Metals Prices	Date	Price	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/13/25	\$15.12	8/19/25	\$15.12
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/14/25	\$4.47	8/19/25	\$4.41
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	8/13/25	\$3,362.05	8/19/25	\$3,337.90
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/13/25	\$0.90	8/19/25	\$0.89
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	8/14/25	\$11.43	8/19/25	\$11.78
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	8/13/25	\$68.71	8/19/25	\$69.65
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/13/25	\$6.91	8/19/25	\$6.81
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	8/14/25	\$38.31	8/19/25	\$38.07
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	8/13/25	\$833.03	8/19/25	\$831.82
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	8/13/25	\$444.57	8/19/25	\$433.74
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/13/25	\$1.28	8/19/25	\$1.25
Energy Prices	Date	Price	Date	Price
Coal Price - Austr. Prem. Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	8/13/25	\$198.50	8/19/25	\$192.50
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	8/8/25	\$78.00	8/15/25	\$78.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	8/13/25	\$111.62	8/19/25	\$111.01
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	8/13/25	\$99.80	8/18/25	\$100.25
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	8/8/25	\$3.04	8/13/25	\$2.92
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/13/25	\$72.70	8/19/25	\$73.40

Sources: publically available data from [eia.gov](https://www.eia.gov), [dailymetalprice.com](https://www.dailymetalprice.com), [tradingeconomics.com](https://www.tradingeconomics.com), [sgxgroup.com](https://www.sgxgroup.com), [investing.com](https://www.investing.com)

CORESafety



In the August edition of CORESafety TV, we discuss CORESafety's Module Number seven, Management of Change.



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