

[View this email in your browser](#)



MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

Issue 32 | September 3, 2025

Brought to you by the National Mining Association

This Week in The News

Congress returned to session this week facing a packed agenda that includes potential for a government shutdown at the end of the month. In the Executive Branch, deregulatory activities continued at a historic pace. 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

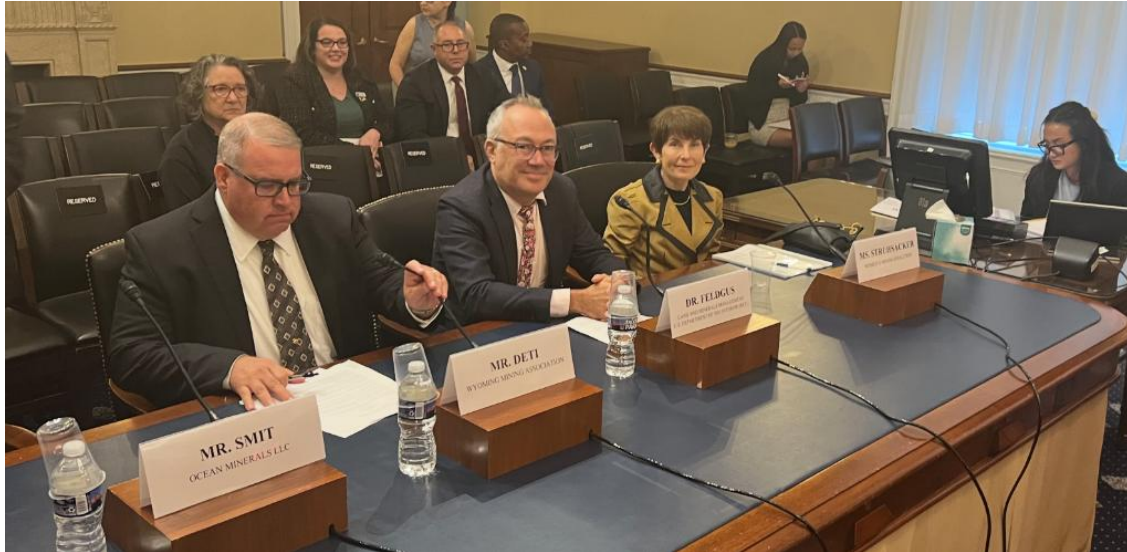
Fall is a wonderful time of year, but it does have its share of hazards. *Farmers' Almanac* has [safety tips](#) to prepare for the season.

Congress Returns to a Busy September

With funding for the federal government running out on September 30, the House is working to move as many appropriations bills as possible off the floor (see related stories below). While the House pursues individual appropriations bills, it is increasingly clear that a continuing resolution to fund the government, and not individual appropriations bills, is the most likely outcome for Fiscal Year 2026. This week the House will also take up three Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions to overturn Biden-era Resource Management Plans (RMPs) that control resource extraction on public lands in several parts of the western U.S. Rep. Troy Downing's (R-Mont.) H.J. Res. 104 – provides for the disapproval of the Miles City Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment. H.J. Res. 105 overturns the North Dakota Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan and is sponsored by Rep. Julie Fedorchak (R-N.D.), and H.J. Res. 106 tosses the Central Yukon Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan. The Central Yukon resolution is sponsored by Rep. Nick Begich (R-Alaska). Once passed the CRAs will move to the Senate. The NMA's endorsement letter of the CRAs can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Yesterday, the Senate voted 84-14 to begin debate on the must pass FY2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The Senate and House both intend to pass NDAA early this month and begin the process of conferencing the two chamber's bills. The NDAA has historically carried several mining related provisions on final passage.

House Natural Resources Holds Hearing on Mining Bills



Today, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on several priority pieces of legislation, including the bipartisan Mining Regulatory Clarity Act ([H.R. 1366](#)) and others to codify key pieces of President Trump’s Executive Orders on coal and hardrock minerals. Please find a link to the hearing video [here](#) and a link to the committee’s hearing memo [here](#). Industry witnesses included Travis Deti (Executive Director of the Wyoming Mining Association) and Debbie Struhsacker (Women’s Mining Coalition). Adam Suess (Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management at the Department of the Interior (DOI)) testified on behalf of the administration and additional witnesses included Hans Smit (President and CEO of Ocean Minerals LLC) as well as Dr. Steve Feldgus (former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management at DOI) on behalf of the minority. Ahead of the hearing, the NMA worked with committee staff on additional background and talking points related to the legislation, especially H.R. 1366, and [urged support](#) for the industry-backed legislation.

Appropriations Package Frames Minerals and Coal as Strategic Investments

The House Appropriations Committee cleared its fiscal year 2026 Energy and Water bill on [July 17th](#), and the measure is now before the [House Rules Committee](#). Floor consideration is expected later this week, with leadership aiming to bring the bill to the floor on Thursday. More than 100 amendments have been filed to the bill.

Appropriators are casting the legislation as an investment in energy security and mineral supply chains. The Committee's report highlights the Department of Energy's (DOE) Fossil Energy Research and Development program not only for carbon management and advanced fossil systems, but also for ongoing work to recover rare earths and critical minerals from coal, coal refuse and coal ash. It also provides more than \$844 million for the Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund and continued support for nuclear fuel cycle research, though Title X reimbursements for uranium mill tailings cleanup are left unfunded.

The bill also maintains robust Army Corps navigation and permitting programs, ensuring coal and minerals continue to move efficiently through the nation's waterways. Together, the bill and report underscore how coal, minerals and uranium remain a critical part of the definition of U.S. energy security.

Trump Removes Robert Primus from Surface Transportation Board



On August 28, 2025, President Trump [removed](#) Robert Primus from the Surface Transportation Board (STB). Primus, who was appointed by Trump in 2020 and confirmed again under Biden, was the only board member to dissent on the 2023 Canadian Pacific–Kansas City Southern merger. His removal broke a prior 2-2 partisan split at the STB, leaving only one Democrat, Karen Hedlund, and two Republicans, Chairman Patrick Fuchs and Michelle Schultz, with two vacancies. Primus said he would explore legal options to reverse the removal.

WOTUS Revision Sent to OMB



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently sent a proposed rule titled "Final Clarifying Definition of 'Waters of the United States'" to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for interagency review. Last week, E&E news published an article that leaked slides from an internal agency presentation, revealing details on the proposed rule and how the agency is handling "relatively permanent," "continuous surface connection," certain exclusions including ditches and other details. See the NMA's [memorandum](#) for more information. The NMA is coordinating with the Waters Advocacy Coalition on a meeting with OMB in the near future. We expect EPA to release the proposal this month for public comment. As a reminder, the NMA submitted [comments](#) during the pre-rulemaking stage in April and gave [oral testimony](#) in May.

Forest Service Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS for Roadless Areas



Last week, the U.S. Forest Service published a [notice](#) announcing its intent to initiate an environmental impact statement (EIS) and rulemaking concerning management of inventoried roadless areas. Comments are due by Sept. 19, 2025. The proposed rule would rescind the [2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule](#) (2001 Roadless Rule), which established prohibitions on road construction, road reconstruction and timber harvesting on nearly 60 million acres of inventoried roadless areas, with limited exceptions. The goal of rescinding the rule is to return decision making on these activities in

inventoried roadless areas to local officials. State-specific roadless rules for [Idaho](#) and [Colorado](#) will remain in effect. Since its proposal, the NMA has been a vocal critic of the 2001 Roadless Rule as rushed and based on inadequate information. Though broader in scope than Alaska, this action was foreshadowed by Executive Order 14153 that addressed management of roadless areas in Alaska. Importantly, the EIS will evaluate the impacts of the proposed rule rescission and study alternatives for roadless area conservation on National Forest System lands, including the Tongass National Forest, in the context of multiple use resource management. See the NMA's [memorandum](#) for additional details.

BLM Revisits 2024 Sage Grouse Plans Across Eight States



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today [announced](#) that it proposes to make [significant changes](#) to the greater sage-grouse rangewide proposed resource management plan amendment (RMPA) released in Nov. 2024 for lands it manages in California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. This action was foreshadowed by Secretary of the

Interior Burgum's Unleashing American Energy Order 3418, which directed the agency to review and revise the RMPA.

Due to unresolved protests by state governors to the rushed 2024 amendments, the Biden administration was only able to finalize plans for the states of Oregon and Colorado. Today's action is intended to address the concerns raised by the remaining eight impacted states by better aligning with state sage grouse policies and programs. Comments on the proposed revisions are due on Oct. 3, 2025. See the NMA's Sept. 3, 2025 [memo](#) for additional details.

EPA Proposes Approval of Wyoming's Partial Coal Ash Permit Program

Last week, EPA [announced](#) its [preliminary approval](#) of Wyoming's Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) coal combustion residuals (CCR) partial permit program to operate in lieu of the federal CCR program. In the announcement, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin lauded the agency's decision for "empowering state experts who know their communities best, [while] advancing smart permitting reform and helping unleash American energy responsibly." EPA found that the Wyoming CCR partial permit program encompasses all the elements of an adequate state CCR permit program and contains all the technical criteria in the underlying Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations. Notably, the state did not seek approval for four requirements of the federal regulations that were promulgated after 2020, including amendments that expanded the federal program to legacy CCR surface impoundments and regulations regarding vegetative cover for slope stability, groundwater monitoring and groundwater protection standards for constituents having no maximum contaminant levels. Accordingly, these federal regulations will remain directly applicable to affected CCR units. EPA's

notice follows Wyoming’s lawsuit against the EPA in Oct. 2023, alleging that the agency failed in its nondiscretionary duty to respond within the statutorily allotted 180-day timeframe under RCRA and to compel EPA to approve WDEQ’s CCR permit program. If Wyoming’s CCR permitting program is finalized, it would make Wyoming the fifth state in the U.S. with an approved CCR program and the second state CCR permitting program approved this year, after North Dakota. EPA is accepting public comments on this preliminary approval until Nov. 3, 2025. During this comment period, EPA will hold a hybrid in-person and online [public hearing](#) on Oct. 30, 2025.

NMA Submits Comments on MSHA Deregulatory Proposals



The NMA submitted comments on September 2, on five proposed deregulatory rules issued by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), part of a broader initiative to modernize outdated mining regulations. Three of the proposed rules aim to curtail the discretionary authority of MSHA district managers, a move the NMA supports, citing concerns over inconsistent enforcement and legal ambiguity. The association argues that limiting district-level discretion will promote regulatory clarity and ensure uniform standards across mining operations. Another rule under review involves the use of Powered Air-Purifying Respirators (PAPRs). The NMA endorsed the proposal, emphasizing that PAPRs offer enhanced respiratory protection and comfort for miners, especially in environments with airborne contaminants. The fifth rule

addresses the use of modern surveying equipment. MSHA seeks to update technical standards to allow electronic tools that improve accuracy and efficiency. The NMA praised this shift, noting that current regulations often require outdated methods that hinder safe and efficient means to protect miners.

NMA Concludes Video Series with Good Neighbor Video



After a strong start with a [careers video](#) that has been viewed more than 1.2 million times, the NMA this week launched the final video in its series. This week, with both the House and Senate back in D.C., [we launched a policymaker-focused and mining-community focused video](#) that discusses both mining as a good neighbor and industry's commitment to environmental responsibility. Unlike the careers videos that target the next generation of miners, we are geotargeting the Hill and doing paid digital

pushes targeting policymakers. As a reminder, 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 their employees for their contributions.

Thanks to all for your help in sharing these videos further.

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

Fall Board of Directors and Annual Members Meeting



Registration 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., is now open; [register here](#). 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. A more detailed agenda will be provided in the coming weeks.

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, the NMA room block is now sold out and closed last Friday but you may still reserve rooms directly with The

Broadmoor at the resort's standard rates. Click [here](#).

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

From our third parties, the [Boston Herald](#) (Mass.), [Charleston Gazette-Mail](#) (W. Va.), [Daily Courier](#) (Pa.), [Herald Dispatch](#) (W. Va.) and [Kearney Hub](#) (Neb.) published a piece from Terry Jarrett on how coal can support lower electricity prices.

Mining and Energy News

[Utility Dive](#) reported that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved a waiver last week that will allow NextEra Energy to restart the Duane Arnold nuclear power plant in Iowa by the end of 2029.

[Silver Institute](#) reported that physical silver investment (bars and coins) is increasingly important to global silver demand with physical investment ranging from a low of 157.2 million ounces (Moz.) in 2017 to a record high of 337.6 Moz in 2022. "With growing geopolitical tensions, rising government debt and an increasing investor perception that silver is undervalued compared to gold, the silver price has experienced a 34 percent year-to-date increase." Today, the U.S., India, Germany and Australia account for almost 80

percent of the global market for silver bars and coins.

[**Washington Examiner**](#) reported that the price of two rare earth elements used for manufacturing magnets, hit the highest level in over two years after the U.S. made a multibillion-dollar investment into the U.S.-based rare earth producer, MP Materials.

[**Argus**](#) reported that U.S. coal generation has exceeded year-earlier levels each month during the first half of the year, taking some market share from natural gas.

[**Wall Street Journal**](#) carried an editorial on the Resolution Copper project, calling for permitting reform and citing the NMA-backed S&P study, which found it takes 29 years to bring a mine into production in the U.S.

[**Reuters**](#) reported that Russian coal company Mechel reported worsening losses and has suspended output at one of its mines, a sign of a deep crisis affecting Russia's coal industry. Its coal sector is struggling with a host of problems including low coal prices, international sanctions and the strength of the ruble, which makes its exports less competitive. Officials say about 30 enterprises, producing a total of around 30 million metric tons a year, are at risk of bankruptcy.

[**Greenwire**](#) reported that the House will consider a Congressional Review Act resolution that would advance the 200-mile-long Ambler Road project, along with H.J. Res. 105 and H.J. Res. 104, which address Biden-era resource management plans (RMPs) in North Dakota and Montana.

[**The Northern Miner**](#) reported that Alaska has signed an MOU with the U.S. Permitting Council, to streamline resource permitting timelines and move priority mining and oil-and-gas proposals faster through permitting. The FAST-41 cooperation with Alaska, the first state to do so, could shave a quarter of

environmental permitting time.

[**Washington Examiner**](#) looked at the Trump administration's focus on metallurgical coal.

[**Steel Industry News**](#) reported that domestic raw steel production in the U.S. surged sharply last week, marking the highest weekly output since January 2022. Steel production was 1.78 million short tons while the capability utilization rate was 78.6 percent.

[**Reuters**](#) reported that Exxon's recent energy outlook predicts natural gas global demand for natural gas will rise more than 20 percent by 2050 from last year's level, as it displaces coal to power industries and meet higher electricity use in developing countries.

[**Utility Dive**](#) reported that in August the Palisades power plant in Covert Township, Michigan, became the first decommissioned U.S. nuclear plant to officially transition to "operations" status.

[**Reuters**](#) reported that China has placed curbs on coal production following an unexpected supply increase in the first half of the year that weighed on prices, according to an official of a major mining firm and analysts.

[**Mining.com**](#) reported that "spot silver prices surged above \$40 an ounce for the first time since 2011 as mounting expectations for U.S. Federal Reserve rate cuts gave fresh momentum to a multi-year bull run in precious metals."

[**E&E Daily**](#) reported on pro-mining bills that will be considered in the House this week.

[**Forbes**](#) reported that strong demand and disruptions to supply have restored

investor interest in uranium, which has outperformed most other commodities over the past month and could keep rising.

Trade Corner

This week, U.S. trade and investment policy developments continued to ripple across the mining sector. President Trump threatened to impose a 200 percent tariff on Chinese rare-earth magnets if Beijing maintains export restrictions. Analysts point to the mutual dependency between U.S. chips and Chinese rare earths as a buffer preventing full decoupling, even as export controls and tariff threats escalate.

On Capitol Hill, House China Committee member John Moolenaar (R-Mich.) called for a “rolling” performance threshold in U.S. export controls to ensure that advances in Chinese chipmaking do not allow U.S. technologies to bolster Beijing’s military capabilities. Congressional steel caucus leaders also urged the administration not to weaken Section 232 duties, while in Canada, the United Steelworkers criticized Finance Minister Carney’s retreat from retaliatory tariffs.

Across the Atlantic, the European Commission formally advanced legislation to eliminate tariffs on U.S. industrial goods moving forward despite U.S. threats tied to digital policy. Globally, Indian Foreign Minister Jaishankar reaffirmed that New Delhi will maintain Russian oil purchases and expand trade ties with Moscow, despite recently announced additional 25 percent tariffs on its imports of Russian oil, on top of the 25 percent tariffs the U.S. imposed that took effect on Aug. 7. The new duties, which bring the total tariff on Indian goods to 50 percent, took effect on Aug. 27.

In the courts, the Federal Circuit issued a landmark decision affirming that the Court of International Trade has exclusive jurisdiction over challenges to tariffs imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), a

ruling that struck down President Trump’s IEEPA tariffs. The White House quickly announced that it will petition the Supreme Court to review the decision as early as Sept. 3, accelerating the timeline far beyond the six-week window originally provided by the appellate court.

As always, to stay current on these fast-moving issues, please join the NMA’s Weekly Trade Call every Wednesday at 1 p.m. Eastern.

Commodity Prices

Commodity Prices - Snapshot				
Metals Prices	Date	Price	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/26/25	\$15.12	9/1/25	\$15.12
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/26/25	\$4.44	9/1/25	\$4.50
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	8/26/25	\$3,372.90	9/1/25	\$3,468.80
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/26/25	\$0.90	9/1/25	\$0.90
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	8/26/25	\$11.41	9/1/25	\$11.16
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	8/26/25	\$72.63	9/1/25	\$72.87
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/26/25	\$6.93	9/1/25	\$7.00
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	8/26/25	\$38.42	9/1/25	\$40.57
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	8/26/25	\$825.00	9/1/25	\$800.50
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	8/26/25	\$434.96	9/1/25	\$427.39
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/26/25	\$1.27	9/1/25	\$1.28
Energy Prices	Date	Price	Date	Price
Coal Price - Austr. Prem. Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	8/26/25	\$216.00	9/1/25	\$186.50
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	8/22/25	\$78.00	8/29/25	\$78.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	8/26/25	\$111.01	9/1/25	\$106.06
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	8/26/25	\$99.75	9/1/25	\$96.65
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	8/20/25	\$2.81	8/27/25	\$2.88
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/26/25	\$74.80	8/29/25	\$76.65

Sources: publicly available data from eia.gov, dailymetalprice.com, tradingeconomics.com, sgxgroup.com, investing.com

CORESafety



In the September edition of CORESafety TV, we discuss CORESafety's Module Number eight, Near Miss and Incident Reporting/Investigation.



This is a confidential document intended for membership of the National Mining Association.

Please do not forward or post its content externally.

Copyright © 2025 National Mining Association, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).