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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

Washington is back in full swing with a flurry of Congressional activity and continuing advances of the Trump deregulatory agenda. 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

September is National Preparedness Month. The National Safety Council asks: "[Are you ready for a disaster?](#)"

NMA's Nolan Testifies in Support of Permitting Reforms



Today, NMA President and CEO Rich Nolan testified before the full House Natural Resources Committee in support of Chairman Bruce Westerman's (R-Ark.) [H.R. 4776](#), the bipartisan "Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act." Please find a link to the hearing [here](#) and a link to Nolan's testimony [here](#). The legislation, co-sponsored by Rep. Jared Golden (D-Maine), would streamline the NEPA process by clarifying its procedural scope, focusing agency reviews on impacts closely tied to proposed projects, and allowing state or tribal reviews to meet federal requirements. Please find a link to the NMA's memo on the SPEED Act [here](#).

Outside witnesses were broken into two panels with Nolan testifying on the second. Witnesses on the first panel included Jeremy Harrell (CEO of ClearPath and ClearPath Action), Thomas Hochman (Director of Infrastructure Policy at

the Foundation for American Innovation), and Nick Loris (VP of Public Policy at C3 Solutions) with Robert Glicksman (Professor of Environmental Law at George Washington University Law School) testifying on behalf of the minority. Additional witnesses on the second panel included Dominick Longobardi (Dep. Town Comptroller for Hempstead, NY.) and Josh Levi (President of the Data Center Coalition) with Bob Dreher (retired environmental attorney) testifying on behalf of the minority.

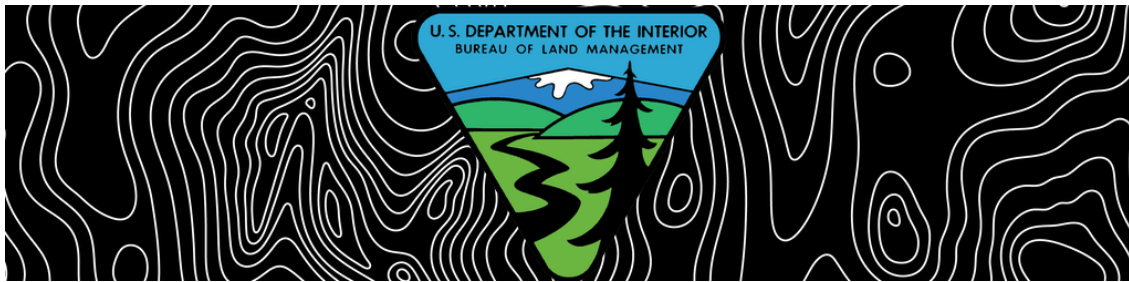
Ahead of the hearing, the NMA worked with committee and congressional staff to share mining industry perspectives on permitting reform, witness questions, and additional background information. The NMA also shared a letter of support for permitting reform and H.R. 4776 recently sent to leadership in the House of Representatives and the [committee](#) as well as a recent [NMA-produced video](#) highlighting on the industry's commitment to being a good steward of the environment and responsible neighbor to local communities, tribes, and other stakeholders. The NMA will continue to work with allies in the House and Senate to advance durable permitting reforms that benefit industry and allow for a robust domestic energy and mineral supply chain.

Senate Plans to Speed Confirmation Process

Tomorrow, Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) plans to change the Senate rules on nominees to allow nominees that have cleared committee, but are languishing on the Senate floor, to be voted on in batches. A vote on the rules change to allow a block of [48 nominees](#) who cleared committee with bipartisan support, is expected Thursday. If the change doesn't get the needed 60 votes, the Majority leader is expected to overrule the ruling of the chair that 60 votes are required to proceed when considering nominees in a batch and trigger a 51-vote threshold vote to implement the new rules. Under the new

rules, a simple majority will be required for batch-confirmation of nominees. The new process will not apply to life-time appointments such as judges and cabinet-level positions. Through this new procedure, Republicans hope to clear all pending nominees with solid Republican support by mid-October. If they succeed in changing the rules, they plan to begin confirming nominees in this manner next week. Currently there are almost 150 Trump administration civilian nominees awaiting confirmation in the Senate.

BLM Proposes to Rescind the Conservation and Landscape Health Rule



The Department of the Interior today [announced](#) the [proposed rescission](#) of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) [May 2024 Conservation and Landscape Health Rule](#). The proposal will be formally published in the Federal Register tomorrow, initiating a 60-day comment period. The NMA [welcomed](#) the action to rescind the rule, which unlawfully elevated conservation over mining or other uses of federal lands. The NMA submitted [comments](#) strongly opposing the rule and we subsequently [challenged](#) the rule in the courts. The NMA intends to submit comments in support of the proposed rescission.

Payne Institute Releases the State of Critical Minerals Report 2025



THE STATE OF CRITICAL MINERALS REPORT 2025



The Payne Institute for Public Policy at Colorado School of Mines released its [2025 State of Critical Minerals Report](#) yesterday. The report highlights significant opportunities for U.S. mineral security through smarter investments in refining, processing, byproduct recovery and recycling. It stresses that targeted efforts in workforce development, technology deployment, and market creation can quickly strengthen the supply of critical minerals. One key finding is that recovering just 10 percent of byproducts from existing mining operations could eliminate U.S. dependence on imports for 27 critical minerals.

The report emphasizes the importance of recycling to reduce dependence on imports. It also notes that even small federal investments, such as less than \$15 million for gallium, can provide significant security benefits. The report also discusses the role of government actions in creating more transparent mineral markets, improving price discovery, lowering transaction costs, and drawing private capital into the sector.

DOE Releases Recording of Critical Minerals and Materials Supply Chain Workshop



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Last month, the Department of Energy (DOE) hosted a Critical Minerals and Materials Supply Chain Workshop to highlight funding opportunities and initiatives aimed at strengthening secure domestic mineral supply chains. A recording of the webinar is now available and can be found [here](#), and additional resources, including previous slide decks, active funding opportunities, and recent updates, can be found [here](#).

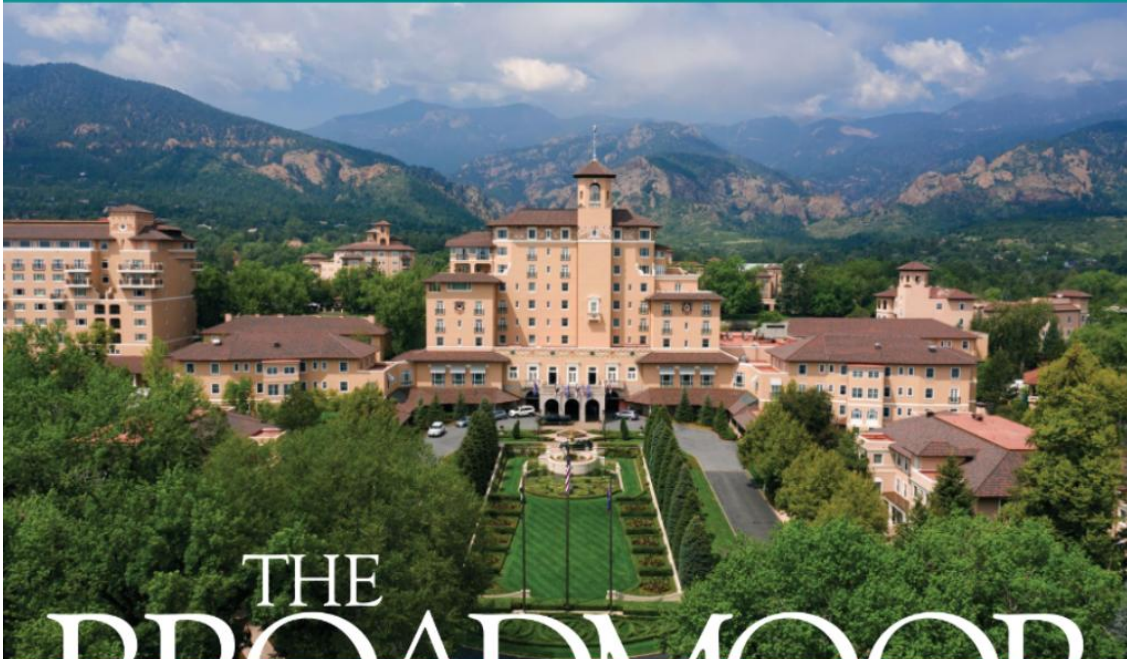
NMA Hosts MSHA for Webinar on New Tools for Safe Operations

The NMA facilitated a one-hour webinar with the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) highlighting new tools to support safer, more compliant mining operations. Key updates included the launch of the **Information Hub** and **CASH Program**, offering streamlined access to training materials and direct support from MSHA specialists. Attendees also received a preview of the upcoming **2025 TRAM Conference**, focused on advancing safety training and industry collaboration. These resources are designed to help operators

navigate regulatory requirements with confidence and improve safety outcomes across all sites.

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

Fall Board of Directors and
Annual Members Meeting



THE
BROADMOOR

September 21-23

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

[The New York Times](#), [Associated Press](#), [E&E News](#) and [Washington Examiner](#) quote Rich Nolan on the Interior Department's proposed rescission of the Conservation and Landscape Health Rule imposed by the Bureau of Land Management under the Biden administration.

[E&E Greenwire](#) reports on the addition of the NMA's former assistant general counsel Katie Mills to the EPA.

From our third parties, [Real Clear Energy](#) (D.C.) carries an op-ed by Robert Chase, a registered professional engineer in Ohio, in which he argues tech

companies can turn to coal for energy needs.

[Herald-Dispatch](#) (W.Va.) carries an op-ed by Terry Jarrett, an energy attorney and consultant, in which he argues the coal fleet is the answer to lowering energy prices.

Mining and Energy News

[Politico Pro](#) reported that the Interior Department announced last week it would hold coal lease sales in Montana, Alabama and Utah this fall, including an auction that could extend the life of one of the nation's largest coal mines, NTEC's Spring Creek mine, through 2051.

[Utility Dive](#) reported that the DOE ordered Constellation to keep running units in Pennsylvania while groups challenge the emergency orders. "A 'growing ... concern' is not an emergency," consumer advocates said. The PJM Interconnection faces a possible multi-year "energy emergency," according to DOE.

[Kallanish](#) reported that U.S. Steel's Clairton number 13 and 14 batteries have been placed on hot idle, and that work is progressing on assessing the damage caused by the explosion last month.

[Mining Journal](#) reported that gold is at a record high, with silver also strongly up, as U.S. monetary policy raises fears of dollar inflation, adding to a prolonged push toward safe-haven assets. Gold is currently trading at over US\$3,500/oz, and silver broke through US\$40/oz, its highest level since 2011.

[Utility Dive](#) reported that growing international demand is causing natural gas prices to rise, which will in turn push U.S. electricity prices higher now that

about 40 percent of U.S. generation comes from natural gas, according to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis. Price volatility and sticker shock could trigger public backlash against utilities.

[**Argus**](#) reported that coal generation in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) power region, the second-largest U.S. electric grid, gained ground on natural gas and wind generation last month.

[**Washington Examiner**](#) reported that the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing yesterday morning to introduce several bills related to boosting mineral and coal developments on federal lands.

[**New York Times**](#) reported that the House voted last week to advance a 211-mile industrial road to reach a proposed copper and zinc mine, handing a victory to the company behind the Ambler Road Project mining venture.

[**Mining Journal**](#) reported that Nippon Steel, U.S. Steel, Cleveland Cliffs and United Steelworkers ended all litigation and other disputes between them related to the takeover of U.S. Steel by Nippon.

[**Argus**](#) reported that coal generation in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) power region displaced natural gas and renewable power last month, extending this year's gains.

[**Inside Climate News**](#) reported that power plant owners responded to high gas prices by burning more coal in the first half of this year.

[**Mining.com**](#) reported that swelling U.S. coal demand for electricity has the potential to boost coal consumption as much as 57 percent, according to Peabody Energy Corp.

[Coal Age](#) reported that Core's Viper coal mine in Illinois is permanently closing. The mine, operated by Knight Hawk Coal, has been sealed and it is transitioning to reclamation mode.

[Mining.com](#) reported that global uranium demand is expected to soar nearly 30 percent by 2030, according to the World Nuclear Association's biennial Nuclear Fuel Report.

[E&E Daily](#) reported that there's plenty of talk of permitting reform on Capitol Hill these days, but whether that will turn into real progress remains to be seen.

[Greenwire](#) reported that federal scientists and engineers working to prevent deadly disasters and the spread of disease in miners could soon lose their jobs, even as President Trump moves to supercharge U.S. production of coal and critical minerals.

[Mining.com](#) reported that "gold climbed above the \$3,600 level for the first time on Monday — setting a new record — as soft U.S jobs data cemented expectations of an interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve this month."

Trade Corner

This week, the U.S. Supreme Court moved swiftly to take up challenges to President Trump's global tariffs imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), setting an accelerated schedule with briefing to begin next week and oral arguments slated for early November. The Court's decision to consolidate two separate cases—*V.O.S. Selections, et al. v. Trump*, where the Federal Circuit held the tariffs unlawful last week, and *Learning Resources, et al. v. Trump*, where a district court in Washington, DC, reached a similar conclusion in May—marks a rare grant of "certiorari before judgment."

This fast-tracked review raises the prospect of a ruling before year's end that could upend the administration's tariff regime and reshape trade authority precedent.

At the same time, President Trump reiterated his threat to impose a 200 percent tariff on Chinese rare-earth magnets if Beijing maintains export restrictions, even as his administration advances new funding and purchase guarantees to accelerate domestic rare-earth production.

We have also heard that the administration intends to launch formal USMCA renegotiations in the coming weeks. In preparation, the NMA has scheduled a member strategy meeting for October 2 to align priorities and ensure the mining sector's interests are fully represented.

As always, to stay current on these fast-moving issues, please join the NMA's 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)	9/1/25	\$15.12	9/8/25	\$15.12
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	9/1/25	\$4.50	9/9/25	\$4.50
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	9/1/25	\$3,468.80	9/9/25	\$3,642.41
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	9/1/25	\$0.90	9/9/25	\$0.89
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	9/1/25	\$11.16	9/9/25	\$10.47
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	9/1/25	\$72.87	9/9/25	\$73.70
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	9/1/25	\$7.00	9/9/25	\$6.86
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	9/1/25	\$40.57	9/9/25	\$40.83
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	9/1/25	\$800.50	9/9/25	\$796.11
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	9/1/25	\$427.39	9/9/25	\$426.46
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	9/1/25	\$1.28	9/9/25	\$1.29
Energy Prices	Date	Price	Date	Price
Coal Price - Austr. Prem. Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	9/1/25	\$186.50	9/9/25	\$190.00
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	8/29/25	\$78.00	9/5/25	\$78.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	9/1/25	\$106.06	9/9/25	\$103.33
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	9/1/25	\$96.65	9/9/25	\$93.00
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	8/27/25	\$2.88	9/3/25	\$3.00
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/29/25	\$76.65	9/8/25	\$76.95

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



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