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MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

Issue 2 | October 8, 2020

Brought to you by the National Mining Association

This Week in The News

Following a frenetic news cycle dominated by presidential debate fall-out, President Trump's COVID-19 diagnosis, and a four-day hospital stay, the president returned to the White House and called off negotiations with Democrats on a new coronavirus relief bill. With additional twists and turns likely in the final four weeks before the general election, NMA remains focused on efforts to advance mining's interests with congressional committees and federal agencies. Plus we have updates on how energy and mining markets are faring.

Safety Share

Every three hours in the United States, a person or vehicle is hit by a train. The U.S. Department of Transportation launched a [“Stop. Trains Can’t.”](#) public education campaign this week. Operation Lifesaver rolled out a suite of rail safety resources [targeted for kids.](#)

Trump Administration Issues Second Executive Order Supporting Mining

Last week, President Trump issued his second executive order supporting the production of minerals, [Executive Order 13953](#), titled “Addressing the Threat to the Domestic Supply Chain from Reliance on Critical Minerals from Foreign Adversaries.” The order builds upon the administration’s 2017 minerals executive order that outlined a federal strategy to reduce reliance on imports of critical minerals, as designated in the 2017 executive order by expanding the focus beyond the critical mineral list. The new order specifically supports enhancing domestic mining through new market mechanisms, strengthening supply chains and reducing permitting and bureaucratic delays and inconsistencies for new production. The executive order designates short-term and long-term goals for a variety of federal departments including Interior, Energy, Commerce, Treasury, State and the Environmental Protection Agency, along with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the NMA is working to ensure our priorities are a part of those goals. If you have specific questions about the executive order, its implementation or how you can pursue specific elements of the order, please contact NMA’s government affairs team.

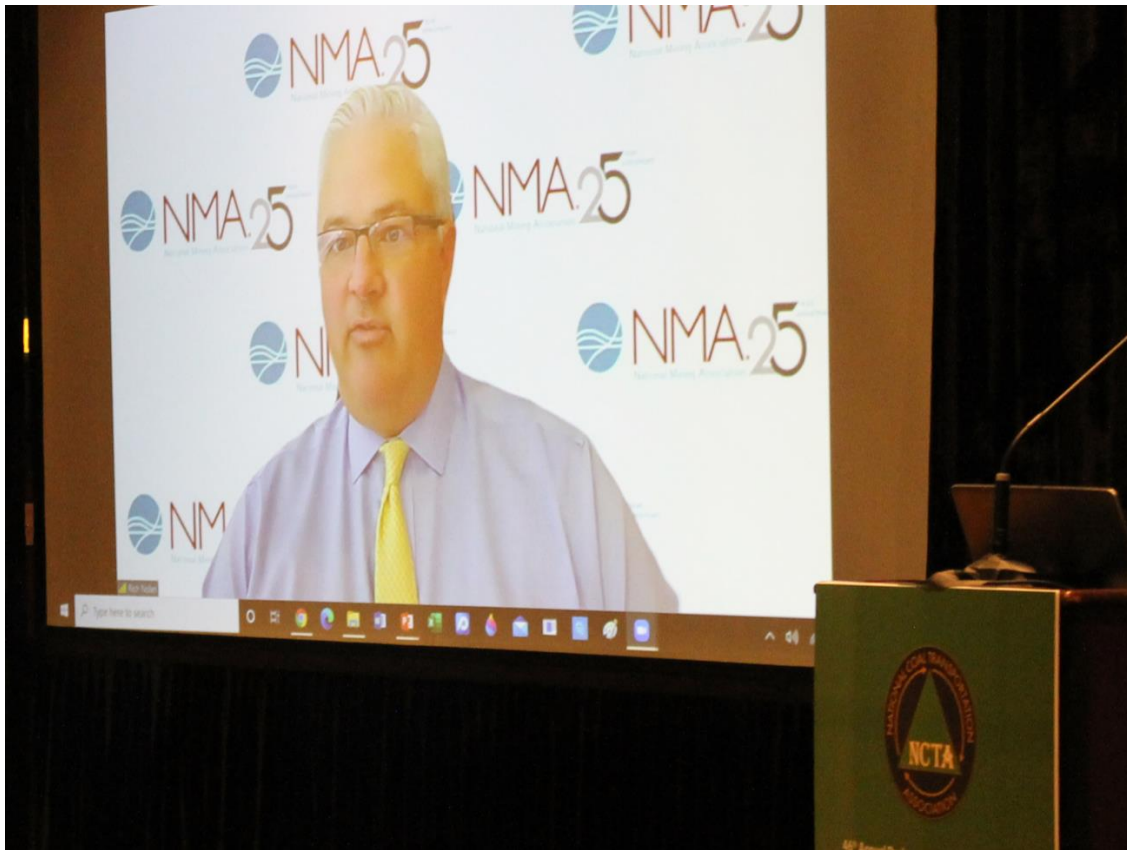
New Forest Service Mining Regulation

Today, the U.S. Forest Service [submitted a new regulation](#) to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs to expedite review of proposed mineral production operations and increase the consistency with Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management mineral production regulations. The new Forest Service regulations include a key provision to allow small-scale exploration projects to move forward in months rather than

the current expectation of years of delay. The NMA will continue to support moving this important regulation through administration review and advise you when there is an opportunity for public comment on the proposed regulation.

Rich Nolan Addresses the National Coal Transportation Association's Fall Conference

NMA's Rich Nolan was a keynote speaker at the National Coal Transportation Association's Fall Conference. He [spoke about](#) the impact this administration has had in addressing the punitive regulatory assault of the prior administration, and in stopping the cliff-like loss of jobs experienced between 2008 and 2016. He covered a variety of issues that we are focusing on as an association and across the industry and concluded by focusing on the need for post-pandemic policy that puts reliability, resilience and affordability first.



U.S. Supreme Court Engages in Washington State Coal Export Case

The U.S. Supreme Court invited acting Solicitor General Jeff Wall to file a brief expressing the views of the federal government on the Washington state coal export case, in which Wyoming and Montana argued that Washington's denial of a water quality certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act for the Millennium Bulk Terminal was improper. NMA supported the challenge with a brief to the Court highlighting the broad national implications of allowing coastal states to dictate trade and foreign policy.

NMA and Third-Party Voices

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

NMA's Rich Nolan is quoted in coverage from [E&E Energywire](#) and [County 17](#) on the [executive order declaring a national emergency](#) to boost domestic mining, a move that seeks to reduce the nation's mineral import reliance and [curb China's dominance](#) of critical mineral supply chains. Rich was also a featured guest on [The Lars Larson Show](#) discussing the executive order, the importance of securing our domestic supply chains, and the China Task Force.

[Forbes](#) and the [Washington Examiner](#) reported on NMA's minerals event with RealClearPolitics. In its coverage, Forbes writes, in part, "The timing for this talk is indeed perfect: finally, something both parties can agree on. For context, the House Republicans' new China task force places mineral supply chains front and center. And a recent report from Securing America's Future Energy makes minerals, and boosting domestic mineral output, a key piece of the effort to win the future of mobility. More critical mining production has become a noncontroversial, bipartisan initiative, uniting various interests from coal executives to climate hawks."

Our [Count on Coal blog](#) hit back at *the New York Times'* negative article on coal.

From our third parties, [Lehigh Valley News](#) (PA) carries an op-ed by Forest Remick, a retired professor of nuclear engineering and retired associate vice president for research at Penn State who served as a commissioner on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in which he argues the U.S. must act to counter China's dominance of mineral and rare-earth markets

And [RealClearEnergy](#) (DC) ran an op-ed by John Adams, U.S. Army Brigadier General (Retired), a former Deputy U.S. Military Representative to NATO's Military Committee, in which he argues that it's time to bring critical industries, including mining, home from China.

Energy and Mining News

[S&P Global reported](#) on recent [analysis](#) from Ernst & Young indicating that “COVID-19-related disruptions have reshuffled the mining industry's perceptions of risks, with license to operate (LTO) and environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues becoming more prominent as social responsibility and broader stakeholder demands intensify.”

The Energy Information Administration's [October Short Term Outlook](#) anticipates that coal production, coal generation and coal exports will all see gains in the remainder of the year and in to 2021 due to the continuing expectation that natural gas prices will rise next year, and that this winter will be colder than last. Production is forecasted to be up 19%, coal power consumption up 21% and exports up nearly 9%.

In a report examining the failures that led to rolling blackouts in California, the California Independent System Operator, California Public Utilities Commission, and California Energy Commission issued a [Preliminary Root Cause Analysis](#) admitting that, as the state added more renewables to the grid, it didn't properly plan for supply to cover evening hours when air conditioning demand remained high but solar power production began to fall.

[The Department of Energy](#) announced that it has “selected 13 projects to receive approximately \$1.95 million in federal funding to develop conceptual designs of commercially viable technologies that will extract rare earth elements (REEs) from U.S. coal and coal by-product sources.”

The U.S. Energy Information Administration published its [Annual Coal Report](#) for 2019, concluding U.S. coal production decreased 6.6 percent to 706.3 million short tons.

[Utility Dive reported](#) that “Competitive energy supplier Vistra on Tuesday announced it would retire 6,800 MW of coal by 2027, blaming in part its grid operator's ‘irreparably dysfunctional’ market.”

[S&P Global reported](#) that the electric vehicle industry's demand for nickel is in doubt due to oversupply and economic concerns.

Board Meeting Wrap-up and Materials

This week, as part of our Fall Board of Directors and Annual Members Meeting, we were honored to gather virtually with board members and company representatives from across our membership to discuss NMA's advocacy efforts, along with the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. We heard from a variety of speakers including Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon, White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Mary Neumayr, Senator Steve Daines (R-MT) and Attorney General Daniel Cameron of Kentucky.

NMA welcomed new Chair Jimmy Brock, president and chief executive officer, CONSOL Energy. In addition, the board presented Phillips Baker, president and CEO, Hecla Mining Co., with its Chairman's Eagle for his service as outgoing NMA Chair.

For those who were unable to attend materials from the meeting are available [here](#).



PHIL BAKER

PRESIDENT & CEO HECLA MINING COMPANY



Presented by the National Mining Association Board of Directors to Phillips S. Baker, Jr., with grateful appreciation for outstanding leadership and service as Chairman of the Board





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