

[View this email in your browser](#)



MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

Issue 7 | November 11, 2020

Brought to you by the National Mining Association



This Week in The News

In the largest election turnout in American history, former Vice President Joe Biden secured the votes necessary to become President-elect of the United States. While ballot reviews and recounts have also begun, the Electoral College will convene on December 12 to cast the final ballots. Republicans appear likely to preserve their U.S. Senate majority after the Georgia special election on January 5. The GOP also picked up seats in the House of Representatives. A lame duck session of Congress and transition activities for the new administration have already begun. The National Mining Association (NMA) engaged immediately with efforts to advance mining's interests with both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. Plus we have updates on the energy and mining markets.

Safety Share

Thanksgiving will be here before you know it. It's time to start thinking about [kitchen safety](#), [food safety](#) and [special considerations](#) related to COVID-19. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) are emphasizing that celebrating virtually or with members of your own household (who are consistently taking measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19) poses the lowest risk for spread.

Tale of Two Elections

Both presidential candidates received more votes than any presidential candidate in U.S. history with Biden receiving well over 75 million votes. Although a new presidential administration brings about change, the results of the election in Congress seem not to have changed control of the two houses, although they did produce slimmer margins. North Carolina's Senate race was called for Senator Tillis yesterday, and Alaska's Senate race was called for Senator Sullivan this morning. The Senate now stands at 50 Republican members and 48 Democratic members with the final tally to come in January when we learn the results of the Georgia runoff elections. Should election trends continue for remaining House races, the ultimate result of the House election could be the slim majority of 224 Democratic representatives to 211 Republican representatives. The results

of races for governor and state legislatures also stayed largely the same. All incumbent governors were re-elected with Montana being the only state where a governorship changed hands. With 5,876 regularly scheduled legislative races in 44 states, so far, only two chambers, the New Hampshire House and Senate, changed control.

Post-Election Analysis

The NMA Government Affairs Committee is holding its second post-election analysis meeting on Wednesday, November 18. Joining us will be Sean Trende, Senior Elections Analyst for RealClearPolitics. Before becoming a full-time political analyst, Sean practiced law at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, and Hunton & Williams LLP, where he represented clients from state trial courts to the Supreme Court of the United States. Sean will provide us with insight into the results of the election, the impact on litigation prior to Election Day, and impacts of litigation in competitive states following the November 3rd election. If you are interested in calling in whether a member of the GAC or not, please contact Ryan Jackson at rjackson@nma.org for password information. Earlier this week representatives from Morning Consult, which conducts polling for NMA and publications like Politico, presented to the Government Affairs Committee polling trends and issues influencing voters in this year's elections. A copy of the presentation may be found [here](#).



Senate Appropriations

The Senate Appropriations Committee today released its 12 fiscal year 2021 annual government funding bills. The 12 subcommittee allocations, as well as the legislative text, explanatory statement, and highlights for each of the fiscal year 2021 appropriations bills, are available [here](#). The legislation includes several policy provisions and funding increases important to the mining industry below. A detailed memo summarizing the priorities is available [here](#).

None of the bills will head to markup. Instead, congressional leaders will immediately begin the process of finding compromise on an omnibus spending deal. The House already passed most of its spending measures. The federal government is operating on a continuing resolution that expires Dec. 11. Absent a deal, federal agencies would shut down in the middle of a presidential transition. Congress could also pass another continuing resolution to keep agencies funded at current levels into the spring and possibly longer, leaving it to a new Congress and president to resolve spending halfway into the fiscal year.

Senate Committee Moves to Fund Uranium Reserve

Senate appropriators this week included \$150 million for the establishment of a uranium reserve in their 2021 Energy-Water spending [bill](#). The funds were requested by the Department of Energy (DOE), which indicated that establishing the reserve “is an urgent step needed in response to an overreliance on imported uranium product that has undermined U.S. energy security and impacted U.S. fuel supply capabilities.” The NMA has repeatedly identified full funding of the reserve as an appropriations priority and advocated accordingly.



New Presidential Transition Announcements

Although the presidential campaign results remain contested, [yesterday, the Biden Transition Team announced](#) the individuals responsible for transitions in all federal agencies including the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the Department of Labor, and the White House Council on

Environmental Quality, which is solely responsible for National Environmental Policy Act regulations. These teams of individuals, mostly volunteers initially, are charged with working in the federal agencies to facilitate a smooth transition. Often these individuals remain at the agencies and become the first political appointees hired.

Planning for a New Congress

With the 116th Congress eyeing adjournment by December 11, the Senate convened this week in part to hold leadership elections within the Republican conference and Democratic caucus. The Republican Conference reelected Senator McConnell and his leadership team of Senator Thune (R-SD) (whip) and Senator Barrasso (R-Wyo.) (conference chairman). Republicans also elected Senator Rick Scott (R-Fla.) as the chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee. The Democratic Caucus reelected Senator Schumer and his leadership team of Senator Durbin (D-Ill.) (whip) and Senator Murray (D-Wash.) (conference chairwoman). Democrats have yet to elect the new chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. Senate Committee leadership and membership announcements will follow, likely in January. Leadership elections for the Democratic Caucus in the House of Representatives will be held November 18 and 19 following Republican Conference leadership election on November 17. House Committee leadership and membership announcements will follow in December.

Member Satisfaction Survey

This week, you should have received a survey to help us determine member satisfaction, which is available [at the following link](#). We would appreciate if you could offer a few minutes of your time to improve your membership experience and help us build a strong association for the future. Thank you in advance for your time and your commitment to our collective success.

NMA and Third-Party Voices

With all eyes on the transition, Rich Nolan and the National Mining Association are featured in pieces from the [Washington Post](#), [Reuters](#) and [KFGO](#) on how Washington's top energy interests are preparing for a Biden administration.

Rich Nolan was interviewed on [KZIM](#) radio discussing America's alarming dependence on imports for minerals we could be mining here at home.

The NMA is mentioned in an [Inside EPA](#) story reporting that industry groups are urging a federal appeals court to uphold a lower court ruling that exempted a steel mill from Superfund reporting mandates because it holds a Clean Air Act permit -- even though its emissions have violated the permit -- arguing a reversal would increase companies' regulatory burdens and risk duplicative regulation.

The [Detroit News](#) (MI) carries an op-ed by Gen. John Adams, retired U.S. Army brigadier general, in which he argues that the U.S. needs to support domestic mining to compete with China.

Energy and Mining News

This week [the Energy Information Administration adjusted upward its](#) 2021 coal consumption projection, now expecting total coal consumption to reach 588.9 million short tons in 2021, up 4 percent from last month's outlook of 565.9 mmst.

Argus reported U.S. third quarter metallurgical coal exports [recovered from the second quarter](#) but fell from a year earlier.

POWER surveyed National Energy Technology Laboratory programs [supporting fossil fuels](#).

S&P Global reported coal executives see the outcome of 2020 elections “to be more [a question of pace](#) than a change in direction” for the coal industry.

[The Department of Energy and Penn State University](#) have released a [report](#) on opportunities for cobalt production from Pennsylvania coal. The study notes that “cobalt production in Pennsylvania dates back to the 1870s, and that from 1941 to 1951, and again from 1959 to 1971, the Pennsylvania iron ore operations of Bethlehem Steel constituted the largest production in the U.S. of cobalt concentrates.”

[Mining.com reported on the 2019](#) top ten global zinc producers based on output using Miningintelligence data.

[Mining.com reported that](#) “The copper price on Friday attempted a fresh two-and-half year high, as Chinese smelters scramble to pick up concentrate on the spot market amid a political row between Beijing and Canberra.”

The Energy Information Administration’s [recent Uranium Production Report](#) for the 3rd quarter 2020 included U.S. uranium production levels that were too low to report due to confidentiality concerns. In 2019, the U.S. purchased most of its uranium from Canada, Australia, Kazakhstan and Russia.

Wood Mackenzie published: “The energy transition [will be built with metals](#).”



Want to change how you receive these emails?

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