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MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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This Week in The News

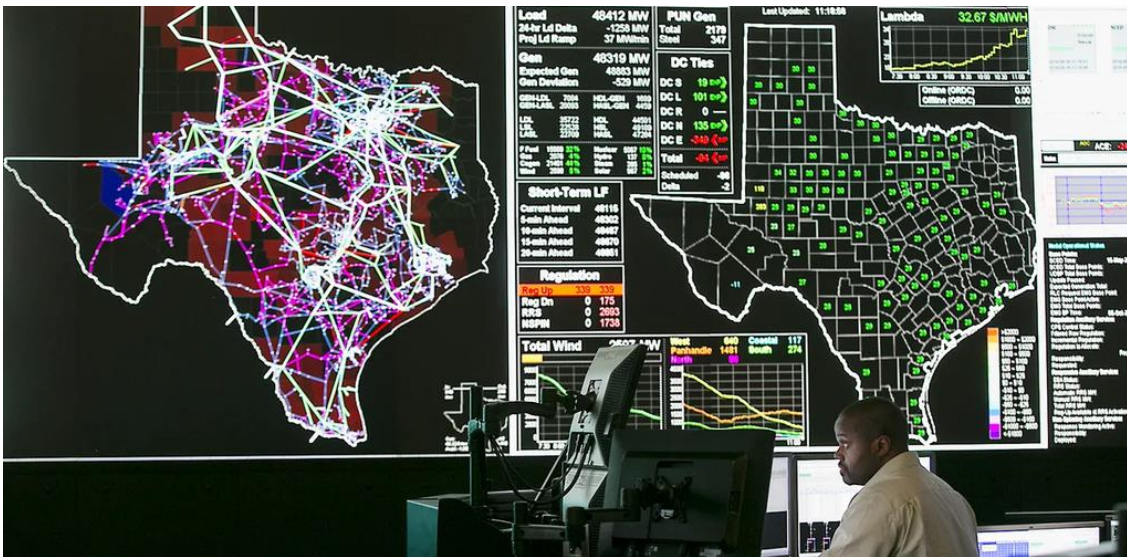
As Congress took the final steps to pass its \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill along party lines, policymakers began laying out opening positions for coming debates over infrastructure and climate proposals. The National Mining Association (NMA) remains focused on actively engaging to advance mining's interests at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. Plus we have updates on how the mining and energy markets are faring.

Safety Share



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [published new guidance](#) for people who have received a COVID-19 vaccination.

Senate Electricity Reliability Hearing



In the aftermath of the Texas blackouts, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) committee tomorrow will hold a hearing to examine ways to improve the reliability and resilience of the electric grid in the face of extreme weather and other climate-fueled challenges. In advance of the hearings, the NMA provided substantial information on public support for electricity reliability from baseload sources.

The ENR committee hearing Thursday is likely to address climate change in broader terms as it looks at "the reliability, resiliency and affordability of electric service in the United

States amid the changing energy mix and extreme weather events.” Chairman Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) has expressed the need for investments to make the grid more reliable and resilient through an all-of-the-above clean energy portfolio with new technology to address climate concerns. The ENR hearing is Thursday, March 11, at 10 a.m. in 366 Dirksen and via [webcast](#). Witnesses include: James Robb, president and CEO of the North American Electric Reliability Corp.; Manu Asthana, president and CEO of PJM Interconnection; Mark Gabriel, administrator and CEO of the Western Area Power Administration; Pat Wood III, CEO of Hunt Energy Network and a former chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and Michael Shellenberger, founder and president of Environmental Progress.

Upcoming House Natural Resources Hearing on AML

The House Natural Resources Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee will hold a legislative hearing Thursday, March 18, on a series of mine reclamation bills. The subcommittee will hear testimony from witnesses regarding the soon-to-be reintroduced legislation by Pennsylvania Reps. Matt Cartwright (D-Penn.) and Glenn ‘GT’ Thompson (R-Penn.) to reauthorize the existing Abandoned Mine Land (AML) fee until 2036. Originally created in 1977, the fee is set to expire on September 30, 2021. The bill would also increase annual Minimum Program Make-Up grants to ten “non-certified” states from \$3 million to \$5 million. Alaska, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Tennessee would qualify for these grants reimbursing states for approximately \$150 million in AML fees that were sequestered since Fiscal Year 2013. The hearing will also include the soon to be reintroduced “Revitalizing the Economy of Coal Communities by Leveraging Local Activities and Investing More (RECLAIM) Act” also by Rep. Matt Cartwright. The bill would divert \$1 billion from the program’s purpose to projects unrelated to reclaiming AMLs. Finally, the witnesses will consider [H.R.1146](#), the “*Community Reclamation Partnerships Act*,” by Rep. Darin LaHood (R-Ill.) to amend SMCRA to authorize partnerships between states and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring AMLs. Witnesses will include representatives from Wyoming, Pennsylvania and Iowa state reclamation programs as well as environmental

organizations. The NMA is working with the committee and allies in preparation for the hearing and will have more information on the hearing next week.

Senate Getting Started with Build Back Better Components



The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee today held a hearing titled "Building Back Better: Addressing Climate Change in the Electricity Sector and Fostering Economic Growth." This was the first meeting for Chairman Tom Carper (D-Del.) to discuss climate change in the electric sector as part of his committee's broader approach against global warming. Chairman Carper has expressed interest in including strong climate-related components as part of any infrastructure package and surface transportation reauthorization bill. The witness list included representatives from Xcel Energy Inc., the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, the Government Accountability Office, the Energy Institute at the West Virginia University, and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. The EPW hearing may be viewed via [webcast](#).

White House Releases Interim Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases

On Feb. 26, 2021, the White House released in a [blog post](#) the new interim social cost of greenhouse gases, including for the social cost of carbon (SCC), social cost of methane (SCM) and social cost of nitrous oxide (SNC). The blog post touts this action as “an important early step in bringing evidence-based principles back into the process of estimating the benefits of reducing climate pollution.” This action responds to a directive in Executive Order 13990, “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis,” which among other things: (1) reinstated the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on the social cost of greenhouse gases that was disbanded during the Trump administration; and (2) ordered the IWG to publish an interim SCC, SCM and SCN by Feb. 19, 2021. The new metrics (detailed in a new [Technical Support Document](#)) revert to the Obama administration’s estimates with inflation considered. Specifically, the interim social cost of greenhouse gases for 2020 (assuming a 3 percent discount rate) now includes: a SCC estimate at \$51 per ton of carbon dioxide (compared to \$8 per ton used by the Trump administration); a SCM estimate at \$1,500 per ton of methane (compared to \$184 per ton used by the Trump administration); and a SCN estimate at \$18,000 per ton of nitrous oxide (compared to \$2,820 per ton used by the Trump administration). Federal agencies are required to use these metrics when monetizing the value of changes in greenhouse gas emissions resulting from regulations and other relevant agency actions, such as coal leasing, until final values are published. The IWG is required to publish a final SCC, SCM and SCN no later than January 2022. The NMA will continue to monitor the IWG’s work to finalize the interim social cost of greenhouse gases and will alert members to opportunities to engage in the process.

DOI Secretary Nominee Haaland Readies for Confirmation Vote



On Tuesday, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) initiated the Senate floor process to confirm Rep. Debra Haaland's (D-N.M.) to be the Secretary of the Department of the Interior. This comes less than a week after the ENR committee voted to advance the Congresswoman's nomination to the full Senate by a bipartisan vote of 11 to 9, with Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) casting the deciding vote. Please find the NMA's memo on the ENR vote [here](#) and a link to Rep. Haaland's relevant responses to questions submitted by senators after her confirmation hearing [here](#).

Floor proceedings leading to a confirmation vote are expected to be drawn out with debate on Rep. Haaland's nomination lasting as long as 30 hours as a result of two separate holds from Senators Daines (R-Mont.) and Lummis (R-Wyo.). A vote is expected in the Senate early next week and, although there is a 50/50 split between Democrats and Republicans, Rep. Haaland will likely be confirmed with Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine) announcing last week that she plans to vote in favor of the Congresswoman's nomination.

The NMA will continue to follow the confirmation of Rep. Haaland as well as Senate action on other Biden nominees. Votes are expected this week on Merrick Garland to be Attorney General and Michael Regan as Administrator of the EPA.

NMA Environment Committee Agenda Set

Next week, the NMA's spring Environment Committee and Lands Committee meetings will be held virtually. NMA members are encouraged to participate and help shape the NMA's

advocacy strategies this year on priority environment and lands policy issues. Sessions will be held:

Tuesday, March 16:

- Opening Session – 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. (All times in Eastern)

Wednesday, March 17:

- Air Quality Subcommittee: 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Water Quality Subcommittee: 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 18:

- Coal Subcommittee: 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Solid Waste Subcommittee: 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, March 19:

- Uranium Environmental Subcommittee (open to Subcommittee members only): 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Lands Committee: 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Registration links for each afternoon may be accessed [here](#). If you have any questions regarding registration, [contact James Scribner](#).

NMA and Third-Party Voices

[The State Journal](#) (WV) featured an op-ed by Rich Nolan which argues Appalachian coal is the foundation of our recovery through infrastructure projects.

Rich Nolan also issued [a new blog](#) on the central role that minerals will play in the electric vehicle production race.

[E&E News PM](#) reports that the NMA is among a group of business and energy interests that also includes the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that is asking Congress to reform federal permitting as lawmakers begin work on infrastructure legislation.

[Market Screener](#) covered the NMA's [polling](#) that shows seven in 10 voters - including a majority of Democrats, Republicans and Independents - support maintaining baseload, on-demand power plants, such as coal plants, to support the reliable supply of electricity.

Mining and Energy News

[Reuters](#) covers comments made by U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm on Tuesday, when she said the United States needs to boost domestic production of the minerals used to make electric vehicles.

Reuters also published: "To go electric, America [needs more mines](#). Can it build them?"

[Mining.com](#) reported that copper is a vital part of green infrastructure from grids to wind turbines, and a recent price surge threatens to make decarbonization more costly.

[Mining.com](#) reported that rare earth miners and uranium producers are reaping rewards from the flood of money pouring into electrification and ESG investing themes.

[Rigzone](#) reported on a Bloomberg story asserting that energy transition will drive more copper mining.

[Argus Media](#) reported that coal-based generation in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) displaced natural gas and renewable power in February amid freezing temperatures and a rise in gas prices.

Overall U.S. coal exports [declined 7 percent](#) in the fourth quarter as compared to the previous year.

Coal train loadings [dropped in late February](#), driven by declines from the Powder River Basin.

China's U.S. coal imports [jumped 748 percent](#) in the fourth quarter of 2020 as a trade dispute with Australia escalated.

Futurity examined prospects for extracting [rare earth elements](#) from coal.

[Reuters](#) reported on IEA's recent analysis of emissions data noting that "Global carbon dioxide emissions dropped by 5.8% in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic slowed economic activity, but they rebounded at the end of the year and are on course to rise further."

[Argus Media](#) reported that emissions technology experts contend that carbon capture and utilization and storage (CCUS) will need to be used widely, and at a much lower cost, in coming decades for countries to reach net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions commitments.

Vendor Warning



Some of you have reported receiving an email from a vendor called InfoProPerfect, a group that is marketing "The National Mining Association (NMA) Mailing List." Please note that this vendor has no affiliation with the National Mining Association, and we have sent them several cease and desist letters.



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