

[View this email in your browser](#)



MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

Issue 31 | May 19, 2021

Brought to you by the National Mining Association

This Week in The News

As executive branch agencies continued to stake out their agendas, partisan maneuvering over major infrastructure and spending proposals was muddled by disappointing jobs reports, growing inflation fears and exploding tension in the Middle East. In this dynamic political environment, 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

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidance that people who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 may resume activities [without wearing a mask or physically distancing](#), with some limited exceptions.

Westerman Hosts Critical Minerals Forum



On Tuesday, House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) hosted a virtual forum on the role critical minerals play in our nation's economic and national security, including renewable energy technologies. Testimony came from a broad panel of experts, including Laurel Sayer, President and CEO of Perpetua Resources, a NMA member. Other participants who the NMA helped identify for committee staff included Dan McGroarty (Principal, Carmot Strategic Group, Inc.), Reed Blakemore (Deputy Director, Global Energy Center at the Atlantic Council), Dr. Michael Moats (Professor of Metallurgical Engineering and Director of the O'Keefe Institute at the Missouri University of Science and Technology), Abigail Wulf (Director of the Center for Critical Minerals Strategy at Securing America's Future Energy), Tim Gould (Head of Division for Energy Supply Outlooks and Investment at the International Energy Agency), and Dr. Ian Lange (Associate Professor of Economics and Business at the Colorado School of Mines).

During [his remarks](#), Ranking Member Westerman stressed the importance of minerals and mining to meeting current and future needs and highlighted the bipartisan agreement in Congress to strengthen domestic mineral supply chains. He also went on to say that the issue of mineral supply chain security should be at the forefront of policy discussion in Congress.

During his time, Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Ranking Member Pete Stauber (R-Minn.) discussed the need to reduce U.S. mineral import dependence and enhance our ability to innovate, through modern mining techniques, to meet the renewable energy priorities of the current administration. The panel received significant interest from members on the committee who engaged in a wide range of topic discussions which are likely to inform future legislative policy in this issue area. Please find a link to the forum [here](#) and a link to the NMA's social media activity on the forum [here](#). The NMA will continue to support bipartisan engagement on the issue of mineral supply chain security and advocate for advancing NMA-backed hardrock legislation.

Senate Begins Consideration of China Competition Legislation

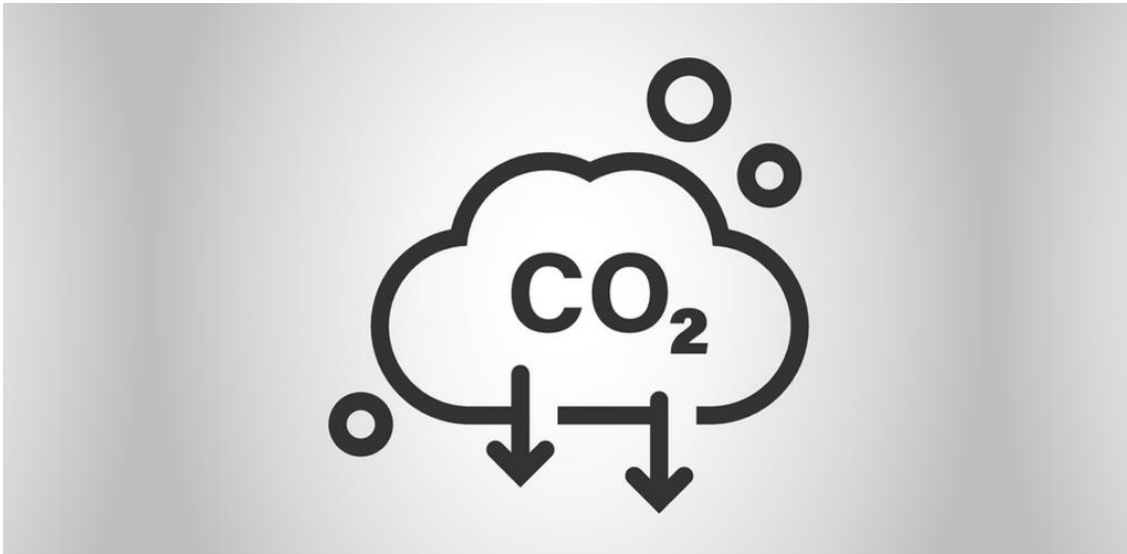


This week and next, the Senate is considering the *United States Innovation and Competition Act (USICA) of 2021*. An overview of the comprehensive legislation can be found [here](#).

This legislation is a product of a number of pieces of legislation built on Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's (D-N.Y.) and Senator Todd Young's (R-Ind.) [S.1260](#), the Endless Frontier Act, which authorizes \$100 billion over five years for the National Science Foundation to establish a new directorate to provide financial support through lending, grants, technology investment agreements, among other support to fund new technology and innovation in 10 specific areas including semiconductors, energy generation, and batteries among other targets. Last week, the Senate Commerce Committee reported the Endless Frontier Act for full Senate consideration this week with a bipartisan amendment offered by Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.) focusing the legislation on domestic mining production and processing. That amendment is included in the USICA at section 2214.

Negotiations continue as amendments will be submitted for a future floor vote. The first of what may be numerous floor actions could occur as soon as next week. The NMA continues to protect the Lummis amendment and work with interested Senate offices to support additional minerals language, including a bipartisan amendment identical to Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (R-Alaska) [S. 1352](#) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the federal permitting and review process for mining projects.

Comments Sought on Interim Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases Metrics



The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently published a [notice of availability](#) and request for comment on the “[Technical Support Document: Social Cost of Carbon, Methane, and Nitrous Oxide Interim Estimates Under Executive Order 13990](#).” The notice builds upon the White House Feb. 26, 2021, [blog post](#) that announced the new interim social cost of greenhouse gases, including for the social cost of carbon, social cost of methane, and social cost of nitrous oxide.

Since the release of the metrics, the administration has been pressured to open the Technical Support Document for public comment. Notably, Louisiana and 11 other states asked a Missouri federal court to block agencies from using these interim metrics, arguing they violated the notice-and-comment regulatory requirements. In a separate lawsuit, Texas and nine other states challenged the interim metrics in a Louisiana federal court, arguing President Biden exceeded his authority and circumvented normal rulemaking procedure.

OMB is now asking for public comment by June 21 on the following:

- The general advances in science and economics included in this interim Technical Support Document.
- Approaches to implementing the recommendations of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s report, “[Valuing Climate Damages:](#)

[Updating Estimation of the Social Cost of Carbon Dioxide](#),” including how the IWG should prioritize and respond to these recommendations.

- Other recent advances in science and economics, beyond those presented in the interim Technical Support Document, that could be incorporated into the pending update, including approaches to adequately take account of climate risks, environmental justice and intergenerational equity.
- How best to reflect the latest scientific and economic understanding of discount rates appropriate for intergenerational analysis when using the interim metrics.
- Areas of decision-making, budgeting and procurement by the federal government where the metrics should be applied.

EPA Rescinds Rule on Guidance Documents

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this week issued a [final rule](#) rescinding last year’s rulemaking that established internal agency procedures for issuing, modifying, withdrawing, and using guidance documents. EPA did not seek public comment in advance of this decision. The previous administration’s rule was meant to ensure that the agency’s guidance documents would be: (1) developed with appropriate review; (2) accessible and transparent to the public; and (3) benefit from public participation in the development of significant guidance documents. As a result, EPA established a publicly accessible guidance portal with an extensive inventory of active guidance documents totaling more than 9,500 documents.

In rescinding the rule, EPA noted that “the internal rule on guidance deprives [the agency] of necessary flexibility in determining when and how best to issue public guidance based on particular facts and circumstances, and unduly restricts the [agency’s] ability to provide timely guidance on which the public can confidently rely.” EPA further announced it will rely on the procedures historically employed on guidance documents, including soliciting

stakeholder input on guidance of significant stakeholder and public interest as appropriate. While EPA does not specifically address the previous administration's guidance portal in the final rule, the agency has removed it from the website and replaced it with a [generic webpage](#). Consequently, there is no longer one searchable database for EPA guidance documents.

NMA and Third-Party Voices

[E&E Daily](#) mentions the NMA in its reporting on last week's new legislation on Abandoned Mine Lands, which would lower the fee coal companies pay to clean up abandoned mines.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) reports conventions are returning to Las Vegas, including MINExpo INTERNATIONAL®.

[BNN Bloomberg](#) mentions the NMA in a story on the cyber-attack that crippled the nation's biggest fuel pipeline, and different advocacy groups' responses.

The NMA is mentioned and quoted in coverage from [The Washington Post](#), [Reuters](#), [Yahoo!News](#), [Metro](#), [Mariana's Variety](#), [Associated Press](#) and [Star Herald](#) on the EPA's decision to scrap a Trump-era rule that overhauled how the agency evaluates air pollutants.

Rich Nolan is quoted in an [Eurasia Review](#) op-ed that argues "the U.S. can no longer ignore the geopolitical risks, environmental degradations and Chinese hostility if it wants to build a decarbonized, green economy."

The [Elko Daily Free Press](#) reports mining schools are looking to attract interest in mining education early.

Rich Nolan is quoted in a [Lima Ohio](#) op-ed that makes the case for increased mining in the U.S.

The [St. Joseph News Press](#) (Mo.), [Elko Daily Free Press](#) (Nev.), [Reno Gazette Journal](#) (Nev.), [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (Alaska), [Salem News](#) (Ohio), [Lisbon Morning Journal](#) (Ohio) and [East Liverpool Review](#) (Ohio) carry an op-ed by Michael Stumo, CEO of the Coalition for a Prosperous America, in which he argues to meet soaring demand and reduce imports from China, the United States must start mining more mineral resources at home.

Mining and Energy News

The International Energy Agency released its [Net Zero By 2050](#) report.

The International Copper Study Group's recent [copper market forecast](#) predicted: "After three years of remaining essentially unchanged, world copper mine production, adjusted for historical disruption factors, is expected to increase by about 3.5 percent in 2021 and 3.7 percent in 2022."

The Wall Street Journal reported that high demand for consumer electronics and difficulties shipping metal out of Asia have created a [shortage of tin](#), pushing prices for the metal close to record highs for the first time in a decade.

The Globe and Mail published: "The infrastructure war between China and the United States is [fueling the commodities rally](#)."

The Verge published: "New climate goals are going to need [a lot more minerals](#)."

The Guardian reported that the record metals boom may [threaten the transition](#) to green energy.

The New York Times published: "For clean energy, buy American or buy it [quick and cheap](#)?"

U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) May Short Term Energy Outlook forecasted

an 18 percent [increase in coal generation](#) compared to last summer, along with a 12 percent decline in natural gas generation, and a 21 percent increase in generation from renewable sources.

EIA reported coal transported to the electric power sector [declined 22 percent](#) in 2020.

Argus Media reported that higher natural gas prices and increased electricity demand are expected to [boost coal consumption](#) this summer.

Argus reported [Appalachian coal output](#) climbed by 3 percent in the first quarter amid a rebound in domestic and international demand.

Utility Dive reported on a recent electricity supply [assessment](#) from the California Independent System Operator warning that the state could have a tough time meeting demand this summer thanks to a second year of low hydroelectric energy supplies and the higher possibility of extreme weather events.

Bloomberg published: “Blackouts threaten [entire U.S. west](#) this summer as heat awaits.”

E&E News profiled U.S. Rep. David McKinley by publishing: “How a pro-coal Republican became a [climate deal-maker](#).”



Copyright © 2021 National Mining Association, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

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

