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**MINE** Update  
MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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## **This Week in The News**

Infrastructure proposals faded from the headlines as the House and Senate both took a post-Independence Day break. But legislative negotiations continued behind the scenes and executive branch agencies continued to press forward in defining the Biden–Harris administration regulatory priorities. 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 National Ready Mixed Concrete Association's "[Think First](#)" program offers a host of safety resources, many of which are transferrable to other industries.

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## House Appropriations Committee Approves Funding Bills for DOI, EPA and SEC



The [House Appropriations Committee](#) last Friday approved the fiscal year 2022 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies bill on a party-line vote of 32-24. The legislation includes funding for programs within the Department of the Interior (DOI), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other related agencies. In total, the bill includes \$43.4 billion in regular appropriations, an increase of \$7.3 billion or 20.2 percent above 2021. The measure includes several additional policy provisions and non-binding committee report language important to the mining industry, which are detailed in a memo available [here](#).

Earlier, the House Appropriations Committee approved the fiscal year 2022 Financial Services and General Government funding bill on a 33 to 24 vote. The draft bill includes \$29.1 billion in funding, an increase of \$4.8 billion over 2021. The committee offered recommendations to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as the independent

agency moves to update its climate risk disclosure guidelines and recommendations for Environmental, Social, and Governance Reporting Standards.

Democratic leaders hope to wrap up votes on the full slate of funding measures by the end of the month. The Senate's top appropriators are still negotiating spending levels. Without an agreement, moving bills out of committee could prove difficult with control of the panel evenly split between the parties. Committee leaders hope to begin marking up spending bills before the August recess. It is widely expected Congress will need to pass a stopgap spending bill to avert a shutdown before the new fiscal year begins and current funds run out.

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## MSHA Response to NMA FOIA Request

In response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) provided the NMA with the number of mining operations and federal mine inspectors at work in the U.S. in 2020. The response [from MSHA](#) notes details about active, inactive and intermittent mine operations in both the coal and metal/nonmetal mining sectors. Since combining the two industry sectors into one Office of Enforcement in 2020, MSHA now separates inspectors into two classes: those who inspect only underground coal mines and those who inspect all other mines.

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## White House Releases CCUS Report



## Council on Environmental Quality Report to Congress on Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration

Delivered to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Natural Resources, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, as directed in Section 102 of Division S of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

Last week, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) released a [Report to Congress on Carbon Capture, Utilization and Sequestration](#) (CCUS). The report was issued as required by the December 2020 enactment of the NMA-supported Utilizing Significant Emissions with Innovative Technologies (USE IT) Act as part of the bipartisan Consolidated Appropriations Act. As a reminder, the USE IT Act would facilitate effective planning, siting and permitting by federal, state and tribal governments, in collaboration with affected stakeholders and communities, to help enable the buildout of large-scale CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage needed to achieve economywide deployment of carbon capture, removal and utilization.

The report confirms the critical role that carbon management must play in meeting our climate goals, while retaining and creating high-wage jobs and sustaining domestic energy and industrial production and supply chains as our nation works to achieve net-zero emissions targets. The report affirms the Biden administration's commitment to "accelerating the responsible development and deployment of carbon capture, utilization, and permanent sequestration as needed to decarbonize the U.S. economy by mid-century."

According to the report, if the United States is to achieve its climate goals, CCUS deployment should increase tenfold over the next decade. The report concluded by saying "the Administration is therefore committed to accelerating the responsible development

and deployment of CCUS to make it a widely available, increasingly cost-effective, and rapidly scalable climate solution across all industrial sectors. “

The analysis provided in the CEQ report further underscores the need for passage of a full suite of federal carbon management policy provisions, including enhancements to the 45Q tax credit, improvements to other incentives, and stepped-up investments in CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure and commercial demonstration of critical carbon capture, direct air capture and carbon utilization technologies. Relatedly, last week the NMA sent a [letter of support](#) for robust funding for CCUS programs to congressional appropriators.

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## Next Steps on Infrastructure



Last week, the House of Representatives passed Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio's (D-Ore.) INVEST in America Act ([H.R. 3684](#)). A fact sheet for the \$715 billion legislative package can be found [here](#). Separately, the Senate continues efforts to move forward on its own legislation, the bipartisan [Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act of 2021](#), which was recently reported out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The Senate Budget Committee is also working on the framework of a resolution to be moved through the reconciliation process.

Congressional Democratic leadership have yet to agree on a top-line number for the reconciliation package, but Senate Budget Committee Chair Bernie Sanders (I-Vt) is pushing for \$6 trillion, whereas Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) would like to see something closer to \$2 trillion.

A number of issues must be resolved before any agreements on infrastructure can move forward but Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) is working to unify his caucus coming out of the July 4 recess and, although timing has not been set, anticipates that the Senate will vote on the bipartisan infrastructure package – and try to start moving legislation through the reconciliation process – in late July. The NMA will continue to track developments related to the different infrastructure proposals and the reconciliation process and provide relevant updates.

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## Gov Abbott to Texas PUC: Incentivize Maintenance of Reliable Power



Yesterday, [Texas Governor Greg Abbott wrote to the Public Utility Commission of Texas \(PUC\)](#) directing immediate action on several market reforms including:

- Streamlining “incentives within the ERCOT market to foster the development and maintenance of adequate and reliable sources of power, like natural gas, coal and nuclear power.”
- Instructing ERCOT to “establish a maintenance schedule for natural gas, coal, nuclear and other non-renewable electricity generators to ensure there is always an adequate supply of power on the grid to maintain reliable electric service for all Texans.”
- Ordering ERCOT to “accelerate the development of transmission projects that increase connectivity between existing or new dispatchable generation plants and areas of need.”

The letter specifically states that “natural gas, coal, and nuclear power plants are essential for the reliability and stability of the electric grid because they can be scheduled to provide power to the grid at any time.” The NMA will be following and report on the next steps coming from [the Governor’s directive](#).

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## NMA and Third-Party Voices

Both [Creamer Media’s Mining Weekly](#) and [World Coal](#) report on MINE expo INTERNATIONAL® 2021.

From our third parties, [The Clermont Sun](#) (Ohio), [Greeley Tribune](#) (Colo.), [Salem News](#) (Ohio), [East Liverpool Review](#) (Ohio), [Reno Gazette Journal](#) (Nev.) and [Lisbon Morning Journal](#) (Ohio) all ran an op-ed by Terry Jarrett, an energy attorney and consultant who has served on both the board of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and the Missouri Public Service Commission, in which he argues simply adding more wind and solar—and failing to value the reliability afforded by existing coal, nuclear, and natural gas generation—could be a recipe for disaster.

[The Union Leader](#) (N.H.) carries an op-ed from Howard Schafer, a retired nuclear engineer, in which he argues the environmental movement and its opposition to domestic mining for energy transition metals is torpedoing climate progress.

And the [Waco Tribune-Herald](#) (Texas), [Gillette News Record](#) (Wyo.) and [Northwest Indiana Times](#) (Ind.) all carry an op-ed from Dan Ervin, a finance professor at Salisbury University, in which he argues environmental opposition to reshoring mineral production is proving counterproductive to efforts to address climate change.

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## Mining and Energy News

[Axios](#) reported as the U.S. is ramping up electric vehicle development, manufacturers are running up against a shortage of battery materials.

General Motors took a stake in a [U.S. lithium project](#) to help ensure raw materials supply for batteries.

[Grist](#) reported that nickel and cobalt have precarious international supply chains but eliminating them from batteries raises tough questions.

[Mining.com](#) reported that BloombergNEF has upped its predictions for annual demand for lithium-ion batteries by more than a third from its previous forecast on the back of expectations for rapid growth in the passenger vehicle segment.

[Energy Information Administration's recent Today in Energy release](#) focused on the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's 2021 Summer Reliability Assessment report showing that parts of the United States are at elevated or high risk for potential electricity emergencies this summer. It also shows that [fossil fuels](#) accounted for 79 percent of U.S. energy consumption, while non-fossil fuels represented 21 percent.

Add the Pacific Northwest to the list of regions experiencing [rolling blackouts](#), this time in response to a record heat wave.

[Argus Media reported](#) that coal-based power demand in parts of the U.S. climbed last week to the highest levels since February amid record-high temperatures in the west and northeast. PJM Interconnect power region's June coal generation hit a [three-year high](#), with coal [receipts climbing](#) year-over-year for the second month in a row in April due to increased coal consumption, lower stockpiles and higher gas prices. In similar news, coal generation in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator [region rose 37 percent](#) in June, while the [Southwest Power Pool](#) increased 42 percent.

International Centre for Sustainable Carbon published a major report on [advances in non-energy products](#) from coal.



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