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MINE Update
MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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This Week in The News

Any hopes for a quiet late August recess were dashed as events in Afghanistan dominated the headlines and congressional leaders grappled behind the scenes over how to advance an ambitious legislative agenda this fall. While events continue to unfold, 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

Many Americans have had a chance to experience the effects of West Coast wildfires this summer. The California Air Resources Board published background and resources on [protecting yourself from wildfire smoke](#). (*Bloomberg* surveyed the [best maps](#) for tracking the smoke.)

Capitol Hill Heating Up Again



As international events are consuming the White House and while the Senate remains out of session, the House of Representatives plans to reconvene next week. By week's end, House leadership plans to develop the process to pass the Senate's budget resolution which passed the Senate last week and at least advance the Senate's infrastructure bill, the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#), also passed by the Senate last week. Although Speaker Pelosi still intends to tie the Senate passed infrastructure bill and Senate passed resolution or reconciliation bill together, the lead infrastructure House Democratic committee chairman last week announced he was solely focusing on reconciliation legislation helping to substantially clear the way for House passage of the Senate infrastructure bill. Some principal components of the Senate infrastructure bill require congressional action by September 30, including the coal abandoned mine lands program.

Actions in the House this week and next may signal House passage of the infrastructure bill soon.

DOI to Review Federal Coal Leasing Program



Tucked into the end of a Department of the Interior [press release](#) this week on the Federal Oil and Gas Leasing Program was news about a review of the Federal Coal Leasing Program: “Pursuant to resolution of another litigation matter involving leasing activity on the public lands, Interior will release a notice of intent to conduct a review of the federal coal leasing program later this week.” While such language raises the specter of the coal leasing moratorium and initiation of a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) proposed by former Secretary Sally Jewell, it is the NMA’s understanding that the pending review will neither pause federal coal leasing nor reinstate the PEIS.

Reportedly, the notice, to be published this Friday, will be more analogous to a broad request for information and views on several aspects of the program. Even though the review does not include a leasing pause or a PEIS, the notice will likely ask questions on many of the issues that were raised in 2016 notice of intent to prepare a PEIS, including fair return to the public, royalty rates and consideration of climate impacts.

The NMA will share the notice of intent when it is published in the Federal Register later this week. Recall, that the NMA is already armed with robust evidence to push back on harmful changes to the Federal Coal Leasing Program as articulated in the [comments](#) and [commissioned report](#) that NMA submitted in 2016. We will schedule a conference call in the near future to further discuss advocacy efforts and preparation of the NMA's comments for the 2021 review.

NMA and Third-Party Voices

The [Boston Herald](#) (Mass.) ran an op-ed from Rich Nolan, in which he argues the U.S. can lead the EV revolution but it won't happen if we supercharge domestic mineral demand while failing to ramp up U.S. mineral production.

Rich Nolan is quoted in a [North of 60 Mining News](#) report noting that Ucore Rare Metals Inc. Aug. 11 announced that it has joined the National Mining Association.

The NMA is quoted in a [Politico Pro](#) story on the Biden administration's reconsideration of an Obama-era greater sage grouse conservation proposal to ban new mining and mineral claims on millions of acres of sensitive grouse habitat.

From our third parties, the [Scranton Times Tribune](#) (Pa.) and the [Lansing State Journal](#) (Mich.) ran an op-ed by Michael Stumo, CEO of the Coalition for a Prosperous America, in which he argues in order to keep taxpayer dollars out of China's hands, it's time to bring supply chains home, including mining and critical materials.

Mining and Energy News

[Northern Miner reports](#) on recent Wood Mackenzie analysis predicting that the usage of aluminum, copper, and zinc in the solar power sector will double by 2040, prompting an

increase in demand.

[E&E News](#) reported that the Department of Energy is [asking](#) for information on how it should develop a national uranium reserve.

[Argus Media](#) reported that coal-based generation in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas reached its highest level in more than two years in July as generators cut natural gas generation amid high prices.

[Argus Media reported](#) on Mine Safety & Health Administration data showing Appalachian coal production jumped by more than 40 percent last quarter from year-earlier levels amid rebound in domestic and international demand.

[Morning Consult](#) reported on Bloomberg analysis of EIA data indicating that “as utilities rely more on coal due to increased power demand as the economy continues to recover amid higher natural gas prices, the sector's emissions are on track this year to increase by 7 percent, more than they have since at least 1990, to 4.89 billion metric tons. Coal's share of the U.S. power mix is set to increase from 20 percent to 23 percent.”

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette profiled efforts to [capture and utilize methane](#) from coal mines.

China authorized the reopening of [at least 15 coal mines](#) and announced plans for [43 new coal-fueled generators](#) and 18 new blast furnaces.



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