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

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## **This Week in the News**

As Congress returned for a week between the Veterans Day and Thanksgiving recesses, all eyes turned to the House of Representatives where leaders vowed to move their \$2 trillion reconciliation bill to a vote. With any House reconciliation bill facing an uncertain future in the Senate, budget continuing resolutions expiring in early December, and another looming encounter with the federal debt limit, Congress will have its hands full as the clock ticks down to the end of 2021. 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.

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## Safety Share

The U.S. Department of Transportation data showed road fatalities [continue to increase](#) in 2021. *Bloomberg* surveyed the [latest theories](#) about how to explain the spike.

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### Atlantic Council Releases NMA-Sponsored Report on Minerals and Transportation Electrification



The NMA was pleased to sponsor an Atlantic Council Global Energy Center report that was released yesterday in conjunction with a panel discussion on minerals and U.S. electric vehicle needs. The report, [“The Role of Minerals in Realizing U.S. Transportation Electrification Goals,”](#) explores the Biden administration’s goals for transportation electrification, how the realization of those goals will impact rapidly-growing minerals demand, and recommends a series of principles that policymakers should consider in parallel to their transportation electrification targets including an emphasis on

supporting “best-in-class domestic mineral resources and expertise.” Following opening remarks offered by the NMA’s Rich Nolan, the report launch event was moderated by the Atlantic Council’s Reed Blakemore, and featured a discussion with Michael Maten of GM, Jon Evans of Lithium Americas and Mark Richards of Rio Tinto. The event was well-attended with 200 registrants and media including Reuters, E&E, S&P and Platts. A video recording of the discussion is available [here](#).



## House Energy and Commerce Committee Holds Green Energy Supply Chain Hearing

Yesterday, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change and the Subcommittee on Energy held a joint hearing titled “Securing America’s Future: Supply Chain Solutions for a Clean Energy Economy.” Please find a link to the hearing and witness testimony [here](#). The four-hour hearing discussed a wide range of bipartisan issues important to NMA members including domestic supply chains, battery storage, the raw metals and minerals necessary for renewable energy technologies, the need for more investment in domestic manufacturing, and our nation’s overreliance on China and other geopolitical adversaries for minerals and energy generation products like solar panels. Several members of both panels cautioned that the rush to renewables

should not mean abandoning an all-of-the-above energy strategy that includes coal and nuclear power generation. They also pushed their colleagues to acknowledge the massive increases in metals and minerals necessary for renewable energy technologies and that mining is critical to meeting the Biden administration's clean energy goals. Ahead of the hearing, the NMA worked with committee staff and individual offices to provide a host of background materials and information to aid in preparing members. The NMA also provided written [testimony](#) that was included in the record. The NMA will continue to work with bipartisan members of the Energy and Commerce Committee to support and advocate for an all-of-the-above energy strategy that also prioritizes minerals-related policies that allow for greater innovation, supply chain security and economic growth.

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## Western Leaders Stand Up for Western Coal



This week Gov. Mark Gordon (R-Wyo.) joined a growing list of western leaders voicing their opposition to the Build Back Better Reconciliation Bill's proposed changes for mining coal on federal lands. His [letter](#) to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and ranking member John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) was particularly critical of the provisions limiting new coal leases to 10 years and creating a severance tax of \$2 a ton. Earlier this month Sen. Manchin heard from leaders of the Crow and Navajo Nations,

the National Tribal Energy Association, as well as Montana state senator Jason Small about these same punitive provisions.

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## Senate Holds Energy Prices Hearing

This week the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee [held a hearing on domestic and international energy price trends](#), specifically on the recent increases in energy costs including gasoline, heating and electricity bills, commodity prices, and levels of current production. While much of the hearing focused on oil and natural gas production, including impact on consumer prices from oil and gas exports, the hearing also featured questions and answers and written testimony on electricity prices and the need for increased mineral production for batteries and new technologies. Some of the initial focus of the hearing centered around Special Envoy John Kerry's comments from COP-26 that the U.S. would have no coal electricity by 2030 to which the U.S. Energy Information Administration responded that its [2020 estimates](#) point to decreased use but continued production and use through 2050 and beyond. The chief economist at the International Energy Agency (IEA) testified that although Europe is experiencing high electricity prices, prices are lowest in Nordic countries investing in renewable energy and Poland investing in coal. The IEA witness later clarified that the renewable energy to which he referred was hydropower as opposed to wind- and solar-generated electricity. The hearing also elicited discussion among senators and witnesses about the new need for increased mining to meet demand for battery and emerging technologies. Senators and witnesses highlighted the current problem with mineral import dependence affecting supply chains. The hearing continued to highlight mining priorities on which the NMA has been working with members on both sides of the political aisle. It helped highlight how increased costs and regulatory uncertainty in the budget reconciliation bill will have detrimental effects on electricity prices, development of new battery technologies and U.S. competitiveness.

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## President Biden Nominates New Assistant Secretary at MSHA



On November 12, 2021, President Biden announced his intention to nominate [Christopher J. Williamson](#) to the position of Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health (MSHA). Mr. Williamson has received the backing of the United Mine Workers of America. He currently serves as senior counsel to Chair Lauren McFerran of the National Labor Relations Board. He previously served in a political position at MSHA under the Obama administration and as a policy advisor to Sen. Manchin. No timeframe for consideration of his nomination has been announced.

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### NMA and Third Party Voices

[S&P Global](#) quotes Rich Nolan in a report on the infrastructure bill, noting that it could stimulate demand for domestically sourced materials through expanded "Buy America" requirements.

[E&E reported](#) on the NMA-supported Atlantic Council minerals and electric vehicles report and panel, noting that “An official with automaker General Motors Co. today called for the U.S. government to speed up mine permitting in order to feed minerals to electric vehicle manufacturing plants at home.” [Metal Bulletin](#) also reported on the event, quoting Rich Nolan saying, “Here in the U.S., mine permitting doesn’t happen overnight, nor can our current, cumbersome process be fixed overnight...Simply put, there’s no getting to where we want to go without increased domestic production of the range of minerals needed for this accelerating electric vehicle (EV) future.”

[Politico Pro](#) quotes the NMA in a story on environmentalist claims that they are in talks with the Biden administration about ensuring the next generation of stranded coal mines is adequately cleaned up.

[TSNN](#) reports on the success of MINExpo INTERNATIONAL’s in-person show.

From our third parties, [RealClear Energy](#) (D.C.) ran an op-ed from Matt Kandrach, president of Consumer Action for a Strong Economy, in which he argues the energy crisis in Europe is evidence that the energy transition must happen on the shoulders of existing energy infrastructure, not in place of it.

## Mining and Energy News

[Mining Weekly](#) reported that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) added nickel and zinc to its proposed list of 50 ‘critical minerals’ – defined as those essential to economic or national security and with a supply chain vulnerable to disruption – while four others, including potash, have fallen off the draft 2021 list. And [Politico Pro reported](#) that the USGS has proposed removing uranium from the 50 critical minerals national list, a move drawing fire from the uranium industry and its political allies.

[The EIA’s recent \*Domestic Uranium Production Report - Quarterly\*](#) for third quarter 2021 shows that U.S. production of uranium concentrate (U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>) in the third quarter of

2021 totaled 5,297 pounds U3O8. This was 35 percent lower than the last published quarterly total (8,098 pounds U3O8 in the first quarter of 2020) and is 99 percent lower than the 2014-2019 five-year average for the third quarter of the year. “This quarter’s production occurred at three facilities (Nichols Ranch ISR Project, Ross CPP, Smith Ranch-Highland Operation) that are all located in Wyoming.”

[Mining.com reported](#) that Newmont and Caterpillar are teaming up to reach zero emissions from mining systems by 2050.

[Mining.com reported](#) that ransomware attacks on mining operations are a huge business risk and are becoming almost inevitable, according to David Masson, director of enterprise security at AI cyber security company Darktrace.

[Politico Pro](#) reported that a one word change suggestion on coal caused discussion disruption at COP26.

[Bloomberg reported](#) that investors pushed mining giants to quit coal, but now it’s backfiring. The divestment campaign could lead to more coal being produced for longer.

[Axios](#) reported that coal is experiencing a mini U.S. rebound thanks to higher prices for natural gas domestically and in key global markets.

[The Washington Post examined how electrifying transportation could support coal](#) in places like North Dakota.

[Associated Press published: “Why quitting coal is so hard.”](#)

Addressing the challenges to phasing down coal, *Axios* showed global coal consumption [trends by country](#).

[China’s daily coal production hit a new high](#) of 11.93 million tons.

[Argus Media \(subscription\)](#) reported that coal powered generation in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and the Southwest Power pool (SPP) regions both

rose again from last year's levels in October, helped by higher natural gas prices and extended electric cooling demand.

[The Virginia Mercury reported](#) that Virginia is seeing an uptick in coal mining as demand for steel surges amid global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and federal plans for sweeping infrastructure investment.

[S&P Global](#) reported that Canada's decision to phase out thermal coal exports by no later than 2030 received immediate pushback from Canadian coal miners and could close a key export path for U.S. producers.

In a recent [EIA Today in Energy analysis](#), EIA noted that the U.S. experienced eight hours of electricity interruptions in 2020 – the most since they began collecting reliability data in 2013.



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