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# MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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## This Week in the News

December is deadline month for Congress, with requirements to extend government funding, raise the debt limit and pass the annual defense-policy bill. Meanwhile, action on the partisan \$2 trillion climate and social programs spending bill remains another high priority. 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

Real Christmas trees have joined the long list of goods [in short supply](#) this year, which means more people will be buying them early. The National Fire Protection Association has tips for ensuring that trees [don't become a fire hazard](#) as they spend extra time in your home this year.

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## Senate Considers National Defense Authorization Act



This week, the Senate is expected to pass of the FY2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House passed its version of the NDAA (H.R. 4350) in September. That version included several domestic mineral supply chain provisions including NMA-backed language to support interagency coordination for the development of domestic supply chains for minerals while directing consultation with producers and processors of strategic and critical materials to prevent undue supply chain disruptions. Additional language in the bill would establish thresholds for domestic content requirements for major Department of Defense (DoD) acquisition programs and require the department to develop a plan to reduce reliance on foreign adversaries for certain materials. The bill also includes report language directing the DoD to brief the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) by June

30 on the department's efforts to understand supply chain disruptions of critical materials (identified in the 2018 U.S. Geological Survey's list of 35 critical minerals) and provide strategies to mitigate current and potential supply chain vulnerabilities. However, the House version also included language to withdraw federal lands in three states from mineral entry or create new and sweeping wilderness, conservation designations and other withdrawals of another one million acres. Anticipating a rapid conference committee to reconcile the House and Senate bills, the NMA [urged](#) Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) Chairman Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Ranking Member Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) to remove the lands provisions from the NDAA. We strongly believe these withdrawals will not survive the conference between the Senate- and House-passed versions of this bill. Once the Senate bill is passed, the House and Senate will begin expedited negotiations on a conference report, which is anticipated to be finished and voted on later in December. The NMA will continue to work with the SASC to keep pro-mining provisions and ensure unnecessary land access provisions are stripped from the final conference report.

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## NMA Meeting Scheduled with DOE Loan Programs Office on Infrastructure Minerals Provisions



The NMA has scheduled a virtual meeting with John Lushetsky, Senior Advisor in the Department of Energy's (DOE) Loan Programs Office (LPO), on Dec. 8 at 3:00 p.m.

Eastern to discuss new loan guarantee opportunities for qualifying minerals projects and other DOE funding opportunities included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law No: 117-58). The NMA worked with a bipartisan group of members of Congress on the infrastructure bill to secure new incentives for domestic production. Mr. Lushetsky will also be able to answer questions regarding previously released program guidance and answer inquiries about member eligibility for these programs. We are pleased that the NMA continues to receive interest in the meeting from member companies. If you or anyone from your organization would like to join the virtual meeting, please reach out to [Justin Prosser](#) for additional meeting and dial-in information. The NMA continues to work with the DOE and other federal agencies on new mineral production opportunities.

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## NMA and Third Party Voices

The [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#) (Pa.), [Las Vegas Sun](#) (Nev.), [The Bakersfield Californian](#) (Calif.) and [St. Joseph News Press](#) (Mo.) carry an op-ed by NMA's Rich Nolan in which he argues the U.S. can win the EV revolution, produce the emissions-free vehicles essential to climate action, and ensure the auto jobs of tomorrow are American jobs, but we must make mining policy the foundation of this effort.

Rich Nolan has a [new President's blog](#) out on how to avoid an energy reliability and affordability crisis in the midst of the energy transition.

Rich Nolan is quoted in a [Carolina Journal](#) report on Piedmont Lithium's efforts to bring a lithium mine to Gaston County.

[The Hill](#) named the NMA's Ryan Jackson as one of its top lobbyists for 2021.

From our third parties, [The Dominion Post](#) (W.Va.) carries an op-ed by Syd Peng, emeritus chair of Mining Engineering in the Department of Mining Engineering at West Virginia University, in which he argues West Virginia's storied history with coal, its world-

class workforce and the innovative work now happening in the state to advance next-generation coal and carbon-capture technology is more important than ever.

## Mining and Energy News

[Argus](#) reported that coal production from the western bituminous mines in Colorado and Utah increased 6.6 percent in the third quarter compared to the prior year, supported by export markets. [Argus](#) reported that coal-fueled generation in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) rose from the prior year for a sixth month in October, but still lost ground to renewable power. [Argus](#) also reported that Illinois Basin coal output fell slightly in the third quarter when compared to the prior year as a handful of the basin's mines had lower output.

[EIA reported on recent \*Electricity Monthly Update\* publication data](#) showing that total U.S. coal stockpiles had a month-over-month decrease of 4.8 percent, reaching 80 million tons in September 2021. This level is the lowest level of total U.S. coal stockpiles recorded for the month since EIA began collecting this data.

Wall Street Journal published: "America's power plants are [low on coal](#)."

S&P Global reported on U.S. Department of Energy's announcement that it will [rewrite the charter](#) for its National Coal Council advisory committee.

[Bloomberg](#) reported that Europe is growing increasingly reliant on coal to keep the lights on as the weather turns cold.

Spain became the latest European country to [restart a coal-fueled power plant](#) slated for closure.

[The New York Times reported](#) that some large insurers are working on a plan to stop covering mines and plants.

[Mining.com](#) reported on a new report by Wood Mackenzie stating that despite countries agreeing to phase down coal at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, thermal coal demand is expected to rise until the mid-2020s.

[The New York Times reported](#) on its investigation of global demand for raw materials such as cobalt as the clean energy revolution takes off. It argues that Americans failed to safeguard decades of diplomatic and financial investments in Congo, where the world's largest supply of cobalt is controlled by Chinese companies backed by Beijing.

[The International Copper Study Group's \(ICSG\) recent preliminary data for August indicates](#) that world copper mine production increased by 3.3 percent over the first eight months of 2021, with concentrate production increasing by around 5 percent and solvent extraction-electrowinning (SX-EW) declining by about 4 percent. The ICSG noted that U.S. copper production decreased 0.8 percent in August.



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