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MINE Update
MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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This Week in the News

The House and Senate are on recess for Presidents Day after approving another continuing resolution to extend government funding through March 11. As the world's eyes shift toward Russia and Ukraine, 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 American Heart Association offers a [handy resource](#) for determining what types of CPR and first aid courses you may need and provides a tool for locating classes near you.

White House Event on Critical Minerals Supply Chains



Yesterday the White House hosted an event announcing next steps to “Securing a Made in America Supply Chain for Critical Minerals.” The event was timed with the year anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 14017 (E.O.), [America’s Supply Chains](#). The accompanying fact sheet is available [here](#), and, while it acknowledges the importance of critical minerals, it also foreshadows potentially troublesome changes to the Mining Law and applicable regulations for mining on federal lands. Specifically, the fact sheet indicates that the Department of the Interior (DOI) has created an Interagency Working Group (IWG) to lead the effort on “legislative and regulatory reform of mine permitting and oversight.”

The IWG also released a list of [“fundamental principles for mining reform](#) to promote responsible mining under strong social, environmental, and labor standards that avoids the historic injustice that too many mining operations have left behind.” For additional

information on the principles, please see [NMA's Feb. 22 memorandum](#). The IWG has an aggressive schedule for 2022, and is expected to deliver legislative recommendations to Congress by November and will work with the relevant agencies to proposed updated regulations by the end of the year. At the same time, the IWG will host public input and comment sessions on these topics. The NMA met with EPA and DOI last year in advance of the IWG being created. We will continue to meet with and educate the IWG going forward in conjunction with oversight from our bipartisan Congressional and State based allies on changes to the mining law and relevant regulations.

CASE Releases Policy Brief on Grid Affordability and Reliability Crisis

Consumer Action for a Strong Economy (CASE), a free-market consumers' group, today released a policy brief on the nation's grid affordability and reliability crisis that strongly advocates for a policy reset to better value dispatchable fuel diversity underpinned by the existing coal fleet. The NMA worked with CASE on the brief, drawing attention to rising electricity affordability challenges, fuel security concerns and dire reliability warnings coming from utilities, grid operators and policymakers in both the U.S. and Europe. The brief lays out the scope of the challenge, the importance of dispatchable fuel diversity and presents a series of policy principles to guide an energy policy reset. Those principles include a call to expand generating reserve margins, to better value fuel security, and to build new generating capacity in addition to existing capacity, not in place of it. The brief can be found [here](#). CASE and the NMA will be working to share it widely and amplify its timely recommendations.

Interior Reopens Alaska's Ambler Road Record of Decision



DOI has filed a motion to reopen the Record of Decision for the Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road project (Ambler Road). This project previously received final federal approval in July of 2020, but now faces months of supplemental environmental analysis. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Sen. Dan Sullivan and Congressman Don Young, all R-Alaska, [all released sharply worded statements](#) condemning the administration's action. Proponents of the project, the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority and Ambler Metals, are expected to oppose DOI's motion but the district court likely will side with the government. Additionally, it is widely anticipated that DOI will suspend the right-of-way associated with the project during the remand to ensure that no ground-disturbing activity takes place.

USGS Issues Final 2022 Critical Minerals List

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) this week [issued](#) its 2022 final list of minerals considered critical pursuant to the 2017 Executive Order 13817, "A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals" and section 7002 of the Energy Act of 2020. The final list is unchanged from the draft list proposed in Nov. 2021. In conjunction with the list, USGS released a [frequently asked questions document](#) to provide additional explanation about the inclusion or exclusion of various minerals, the

methodology and potential updates. NMA's [comments](#) on the Nov. 2021 draft list criticized the USGS' narrow interpretation of the definition of critical minerals and the limitations of the criticality methodology. In the notice announcing the release of the list, USGS acknowledges that several comments addressed the overall methodology used to develop the list and committed to considering those comments in future updates to the methodology.

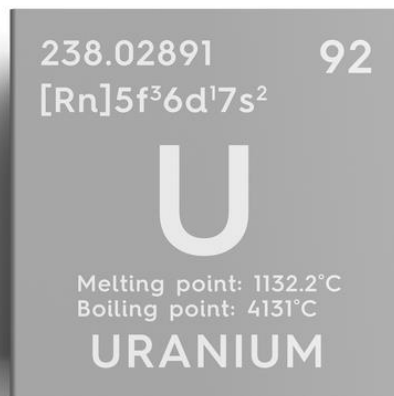
NMA Leads Coalition on Harbor and Waterway Funding



Last week, the NMA along with 13 maritime coalition member organizations continued to lead infrastructure work in Congress. The coalition advocated to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees that highlighted key maritime infrastructure provisions to maintain in the FY22 omnibus appropriations legislation. Congress is currently drafting legislation to fund the federal government through the end of the year, which must be passed by March 11 when funding expires to avoid a government shutdown. The letter requested that the committees fully fund the programs administered by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to ensure harbor maintenance and the inland waterway system critical to local, state and the national economies and ensure competitive domestic and

international commerce. Specifically, the letter urged the committees to increase USACE's programmatic funding for the Inland Waterways Trust Fund and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. You can view the NMA led coalition letter [here](#).

Senators Oppose Exclusion of Uranium from USGS Critical Minerals List



Yesterday, the USGS [released](#) its new list of mineral commodities deemed “critical to the U.S. economy and national security.” While the new list of 50 minerals added nickel and zinc, it excluded uranium, which was on the 2018 USGS list due to its essential national security properties. Earlier this month, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (ENR) Ranking Member John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and ENR Public Lands, Forests, and Mining Subcommittee Ranking Member Mike Lee (R-Utah) opposed the Interior’s efforts to remove uranium from the USGS critical minerals list. In a letter, the Senators make the strong case that uranium should be maintained on the list and that, if removed, the Biden-Harris Administration would be signaling to Russia and other geopolitical adversaries that the U.S. will move ahead with domestic policies that support mineral import reliance for uranium and other essential minerals instead of producing them here at home. Please find

a link to the letter [here](#). NMA will continue to work with allied members of Congress focused on Congressional oversight of domestic production.

NMA and Third Party Voices

The [Washington Examiner](#) reported that NMA head Rich Nolan called for a more aggressive critical minerals strategy last week in response to a Defense Department report on the poor state of competition between U.S. mineral suppliers and foreign counterparts.

Rich Nolan is quoted by [KUNC](#) in a story on bipartisan support for Good Samaritan legislation.

Rich Nolan is quoted in a [Norfolk Daily News](#) op-ed that argues a rushed transition to alternative energy is creating a reliability problem.

The NMA is quoted in an [E&E News PM](#) report on the Biden administration's vision for revamping the United States' mining law and regulations.

From our third parties, the [Kokomo Tribune](#) (Ind.) carries an op-ed by Michael Stumo, CEO of the Coalition for a Prosperous America, in which he argues it's past time to rebuild America's mining industry and reestablish secure, domestic supply chains in order to support a competitive, future American industrial base.

Mining and Energy News

[Axios](#) published: "The push for a domestic mineral supply chain."

[Mining.com](#) published: "Gold price nears 3-month peak as Ukraine tension lifts haven demand."

Utility Dive reported on a new Department of Energy-backed project which will seek to quantify the [amount of lithium resources](#) in California's Salton Sea geothermal field as part of a broad effort to boost the country's supply of raw materials for batteries.

[Recent preliminary International Copper Study Group \(ICSG\) data](#) for November 2021 shows that global “mine production grew by around 2.5 percent in Jan-Nov 2021, but this compares to a low 2020 basis when the copper mining industry was severely impacted by the global lockdown.”

The U.S. Department of Energy released a [Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) on the design, construction and operation of a new facility to demonstrate the commercial feasibility of a full-scale rare earth element (REE) and critical minerals (CM) extraction and separation refinery using unconventional resources. [CNN Politics](#) reports the vast majority of critical minerals and rare earth elements that help power electric vehicles and wind turbines come from mining operations overseas. But a new initiative spearheaded by the US Department of Energy is looking for ways to extract them from fossil fuel waste.

[Mining.com](#) reported that the U.S. and Japan reached a truce that will allow most steel shipments from the Asian nation to enter tariff-free for the first time since 2018 and sees the countries working together to combat Chinese trade practices that harm the industry.

[New York Times](#) and others reported that the Biden administration plans to set out a strategy for buying “clean,” lower-emissions steel, cement, aluminum and other industrial materials for federal agencies and projects, part of its effort to reduce carbon emissions from industrial manufacturing.

[Argus](#) reported that U.S. coal imports rose last year as coke use and steel-making activity accelerated. Last year's imports were lower than 2019.

[CNBC](#) reported on [analysis](#) published by campaign groups Urgewald and Reclaim Finance, alongside more than two dozen other NGOs, finding that global commercial banks channeled \$1.5 trillion to the coal industry between January 2019 and November last year.

[Argus](#) published: “Illinois basin coal production up slightly in 4Q.”

[Argus](#) reported that Western bituminous coal production reached its highest level in more than two years last quarter, as some of the larger mines in Colorado and Utah increased output.

[Argus](#) reported that combined coal-fueled generation in key global markets rose in 2021, due to higher Chinese and Indian output.

[USGS](#) announced that it would be investing infrastructure funds to “modernize the nation’s surface and subsurface mapping. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding will accelerate the identification of areas with potential critical mineral resources still in the ground and in mine wastes.”

[The Financial Times](#) reported that despite being written off, U.S. coal producers are raking in money.

A [Utility Dive brief](#) reported that the Southwest region will soon be in urgent need of power. “Southwestern utilities estimate that electric loads will increase approximately 2.4 percent per year between 2021 and 2025, a time period during which they plan to retire around 1,200 MW of coal and 1,300 MW of natural gas capacity.”

PNM sought to [extend the life](#) of its San Juan Generating Station by three months to avert electricity shortfalls this summer.

Wall Street Journal published: “America’s power grid is [increasingly unreliable](#)” and reported that the market for backup generators and microgrid technologies [is soaring](#).

OilPrice published: “China looks to run coal-fired power plants [at full capacity](#).”

China approved investing \$4 billion to develop [three new coal mines](#).

India moved to [increase coal production](#) to 1.2 billion tons annually by 2023-24.



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