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

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Issue 10 | March 9, 2022

Brought to you by the National Mining Association

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## **This Week in the News**

Russia's invasion of Ukraine pushed energy policy back to the forefront in Washington, D.C. Congress faces another weekend deadline to keep the government fully funded, with the schedule scrambled by House plans to adjourn Wednesday for a Democratic policy retreat in Philadelphia. 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**

Safety is important in your virtual world, too. The Department of Homeland Security has [five everyday steps](#) toward your online safety.

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## NMA Meets with White House on Domestic Minerals Supply



Last week, NMA President & CEO Rich Nolan, NMA General Counsel Katie Sweeney, and NMA Senior Vice President for Government and Political Affairs Ryan Jackson met with Sameera Fazili, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of the National Economic Council; David Hayes, Special Assistant to the President for Climate Policy and former deputy secretary of the US Department of the Interior (DOI) for Presidents Clinton and Obama; and 8 White House officials from the Council on Environmental Quality, National Economic Council, and White House Climate Policy office to continue engagement with not only the federal agencies involved in review of mineral supply chain issues but White House staff on next steps in implementation of the White House supply chain executive order and new actions including the Interagency Working Group on mining reform.

Two weeks ago, the DOI [announced an Interagency Working Group on Mining Reform](#) which will be focused on regulatory and legislative recommendations over the next few months. [The NMA has already and consistently engages with the DOI and the US Department of Agriculture](#) on provisions passed in the new infrastructure law designed to increase domestic production and reform DOI's and USDA's processes to encourage new domestic minerals production. The NMA is continuing to work to contribute to that stakeholder process and to involve our member companies in the process as well as public opportunities get announced. This is part of many [further steps in implementing the President's Supply Chain Executive Order](#) from over one year ago. The NMA will be engaged with a number of federal agencies involved in this work and will let you know about upcoming opportunities to impact the administration's next steps.

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## U.S. Bans Russian Coal, Oil and Gas Imports



Yesterday, the White House announced an executive order to ban imports of Russian coal, oil and liquefied natural gas to the United States. In taking this action, the White House issued a [fact sheet](#) with details behind the decision. As you may have followed in recent days, the White House initially resisted a ban but it has gained support following Ukrainian

president Volodymyr Zelensky's call for such a move. In response, the NMA [released a statement](#) applauding the action and expressing the industry's readiness to support.

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## 200 House Minority Members Urge WOTUS Pause



More than 200 House Republicans [sent a letter](#) urging the Biden administration to stop work on the waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rulemaking until after the Supreme Court rules *in Michael Sackett, et ux., Petitioners v. Environmental Protection Agency, et al. (Sackett)*; a ruling is expected in 2023. In the letter, lawmakers argue that any future rulemaking must be based on fully-informed legal guidance, including the Sackett case, and note that the “agencies themselves have stated that their rulemaking will take into account ‘updates to be consistent with relevant Supreme Court decisions.’”

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## House Western Caucus Roundtable with NMA Members on Mining in Arizona



On March 4, Members of the House Western Caucus (WC), led by Chairman Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) participated in a roundtable discussion on the importance of domestic mineral supply chains. They heard from NMA members Paul Goranson (EnCore Energy) and Andrew Lye (Resolution Copper) as well as Arizona Mining Association's Steve Trussell, about ongoing permitting and global supply chain issues, and the need for the U.S. to prioritize domestic mineral production and secure supply chains to decrease our nation's import reliance on geopolitical adversaries.

As part of the roundtable events, WC members, accompanying Congressional staff, and NMA's Justin Prosser visited the Resolution Copper project and toured the site, which included a trip underground to gain a better understanding of modern mining processes and the prioritization of mine worker safety. The roundtable and tour provided WC members and congressional staff with a much better understanding of the project, which will prove invaluable in pushing back against Congressional efforts to cancel the Oak Flats land swap.

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## Wyden Introduces Minerals Legislation

This week Senator Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) introduced [legislation](#) that would support the production, processing and manufacturing of minerals. According to a [summary](#) released by Senator Wyden, the Critical Mineral Environmental Processing and Mining Clean Up Program legislation:

- Establishes a \$50 million competitive grant program through the DOI for the environmental assessment, processing, mitigation and clean-up necessary for critical mineral processing.
- The Secretary will identify up to 20 critical minerals and minerals most important for domestic manufacturing and to reduce America's dependence on foreign mineral imports to be eligible for the grant program. The Secretary can update the list as necessary. The NMA worked with Senator Wyden's office to broaden the focus to include critical minerals and more.
- An entity seeking a grant must follow standards established by the Secretary of the Interior and have a documented interest in constructing, expanding, or modernizing critical mineral facilities, while demonstrating strong labor and environmental protections.
- Eligible entities will follow all applicable environmental laws and regulations while carrying out activities under this grant program. They will also follow any other environmental standards determined to be necessary by the Secretary of the Interior.

Bipartisan interest continues to grow on Capitol Hill for supporting supply chains and domestic mineral production. The NMA worked with Senator Wyden's office on this legislation and will continue to work with his office on his interest in mining issues.

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## NMA Submits Comments on 30x30 Initiative

This week, the NMA submitted [comments](#) in response to the administration's 'America The Beautiful' initiative, also known as the 30x30 initiative to conserve 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030. NMA's comments stressed the importance of including reclaimed mine lands, state and local conservation partnerships, and voluntary conservation activities that the mining industry is engaged in, as an important inclusion in the baseline of the measure of conservation. The NMA's comments stress that the inclusion of these important conservation measures will help the administration to surpass the 30 percent goal early.

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## EPA Releases 2020 TRI National Analysis

Last week the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its 2020 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) National Analysis. The metal mining industry's data is prominently featured in this report due to the large volume of "releases" reported under the program. A copy of the 2020 TRI National Analysis may be accessed [here](#). EPA Headquarters' press release may be accessed [here](#). Additional EPA press releases that highlight the metal mining industry's contributions to the overall release numbers in their respective states are available for [Region 8](#), [Region 9](#), and [Region 10](#). Notably, Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Jason Brune issued a [press release](#) providing valuable context to the metal mining industry's data in Alaska. Nevada's Division of Environmental Protection Administrator Greg Lovato is also quoted in the Region 9 press release on the metal mining industry's data in Nevada and why TRI data alone cannot be used to determine risk to communities.

This year's overall numbers show a 10 percent decrease in on- and off-site disposal or other releases from 2019. The metal mining industry accounted for 45 percent of all disposal or other releases for 2020. From 2011 to 2022, 99 percent of the sector's releases were on site to land. The 2020 TRI National Analysis contains several new or expanded sections, including: (1) a new [map](#) including the demographics of communities where TRI facilities are located; (2) analysis of reporting for newly-added PFAS; (3) a profile highlighting the cement manufacturing sector; (4) greenhouse gas reporting included in some sector profiles (but not for the metal mining sector); and (5) addition of cross-border

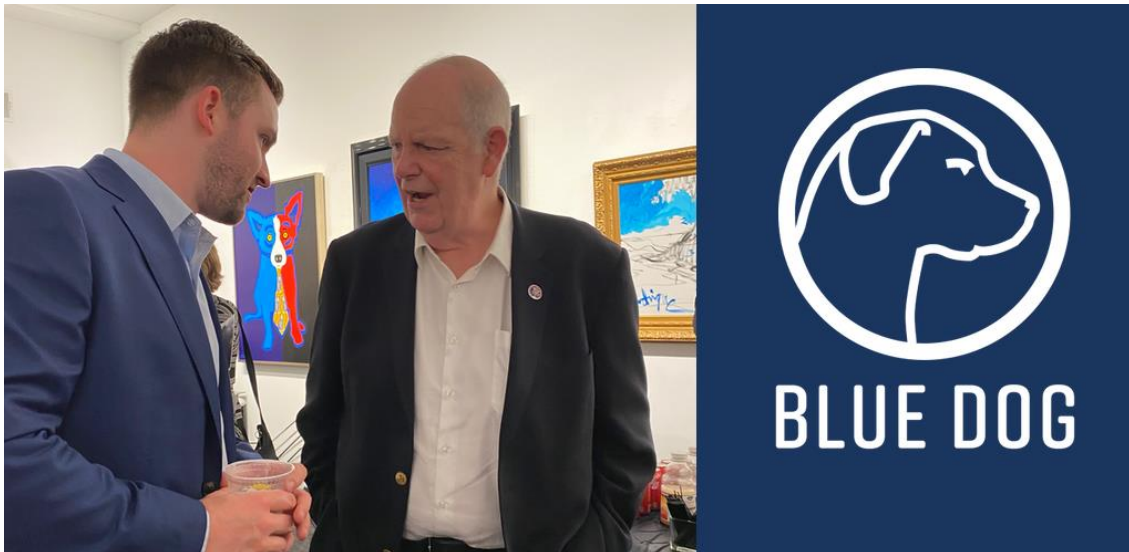
waste transfers to data exploration dashboard tool.

NMA worked collaboratively with EPA for over four years to develop the [metal mining interactive diagram](#), which was introduced two years ago. It is the cornerstone of the NMA's advocacy plan for improving how the mining industry's TRI data is communicated to the public. This diagram is linked in the metal mining chapter of the TRI National Analysis.

If you have any questions or information to share regarding this year's TRI National Analysis, please contact [tbridgeford@nma.org](mailto:tbridgeford@nma.org).

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## NMA Joins Blue Dog Democrats



Last weekend, NMA joined a weekend fundraiser in New Orleans hosted by [Blue Dog PAC](#), a coalition of moderate democratic Congressional House members. Members of the coalition in attendance included Representatives Stephanie Murphy (Fla.), Tom O'Halleran (N.M.), Jim Costa (Calif.), Kurt Schrader (Ore.), and several other members, as well as their chiefs of staff. NMA manager for government affairs, Scott Gemperline, attended several events, which provided ample opportunity to raise domestic mining policy priorities directly with key Congressional members and their staff, including the recently introduced bipartisan Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2022 ([S.](#)

[3571](#)). NMA, through its political action committee and political affairs work , will continue to engage in similar opportunities throughout the year leading up to key midterm races to work directly with members of Congress to further NMA's legislative priorities.

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## NMA and Third Party Voices

Rich Nolan has a [new president's blog](#) on how mined-in-America copper will strengthen America's competitiveness.

[S&P Global](#) quotes Rich Nolan in a story on the Biden administration's efforts to stimulate domestic critical mineral supply chains and plans to extract and refine energy metals inside the U.S.

The NMA is mentioned in a story from [KPAX](#) noting that it could become easier for communities to play a role in cleaning up abandoned mine sites in the coming years, if a bill jointly backed by Montana's two senators gets traction in Washington, D.C.

[E&E Greenwire](#) quotes the NMA in a story on the Biden administration's finalization of a rule potentially paving the way for more government purchases of materials mined in the United States.

From our third parties, the [Duluth News Tribune](#) (Minn.) ran an op-ed by Dan Ervin, a finance professor at Salisbury University, in which he argues American manufacturing policy and energy policy should rest on the shoulders of American mining policy.

[The Trentonian](#) (N.J.), [Pottstown Mercury](#) (Pa.), [Exton Daily Local](#) (Pa.), [Swarthmore Times Herald](#) (Pa.), [Lansdale Reporter](#) (Pa.), [Delaware County Daily Times](#) (Pa.), [Arizona Capitol Times](#) (Ariz.), [Elko Daily Free Press](#) (Nev.) and [Mainline Times and Suburban](#) (Pa.) all published 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 if the U.S. is to maintain affordable, reliable power during the coming energy transition,

policymakers must be careful not to eliminate essential coal and nuclear power capacity before reliable alternatives are in place.

[RealClearEnergy](#) (D.C.) ran an op-ed by Matthew Kandrach, president of CASE, Consumer Action for a Strong Economy, a free-market oriented consumer advocacy organization, in which he argues responsibly navigating the road ahead means building on the shoulders of our existing baseload capacity, not taking it apart.

[MarketWatch](#) (USA) carried 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 industrial base from the ground up—and re-establish secure, domestic supply chains in order to secure America's future in a more adversarial world.

## Mining and Energy News

[The Wall Street Journal](#) reported that the war in Ukraine scrambled global energy markets, and that coal may enjoy a renaissance as European countries look again to establish energy independence from Russia. [Politico Pro](#) published: "Off the charts: Coal prices surge as West shuns Russia." And E&E [Energywire](#) reported that the Russia crisis could extend coal's upswing in the U.S. and slow investments in new energy projects as natural gas prices continue to rise. [Bloomberg](#) published: "U.S. coal prices soar as war drives global commodities rally."

[Argus](#) reported that U.S. coal-fueled generation and consumption fell to historic lows in December due to milder weather and increases in competition from natural gas and renewables. [Argus](#) also reported on EIA analysis predicting a faster drop in U.S. coal consumption than previously expected due to plant closures and renewable capacity additions.

Major coal producer Peabody Energy announced a move into [solar power and energy storage](#). St. Louis Post-Dispatch published: "Peabody's foray into renewables sparks surprise [but also makes sense](#), coal experts say." [Reuters](#) and [E&E](#)

[Energywire](#) reported that Peabody announced last week that it will make its first foray into renewable energy through a new joint venture and develop of over 3.3GW of solar energy in five years on their former mine sites.

[Politico Pro](#) reported that uranium may regain critical mineral status after USGS excluded it from the list because the Department of Energy is preparing its own critical mineral list that may include uranium. The U.S. received more than 16 percent of its uranium imports from Russia in 2020.

[Bloomberg Law](#) published “Urgent threat seen from U.S. nukes using Russia uranium.” [Politico Pro](#) reported that the invasion by Russia has spurred oil supermajors to back out of deals and has created questions about uranium supplies for nuclear power plants.

[Reuters](#) reported that [London nickel](#) prices soared over 30 percent, their biggest gain on record, driven by market fears over supply disruptions relating to the escalating Russia-Ukraine conflict. Russia accounts for 7 percent of global nickel production used in stainless steel and EV batteries among other uses.

[S&P Global](#) reported that the Biden administration's efforts to stimulate domestic critical mineral supply chains is scoring early successes, as companies accelerate their plans to extract and refine clean energy metals inside the U.S. And Greenwire [reported](#) that the ‘Buy American’ rule could pave the way for more minerals purchases.

[Mining.com](#) reported that Chile is looking to nationalize some of the world’s biggest copper and lithium mines.

Visual Capitalist graphically displayed the [50 minerals critical to U.S. security](#).



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