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# MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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Brought to you by the National Mining Association

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## This Week in the News

Congress leaves for recess in less than two weeks. In an election year increasingly dominated by a faltering economy, war in Ukraine, January 6 committee hearings, and now gun policy, Congress has only eight weeks before the end of September and expected House adjournment to pass major legislation, such as partisan budget reconciliation legislation. However, even as the legislative window shrinks, regulatory agencies continue to advance Biden administration priorities. 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

Prompt treatment can make a huge difference in recovering from a stroke. Everyone should know the [F.A.S.T. warning signs](#) to determine when it's time to call 911.

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## **NMA Submits Comments on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law AML Grant Guidance**

This week, the NMA submitted comments to the Department of the Interior in response to the recent [draft guidance](#) to select states and the Navajo Nation to apply for 2022 grants to receive a portion of funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for Abandoned Mine Land (AML) grants. Given the historical issues with administration of the AML fund, the NMA's comments stress the need for prioritization of P1 and P2 sites over non-coal mining related sites and encourage adequate oversight of states managing the grants. The NMA also encouraged the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to quickly initiate rulemaking to establish requirements and obligations related to the application procedures, allowable uses of funds, and reporting on program activities and outcomes.

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## **STB Directs Railroads to Correct Deficiencies in Service Recovery Plans**



**The Surface Transportation Board (STB) this week issued a scathing order** directing four Class I carriers to provide additional information on their actions to improve service and communications with their customers as well as additional detailed information on their actions to improve service and communications, and to demonstrate their monthly progress in increasing the size of their work forces needed to provide reliable rail service. The STB found that the four carriers submitted plans that were “woefully deficient”, and “failed to instill confidence that the carriers have a serious approach to fixing a problem caused by their own lack of preparedness.” The STB ordered the four Class I carriers, under the imposition of monetary penalties, to submit revised service recovery plans by June 23, 2022.

A large bipartisan group of members of Congress have weighed in with the STB on behalf of a cross section of industries on rail service. A month ago, a subcommittee of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee **held an oversight hearing** where all members of the STB answered questions about the STB’s next steps to remedy rail service problems. Yesterday, the same subcommittee held another **hearing with the Federal Railway Administration** also highlighting some similar issues. In addition, at the end of May, Senators Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) **led a group of 21 bipartisan senators** questioning the STB on next steps to remedy rail issues. The NMA planted questions with allied House members for the hearings and worked with senators on the letter and outreach to the STB and continues to be engaged with the STB

regarding insufficient rail service. Previously the NMA provided oral and [written](#) testimony outlining the issues NMA members are experiencing at a [public hearing](#) in April. The NMA also recently submitted written [comments](#) to the STB in response to its [Notice](#) of Proposed Rulemaking to amend its emergency service rules to provide relief for shippers in situations that require immediate relief.

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## Utah Congressman Introduces Mining School Bill



Tomorrow, Congressman Burgess Owens (R-Utah) will introduce the Mining Schools Act of 2022 in the U.S. House of Representatives. The legislation, which is a companion to [S. 3915](#), introduced in March by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and Chairman Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), would authorize \$10 million annually through 2030 and direct the Department of Energy to establish a program to award up to 10 competitive grants annually for mining schools to support recruitment and education opportunities for engineers and other qualified professionals in the field of mining. The grant funds will be used to enhance and support programs related to exploration, extraction, processing, and refining processes and technologies, including reclamation and reprocessing technologies for hardrock minerals and coal products, that

help reduce U.S. dependence on foreign energy and mineral supplies through increased domestic production. Please find a link to the bill [here](#). The bill is supported by the NMA, American Exploration and Mining Association, Utah Mining Association, Nevada Mining Association, Arizona Mining Association, New Mexico Mining Association, Wyoming Mining Association, Idaho Mining Association, Montana Mining Association, and the Alaska Mining Association, among others. The NMA will continue to support the bill and work with the committee to prioritize workforce and training opportunities in the mining sector.

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## State Pushback on EPA Good Neighbor Rule

On Wednesday, 22 lawmakers from 10 states sent a [letter](#) to EPA Administrator Michael Regan highlighting their concern with EPA's April 6 release of the "Good Neighbor" plan governing interstate transport of emissions in context to the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standard. Lawmakers are deeply troubled by the imposition of a Federal Implementation Plan without a meaningful review from EPA with states and the designed plans they are working on.

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## NMA Leadership Participates in PDAC



The NMA's Rich Nolan and Katie Sweeney met with NMA member companies, potential members, allies and government officials this week at The Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) convention to discuss developing projects in the U.S., partnerships with emerging mining companies seeking to increase investments in the U.S., and federal policies that will help attract mining investment and new projects in the lower

48 and Alaska. The annual conference attracted hundreds of mining companies and investors. Mr. Nolan and Ms. Sweeney engaged with more than 50 mining companies with mines operating or in development in the U.S., as well as other countries and provinces seeking mining partnerships.



## Registration is Now Open for the NMA's Uranium Workshop in Denver

The NMA will host the Uranium Recovery Workshop (URW) in person, July 18-19, 2022, at the Grand Hyatt Denver. The NMA's URW provides an opportunity for representatives from the NMA, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the U.S. Department of Energy, uranium recovery licensees and other stakeholders to connect regarding uranium recovery technical and regulatory issues. A draft agenda is available [here](#).

[Online](#) registration for the URW 2022 is open until **Wednesday, July 13**. The NMA has **also** reserved a block of rooms at the Grand Hyatt Denver for attendees. Reservations should be made no later than **June 24, 2022**. Rooms are available on a first-come-first-served basis, or until the block is full. After the **June 24 cut-off date**, or once the block is full, reservations are subject to hotel availability. To make your hotel reservations online, click [here](#).

If you have any questions about the 2022 workshop, please contact James Scribner at [jscribner@nma.org](mailto:jscribner@nma.org) or Katie Coon at [kcoon@nma.org](mailto:kcoon@nma.org).

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## NMA and Third Party Voices

[Fox Business](#) ran two video clips of an interview with Rich Nolan on coal.

The NMA is mentioned in a [Breaking Defense](#) report noting that two Democratic senators plan to introduce legislation this week that would force the Defense Department to aggressively speed up efforts to adopt more environmentally friendly vehicles.

[The Eastern New Mexico News](#) (N.M.) carried an op-ed by Jim Constantopoulos, a geology professor at Eastern New Mexico University, in which he argues we must open new mines faster in order to bring about effective climate action.

The [Nashua Telegraph](#) (N.H.) and [Delaware Valley Journal](#) (Pa.) carried an op-ed by David Banks, a former vice president of a mining industry trade association, in which he argued it is time to reform mine permitting to encourage greater domestic production.

## Mining and Energy News

[Reuters](#) reported that just under half of Americans support nuclear power to generate electricity, an industry the Biden administration has been trying to revitalize with billions of dollars in public spending as part of a plan to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, a new Reuters/Ipsos poll showed.

[Bloomberg](#) reported that the Biden administration is pushing lawmakers to support a \$4.3 billion plan to buy enriched uranium directly from domestic producers to wean the U.S. off Russian imports of the nuclear-reactor fuel.

[Wall Street Journal](#) reported that idle uranium mines are slowly coming back to life as countries rethink their energy security and shift away from coal.

[Argus](#) reported that coal generation in May decreased 2 percent in the PJM Interconnection power transmission region, the U.S.' largest grid, despite higher cooling demand. [Argus](#) also reported that coal lost ground in May in the ERCOT power region.

[Argus](#) reported that a federal judge has approved a settlement that could delay the end of coal and petroleum coke exports out of Levin-Richmond Terminal to 2026.

[Argus](#) reported that the U.S. Energy Information Administration again lowered its outlook for domestic coal consumption in 2022 amid limited rail capacity for fuel delivery, low coal stocks at power plants, reduced coal mining capacity, and higher generation from renewable sources.

[Argus](#) reported that U.S. thermal coal exports reached a 13-month high in April as international buyers sought to restock supply and some U.S. coals held larger competitive price advantages to other seaborne markets.

[Virginia Mercury](#) reported that Virginia coal production remains high, fueled by ongoing demand for steel as the U.S. embarks on an ambitious program of infrastructure investment and disruptions in energy markets linked to the war in Ukraine.

[Financial Times](#) published: "China ramps up coal power to boost post-lockdown growth."

[Mining.com](#) published: "More commodity inflation beckons as war boosts coal."

[Charleston Gazette Mail](#) reported that momentum is building for federal legislation aimed at strengthening abandoned coal mine reclamation provisions that advocates say would go a long way toward cleaning up Appalachia.

[Axios](#) reported that a new International Monetary Fund (IMF) study finds huge economic benefits from phasing out coal globally even under somewhat modest estimates of the

monetary damages from carbon emissions.

[ClimateWire](#) reported on environmental coalition Secure Our Future's analysis indicating that many major insurance companies have stopped underwriting coal projects, making it more difficult for some utilities to find coverage for new power plants. "Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Liberty Mutual Group and Starr Insurance companies are among a handful of companies that appear to be the coal industry's "insurers of last resort," according to the [report](#)."

[S&P Global](#) reported that monthly U.S. thermal and metallurgical coal exports increased 10.1 percent from the previous month to 7.3 million metric tons in April, U.S. Census Bureau data showed.

[Wall Street Journal](#) reported that an aging coal power plant in Missouri was headed for retirement this year, but because the region's grid operator needs the plant's electricity to reduce the risk of blackouts, it likely will keep running for several years longer.

[Argus](#) reported that coal exports out of Hampton Roads, Virginia, fell for the first time in more than a year in May, led by a drop in shipments from the region's two largest terminals, Lamberts Point and DTA.

[GreenWire](#) reported that the Mine Safety and Health Administration is launching a new enforcement initiative against unsafe levels of silica dust inside of mines, which is linked to black lung disease.

[EnergyWire](#) Published: "Explosion shuts down major U.S. LNG terminal for weeks." The closure of the Texas facility takes 2 billion cubic feet of gas a day (20 percent of U.S. LNG processing) off the international market for at least 3 weeks as liquefied natural gas plants operate at peak capacity to replace Russian supply in Europe.

In a recent [Today in Energy](#) release, the Energy Information Administration indicates that natural gas prices are expected to remain high through 2022.

[EnergyWire](#) published: "U.S. LNG could spew as much CO2 as 20 coal plants - report."

The report from nonprofit Environmental Integrity Project argues that if all the proposed U.S. projects are completed, they could collectively release the equivalent of 90 million metric tons of carbon dioxide per year.

Midcontinent Independent System Operator forecasted a [large and growing](#) electricity generating capacity shortfall.

Texas [set a new record](#) for peak electricity demand.

The World Steel Association's recent 2022 edition of [World Steel in Figures](#) "provides a comprehensive overview of steel industry activities, stretching from crude steel production to apparent steel use, from indications of global steel trade flows to iron ore production and trade."

[Mining.com](#) reported that Researchers at Ruhr-University Bochum investigated ways to make copper and silver release even more ions than they normally would as a result of corrosion, a process that helps prevent the growth of bacteria. The study found that copper was more effective in killing the Covid virus than silver.

The [University of Kansas](#) announced that the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) at the University of Kansas has been awarded \$1.5 million dollars from the U.S. Department of Energy for a two-year project to study the feasibility of recovering minerals critical to advanced and defense manufacturing as well as the clean energy industry from coal deposits, associated rock layers and legacy mining wastes found in Kansas and neighboring states.

[GreenWire](#) reported that Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt and the president of USA Rare Earth LLC announced plans for a \$100 million (rare earth) metal and manufacturing facility in Stillwater that's expected to create more than 100 jobs.

[Mining.com](#) reported that Perpetua Resources is building momentum on its legacy cleanup in Idaho and has selected IMCO Construction as a partner to begin water quality improvements in the historical Stibnite mining district this summer.

[OilPrice](#) published: “The world is scrambling for lithium supply.”

[Washington Post](#) published: “Why an energy crisis and \$5 gas aren’t spurring a green revolution.”

## Mining Action Strategy Team

Access the latest snapshot of the NMA’s ongoing regulatory efforts. The MAST tracker is updated weekly to the extent new actions have occurred.

Current password: Mining

[Mining Action Strategy Team](#)



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