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MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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Brought to you by the National Mining Association

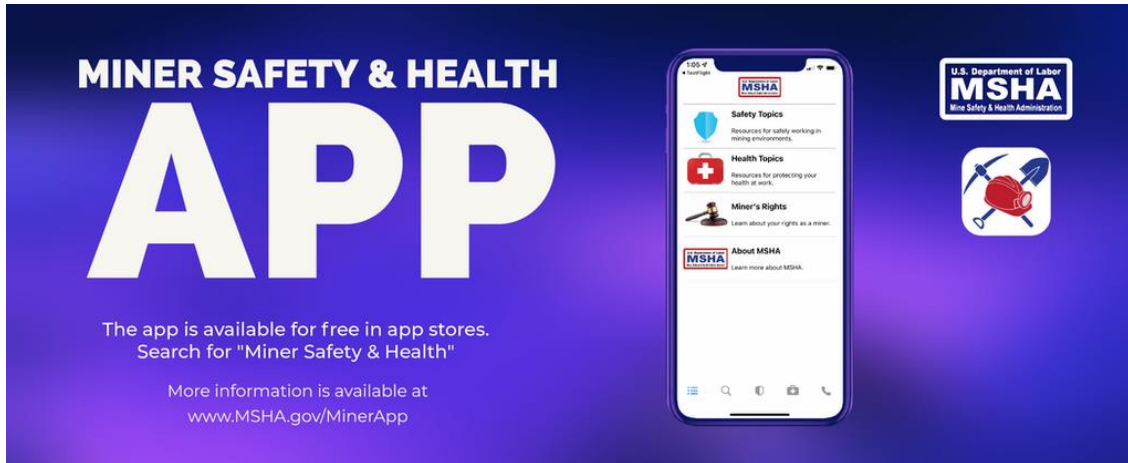
This Week in the News

U.S. senators returned to session yesterday, with House members remaining on recess until next week. Members of Congress have just a handful of legislative days to address government funding that will expire September 30, and the prospect for a stop-gap funding bill that punts the issue, among others, into a post-election lame duck session looms ever larger. A potential vote on promised permitting reform package may also rise to the headlines this month. 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

September is [National Preparedness Month](#) and Ready.gov has plenty of resources to engage.

MSHA Releases Miner Safety and Health App



The U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) last week announced that its new Miner Safety and Health app is available for download. The app is available free and can be found by clicking [Android](#) or [iPhone](#) and can also be found at the respective app stores by searching for “Miner Safety & Health.” Miners can use the app to know and understand their rights and responsibilities as miners, to search for and use best safety and health practices, and to receive notifications of accidents in the mining community and how to prevent them. MSHA built in a safety feature where users must acknowledge they are in a safe area prior to accessing the app.

The information in the app is currently limited and MSHA acknowledges that updates will occur as new information comes available. More information is available on MSHA’s [app web page](#).

NMA Survey on Rail Service



The NMA has heard from several members regarding ongoing rail service issues and recovery efforts involving Class I rail carriers. To assess these rail issues and impacts, the NMA would appreciate your feedback on this anonymous survey. The data from this survey will be used for future engagement with Congress, the Surface Transportation Board and others, to illustrate the rail service concerns of NMA members, and to stress that more relief is needed. Click [here](#) to fill out the four-minute survey. We ask that all NMA members please submit responses to the survey by September 13, 2022.

NMA Talks with Senator Manchin on Permitting



Wednesday afternoon, NMA President and CEO Rich Nolan met with Senator Joe Manchin (R-W.Va.) concerning the senator's upcoming official release of his legislation aimed to ease permitting for energy, infrastructure, transmission line and mining projects. Last month, Senator Manchin's office released a [one-page summary](#) of the proposal. An [incomplete leaked draft](#) has been circulating in Washington since mid-July. Rich stressed the need to ensure new processes in the bill do not add to permitting delays, the need for broad applicability for mining projects, and need for energy parity to extend to coal production. Senator Manchin, working with Senate and House leadership, expects to release the final text of his proposal soon and is pushing to pass the legislation as early as this month.

National Mediation Board to Guide Negotiations on Rail Labor Agreements

This week, the National Mediation Board ordered rail labor unions and railroad negotiators to Washington, D.C. for guided negotiations in an attempt to work out agreements before the Sept. 16 deadline under the Railway Labor Act. Of the 12 union groups, five have come to a tentative agreement with the railroads. An extension of the Sept. 16 deadline is also possible to continue negotiations and prevent a lockout or a rail strike.

The NMA Comments on EPA Preemptive Use of Clean Water Act Veto

Yesterday the NMA filed [comments](#) on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 proposed determination to prohibit and restrict mining in the Pebble deposit area. The NMA's comments reiterate concerns we have consistently advocated over the last decade regarding EPA's preemptive Clean Water Act section 404(c) veto and highlight additional concerns with the agency's proposed action, including: the harmful precedent it would set for other mining projects and development projects; the effect it will have on an already stressed mineral supply chains; and the increased regulatory uncertainty that will result.

The NMA also led a coalition [letter](#) with 16 national and Alaska-based trade associations opposing EPA's proposed determination and emphasizing the negative consequences this action will have on a broad swath of the U.S. economy. The NMA will continue to work with our allies to elevate our concerns with the proposed determination and the damaging precedent this action could have on future mining and development

Next Week: NMA's Fall Board of Directors and Annual Members Meeting in Washington, D.C.



MINING: Center Stage in Washington and the World

NMA Fall Board of Directors and Annual Members Meeting

September 16, 2022

The NMA Fall Board of Directors and Annual Members Meeting will be held Sept. 14-16, at the [Conrad Washington, D.C.](#), located at 950 New York Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. The NMA hotel block is closed! NMA has a couple of rooms on hold, but please contact [Katie Coon](#) to reserve those rooms.

If you have not already done so, to register for the Board Meeting and the congressional reception, please [click here](#). If you are only planning to attend the NMA congressional reception, please be sure to [RSVP](#).

NMA and Third Party Voices

In reporting on comments filed concerning the work of the Interagency Working Group (IWG) on mining, the NMA is mentioned in the following stories:

- The NMA is mentioned by [Reuters](#) in a story on the IWG comments, noting that U.S. mining companies, automakers and a bipartisan group of congressional members are recommending that the federal government cut the time needed to permit a new mine in order to boost domestic production of electric vehicle minerals.

- Mining Weekly reports despite being home to extensive and varied mineral resources, the U.S. is facing grave mineral supply challenges. Its import reliance has been well documented and, according to the NMA, it has now reached crisis levels.
- Inside EPA reports industry groups representing the electric vehicle (EV) and mining sectors are pressing the Biden administration to pursue regulatory or statutory changes that speed permits for mineral extraction, arguing environmental reviews for such projects can take up to a decade to finish.

The NMA is mentioned by [Inside EPA](#) in a story noting that, as the Biden administration weighs the need for reforming mining policies to bolster critical supply chains for low-carbon technologies, environmental and industry groups are renewing debate over whether EPA's Superfund financial assurance requirements are needed -- or could be justified -- to ensure contaminated mining activities are remediated.

The [Casper Star Tribune](#) (Wyo.), [Waco Tribune Herald](#) (Texas), [Weirton Daily Times](#) (W.Va.), [Steubenville Herald Star](#) (Ohio), [Salem News](#) (Ohio), [East Liverpool Review](#) (Ohio), [Lisbon Morning Journal](#) (Ohio), [Pottstown Mercury](#) (Pa.), [Exton Daily Local](#) (Pa.), [Swarthmore Times Herald](#) (Pa.), [Lansdale Reporter](#) (Pa.), [Delaware County Daily Times](#) (Pa.), [Mainline Times and Suburban](#) (Pa.), [the Trentonian](#) (N.J.), the [Logansport Pharos Tribune](#) (Ind.) and [Northwest Signal](#) (Ohio) all carry an op-ed by Rich Nolan on legislative and regulatory actions that could make the electricity reliability situation worse.

Mining and Energy News

[Argus](#) reported that the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) is at risk of continued resource capacity shortfalls in coming years because of planned U.S. power plant retirements and expected growth in electricity demand, according to a draft report from the grid operator's staff.

[Argus](#) reported that many coal trains are spending longer at loading points as U.S. railroads struggle to find crews to deliver them.

[S&P Global Market Intelligence](#) reported that MSHA data shows that “on a year-over-year basis, average coal employment rose 11.3 percent in the second quarter, and coal volumes improved about 2.0 percent.”

[Argus](#) reported that coal-fueled generation in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) in August rose by 6.2 percent from a year earlier, despite increased natural gas use. [Argus](#) also reported that U.S. coal receipts fell broadly in June from the previous year, with power plants taking less coal from most major coal producing basins.

[E&E Greenwire](#) published, “Greens press Biden on human rights reviews for mineral funding: The Biden administration is preparing to spend big on projects to bolster the domestic supply of minerals key to the energy transition.”

[Utility Dive](#) reported that requirements on the sourcing of critical materials could lead to lower utilization of cobalt and give a boost to lithium iron phosphate batteries, BofA Global Research analysts said.

[Utility Dive](#) reported that a global team of researchers led by the MIT Institute of Technology has developed an alternative battery technology that uses commonplace materials like aluminum and sulfur instead of lithium and other rare metals, according to a scientific paper published recently in the journal Nature.

The [Silver Institute's](#) August newsletter highlights recent research by the [University of Alabama](#) on the development of a new plasma-enabled process using silver that could limit the proliferation of toxins in body implants.

[The Verge](#) reported that “the shift to electric vehicles is about to overwhelm U.S. mining operations: there may not be enough critical mineral deposits in the U.S. to satisfy demand for EVs.”

[Politico Pro](#) reported that Ford Motor Company, in a filing submitted last week, is pressing

the federal government for changes in permitting to allow more domestic mining of critical minerals needed for domestic production of electric vehicle batteries.

[Washington Post](#) opined that environmentalists will have to “give up a core belief” and embrace big projects in order for an energy transition to succeed.

[California officials urged electricity conservation for seven days in a row](#) (with more probably to come) as a heat wave tested the state’s grid.

[Financial Times](#) published: “‘Perfect storm’ energy crunch lengthens life of coal power in U.S.”

Germany reactivated a second [coal-fueled power plant](#).

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](#)

CORESafety



The September edition of CORESafety TV:

- A discussion of the drones in coal mines.
- An interview with Dr. Pedram Roghanchi and Dr. Mostafa Hassanalian.
- CORESafety's module nine on Reinforcement and Recognition.

Bluefield Coal & Mining Show



THE BLUEFIELD COAL & MINING SHOW

A Show for Mining:
Our Past, Present, Future

September 14, 15, 16, 2022

Brushfork Armory-Civic Center
Bluefield, West Virginia

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