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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

With midterm elections less than a month away, Congress and the media are laser focused on the campaign trail. Inside the Beltway, executive branch actions continue to grind forward and 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

Working from home appears to be here to stay, but the practice is also associated with an increase in prolonged sitting, social isolation from colleagues, and difficulty in disconnecting. The European Union’s “Healthy Workplaces” program produced a helpful information sheet on: “Preventing musculoskeletal disorders [when teleworking.](#)”

Rail Labor Union Rejects Tentative Agreement



Earlier this week, the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the Teamsters Union (BMWED) voted to reject a tentative agreement on wages, benefits and work rules. Recall, four of the 12 rail labor unions already reached tentative agreements with the Class I carriers, with the other seven unions voting in the next few weeks. Despite the BMWED members voting against ratification, the union said it would maintain the status quo until at least Nov. 19, after the return of Congress following mid-term elections as well as the final voting of the rest of the unions on ratification. Complicating matters further, should Congress need to step in and prevent a labor strike or

lockout, any action would occur during the lame-duck session and during the holiday season when many members are back in their districts. At this time, it is unclear whether the Class I carriers will work to “sweeten the deal” to get BMWED to accept the agreements.

Department of Energy Announces Funding for Coal to Minerals Activities

Today, the Department of Energy (DOE) [announced](#) a [notice of intent](#) to fund up to \$32 million for front-end engineering design (FEED) studies to produce rare earth elements, minerals, and materials from domestic coal and coal byproduct streams and other energy production activities. The NMA-supported funding for the studies was appropriated within the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and will support ongoing mineral supply chain funding opportunities at the DOE, and outlined in a NMA memo [here](#), to enable the development of large-scale domestic pilot and demonstration facilities. Interested NMA member companies are encouraged to review the notice of intent for more details, including how to prepare for the upcoming funding opportunity announcement.

Louisiana Cuts Ties with BlackRock Over Investment Policies



On October 5, the state of Louisiana announced it was divesting all of its state treasury funds from investment giant BlackRock, citing economic and investment concerns. Louisiana state Treasurer John Schroder asserted that “BlackRock’s blatantly anti fossil fuel policies would destroy Louisiana’s economy. It threatens our democracy, bypasses the ballot box and allows large investment firms to push political agendas.” The value of the funds being divested is \$794 million.

Save the Date: NMA Minerals Event in D.C.

The NMA’s Communications and Government Affairs teams are working with CQ Roll Call on an in-person event at Charlie Palmer in Washington, D.C., on November 15, titled, “The Global Race to Supply Our Future: Mineral Demands, Supply Chain Vulnerabilities and Our Broken Permitting Process.”

We are working to pull together policymakers from both sides of the aisle, analysts, industry experts, representatives from the auto and manufacturing industries, supply chain experts, and others, for an event to discuss the

skyrocketing need for minerals, and what needs to be done here in the U.S. to ensure that those minerals are sourced here at home, creating secure, domestic supply chains and weaning the U.S. off reliance on geopolitical rivals like China and Russia.

Look for a formal Save the Date in your inboxes from CQ Roll Call next week.

NMA Team Members visit ACNR, Inc. Harrison County Mine



This week, [**American Consolidated Natural Resources, Inc.**](#) (ACNR) hosted members of the NMA's Legal and Regulatory and Government Affairs teams at its Harrison County Coal Mine in West Virginia. After safety training and suiting up, the NMA team descended underground to first observe the continuous mining operations in action. The NMA team went on to view the impressive longwall as it was shearing the face of the coal seam 45 inches at a time. Back above ground, the team toured the local preparation plant to get a better understanding of the intricate processes for cleaning coal, transporting it to the nearby power plant and to other customers by rail, and the construction of

impoundments. The NMA team would like to thank ACNR for its generous hospitality, taking the time to show us around its mine and preparation plant, and for the constructive conversations on the opportunities and challenges for coal mining.



Mining and Energy News

[USA Today](#) reported "the gold rush is back, but this time the focus is on "white gold" lithium - a major player in the world's shift toward green energy. Global demand is skyrocketing.

[Idaho Mountain Express](#) and [Mining.com](#) reported that the U.S.' largest-to-date cobalt mining operation will soon officially launch at a remote site in the Salmon-Challis National Forest, according to Australia-based mining and exploration company Jervois Global.

[The Verge](#) reported that NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey plan to deploy aircraft to spot critical minerals buried across the southwest U.S. They will take to the skies to map the minerals, which are crucial to the administration's plans

to build up American clean energy industries.

[**Argus**](#) reported that U.S. coal exports rose from year-earlier levels for the first time in four months in August, led by a gain in bituminous coal shipments to Europe.

[**Mining.com**](#) reported on EIA data indicating that U.S. spot prices for Central Appalachian coal surged past \$200 per short ton for the first time as a global energy crunch drives up demand.

[**Argus**](#) reported that South Carolina state-owned utility Santee Cooper plans to reopen an idled coal unit at the Winyah generating station in the coming months. The 285 MW Winyah unit 4 has been idle since December 2020.

[**Bloomberg**](#) reported that global carbon emissions from power plants may be headed for a record high this year after summer droughts and heatwaves boosted coal and natural gas generation.

[**MSHA**](#) released that the U.S. Department of Labor will award \$985,284 in grants to support the development and delivery of education and training by 10 organizations that will help identify, avoid and prevent unsafe working conditions in, and around the nation's mines.

[**Argus**](#) reported that U.S. coal receipts to coal plants fell for the second month in July compared to 2021 as plants took less coal from the Powder River and Illinois Basins.

[**EIA's Quarterly Coal Report**](#) found that U.S. coal production during the second quarter of 2022 totaled 145.7 million short tons (MMst), which was 2.2 percent lower than the previous quarter and 2.1 percent higher than the second quarter of 2021. Second-quarter 2022 U.S. coal exports (23 MMst) increased 13.9 percent from the first-quarter 2022 level and increased 4.5

percent from the second-quarter 2021 level.

AP reported that a U.S. magistrate judge has declared unconstitutional two Montana laws that sought to prevent the closure of a coal power plant by subjecting its out-of-state owners to steep fines if they wouldn't pay long-term maintenance and operating costs.

Commodity Prices

Commodity Price - Snapshot		
Metals Prices	Date	Price
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	10/11/22	\$3.45
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	10/11/22	\$1,664.15
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	10/11/22	\$72.21
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	10/11/22	\$19.40
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	10/11/22	\$736.00
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	10/11/22	\$542.68
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	10/10/22	\$10.11
Energy Prices	Date	Price
Coal Price - Australian Premium Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	10/11/22	\$292.50
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	10/7/22	\$204.95
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	10/11/22	\$391.15
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	10/11/22	\$265.85
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	10/5/22	\$6.06

Sources: publically available data from eia.gov, dailymetalprice.com, tradingeconomics.com, sgxgroup.com, investing.com

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 October edition of CORESafety TV:

- Exploring CORESafety's module ten on Resources and Planning



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