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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

Although government funding battles have receded for the time being, congressional turmoil over foreign relations and a host of other issues remain. Meanwhile, a torrent of regulatory proposals continues to pour from the executive branch of the federal government. 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

In 2022, 742 drivers and their passengers died in work zone accidents and an additional 94 highway worker occupational fatalities occurred in road construction sites. With road construction season starting up in earnest, it's a good time to remind people to slow down and set aside distractions. This week is [National Work Zone Awareness Week](#).

MSHA Finalizes Respirable Crystalline Silica Rule



The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) yesterday made available a [prepublication version](#) of its final respirable crystalline silica rule. MSHA's press release is available [here](#) and its fact sheet [here](#). The rule is scheduled to be officially published in the Federal Register on April 22. While the rule does reflect a few changes in response to the NMA's comments, significant implementation concerns remain. Positive changes include:

- Extending the timeframes for compliance from 120 days to 12 months for coal mine operators and 24 months for metal/nonmetal mine (MNM) operators.
- Applying consistent sampler flow rates for mine operators and MSHA.
- Discontinuance of sampling once two consecutive samples show exposures are below the action level after an action level exceedance or corrective action is taken.

Significant remaining concerns include MSHA's failure to:

- Fully accept the hierarchy of controls, meaning job rotation and respirators cannot be used for compliance purposes.
- Use of actual duration of shift length rather than the arbitrary use of an eight-hour time-weighted average.
- Include an error factor to account for sampling and analytical weighing errors.
- Adopt a risk-based medical surveillance framework similar to that used by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
- Appropriately consider the limited availability of sampling equipment and personnel needed to administer the rule and surveillance requirements.

The NMA will convene a call at 2 p.m. Eastern on April 23 to discuss the rule and next steps.

Administration Poised to Block Ambler Road Project

This week the news broke that the Department of the Interior (DOI) is poised to recommend that there should be "no action" on the federal land where the road known as the Ambler Access Project would be built. If true, this unreasonable decision flies in the face of Alaska's established history of development and subsistence economies thriving together. The project was previously approved by all appropriate federal agencies, but progress was suspended when legal action caused DOI to voluntarily revisit the Environmental Impact Statement, expanding the required analysis and scope of the project, raising new issues that have already been addressed, and unnecessarily offering unworkable alternatives. Condemnations of this action were swift with [Sen. Lisa Murkowski](#) (R. Alaska), the [Western Caucus](#) and

others issuing statements. The NMA [also issued a statement](#) from Rich Nolan.

Surface Transportation Board Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee Spring Meeting



Today, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) held its spring meeting in Washington, D.C. The RETAC was established by the STB in 2007. It provides guidance to the board and serves as a forum for discussing emerging issues associated with the transportation energy resources by rail. Four NMA members are on the RETAC: Arch Coal, Navajo Transitional Energy Co. (NTEC), Peabody Energy and Western Fuels.

NTEC's Vern Lund presented on behalf of the [NMA](#). He outlined the importance of rail to the transportation of coal. He discussed the tragic bridge collapse in Baltimore and the importance of reopening the port. More broadly, he noted

that some rail service metrics have improved, but explained that at least some of the improvement could be attributed to lower energy demand. He cautioned that reductions in railroad operational and management personnel could create service challenges if demand picks up. He urged rail carriers to maintain the operational flexibility necessary to address future demand increases.

Finally, Mr. Lund discussed the outlook for coal rail network requirements. He pointed out that 2023 saw record global consumption of coal. U.S. coal plays a critical role in this phenomenon. He reminded the committee that U.S. coking coal exports are facilitating steel-intensive efforts to advance economic development, poverty alleviation, urbanization, and the construction of low-carbon economies around the world. Further, after over a decade of decline in thermal coal demand, U.S. domestic demand may be stabilizing with increased data centers, technologies, electric vehicles, and other energy intensive industries seeking to locate in the U.S. He concluded that railroad carriers must ensure healthy capital and resources are maintained for domestic coal networks.

Securities and Exchange Commission Voluntarily Stays Climate Disclosure Rule



On April 4, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) exercised its discretion and [voluntarily stayed](#) its climate disclosure rule pending the completion of judicial review. Recently, 10 lawsuits in six appellate courts were consolidated into a single case in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. The week before, certain industry parties requested a stay in the Eighth Circuit. Before the court could act on those requests, the SEC filed an order issuing the stay. Notably, the SEC is clear that it “will continue vigorously defending the Final Rule’s validity in court” and stands behind its rule as being “consistent with applicable law and within the Commission’s long-standing authority to require the disclosure of information important to investors in making investment and voting decisions.” However, the SEC believes that “a Commission stay will facilitate the orderly judicial resolution” of the Eighth Circuit proceedings. The SEC also recognizes that the stay “avoids potential regulatory uncertainty if registrants were to become subject to the final rules’ requirements during the pendency of the challenges to their validity.”

OSMRE Finalizes Ten Day Notice Rule



On April 4, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) **announced** a prepublication **version** of its final rule significantly overhauling the “ten-day notice” (TDN) process under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA). The final rule is essentially identical to the proposed rule, and a reversal to the way OSMRE enforced SMCRA prior to 2020 by drastically eroding state primacy. OSMRE contends that the TDN final rule’s revisions will safeguard people and the environment from the adverse effects of coal mining by making it easier for citizens to report mining concerns and holding coal companies accountable.

Last year, the NMA submitted **comments** outlining our significant concerns with the proposed rule. The NMA’s comments argued that OSMRE’s decision to revise the regulations was arbitrary and capricious because the proposed rule lacked an adequate basis to support the sudden and substantial changes to the 2020 rule. OSMRE disagreed with the NMA’s assertions, stating the revisions would more closely adhere to SMCRA’s statutory requirements. OSMRE also asserted that there were instances when the 2020 rule resulted in TDN process delays as OSMRE sought to issue a violation or otherwise dispose of a citizen complaint. The NMA’s comments also outlined the deliberate allocation of authority and jurisdiction when a state regulatory authority has primacy under SMCRA, and how the proposed rule would violate the statutory responsibilities of both OSMRE and the primacy states. OSMRE disagreed and found no discrepancy between the statute and regulatory revisions to the TDN rule and referenced the proposed rule preamble analysis to justify that the final rule is part of OSMRE’s oversight and enforcement role. OSMRE asserted that the final

rule does not change OSMRE's long-standing position not to intervene in a state's SMCRA implementation unless the state is not properly implementing its SMCRA program as approved.

The NMA is conducting outreach to primacy states and the Interstate Mining Compact Commission to assess next steps, and how the NMA can support if states and IMCC choose to pursue litigation.

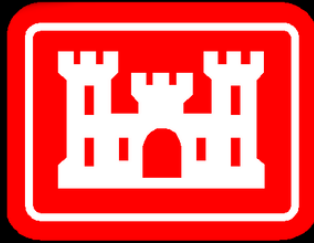
EPA Opens Non-Regulatory Docket on Regional Haze Program

Last week, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held an early engagement [webinar](#) to open a dialogue on the Clean Air Act's Regional Haze Program before the agency undertakes rule revisions for the third planning period. During the webinar, EPA shared that the agency received feedback from many groups during the implementation of the second planning period, via letters and/or through state permitting periods on state implementation plans (SIPs), covering a wide range of topics and viewpoints. EPA provided the following examples: (1) purpose and use of the uniform rate of progress in SIPs; (2) determining what is necessary to make reasonable progress; (3) criteria for source selection and application of the four factors; and (4) relationship of the Regional Haze Program to National Ambient Air Quality Standards implementation programs. The NMA provided a [summary](#) of the early engagement topics and questions on reasonable progress, the four-factor analysis, long-term strategy and future SIP obligations. EPA has opened a non-regulatory [docket](#) to receive feedback from the public on this future rulemaking. EPA will accept comments through June 28, 2024.

NMA Files Comments on Clean Air Act Title V Operating Permit Reviews

The NMA joined seven industry trade associations in filing [comments](#) on the EPA's [proposed rule](#) updating its Title V operating permit program under the Clean Air Act, entitled "Clarifying the Scope of 'Applicable Requirements' Under State Operating Permit Programs and the Federal Operating Permit Program." EPA's proposal provides favorable clarity on the agency not being authorized to second-guess state permitting decisions under Title V reviews. However, EPA's proposal would unnecessarily and without adequate justification subject a wide range of state permit actions and related determinations to second-guessing because they were not subject to public notice and comment and judicial review. Accordingly, the proposed rule would actually codify the authority of environmental groups and EPA to use every Title V renewal to criticize all non-applicability determinations and most minor air permits. The coalition comments agree with EPA's conclusion that the Title V permitting program generally should not be used to establish new substantive requirements. However, the comments urge EPA to clarify the limiting role of the agency's corrective oversight on Title V regulatory actions to align with statutory requirements and legal precedent. The comments also urge EPA to expand the scope of the regulatory actions protected from second-guessing as a part of the Title V permitting process, providing permitting examples and justifications for doing so.

NMA Files Comments on Army Corps' Proposed Rescission of Appendix C Regulations on Historic Preservation



US Army Corps of Engineers®

The NMA recently helped form a broad coalition of 12 industry trade associations to file [comments](#) on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) [proposal](#) to rescind its Appendix C regulations used to comply with and implement the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The Corps proposed to rescind its own Appendix C regulations and to instead rely on those of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), called the Part 800 regulations. The Part 800 regulations require a more expansive review than the Corps' Appendix C regulations. If finalized as proposed, this rule could cause permitting delays and challenges.

The coalition urges the Corps to retain Appendix C for three main reasons. First, the NHPA encourages agency-specific procedures, like Appendix C, that focus on the effects of agency actions. Second, the Corps should not rescind Appendix C because it is substantively consistent with the NHPA and with the Part 800 regulations. Third, rescinding Appendix C will add cost and delay to the permitting process. To the extent that the Corps determines that changes are needed, the coalition urges the Corps to instead propose targeted revisions to Appendix C, including codifying sections of previously released guidance documents and supporting changes to bolster the Tribal consultation process. Additionally, the coalition urges the Corps to ensure that any additional

guidance supplementing the proposed rule be published for public notice and comment. Finally, the coalition also explains how the Corps did not justify its conclusion that the proposed rule would not have a significant economic impact on small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

NMA Files Comments on Department of the Interior's Proposal to Expand Natural Resource Damages for Hazardous Substances



The NMA recently filed [comments](#) on the Department of the Interior's (DOI) [proposed revisions](#) to the Type A criteria and procedures when conducting natural resource damage assessment and restoration (NRDAR) for hazardous substances. This proposed rule seeks to expand the eligibility of when Type A Rule procedures may be used, which could offer greater flexibility at individual sites to resolve natural resource damages claims. Overall, the NMA endorses this proposal and the steps DOI has taken toward creating a more modern and streamlined natural resource damage assessment procedure. Specifically, the NMA supports DOI's expansion of the geographic applicability of Type A assessments to any location where other eligibility requirements are met instead of limiting Type A procedures to just coastal, marine environments, and Great Lake environments. The NMA also supports DOI's broadened range of assessment models available for Type A evaluations, such as habitat equivalency analysis, resource equivalency analysis, and other

models for trustees to assess injury to natural resources. The NMA urges DOI to clarify that other newly accepted models are also allowed in the future, which would align with the rule's purpose of modernizing, streamlining, and adding additional flexibility in resource assessments. Finally, the NMA supports DOI's determination that \$100,000 is no longer a suitable cap for natural resource damage claims, instead recommending the cap be removed entirely, and in the alternative, that the cap be substantially higher (i.e., \$20 million) than the proposed \$3 million cap.

Draft Reporting Instructions Available for 2024 TSCA Chemical Data Reporting Cycle

The EPA has posted [new instructions and guidance](#) for 2024 Chemical Data Reporting (CDR) under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). As you are aware, the 2024 chemical data reporting submission period is from June 1, 2024, to Sept. 30, 2024, for activities conducted during the calendar years 2020 to 2023. EPA's CDR regulations require manufacturers (including those who import) to report, every four years, information concerning the manufacturing, processing, and or use of chemical substances on the TSCA inventory list. EPA uses CDR data to screen and prioritize chemicals for further review and assess exposure to chemicals. The primary goal of EPA's instruction document is to assist the regulated community in complying with [TSCA CDR requirements](#). EPA previously released guidance for the metal mining industry on the CDR rule requirements related to the reporting of mined metals, intermediates, and byproducts produced during mining activities. The guidance released in 2016 and 2020 is available [here](#).

EPA Publishes Final Rule on Facility Response Plans for Hazardous Substances

The EPA recently published a [final rule](#) requiring facilities that meet certain criteria to prepare and submit to EPA Facility Response Plans (FRPs) for worst case discharges of Clean Water Act (CWA) hazardous substances. Specifically, the rule requires FRPs for onshore non-transportation-related facilities that could reasonably be expected to cause substantial harm to the environment by discharging a CWA hazardous substance into or on navigable waters. Facilities may be identified as posing substantial harm either through a self-identification process or a process whereby EPA regional administrators may assess facilities on a case-by-case basis and, if appropriate, require a facility to develop an FRP. Specifically, the final rule provides that CWA hazardous substance FRP requirements apply to facilities that: (1) have a maximum onsite quantity of any CWA hazardous substance that meets or exceeds 1,000 times the Reportable Quantity (RQ) (see 40 CFR 117.3); (2) are within 0.5-mile of navigable water or a conveyance to navigable water (defined as “waters of the United States”); and (3) meet one or more of the following substantial harm criteria: ability to cause injury to fish, wildlife, and sensitive environments; ability to adversely impact a public water system; ability to cause injury to public receptors; has had a reportable discharge of a CWA hazardous substance above the RQ within the last five years that reached navigable water. The final rule is effective on May 28, 2024. Regulated facilities must submit FRPs to EPA within 36 months from the effective date of the rule (May 28, 2027) and recertify their plans every five years or whenever EPA modifies its list of CWA hazardous substances. The NMA previously filed [association comments](#) and [coalition comments](#) on the proposed rule. Unfortunately, EPA generally dismissed the legal and practical concerns we raised in both sets of comments. For additional details on EPA’s final rule, read the NMA’s summary [<link to 4/16 memo>](#) distributed yesterday.

EPA Launches New Online Permit Tracking Website



EPA recently launched a new [website](#) with centralized information on federal environmental permitting. In EPA’s [press release](#) announcing the new website, EPA Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe stated the new website “provides a one-stop portal for the public, permit applicants and colleagues from other federal, state, and local agencies to quickly find information about EPA’s permitting program and how these permits are helping to protect public health and the environment in communities across our nation.” EPA’s Associate Administrator in EPA’s Office of Policy lauded the agency’s efforts to “increase the transparency of information regarding our permitting resources, requirements, and timelines.” Specifically, the new website provides access to: (1) public-facing reports and resources, including environmental justice and civil rights in permitting information; (2) Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act – Title 41 (FAST-41) information, including an explanation of EPA’s roles and a [table](#) showing the status of EPA permits needed for FAST-41 projects and project tracking currently focused on 16 wind projects; and (3) Inflation Reduction Act information on funding allocated to EPA for improving efficiencies in permitting.

House Ways and Means Committee Holds Markup on Several Bills to Support Domestic Mineral Supply Chains

Today, the House Ways and Means Committee [marked up and passed](#) several recently introduced bills aimed at strengthening human rights protections in mineral supply chains, protecting taxpayer dollars, and supporting domestic mineral supply chains. More specifically, the *Stop China's Exploitation of Congolese Children and Adult Forced Labor through Cobalt Mining Act* ([H.R. 7981](#)) would ensure that goods made using or containing cobalt extracted or processed with the use of child or forced labor in the Democratic Republic of the Congo does not enter the U.S. market. The *End Chinese Dominance of Electric Vehicles in America Act of 2024* ([H.R. 7980](#)) would tighten the Foreign Entity of Concern (FEOC) definition for the 30D electric vehicle (EV) tax credit and prohibit Chinese companies from accessing U.S. tax dollars. This legislation is important because the Commerce Department last fall issued proposed rules to define a FEOC related to the Semiconductor supply chain. Then, in December, the Department of Treasury proposed similar FEOC guidance for the EV tax credit but left glaring loopholes that would allow Chinese entities to capture American tax dollars through restructuring a company's leadership and finances and laundering Chinese minerals through other countries to hide the minerals provenance. Another bill included in the markup was the *Stop Executive Overreach on Trade Agreements* ([H.R. 7983](#)) aimed at blocking the Biden Administration's continued efforts to establish mineral agreements with non-Free Trade Agreement (FTA) countries allowing them to qualify for electric vehicle (EV) tax credits provided in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for extracted or processed minerals. This is an issue that the NMA has worked extensively on and encouraged continued oversight of the administration's actions as they seek to circumvent the IRA's sourcing requirements.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Receives Testimony on DOE FY25 Budget Request

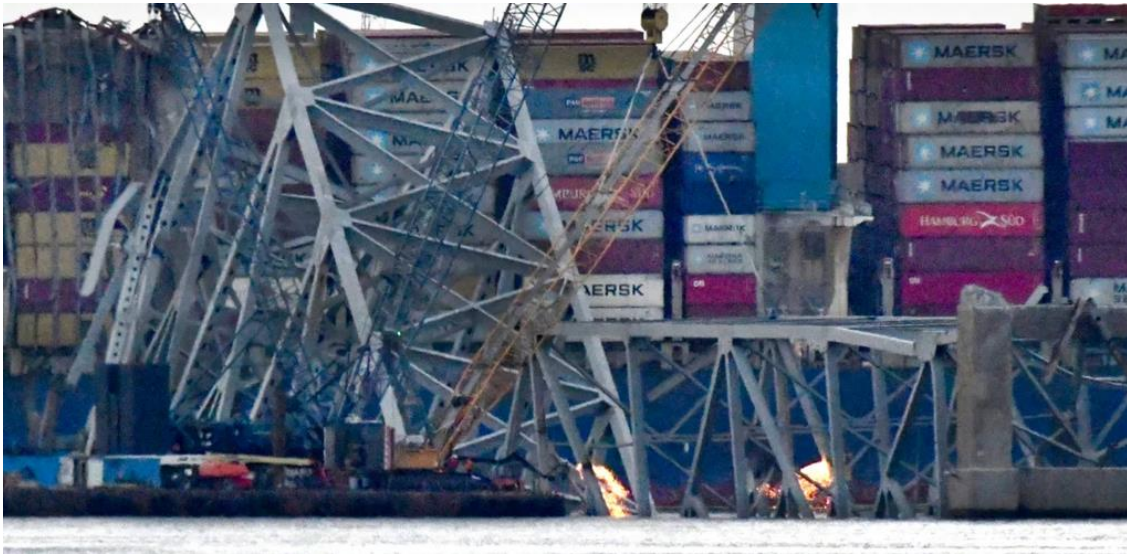


Yesterday, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a [hearing](#) to examine the Department of Energy's (DOE) budget request for Fiscal Year 2025. DOE Secretary Jennifer Granholm [testified](#) in support of the agency's budget request and responded to a variety of questions from committee members, including several related to domestic energy and mineral security. In discussion with Ranking Member John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Sec. Granholm confirmed that it was her preference for congress to pass legislation to ban the importation of Russian uranium to the U.S., an NMA-backed priority. In addition, Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) expressed concern that the DOE's Loan Program's Office is only pursuing loan guarantees for non-mining related projects, despite clear guidance in the bipartisan infrastructure law allowing support for mineral production, processing, and manufacturing activities. Both Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.) and John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.) expressed support for strong domestic mineral supply chains while Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) highlighted the pending energy reliability crisis in the U.S. that is a direct result of the Biden Administration's policies that are forcing the premature retirement of coal-fired power generation. Prior to the hearing, the NMA worked with committee staff and member offices to provide questions to be asked of the Secretary and additional background materials, including the NMA's recent [report on the grid reliability crisis](#).

House Natural Resources Federal Lands Subcommittee to Hold Utah Field Hearing on Land Access

On Monday, April 22, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands will hold an oversight [field hearing](#) in Southwestern Utah titled, “Empowering Local Voices and Stopping Federal Overreach to Improve the Management of Utah’s Public Lands.” The subcommittee intends to examine the variety of challenges facing local, Western communities surrounded by significant footprints of federal land. Utah Reps. John Curtis, Celeste Maloy, and Blake Moore have been confirmed to attend the hearing, although others are also expected. The NMA is working with these offices and the subcommittee to provide relevant background information and industry perspectives to highlight the impact of federal overreach on public lands.

Efforts to Reopen the Port of Baltimore Continue



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) [announced](#) a tentative timeline for restoring safe navigation in and out of the Port of Baltimore. The USACE plans to open a temporary navigation channel by the end of April. This channel will be 280 feet wide and 35 feet deep, accommodating one-way traffic for barge container services and some roll-on/roll-off vessels. The aim is to restore the permanent navigation channel, which is 700 feet wide and 50 feet deep, to full operational capacity by the end of May.

On Monday, the *Washington Post* [reported](#) that the Federal Bureau of Investigations opened a criminal investigation into whether the crew of the Dali container ship that hit the Francis Scott Key Bridge knew the ship had serious mechanical problems before it left port.

NMA Hosts Successful 2024 Spring Board of Directors Meeting

Last week, in Washington, D.C., the NMA hosted more than 100 members and guests for a successful board meeting that included sessions at the Conrad

hotel, a reception at the NMA's offices, a reception in the U.S. Senate, a tour of the U.S. Capitol and a private visit to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. During the general session, speakers included Tom Bevan, Co-Founder & President, RealClearPolitics, who discussed RCP polling political trends and the election outlook; David Turk, Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy (DOE), who provided an overview of DOE's programs on the battery minerals supply chains and clean coal technology and carbon investments; Eric Beightel, Executive Director, Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, who highlighted how the Council supports permitting efficiency and opportunities for the industry to engage; Lucas Pipes, Analyst, Managing Director, B. Riley Financial, Inc., who discussed global and domestic coal and metals markets; and Mary Frances Repko, Deputy National Climate Advisor, White House, who discussed the White House Climate Policy Office's policy work. Over lunch, journalist and author Ernest Scheyder sat down with the NMA's Rich Nolan for a fireside chat about his new book on mining, "The War Below." And the final day wrapped up with keynotes from Sens. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and Joe Manchin (D-W. Va.), who both gave interesting takes on the current stay of play in Washington and the potential for permitting reform. Materials, including the NMA's association report presentation, can be accessed [here](#).







Bluefield Coal Symposium to Be Held Aug. 12-14



The 2024 Bluefield Coal Symposium will take place at the Chuck Mathena Center in Princeton, W.Va. Aug. 12-14. The Bluefield Coal Symposium's theme is, "Using U.S. Coal for a Better America," and the event is jointly presented by the Chamber of Commerce of the Two Virginias and CoalZoom.com. A distinguished list of speakers from across industry and all parts of the country is being assembled to present their experiences in achieving greater safety and increased productivity in both underground and surface mining. Over a day and a half, there are three technical sessions, two dinners and one luncheon. For

further information, please visit CoalZoom.com or you can phone the Chamber at (304) 327-7184. Event organizer Bill Reid may be contacted at billreidcoal@gmail.com.

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MINExpo INTERNATIONAL®, the world's largest (and heaviest) mining event, will bring over 10 million pounds of equipment, products and technology to Las Vegas, Sept. 24-26, and [registration and housing are open](#)! Choose from our new registration options that make it easy to attend, book your hotel room, then join your peers and 1,500+ suppliers from all over the world at the home of mining innovation.

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NMA and Third Parties In the News

[Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (Pa.) carries an op-ed by Rich Nolan in which he argues we have the resources – from lithium and nickel to copper and rare earths – to slash our reliance on foreign sources but it won't happen if we're forced to fight policy rather than benefit from it.

The NMA is mentioned or quoted in coverage of the silica rule from [NPR](#), [E&E Greenwire](#), [Associated Press](#), [The Hill](#), [Argus](#), the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) and others.

The NMA is quoted by [Inside EPA](#) in a report noting that the EPA appears poised to release its rule likely tightening the mercury and air toxics standards (MATS) for power plants.

The NMA is mentioned in a stories from [Argus](#) and [E&E News PM](#) noting that the Interior Department unveiled a final rule Thursday that reverses prior Trump administration policy and allows coal communities to more easily appeal to the federal government to hold mine operators accountable for environmental violations.

[E&E Daily](#) mentions the NMA in a story on legislation in the House that would make it easier for states, the private sector and nonprofit groups to collaboratively clean up abandoned, polluting coal mines plaguing the West and Appalachia.

[Law 360](#) includes the NMA in a story on developments with a coalition of 16 states, New York City and Washington, D.C., that has pushed to intervene before the D.C. Circuit in defense of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's recent final rule tightening federal standards for fine particulate matter pollution, as it faces challenges from industry groups and Republican-led states.

[E&E Greenwire](#) mentions the NMA in an Endangered Species Act story.

Mining and Energy News

[Argus](#) reported that PacifiCorp subsidiary Rocky Mountain Power is planning on potentially longer operations for its coal plants in Wyoming and Utah.

The [U.S. Department of Energy](#) announced the investment of \$75 million to establish a critical minerals supply chain research facility to strengthen domestic supply chains.

[Power Engineering](#) released a new guide that includes factors utilities should consider when weighing converting coal plants to nuclear.

[Greenwire](#) reported that the administration's report on how to reform mine permitting failed to provide a clear path for addressing delays that are hampering critical mineral projects as required by the bipartisan infrastructure law, an agency watchdog found.

[Argus](#) reported that deliveries of bulk commodities such as coal, metallic ores, crude and grain could face delays next month if members of the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference go on strike.

[Energywire](#) reported that the Tennessee Valley Authority is retiring its nine-unit Kingston coal plant and replacing much of the power with natural gas.

[News10](#) reported that Ramaco Resources Inc. was awarded for the safety of its coal operations in West Virginia for the second consecutive year.

[Mining Journal](#) reported that United Steelworkers (USW), the union representing US Steel's employees, said it doesn't support Nippon Steel's draft agreement in the takeover of the U.S. steel giant.

[Greenwire](#) reported that the administration finalized a 20-year ban on new oil and gas drilling and mining activity on 221,898 acres of federal lands within western Colorado's Thompson Divide.

[Mining.com](#) reported that uranium stocks are having their best run in months on a combination of flooding in Kazakhstan and bullish coverage for banks.

[Mining Journal](#) reported that gold prices are breaking new record highs, buoyed by the prospect of lower U.S. interest rates and strong buying by central banks.

[Hellenic Shipping](#) reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers expects to open a new channel to the Port of Baltimore by the end of April, freeing up commercial shipping blocked by a collapsed bridge, and then restore port access to full capacity possibly by the end of May.

[Kallanish](#) reported on American Iron & Steel Association (AISI) data showing U.S. steel mill shipments decreased 3.9 percent in February, compared to shipments of 7.097 million short tons in January.

[Argus](#) reported that U.S. thermal coal exports rose from year-earlier levels for a sixth month with gains in shipments to some countries in Africa, Asia and

Latin America continuing to outpace declines in volumes heading to Europe.

[Reuters](#) reported that Perpetua Resources received a letter of interest from the U.S. Export-Import Bank (EXIM) for a loan worth up to \$1.8 billion to develop an antimony and gold mine in northern Idaho, part of Washington's evolving strategy to offset China's critical minerals sector dominance.

[Mining.com](#) reported that Hecla Mining's silver production rose 43 percent in the first three months of 2024, compared to the last quarter of 2023 mainly due to reaching full production at its Lucky Friday silver mine in Idaho.

The [World Steel Association's](#) recent short range outlook for 2024 and 2025 show steel demand rising 1.7 percent this year to 1,793 million metric tons and rising 1.2 percent in 2025 to 1,815 million metric tons. U.S. steel production is expected to increase 1.8 percent to 92.2 million tons this year.

[Mining.com](#) reported on a recent Global Energy Monitor survey indicating that the world's coal generating capacity grew 2 percent last year, the highest annual increase since 2026.

[Mining.com](#) reported that Rio Tinto said last week it is teaming up with a global venture studio and start-up investor to back the development and commercialization of breakthrough technologies in the mining industry.

[Mining.com](#) reported that safe-haven demand is lifting gold and silver prices due to Middle East tensions with silver prices at a 3-year high.

[Reuters](#) and others reported that the London Metal Exchange and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange can no longer trade Russian nickel, copper and aluminum.

[Mining.com](#) reported that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) moved a step closer on Friday to approving ioneer's Rhyolite Ridge lithium mine in

Nevada, a project that would be a key supplier of the electric vehicle battery metal to Ford Motor and others.

Hellenic Shipping reported that copper prices jumped last Friday to their highest since June 2022 as investors piled into the market on expectations of a demand upswing on the back of potential cuts to interest rates in the coming months.

Commodity Prices

Commodity Price - Snapshot		
Metals Prices	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/16/24	\$12.62
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/17/24	\$4.35
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	4/17/24	\$2,372.36
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/17/24	\$0.98
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	4/17/24	\$15.40
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	4/17/24	\$455.00
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/17/24	\$8.23
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	4/17/24	\$28.39
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	4/17/24	\$817.42
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	4/17/24	\$498.70
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/17/24	\$1.28
Energy Prices	Date	Price
Coal Price - Australian Premium Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	4/16/24	\$260.50
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	4/12/24	\$77.35
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	4/16/24	\$136.26
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	4/17/24	\$120.00
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	4/10/24	\$1.88
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/16/24	\$89.35

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

CORESafety



In the April edition of CORESafety TV, we cover CORESafety's Module Number 18, documentation and information management.



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