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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

The Senate passed a flurry of bills before joining their House colleagues for summer recess. Congress is now out until September and will have only three weeks when they return before government funding expires. With only 90 days left until the general election, the focus now shifts to the campaign trail. 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

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration kicks off its annual “[Safe + Sound Week](#)” next Monday. Participants can sign up on-line, browse resources for activities, and receive recognition for participation.

Harris-Walz: The Democrats Pick Their Presidential Ticket



On Monday, the Democratic National Committee [announced](#) that—by securing the support of 99 percent of delegates in a five-day virtual vote—Vice President Kamala Harris is now formally the party’s presidential nominee.

On Tuesday, Vice President Harris picked Gov. Tim Walz (D-Minn.) as her running mate. Gov. Walz is the two-term governor of Minnesota, a former teacher and retired U.S. Army National Guard non-commissioned officer. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2006, representing Minnesota’s 1st congressional district. In 2018, he was elected governor.

As governor, he is [known for](#) his support of labor, veterans and environmental

issues. He is an advocate for electric vehicles, pushing Minnesota to adopt California's strict tailpipe emissions standards in 2021. He championed passage, and signed, legislation to mandate 100 percent carbon-free electricity for his state by 2040, and supported energy permitting reform to help achieve the carbon-free mandate.

The Harris-Walz ticket will be confirmed the week of Aug. 19 at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Ill. The NMA team will once again be on the ground at the convention.

Senate Unanimously Passes Bipartisan Good Samaritan AML Legislation



Last Thursday, in one of their last acts before adjourning for the August recess, the U.S. Senate passed the Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2024 ([S. 2781](#)) by unanimous consent. The legislation, introduced by Sens. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) and Jim Risch (R-Idaho), would create a pilot program to ensure the long-overdue liability protections and

enable cleanup of abandoned mine lands (AML). Importantly, last week's passage represents the first time that Congress has passed Good Samaritan legislation through either chamber to address hardrock AML. The NMA's statement of support for Senate passage of the legislation can be found in Sen. Heinrich's press release, linked [here](#). A memo on passage can be found [here](#).

The NMA worked with more than 40 conservation partners led by Trout Unlimited, and several NMA members and partners including the American Exploration and Mining Association, Coeur Mining, Freeport-McMoRan, Barrick, Rio Tinto and others, to strategically secure more than 40 equally bipartisan cosponsors and increase broad stakeholder support with local, state and national organizations.

The NMA and coalition partners continue to work with Reps. Celeste Maloy (R-Utah) and Mary Peltola (D-Alaska), the co-leads on the companion legislation ([H.R. 7779](#)), introduced in the House. The bill has 17 bipartisan cosponsors, in addition to the co-leads, who also are members of the relevant committees which share jurisdiction of the legislation. NMA actions include supporting a [request](#) by the co-leads to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to hold a hearing on the legislation. The NMA continues to directly engage committee staff to advocate for House passage of the bill while seeking additional bipartisan cosponsors. Additionally, the NMA is working with bill sponsors and committee staff on efforts to include the legislation in must-pass legislative vehicles.

Senate Passes Bipartisan Water Resources Development Act

Last week, the Senate unanimously passed [S. 4367, the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024](#) (WRDA), biennial legislation

authorizing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects.

The legislation includes several favorable provisions for the mining industry, including Inland Waterway Trust Fund federal cost share provisions that support private sector competitiveness, and provisions to ensure effective use of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund on donor and energy transfer ports for hardrock minerals and coal exports. An NMA memo outlining relevant provisions in both the House, [H.R. 8812](#), and Senate bills can be found [here](#). As Congress developed the legislative proposals, the NMA worked in coordination with a coalition of maritime organizations to advocate for favorable provisions for the mining industry with committee staff and allies. This included highlighting key priorities in a coalition [letter](#) and raising these issues during priority-setting meetings with committee staff. More recently, the NMA worked with a coalition to [express support](#) for the legislation in both Houses.

The House passed its WRDA legislation in July. Next, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will begin the conference process to resolve the differences between the bills.

Alabama Mining Association and NMA Urge Swift Fix to Holt Lock and Dam



Last week, the NMA briefed staff from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee about the failure of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Holt Lock and Dam in Alabama. The Holt Lock and Dam is closed for repairs for three to five months. The closure began June 22, 2024, because of increased cracks and leaks in the dam infrastructure. Last week, Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, the ranking member of the Senate EPW Committee, addressed the issue in her speech to the Washington Coal Club while discussing the status of the Senate's Water Resources Development Act, which passed later that week.

The briefings came on the heels of the Alabama congressional delegation urging the USACE to prioritize the reallocation of funds and expedited repair of the Holt Lock and Dam following the USACE's emergency declaration associated with the locks' closure. The quick oversight by Alabama's Congressional delegation was done in coordination with the Alabama Mining Association, Warrior Met Coal and Peabody Energy. The first [letter](#), addressed to USACE Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon and Assistant Secretary Michael Connor, was signed by Sen. Katie Britt (R-Ala.) and Reps. Robert Aderholt (R-Ala.), Mike Rogers (R-Ala.), Dale Strong (R-Ala.), Barry Moore (R-Ala.), Gary Palmer (R-Ala.) and Jerry Carl (R-Ala.). A [second letter](#), sent on

August 1 by Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), was directed to USACE's South Atlantic Division Commander, Brigadier General Daniel Hibner and Mobile District Commander Colonel Jeremy Chapman.

The Holt Lock and Dam, located on the Black Warrior River in Alabama, is one of three USACE structures managing a 160-foot elevation change within a 30-mile segment of the river. Authorized by the 87th Congress on October 23, 1963, and operational since 1966, Holt Lock is vital for transporting significant cargo, including metallurgical coal destined for the McDuffie Coal Terminal at the Port of Mobile, as well as alloys and raw materials essential for Birmingham's steel industry. The NMA will continue to coordinate with the Alabama Mining Association and NMA member companies to speed up the reopening of this vital lock.

D.C. Circuit Denies NMA Request to Stay EPA's MATS Rule

Yesterday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (D.C. Circuit) denied industry and states requests to stay the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Mercury Air Toxics Standards (MATS). In June, the NMA joined the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Lignite Energy Council and several utilities in filing a **motion** to requesting the stay. We joined a 23-state coalition led by North Dakota that also filed a separate **request** to stay the rule. The D.C. Circuit did not explain its decision beyond citing the legal test for granting a stay.

Our stay motion argued that EPA ignored the results of its own comprehensive assessment showing no health risk remains from coal plants and therefore revised standards are not "necessary" when considering the costs and benefits. We also argued that EPA violated the Clean Air Act by revising MATS

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently published a [report](#) on Critical Minerals: Status, Challenges, and Policy Options for Recovery from Nontraditional Sources. Noting that the U.S. supply chain for critical minerals is highly depended on foreign countries, the GAO report highlights strategies for increasing and diversifying the domestic supply of critical minerals by recovering them from nontraditional sources. The report presents options – such as financial incentives and liability protections – that policy makers can consider addressing some of the challenges. The GAO report notes that mining operators can recover minerals from coal and other mining waste by repurposing mature technologies already in use by the mining industry. The report acknowledges that challenges still exist but suggests that recent legislative and executive actions could help ameliorate these challenges. The GAO report outlines three policy options to enhance the benefits of recovering critical minerals from nontraditional sources: (1) Good Samaritan legislation; (2) subsidies; and (3) community benefit agreements.

White House Publishes Vision for Role of Nature in Federal Policy

Last week, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) [announced](#) a new policy paper on its vision for the role of nature in all U.S. federal policy. The paper outlines how nature can and should be considered at appropriate points throughout the decision-making process for all policy domains, including sectors where nature has not historically been accounted for, such as health, national security, and the economy. The paper notes that this could mean accounting for benefits provided by nature in economic benefit-cost analyses to promote more efficient use of taxpayer dollars and improved outcomes, or routinely considering natural infrastructure options such as protection or restoration of coral reefs or wetlands alongside built infrastructure for more cost-effective and durable results. The use of this

new role of nature in federal agency decisions, and at what scale, remains to be seen.

NMA Meets with EPA Office of Water Leadership for Industry Stakeholder Meeting



Office of Water

Last week, the NMA met with leadership and staff across different program offices in the EPA's Office of Water to discuss several water-related priority issues for the mining industry and broader regulated community. During the meeting, we discussed implementation challenges for several recently finalized EPA water regulations, including the Definition of "Waters of the United States" Rule, the Steam Electric Effluent Limitations Guidelines Rule, the Facility Response Plan Rule, and the Tribal Reserved Rights Rule. We also shared ideas to help foster information-sharing and collaboration between the agency and the regulated community.

NMA Concludes Successful Summer Internship Program



Last Thursday, the NMA bid farewell to its four summer interns. The amazing 2024 interns included: Yareli Gonzalez, a rising senior at the University of Texas El Paso majoring in Science in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering; Patrick Boyle, a recent graduate from Wake Forest who majored in Psychology, and Politics and International Affairs; Lauren Lloyd, a rising sophomore at Ball State majoring in Strategic Communications; and Aidan Pretti, a rising senior at Dartmouth majoring in Economics and Government. Over eight weeks, the interns rotated through various NMA departments, working on various legal, regulatory, communications, government affairs and policy matters and gaining a greater appreciation for the mining industry.

Additionally, each intern completed a capstone project related to a timely mining topic. Yareli chose to research the state of carbon capture technologies; Patrick focused on policies undermining grid reliability; Lauren examined the mineral demand associated with different electric vehicle battery chemistries; and Aidan analyzed the emergence of resource nationalism abroad. All the presentations were impressive and provided new insights helpful for future NMA advocacy.

NMA Volunteers with Local Organization Leveling the Playing Field



On Friday, August 2, members of the NMA team traveled to Silver Spring, M.D. to volunteer with [Leveling the Playing Field \(LPF\)](#). Founded in 2013 by Washingtonian Max Levitt, LPF was created to help address growing inequities in access to youth sports due to the rising costs of league registration and sports supplies. LPF takes in sporting good donations for a wide array of sports and works to redistribute them to local kids in need. For the volunteer activity, members of the NMA team took an entire trailer full of sporting goods and sorted them into their various locations in the LPF warehouse. Additionally, the NMA donated new and used sporting goods to support the cause. LPF is a great organization with a worthy cause, and the NMA is proud to have partnered with them for this volunteer activity.

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MINEXPO®

**20
24** | **SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2024**
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, USA

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.

The NMA will be livestreaming from the show floor this year with a new marketing offering: **NMA TV – book your TV time today!** Learn more [here](#).

To attend MINExpo, act fast! ALL ACCESS and EXPO PLUS registration options are limited. Please note, you MUST use your company email in order to receive discounted pricing. **Once you have registered, you will receive access to the hotel booking site.**

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NMA and Third Parties In the News

The [Jacksonville Journal Courier](#) (Ill.) and [Gillette News Record](#) (Wyo.) [Mesabi Tribune](#) (Minn.) [Frankfort State Journal \(KY\)](#) carry an op-ed by Rich Nolan in which he argues made in America should be mined in America.

[Prescott News](#) quotes Rich Nolan in a story on young Americans who are considering tech schools and skilled labor, working in fields like construction, mining, and nursing that many of their older peers never would have considered.

[DV Journal](#) quotes Rich Nolan in an op-ed on the benefits of permitting reform.

[Washington Examiner](#) mentions the NMA in a piece on Kamala Harris's stance on permitting reform.

[Inside EPA](#) mentions the NMA in a story on the legal case concerning San Francisco's calls for the Supreme Court to reverse an appellate ruling that found EPA has authority to set narrative permit limits on violating applicable water quality standards (WQS).

[Boston Herald](#) mentions the NMA in a story on President Biden's aggressive green-energy agenda and the groups that are asking the Supreme Court to step in.

[The Salt Lake Tribune](#), [Explore Big Sky](#) and [Vail Daily](#) quote the NMA in a story on the Biden administration's decision to end coal leasing in the Powder River Basin.

[Pit and Quarry](#) reports on MINExpo INTERNATIONAL®.

The NMA is mentioned in a [Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources](#) press release on permitting reform legislation.

From our third parties, [Real Clear Energy](#) (D.C.) carries an op-ed by Bernard Weinstein, a retired associate director of the Maguire Energy Institute at Southern Methodist University, in which he argues baseload, dispatchable power—namely coal, nuclear and large gas-fired plants—will remain the backbone of America’s energy supply for the foreseeable future.

[Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (Nev.) carries an op-ed by Dan Ervin, a finance professor at Salisbury University in Maryland, in which he argues without actions to strengthen domestic mining and processing, our manufacturing and energy future — and our national security — will increasingly rest in the hands of the world’s mineral superpower, China.

Mining and Energy News

[Hellenic Shipping](#) reported that Europe is expected to use more coal this winter as a rise in wholesale natural gas prices encourage more gas-to-coal switching, particularly in Germany.

The [Steel Manufacturers Association](#) reported that it has joined other steel industry groups in asking Congress for more trade protection against China’s unfair trade practices.

[Association of Mature American Citizens](#) and [Energy Central News](#) reported that new research shows wastewater from fracking operations

in the Marcellus Shale region could hold a goldmine of lithium, a mineral critical to America's energy future.

[E&E News](#) reported that federal regulators approved Vistra Energy's 20-year license renewal for the Comanche Peak nuclear plant in Texas. "Nuclear Regulatory Commission approval of the extension request, filed in October 2022, will extend the operating life of the two-unit, 2,400-megawatt plant through 2053."

[Greenwire](#) reported that last week the Navajo Nation "vowed to deploy tribal police and take legal action to stop trucks full of uranium ore from traversing hundreds of miles of reservation land in Arizona — a direct result of a controversial uranium mine ramping up in recent months within the footprint of a national monument near the Grand Canyon."

[Mining.com](#) reported that Integra Resources has announced plans to acquire Florida Canyon Gold.

[Greenwire](#) reported that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved broad permitting and grid development legislation 15-4 last Wednesday.

[Power Magazine](#) reported that prices at PJM Interconnection's 2025/2026 base residual auction (BRA) spiked to \$269.92/MW-day for most resources in the wholesale power market, pointing to a tightening supply-demand balance that could have significant implications for the regional transmission organization (RTO).

[Energywire](#) reported that AES, one of the country's largest renewable companies, unveiled a landmark robot last week that it says can install solar panels at large-scale projects twice as fast as humans and at half the cost.

[**Pit and Quarry**](#) and others reported on NMA's MINExpo INTERNATIONAL® September 24-26 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Visual Capitalist graphically describes the world's [**top silver producing countries**](#) and the world's [**top silver producing companies**](#) in 2023 using the Silver Institute's World Silver Survey data.

[**American Iron & Steel Association**](#) reported on recent preliminary Census Bureau trade data showing that the U.S. imported a total of 2,152,000 net tons (NT) of steel in June 2024, including 1,717,000 net tons (NT) of finished steel (down 24.5 percent and 23.0 percent respectively, vs. May 2024). Total and finished steel imports are both up 2.2 percent year-to-date vs. 2023.

In a recent [**Today in Energy**](#), EIA reported that coal stockpiles at U.S. electric power plants totaled 138 million short tons at the end of May, the most since the first half of 2020 when the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic reduced electricity demand and coal consumption.

[**Politico Pro**](#) reported that record price inflation in the nation's largest power market, the 13-state PJM Interconnection, could finally spur new generation onto the power grid — or could signal the start of a long period of price volatility as the U.S. power grid struggles to cope with surging electricity demand.

[**Climatewire**](#) reported that mining for nickel, a key component in electric vehicle batteries, is fueling environmental degradation in Indonesia and leading to more emissions, according to a new report.

[**World Gold Council's**](#) recent demand trends data showed that total global gold demand increased 4 percent in the 2nd quarter to 1,258t, marking the strongest Q2 in their data series. Total demand was supported by increased

Over the Counter (OTC) demand, continued buying from central banks, and a slowdown in ETF outflows at record-high gold prices in Q2.

Commodity Prices

Commodity Price - Snapshot		
Metals Prices	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/6/24	\$12.02
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/6/24	\$4.01
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	8/6/24	\$2,414.15
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/6/24	\$0.89
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	8/6/24	\$11.07
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	8/6/24	\$66.75
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/6/24	\$7.45
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	8/6/24	\$27.06
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	8/6/24	\$684.85
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	8/6/24	\$415.79
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/6/24	\$1.18
Energy Prices	Date	Price
Coal Price - Australian Premium Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	8/6/24	\$217.00
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	8/2/24	\$75.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	8/6/24	\$145.45
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	8/4/24	\$119.30
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	7/31/24	\$1.93
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/6/24	\$81.65

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

CORESafety



In the August edition of CORESafety TV, we cover a broad overview of the CORESafety system.



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