

[View this email in your browser](#)



MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

Issue 33 | August 28, 2024

Brought to you by the National Mining Association

This Week in The News

With just 68 days until the U.S. general election and early voting starting well before that in many states, the already dynamic campaign has become a sprint to the finish. New regulations, as well as judicial challenges to stay their implementation while litigation proceeds, also continue to move forward. 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

For week one of National Preparedness Month, let's focus on emergency supplies suggestions for the [home](#) and [car](#).

NMA Seeks U.S. Supreme Court Stay of the MATS Rule



Last week, the NMA joined the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Lignite Energy Council and several utilities in filing an [emergency application](#) in the U.S. Supreme Court to stay EPA's Mercury Air Toxics Standards (MATS). On Aug. 6, 2024, the D.C. Circuit summarily denied industry and states requests to stay the MATS rule, providing no explanation beyond citing the legal test for granting a stay. Our emergency application argues that "EPA's own comprehensive risk assessment shows there is no need for more stringent standards to 'protect communities' because the risk remaining under the current standards is already below the threshold Congress established for *deregulation*." We further argue: "If EPA can rewrite Section 112(d)(6) to mandate staggering emission reductions with no benefits, and do so when no actual developments have occurred, EPA can repeatedly conjure new regulatory burdens without concern for the 'advantages' and 'disadvantages' of its actions." We emphasize that a stay is necessary now so that history does not repeat itself, pointing to the damage from the wave of coal retirements that occurred under the 2012 MATS rule before the Supreme

Court determined that EPA acted “unreasonably.” We will keep you apprised of any developments at the Supreme Court. In the meantime, the parties in this litigation have proposed a joint briefing schedule in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on the merits. If granted by the court, our opening brief would be due on Oct. 1, 2024, with final briefs due on Dec. 10, 2024. Oral argument would likely be in 2025.

BLM Releases Proposed Rock Springs RMP and FEIS



Last week, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) formally [announced](#) the availability of [the proposed Resource Management Plan \(RMP\)](#) and final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Rock Springs, Wyoming planning area. Recall, earlier this year, the NMA submitted extensive [comments](#) on the draft RMP/EIS, expressing significant concerns about its aggressive prioritization of land conservation over multiple uses. The proposed RMP avoids the most severe restrictions outlined in the preferred alternative in the draft RMP, but the potential impacts for the mining industry are still substantial. Under the proposed RMP, nearly 760,000 acres would be closed to federal coal leasing and more than 900,000 acres would be withdrawn from mining operations under the Mining Law. Additionally, the RMP designates more than 900,000 acres as areas of critical environmental concern, which are frequently managed to prevent resource development. As with other recently proposed RMPs by the BLM, protests must be filed within 30-days, or

by Sept. 23 for the Rock Springs RMP. Protests may be filed by any person who previously participated in the planning process and has an interest in or may be affected by the proposed plans. The NMA intends to file a protest.

NMA Members Excel at the 2024 National Mine Rescue Competition

The 2024 National Mine Rescue, First Aid, Bench, Pre-shift and Technician Team Contest was held in Lexington, KY, August 12-15, 2024. Over 80 teams competed from across the United States representing both coal and metal/non-metal (MNM) mines. Complex mine emergency scenarios were laid out where teams could showcase their skills and training including search, rescue, firefighting and first aid.

NMA member teams demonstrated their ability to protect and save lives when called upon, with several recognized for exemplary performance in their category:

FINISH	CATEGORY	TEAM	COMPANY
First Place	BioPak 240R Bench Competition	Tunnel Ridge	Alliance Resource Partners, L.P.
Second Place	MNM (Mine Rescue + First Aid)	Carlin	Nevada Gold Mines
Second Place	First Aid Competition	Leer	Arch Resources
First Place	Coal - Overall Mine Rescue Competition	Blackhawk Mining	Blackhawk
Second Place	MNM Mine Rescue Field Competition	Carlin	Nevada Gold Mines
First Place	Coal – Pre-shift Competition	Warrior Met	Alliance/ Warrior Met
First Place	MNM Team Trainer	Carlin	Nevada Gold Mines

The NMA recognizes and congratulates all the mine rescue members that participated in the 2024 National Mine Rescue Competition.

Kennedy Suspends Campaign



On Friday, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (I) announced he is suspending his campaign for the presidency and endorsed former President Donald J. Trump (R). Kennedy was the leading third-party candidate in the race. When he announced his campaign's suspension, he was polling at around five percent nationally. Earlier in the race, Kennedy's polls had been in the mid-teens.

It is unclear what impact the departure and endorsement will have on the presidential race. Vice President Kamala Harris (D) currently holds a slight edge in national polls, while Trump holds a slim lead in a majority of the swing states. If a significant majority of Kennedy's supporters decide to vote for either Trump or Harris, it could impact the outcome of the race.

Kennedy has been named an honorary co-chair of Trump's transition team. The honorary chairs include Trump's running mate, Senator J.D. Vance (R-Ohio), former Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, a one-time Democrat, and Trump's sons, Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump. Kennedy has expressed an interest in helping the transition on health care, food, and drug policy.

Get Your Spot for MINExpo INTERNATIONAL® 2024

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.**

[RESERVE NOW!](#)

NMA and Third Parties In the News

[Real Clear Energy](#) carries an op-ed by Rich Nolan in which he argues the nation's coal power fleet is a deeply valuable asset that can help preserve grid reliability, meet soaring demand and get us to our energy future.

[Inside EPA](#) quotes the NMA in a story noting that North Dakota and industry groups are criticizing EPA's proposed rejection of the state's plan for further reducing regional haze, arguing the agency unlawfully dismissed visibility improvement as a "non-statutory factor," as EPA disapproves a growing number of plans even as it tries to catch up with implementation of the program's second phase.

[**Law 360**](#) mentions the NMA in a story noting that, even after an action-packed first half of 2024, there's still plenty of high-stakes litigation affecting the energy industry on tap, including a new twist in the prolonged battle over lawsuits against fossil fuel companies, as well as cases that could influence federal climate policy.

From our third parties, [**New Castle News**](#) (Pa.), [**Huntington Herald Dispatch**](#) (W.Va.), [**Las Vegas Sun**](#) (Nev.), [**Steubenville Herald Star**](#) (Ohio) and [**Jacksonville Journal Courier**](#) (Ill.) all ran an op-ed by Matthew Kandrach, president of Consumer Action for a Strong Economy, in which he argues in favor of coal-generated power to ensure grid reliability.

Mining and Energy News

[**Politico Pro**](#) reported that the administration is arguing that the Supreme Court should not block its landmark climate rule for the nation's fleet of coal-based power plants.

[**Wall Street Journal**](#) carries an op-ed arguing in favor of supporting domestic mining to counteract China.

[**Argus**](#) reported that Appalachian coal output in the second quarter fell from a year earlier, reflecting limited domestic demand and disruptions in export markets.

[**PR Newswire**](#), [**Argus**](#) and others have reported that U.S. coal producers Arch Resources and Consol Energy have announced plans to merge as they seek to focus on customers in the global markets. The companies say the merger, creating Core Natural Resources, is expected to close by the end of the first

quarter of 2025. The merger would result in Core Natural Resources' market capitalization of approximately \$5.2 billion.

[**Wall Street Journal**](#) carries an op-ed from JD Vance arguing against the energy policies of Kamala Harris.

[**Greenwire**](#) reported that a federal judge in Arizona has paused exploration for lithium — a key electric vehicle battery ingredient — after a tribe there warned that drilling could damage a nearby sacred spring, rejecting the administration's argument that the activity is needed to fuel a "green energy transition."

[**World Steel Association**](#) reported that global crude steel production for July was 152.8 million metric tons, a 4.7 percent decrease compared to July 2023. U.S. production was 6.9 million tons, up 2.1 percent in July.

[**Politico Pro**](#) reported that the U.S. and Argentina signed a memorandum of understanding to boost cooperation on critical minerals, a key step in Western efforts to reduce their reliance on China for the minerals needed to power the clean energy transition.

[**Argus**](#) reported that coal exports out of Hampton Roads, Virginia climbed by 15 percent in July from a year earlier, despite slight declines in some seaborne coal markets.

[**Washington Examiner**](#) reported that China is dramatically slowing down its approvals of coal power projects, a new analysis shows, suggesting that renewable energy additions are proving sufficient to feed the country's grid.

[**International Copper Study Group's**](#) latest preliminary data indicates that world copper mine production increased by about 3.1 percent in the first half 2024, with concentrate production increasing by 2 percent and solvent

extraction-electrowinning (SX-EW) growing by 7 percent. Global mine production in the first six months of 2024 benefited from a recovery from constrained output in 2023 (mainly in Chile, Indonesia, and the U.S.) as well as additional production from mine projects ramping up capacity namely in the D.R. Congo (DRC).

[Visual Capitalist](#), using Gold Institute data, graphically describes the countries that added the most gold reserves between 2013 and 2023.

[International Lead-Zinc Study Group's](#) recent data for the first half of 2024 indicates that world zinc mine production fell by 3.4 percent, influenced by decreases in Canada, China, South Africa and Peru, where output at the large Antamina mine decreased during the first half of 2024.

[Mining.com](#) reported that gold rebounded above \$2,500 an ounce on Friday after Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell signaled that time has come for interest rate cuts starting this September.

[Reuters](#) reported that Uranium Energy said last week it has restarted uranium production at its Christensen Ranch operations in Wyoming, with shipments expected in November or December.

Commodity Prices

Commodity Price - Snapshot

Metals Prices	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/23/24	\$11.02
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/27/24	\$4.22
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	8/27/24	\$2,519.98
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/27/24	\$0.96
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	8/26/24	\$10.38
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	8/27/24	\$67.00
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/27/24	\$7.78
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	8/27/24	\$30.01
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	8/27/24	\$735.76
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	8/27/24	\$440.88
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/27/24	\$1.33
Energy Prices	Date	Price
Coal Price - Australian Premium Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	8/27/24	\$202.00
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	8/23/24	\$77.30
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	8/27/24	\$146.06
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	8/27/24	\$121.50
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	8/21/24	\$2.12
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	8/26/24	\$80.15

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.



This is a confidential document intended for membership of the National Mining Association.

Please do not forward or post its content externally.

Copyright © 2024 National Mining Association, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

