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MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

Issue 34 | September 4, 2024

Brought to you by the National Mining Association

This Week in The News

The House and Senate remain out this week. With 62 days remaining until the November elections, campaigning is in full swing. The National Mining Association (NMA) remains focused on actively engaging to advance mining's interests at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue and the campaigns for office. Plus, we have updates on how the mining and energy markets are faring.

Safety Share

For week two of National Preparedness Month, consider how to prepare for [earthquakes](#) and [floods](#).

Mine Update Correction

Last week we misidentified one of the winners of the National Mine Rescue Competition. Our sincere apologies and congratulations to **Warrior Mine Rescue** from Alliance Resources/Warrior Coal for their first-place finish in the Coal – Pre-shift Competition.

NMA Submits Testimony for STB Hearing on Growth in Freight Rail Industry



Last week, the NMA submitted [written testimony](#) to present at the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) [hearing](#) on Sept. 16 and 17, 2024, regarding recent trends and strategies for growth in the freight rail industry. The hearing

presents a chance to discuss the opportunities for growth in the freight rail industry, as well as the challenges and effects associated with a failure to grow. The NMA’s testimony outlines the importance of freight rail reliability to the mining industry, particularly regarding the capacity of the railroads. The testimony urges Class I carriers to stand at the ready for natural fluctuations in commodity markets, all while maintaining sufficient staff and stability in the freight rail workforce. To the extent possible, the NMA urges the railroads to continue to cultivate a high-performing workforce and a deep bench, and to avoid the kind of churn that can lead to an erosion in overall performance. The hearing will be open for public observation and available for public viewing on the [STB's YouTube Channel](#).

DOE Releases 2024 U.S. Energy & Employment Jobs Report



United States Energy & Employment Report 2024

Last week, the Department of Energy (DOE) released its [2024 U.S. Energy & Jobs Employment Report](#), a comprehensive summary of national, state, and county-level energy jobs data. The summary includes reporting by industry,

technology, and region with data on unionization rates, demographics, and employer perspectives on growth and hiring. Notably, the report reveals that the largest job gains in the coal fuels sector (which includes any work related to fuel extraction, mining, and processing, including businesses that manufacture machines that support coal mining) were in the mining and extraction industry, with 1,553 added jobs between 2022-2023. The report also indicates that 9.3 percent growth is expected in coal mining and extraction employment through 2024. Additionally, the report provides helpful demographic information on the coal fuels workforce.

The NMA will leverage the helpful data provided in DOE's report in our efforts to support the growth and development of the domestic mining workforce. The NMA also plans to submit comments to DOE regarding the work of its 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board, which was established under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to analyze and provide recommendations to support the workforce needs of the domestic energy sector. The NMA's comments will highlight the critical role the domestic mining industry plays in the energy sector and the need for the Board to consider the workforce needs of the domestic mining industry in its efforts.

EPA to Host Webinars, Seeking Public Input on Chemical Prioritization Under TSCA

Last week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [**announced**](#) its plan to start prioritizing the next five chemicals for risk evaluation under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and is seeking public feedback on the matter. Prioritization is the first step in the process of evaluating existing chemicals which is then followed by risk evaluation and risk management. At

this time, the candidate chemicals have not been released. EPA will host two webinars: Monday, [Sept. 30, 2024](#) and Tuesday, [Oct. 1, 2024](#). EPA will present the same content at each meeting. Registration for these webinars is required by Sept. 25, 2024. The NMA will attend these meetings and relay any relevant information, particularly if any metal or metal compounds are identified. EPA will also open a public comment period starting Oct. 1, 2024, for 30 days where stakeholders may provide information on the candidate chemicals. See the [public engagement notice](#) for more details. These pre-prioritization actions are intended to foster a transparent, collaborative effort with the public by allowing stakeholders to engage with EPA on its list of potential prioritization candidates. For more details on these meetings or the prioritization process, see a recent NMA [memorandum](#).

Invitation: Unpacking the Supreme Court's Blockbuster Cases on Administrative Law



The NMA invites you to a hybrid event on **Sept. 10, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Eastern)** at the NMA's office located at 101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 500E, Washington, D.C., to hear from legal experts on the future of agency rulemakings and litigation following the U.S. Supreme Court's blockbuster decisions impacting administrative law, including the demise of the *Chevron* doctrine. We have invited Mike Schon and Mithun Mansinghani, both partners at Lehotsky Keller Cohn, to provide their insight on these cases. In-person attendance is encouraged. **Please RSVP [here](#) for this event.** You can download an Outlook calendar invite [here](#), which also includes a Teams link to join virtually. Additional information is available [here](#).

NMA, ICMM Urge Restraint in Development of Standards

The NMA and the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM) jointly urged American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) President, Joe Bhatia, to limit the scope of ISO Project Committee 348 to developing downstream standards, recognizing the existing abundance of upstream voluntary standards. This request follows the successful conclusion of IWA45 on Sustainable Critical Mineral Supply Chains, where the need to avoid further complicating the mining standards landscape was emphasized. The letter calls for a focus on areas where new standards are necessary and restraint in developing upstream standards. ANSI's alignment with NMA's recommendations will be key to avoiding further crowding in the voluntary global mining standards space.

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.**

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NMA and Third Parties In the News

[Kilgore News Herald](#) (Texas), [The Ohio Press Network](#) (Ohio) and [The Highland County Press](#) (Ohio) carry 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.

[Pit & Quarry](#) quotes Rich Nolan in a story on MINExpo INTERNATIONAL.

[E&E News](#) quotes NMA in a story on DOE weighing financial lifelines for mines facing Chinese dumping.

[Salem News](#) (Ohio), [East Liverpool Review](#) (Ohio), [Lisbon Morning Journal](#) (Ohio), [Frankfort State Journal](#) (Ky.) and [Wayne County News](#) (W.Va.) carry 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

[Pit & Quarry](#) reported that MINExpo International next month will undoubtedly look and feel different than the version that took place in Las Vegas three years ago. Post pandemic, this year's show is anticipated to attract more than double the attendance of 2021.

[Steel News](#) reported that taking a cue from the U.S. and Europe, Canada announced last week that it will impose a 25 percent tariff on Chinese steel, as

well as Chinese aluminum and electric vehicles produced in the country.

[Law 360](#) reported that an Alaska federal court judge will let 23 tribal groups and wilderness organizations intervene in a lawsuit over a mining proposal for a stretch of the Bristol Bay area but has laid out conditions to keep the case quickly moving forward.

[Argus](#) reported that a federal judge has rejected Signal Peak Energy's request that the court direct the Interior Department to speed up an environmental review of the western U.S. coal producer's proposed expansion of an underground mine in Montana.

[Silver Institute's](#) latest newsletter highlights some of the latest research on silver uses, including research showing that a combination of bee venom and silver nanoparticles, can lengthen the life span of bees when administered to bee hives.

[Greenwire](#) reported that Interior Secretary Deb Haaland has revoked a Trump-era decision that would have opened millions of acres of federal land in Alaska to energy development and mining.

[Argus](#) reported that U.S. Class I railroads loaded less coal in July as milder weather and lower natural gas prices remained a barrier to coal-fueled electricity generation.

[Greenwire](#) reported that last week House Natural Resources Committee Republicans threatened to subpoena the Interior Department as part of an ongoing investigation of the Biden administration's decision to protect thousands of acres and scrap mining leases in mineral-rich Minnesota.

[Utility Dive](#) reported on Morgan Stanley analysis indicating that PJM Interconnection's power capacity prices could jump 157 percent in the next

auction in December due to plant retirements and low renewable supply additions, driving consumer electricity bills up significantly.

[**Washington Post**](#) reported that in recent years, copper, other metals, ceramics and various finishes are becoming favorite tools for Washington, D.C. office building architects looking to break out of the mold.

[**Greenwire**](#) reported that China is moving to restrict a little-known metal called antimony used in a growing suite of technologies, escalating a fight over raw materials central to the U.S. energy transition.

[**Politico Pro**](#) reported that the administration is considering using federal dollars to prop up U.S. critical minerals projects being hammered by an influx of cheaper Chinese materials, according to an Energy Department official.

[**Reuters**](#) reported that U.S. miners and battery recyclers are rushing to close government loans worth billions of dollars before January out of concern that former President Donald Trump, if reelected, would block funding needed to boost American output of critical minerals for the energy transition.

[**National Review**](#) carries an op-ed which arguing that mineral security is national security.

[**Steel News**](#) reported that Nippon Steel plans to invest an additional US\$1.3 billion, if not more, in U.S. Steel Corporation's Mon Valley and Gary Works, should it finalize its acquisition of the iconic American steelmaker. At Gary Works, this would include investment of approximately US\$300 million to revamp the No. 14 blast furnace, extending its operational life by up to 20 years.

[**Politico Pro**](#) reported that critical minerals production in the U.S. and among its allies is well short of the volumes automakers will need to produce the

electric vehicles to meet EPA's new tailpipe emissions standards.

[Atlantic Council's](#) piece by Gregory Wischer and Morgan Bazilian provides advice for establishing a U.S. "Resilient Resource Reserve" or a mineral stockpile system which would insulate U.S. mineral producers from price volatility and China's weaponization of its dominance in critical mineral supply chains.

[Politico Pro](#) reported that last week the administration signed a new agreement with Peru to expand cooperation on critical minerals, the second such partnership announced with a Latin American country last month.

Commodity Prices

Commodity Price - Snapshot

| Metals Prices | Date | Price |
|---|---------|------------|
| Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb) | 9/2/24 | \$11.02 |
| Copper Spot Price (\$/lb) | 9/3/24 | \$4.02 |
| Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce) | 9/3/24 | \$2,489.48 |
| Lead Spot Price (\$/lb) | 9/3/24 | \$0.93 |
| Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg) | 9/2/24 | \$10.52 |
| Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg) | 9/3/24 | \$67.72 |
| Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb) | 9/3/24 | \$7.48 |
| Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce) | 9/3/24 | \$27.98 |
| Steel HRC Price (\$/mt) | 9/3/24 | \$697.22 |
| Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt) | 9/3/24 | \$427.43 |
| Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb) | 9/3/24 | \$1.29 |
| Energy Prices | Date | Price |
| Coal Price - Australian Premium Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt) | 9/3/24 | \$200.00 |
| Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st) | 8/30/24 | \$77.30 |
| Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt) | 9/3/24 | \$141.97 |
| Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt) | 9/3/24 | \$114.25 |
| Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu) | 8/28/24 | \$1.89 |
| Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb) | 8/30/24 | \$79.25 |

Sources: publically available data from [eia.gov](https://www.eia.gov), [dailymetalprice.com](https://www.dailymetalprice.com), [tradingeconomics.com](https://www.tradingeconomics.com), [sgxgroup.com](https://www.sgxgroup.com), [investing.com](https://www.investing.com)

CORESafety



In the September edition of CORESafety TV, we take a look at virtual reality applications for mine rescue training.



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