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MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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This Week in The News

Congress remains out of session until after the fast-approaching November elections. 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

It's [Fire Prevention Week](#). This year's theme is: "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!" Learn how to properly install, test, and replace smoke alarms in your home.

Supreme Court Denies Requests to Stay MATS



Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the NMA's and other industry and state-led emergency applications to stay the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Mercury Air Toxics Standards (MATS). The Court did not elaborate on the reasons for denial. As previously reported, the NMA continues to pursue this case in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. We recently joined industry partners and 23 states in filing our opening [brief](#) outlining our legal arguments opposing the rule. The government has until Nov. 12, 2024, to respond.

NMA Members Underscore Rail Concerns at STB Meeting



Today, NMA board members Paul Lang, CEO of Arch Resources, Inc., and Adam Anderson, CEO of Western Fuels, spoke on behalf of coal producers and shippers at the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) meeting. Mr. Lang and Mr. Anderson highlighted how critical it is for railroads to maintain sufficient spare capacity to respond to rapid shifts in demand for coal both domestically and internationally. Pointing out the inherent volatility in the energy markets, they stressed the importance of facilitating U.S. energy exports in the face of unprecedented geopolitical turmoil. Further, they urged the railroads to continue to pursue stability in their workforces to avoid an erosion of overall performance. The NMA submitted comments to the STB prior to the meeting stressing that continued support and flexibility of U.S. railroads is paramount to capitalizing on market opportunities that drive value for the U.S. economy.

EPA Proposes to Add Additional PFAS to TRI Reporting

This week, the EPA published a [proposed rule](#) to add 16 individual per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and 15 categories encompassing more than 100 PFAS to the list of chemicals covered by the [Toxic Release Inventory \(TRI\) program](#) under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. EPA will maintain the manufacturing, processing and otherwise use reporting threshold of 100 pounds for each individually listed PFAS and PFAS category proposed for listing by this rulemaking. It will also designate all PFAS listed under this action as chemicals of special concern, meaning the newly added chemicals cannot take advantage of burden-reduction tools (i.e., *de minimis* exemption, Form A and range reporting). EPA also proposes to individually reclassify some PFAS previously added to the TRI to one of the 15 PFAS categories and clarifies how PFAS are automatically added to the TRI under the National Defense Authorization Act. EPA is requesting comment by Dec. 9, 2024.

NMA and Third Parties In the News

[Politico Pro](#) quotes Rich Nolan in a story on Vice President Kamala Harris' call for the creation of a national critical minerals reserve, catapulting an idea largely confined to wonky mining policy circles into the 2024 presidential campaign.

[Pit & Quarry](#) reports on MINExpo INTERNATIONAL 2024.

[Argus](#) and [Wyofile](#) mention the NMA in a story on the Bureau of Land

Management's (BLM) rejection of efforts to stop its proposal to no longer issue new leases for coal reserves in parts of Wyoming, a plan that could reduce future availability of coal in the Powder River basin (PRB).

[Law 360](#) mentions the NMA in both a story on the efforts by states and industry groups fighting the EPA MATS rule and the Supreme Court's [rejection](#) of the groups' request of the court to stay the implementation of the rule while the DC Circuit considers the challenge. The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday allowed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to implement its recent rule strengthening mercury air emission standards while red states and fossil fuel groups' challenges proceed at the D.C. Circuit.

From our third parties, the [Duluth News Tribune](#) (Minn.) carries an op-ed by John Adams, U.S. Army Brigadier General (Retired), president of Guardian Six Consulting and a former Deputy U.S. Military Representative to NATO's Military Committee, in which he argues mine permitting reform and proper implementation of the 45X tax credits can help boost mineral production in the U.S.

Mining and Energy News

[Argus](#) reported that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) plans to spend as much as \$1.3 billion to help develop carbon capture projects at large power plants and industrial facilities.

The [International Lead Zinc Study Group's](#) recent zinc forecast indicates that after falling by 2.4 percent in 2022 and 2.1 percent in 2023, world zinc mine production is forecast to decline by a further 1.4 percent to 12.06 million metric tons in 2024. In 2025, however, a recovery of 6.6 percent to 12.86

million tons is anticipated, mainly influenced by a robust growth of 8.9 percent in world production outside of China.

Energywire reported that Britain's last coal plant closed last week, ending 142 years of coal-generated electricity in the nation that sparked the Industrial Revolution.

Argus reported that U.S. electricity cooperative Tri-State Generation and Transmission will stop coal production from the Colowyo coal mine in Colorado sometime next year as part of the power plant it supplies is retired.

Wyofile reported that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is on track to finalize a coal leasing ban despite the state of Wyoming and coal industry protests. Parties that filed formal protests to the BLM argued the agency's proposal to ban new coal leases violates the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Kallanish reported that steel consumption should revive in 2025 according to Metinvest. Yuriy Ryzhenkov, CEO of Metinvest said that the steel market, which is cyclical in nature, peaked in late 2021 and early 2022. Since then, the market has experienced a downturn due to the war in Ukraine, the worsening energy crisis, supply chain disruptions and economic uncertainty around the world.

BloombergNEF's recent Transition Metals Outlook 2024 finds that the cost of clean energy technologies could rise without an urgent investment in metals supply to address looming deficits. To meet the demands of a net-zero emissions world, BNEF estimates \$2.1 trillion is needed in new mining investments by 2050.

Mining Media International reported that Sibanye-Stillwater plans to lay off 700 people from the company's Stillwater and East Boulder mines, according to

the Bozeman Daily Chronicle.

[Energywire](#) reported that Duke Energy said last week that it plans to delay the retirement of its largest coal-based power plant, scuttling its efforts to be free of the fossil fuel by 2035. The utility outlined its plans saying that Gibson station in Indiana would convert two of five total units to “enable co-firing natural gas with coal, allowing them to continue to operate through 2038.”

[Argus](#) reported that U.S. dockworkers have ended a port strike that had shut container terminals from Maine to Texas, after their union struck a tentative agreement on wages last week. The International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) has agreed to extend its contract with the U.S. Maritime Alliance (USMX) until 15 January to provide time for negotiating the remaining outstanding issues, the ILA said in a statement. "Effective immediately, all current job actions will cease, and all work covered by the master contract will resume," the ILA said. It will likely take several weeks for the ports to return to normal (about a week for every day on strike).

[Power Magazine](#) reported that Project Tundra, a demonstration project that seeks to capture an average of 4 million tons of carbon dioxide from flue gas from two lignite-based coal units at the 705-MW Milton R. Young Station near Center, North Dakota, has secured a \$4.1 million federal award from the Department of Energy's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED).

[Energywire](#) reported that electric vehicles will make up more than a quarter of all American cars on the road a decade from now, according to a new study by the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) and electric power companies.

[Politico Pro](#) reported that Vice President Kamala Harris is calling for the creation of a national critical minerals reserve, catapulting an idea largely confined to wonky mining policy circles into the 2024 presidential campaign. EEI projects that 78.5 million EVs will be on U.S. roads in 2035 —

and will come with a massive proliferation of charging stations.

[Mining.com](https://www.mining.com) reported that Rio Tinto’s acquisition of Arcadium would place it at the top of the list of world lithium producers.

Commodity Prices

Commodity Price - Snapshot		
Metals Prices	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	10/7/24	\$11.02
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	10/8/24	\$4.40
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	10/8/24	\$2,614.50
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	10/8/24	\$0.95
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	9/27/24	\$10.70
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	10/8/24	\$67.35
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	10/8/24	\$8.05
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	10/8/24	\$30.36
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	10/8/24	\$709.60
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	10/8/24	\$477.88
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	10/8/24	\$1.39
Energy Prices	Date	Price
Coal Price - Australian Premium Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	10/8/24	\$223.00
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	10/4/24	\$74.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	10/8/24	\$150.78
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	10/8/24	\$119.05
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	10/2/24	\$2.76
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	10/7/24	\$82.85

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

CORESafety



In the October edition of CORESafety TV, we take a look at how to stay safe around powered haulage.



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