

[View this email in your browser](#)



# MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

---

Issue 45 | November 20, 2024

Brought to you by the National Mining Association

---

## This Week in The News

President-elect Donald Trump continued to roll out Cabinet nominations at a record pace as Congress prepared to stare down a December 20 government funding deadline. The National Mining Association (NMA) remains focused on actively engaging to advance mining's interests at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue and with the transition teams. Plus, we have updates on how the mining and energy markets are faring.

---

## Safety Share

It's holiday decorating time. American Ladder Institute has [safety tips](#).

---

## Governor Doug Bergum Chosen to Lead the Department of the Interior



On Friday, President-elect Trump picked Governor Doug Bergum (R-N.D.) to lead the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). Bergum was elected Governor of North Dakota in 2016. He briefly ran for President in the Republican primary but dropped out and endorsed Trump. Governor Bergum was on the shortlist to be President-elect Trump's Vice President. As Governor, Bergum strongly favored an all-of-the-above energy policy. He also supported the use of carbon capture technologies to reduce carbon emissions while continuing to use fossil fuels. In 2021, he declared North Dakota would achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 "without a single mandate," instead favoring carbon capture and storage technology. He is expected to play an outsized role in the Trump Administration's energy policy. The President-elect also announced that Governor Bergum will head a newly created National Energy Council. The Council is a multi-agency effort to boost U.S. energy production and eliminate regulations and red tape that slow development in the U.S., a core policy plank

from the Trump campaign. According to the announcement, the Council will oversee the path to U.S. energy dominance.

The official Trump-Vance transition announcement can be seen [here](#).

---

## Chris Wright Chosen to Lead the Department of Energy



On Sunday, President-elect Trump named Chris Wright as his pick for Secretary of Energy. Wright is the founder, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Liberty Energy, a Denver-based hydraulic fracturing company. He is a strong supporter of fossil fuel production and use. Prior to founding Liberty, he served as CEO of Pinnacle and Chairman of Stroud Energy, a shale gas producer. He is known for his affinity for innovation in the energy space. He is on the Board of Directors of Oklo Inc., a next-generation small modular nuclear reactor company, and EMX Royalty Corp., a global mining royalties company. Wright also serves on the boards of several nonprofit organizations, including ACE Scholarships, and as a founding board member of the Bettering Human Lives Foundation. He holds an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering from

the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and did graduate work in Electrical Engineering at UC Berkeley and MIT. Harold Hamm, founder and Chairman of Continental Resources and a Trump confidant, reportedly pushed for Wright's nomination with the President-elect. As Secretary of Energy, Wright will also be a member of the just-announced National Energy Council.

The official Trump-Vance transition announcement can be found [here](#).

---

## Other Cabinet and White House Officials

A full list of all the picks to date, as well as press speculation on the unannounced positions, can be found [here](#).

---

## Western Fuels CEO Addresses Congressional Coal Caucus



Yesterday, Adam Anderson, CEO of Western Fuels and a NMA board member, addressed the Congressional Coal Caucus in the U.S. Capitol. Among the members in attendance were Caucus Co-Chair Carol Miller (R-W.Va.), newly elected Western Caucus Chair Doug LaMalfa and House Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Chair Pete Stauber (R-Minn.). Anderson discussed the importance of coal to our nation's power grid, the costs associated with EPA's Clean Power Plan 2.0, and the pollution mitigation and carbon capture technology efforts at the Dry Forks Station in Gillette, Wyoming.

---

## House Remains in Republican Hands with Two Races Still to Call



Republicans have secured [220 seats](#) in the U.S. House of Representatives to the Democrats 213. Two seats in California have yet to be called. The outcome assures a Republican House in the 119 Congress with a slim majority. Following the victory, the House Republicans conferenced and elected their House leadership for the 119th Congress. Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.), House Majority Leader Steve Scalise (R-La.), and Majority Whip Tom Emmer (R-

Minn.) were reelected to their leadership positions. Rep. Lisa McClain (R-Mich.) was elected to House Republican Conference Chair.

On the Democratic side, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), Minority Whip Katherine M. Clark (D-Mass.), Caucus Chairman Pete Aguilar (D-Calif.) and Democratic Policy and Communications Committee Chair Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.) were reelected to their positions by their conference. Reps. Lauren Underwood (D-Ill.), Lori Trahan (D-Mass.) and Maxwell Alejandro Frost (D-Fla.) were also elected to serve as co-chairs with Rep. Dingell.

---

## House Passes Minerals Parity Legislation by Large Bipartisan Margin

Last week, the full House of Representatives passed the NMA-backed bipartisan Critical Mineral Consistency Act of 2024 ([H.R. 8446](#)) by a vote of 245 to 155, with 44 Democrats voting in support. This large bipartisan margin indicates the growing acceptance surrounding the importance of mineral supply chains for energy, manufacturing, infrastructure and national security. Please find a link to the NMA's press release [here](#) applauding the passage of the legislation. The bill would create parity between the Department of Energy's (DOE) [critical materials list](#) and the Department of the Interior's (DOI) [critical minerals list](#), further expanding the eligibility for certain tax credits, improved permitting processes, or other benefits to commodities on the DOE list. The bill was favorably reported out of the House Natural Resources Committee on June 12 by a bipartisan vote and is [supported](#) by the U.S. Geological Survey. The NMA will continue working to advance this important legislation in the Senate.

---

# House Natural Resources Passes the Bipartisan, Bicameral Mining Schools Act



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**  
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

Today, the House Natural Resources Committee held a full committee markup to consider multiple pieces of legislation, including passing on a voice vote, the bipartisan and bicameral Mining Schools Act (H.R. 2685). This legislation is a high priority for the NMA and passed the committee with bipartisan support by voice vote. Please find a link to the committee markup [here](#) and the committee's markup memo [here](#), which provides additional details and background on legislation considered today. The companion bill to H.R. 2685 passed the Senate in July by voice vote. The NMA continues to engage with both House and Senate committee staff on ways to advance the legislation into law before the end of the current Congress.

---

## NMA Files Amicus Supporting Idaho-Led Challenge to EPA's Tribal Reserved Rights Rule

The NMA recently joined a coalition of trade associations to file an [amicus brief](#) supporting an eight-state coalition's [challenge](#) to the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency's (EPA) Tribal Reserved Rights [rule](#) in the U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota. [Recall](#) that this rule requires states to consider tribal reserved rights in developing their water quality standards. The NMA is concerned this rule will result in more stringent permit limits for mining companies, making it difficult or impossible to operate. The NMA's amicus brief argued the rule will lead to overly stringent water quality standards, resulting in widespread impairment designations and extensive enforcement actions. Specifically, EPA's broad requirements for protecting tribal rights will increase the stringency of water quality levels for covered waters nationwide, and these new requirements will force new discharge restrictions that will harm our sectors and members. The NMA's brief also argued that EPA's unauthorized expansion of its authority will greatly harm the economy, as the agency's novel interpretation of the Clean Water Act as requiring the implementation of treaties will trigger significant regulatory uncertainty, increased costs, and more restrictive regulatory requirements that could drive entities out of business.

---

## NMA and Third Parties In the News

The [Washington Times](#) (D.C.) carries an op-ed by Rich Nolan in which he argues now is the moment to level the playing field for American producers and turn our vast mineral resources into the foundation of an America First agenda.

[The Hill](#) quotes Rich Nolan in a story on industry's reaction to President-elect Trump's win, which has sent a jolt of enthusiasm through the fossil fuel and mining industries as they anticipate a favorable regulatory environment under his incoming administration.

Rich Nolan is quoted and the NMA is mentioned by the [Washington](#)

[Examiner](#), [Chamber Business News](#), [Recycling Today](#) and [Green Car Congress](#) in reporting on a bill by Southern Arizona Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R) to strengthen the United States' treatment of critical minerals cleared the U.S. House last week with bipartisan support.

The NMA is mentioned by [Data Driven Investor](#) in a report on the outlook for minerals mining under a Trump presidency.

[Law 360](#) mentions the NMA in a story noting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency told the D.C. Circuit that opponents of its rule strengthening standards for mercury and other toxic air emissions at power plants are seeking to hamstring the agency with a too-narrow interpretation of the Clean Air Act.

The NMA is mentioned by [Law 360](#) in coverage of trade groups that have joined a dozen red states in urging a North Dakota federal judge to strike down a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rule requiring all states in the nation to consider tribal treaty rights when they set their water quality standards.

From our third parties, [USA Today](#) (USA), [Jeffersonville News and Tribune](#) (Ind.), [Florida Today](#) (Fla.), [The Missoulian](#) (Mont.), [Kokomo Tribune](#) (Ind.), [Arizona Capitol Times](#) (Ariz.), [Bakersfield Californian](#) (Calif.), [Pottstown Mercury](#) (Pa.), [Deseret News](#) (Utah), [Yahoo News](#) (USA), [MSN.com](#) (USA), [Weirton Daily Times](#) (W.Va.), [Salem News](#) (Ohio), [East Liverpool Review](#) (Ohio), [Lisbon Morning Journal](#) (Ohio) and [Fairbanks Daily News Miner](#) (Alaska) carry an op-ed by Matthew Kandrach, president of Consumer Action for a Strong Economy, a free-market advocacy organization, in which he argues in favor of pushing back on EPA regulations in order to support coal-powered generation.

[The Eastern New Mexico News](#) (N.M.) carries an op-ed by Jim Constantopoulos, a geology professor at Eastern New Mexico University, in

which he argues reforming our mining regulatory policy and making strategic investments in domestic producers is essential if we hope to reshore uranium production and build the secure supply chains that this moment demands.

## Mining and Energy News

[Politico](#) reported that Senator Marco Rubio and Representative Mike Waltz, Trump's reported picks for secretary of state and national security adviser, respectively, have been some of Congress' most staunch advocates for reducing reliance on China for critical minerals.

[Greenwire](#) reported that conservative groups that have long rejected the science underpinning climate action are lining up behind a policy wish list that calls on the incoming Trump team to ax climate agreements, make coal a "preferred means of electricity" and immediately freeze spending tied to the 2022 climate law, the Inflation Reduction Act.

[Politico](#) reported that Trump has picked Lee Zeldin to lead EPA. If confirmed, Zeldin would lead the Republican effort to roll back Biden's key climate change regulations — including rules tightening the emissions from power plants and tailpipes.

The [Silver Institute](#) reported that the global silver market is set to record a physical deficit in 2024 for the fourth consecutive year. Record industrial demand and a recovery in jewelry and silverware will lift demand to 1.21 billion ounces in 2024, while mine supply will rise by just 1 percent to 837Moz. Growth from Mexico, Chile and the U.S. will outpace lower output from Peru, Argentina and China.

[Argus](#) reported that the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) lowered

its forecast for coal generation through the end of 2025, reflecting growth in solar generating resources and lower natural gas prices.

**[E&MJ](#)** reported on the U.S. Department of Defense (U.S. Army) announcement that it has awarded a \$435 million contract to Repkon USA to construct and operate a production facility for Trinitrotoluene (TNT) in the U.S. This facility, which will be in Graham, Kentucky, will be the first domestic TNT production facility to operate in the U.S. since the 1980s.

**[Reuters](#)** reported that president-elect Donald Trump's new administration should focus on speeding up the permitting process to ensure there is enough copper for the energy transition, said a Rio Tinto executive.

**[E&E News](#)** reported that the House passed Republican legislation on critical minerals and geothermal energy last week with some support from Democrats. The legislation would reconcile the Energy Department's list of critical materials with the U.S. Geological Survey's list of critical minerals, including copper, electrical steel, silicon and silicon carbide.

**[E&MJ](#)** reported that CONSOL Energy's Pennsylvania Mining Complex (PAMC) produced 7.2 million tons during Q3 2024, and the CONSOL Marine Terminal (CMT) shipped 4.7 million tons. The company said the merger with Arch Resources continues to progress as expected with closing anticipated by the end of Q1 2025.

**[Washington Examiner](#)** reported that Senator Joe Manchin said that Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer told him he was open to moving his permitting overhaul reform bill during the lame-duck period.

**[Energywire](#)** reported that Russia is temporarily limiting exports of enriched uranium to the U.S., creating potential supply risks to utilities operating American reactors that generate almost a fifth of the nation's electricity.

[Argus](#) reported that U.S. coal producer Alliance Resource Partners is planning to close its MC Mining complex in Pike County, Kentucky.

[Energywire](#) reported that the U.S. could squeeze the equivalent of nine new nuclear reactors out of the existing nuclear power system, according to new analysis released by the Electric Power Research Institute last week.

[Bloomberg](#) reported that Nippon Steel's vice president plans to meet with workers representing the three major local unions that run United States Steel Corp.'s plants in the Pittsburgh area.

[Climatewire](#) reported that President-elect Donald Trump's pick for Energy secretary, Chris Wright, signals a boost for U.S. fossil fuels.

[E&E News PM](#) reported that President-elect Trump tapped North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum to fill a new position coordinating energy policy that could give him sweeping influence over a range of federal agencies. As Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Burgum would be named chair of a newly created National Energy Council — essentially an "energy czar" role guiding various agencies with energy responsibilities.

[Bloomberg News](#) reported that soaring demand for copper will help drive mergers and that global demand is set to rise 70 percent to 100 percent by 2050 according to BHP CEO, Mike Henry.

## Commodity Prices

## Commodity Price - Snapshot

Metals Prices	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	11/18/24	\$11.02
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	11/19/24	\$4.13
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	11/19/24	\$2,630.17
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	11/19/24	\$0.90
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	11/19/24	\$10.87
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	11/19/24	\$66.30
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	11/19/24	\$7.16
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	11/19/24	\$31.23
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	11/19/24	\$684.85
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	11/19/24	\$461.21
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	11/19/24	\$1.34
Energy Prices	Date	Price
Coal Price - Australian Premium Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	11/19/24	\$219.00
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	11/15/24	\$78.65
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	11/19/24	\$141.19
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	11/19/24	\$123.00
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	11/13/24	\$2.10
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	11/18/24	\$81.75

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

**CORESafety**



In the November edition of CORESafety TV, we visit West Virginia University where students are learning about mine safety from industry experts in hands-on and in-classroom training programs.



**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](#).