

[View this email in your browser](#)



MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

Issue 7 | February 19, 2025

Brought to you by the National Mining Association

This Week in The News

With the House out of session for the week, the Senate moved to advance its own government funding proposal. In the executive branch, the Trump administration continued to push forward its agenda with breakneck speed. 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

Brain Injury Awareness Month is coming up in March. The National Safety Council offers lots of information on [preventing concussions](#), especially for children and young adults participating in sports.

Trump Executive Order Establishing National Energy Dominance Council



President Trump last Friday issued an [executive order](#) (EO) establishing an interagency National Energy Dominance Council (council) within the White House. The council will be chaired by Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum and Secretary of Energy Chris Wright will serve as vice chair. Other members include the secretaries of all major departments, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and representatives of various White House policy offices. The council is tasked with developing strategies to achieve energy dominance, including by improving permitting processes and addressing regulation.

Immediately after the signing of the EO, senior members of the NMA team met at the White House with Oliver McPherson-Smith, who has been named the

executive director of the council. He confirmed that, building on the Unleashing American Energy EO, “energy” issues under the purview of the new council include policies related to energy from coal and uranium as well as mineral development. The meeting provided the NMA team the opportunity to discuss our coal and minerals priorities and to position the association as a resource for the council moving forward.

Trump Executive Order Ensuring Accountability over Independent Agencies



President Trump last night signed an [executive order](#) (EO), “Ensuring Accountability for All Agencies,” that significantly increases White House and the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) role in the operation and priorities of most independent agencies. The EO directs OMB to implement the oversight of independent agencies including: (1) reviewing draft and final regulations under EO 12866 within 60 days; (2) setting performance measures; (3) reviewing budget apportionments and adjusting to meet the President’s priorities; (4) reviewing performance plans under the Government

Performance and Results Act; and (5) ensuring the Department of Justice oversees and accepts statutory arguments put forward by these independent agencies in rulemakings. Each independent agency must create a White House liaison, presumably to resolve disputes with OMB. The NMA is reviewing this EO and implications for our advocacy with the Securities Exchange Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission.

Trump Reciprocal Trade Tariffs Under Consideration



President Trump has directed the Commerce Secretary and U.S. Trade Representative to review foreign trade barriers and recommend reciprocal tariffs to address unfair trade practices contributing to the \$918 billion U.S. trade deficit. As outlined in our previous memo, this review will assess tariffs, discriminatory taxes, subsidies and regulatory barriers, with a report detailing country-specific remedies. Supported by existing trade laws, this initiative aims to establish fairer trade relationships, with the review process beginning after

the administration's trade policy assessment, due by April 1 with trade actions possible April 2.

Senate Committee Holds Hearing on Improving the Federal Permitting Process

Today, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing titled *Improving the Federal Environmental Review and Permitting Processes*. A link to the hearing can be found [here](#). Witnesses for the hearing include Leah Pilconis (General Counsel for the Associated General Contractors of America), Carl Harris (Chairman of the Board for the National Association of Home Builders), Jeremy Harrell (CEO of ClearPath), Brent Booker (General President of the LiUNA Action Network), and Nicole Pavia (Director of Clean Energy Infrastructure Deployment at the Clean Air Task Force). The focus of the hearing was on ways to improve the permitting process with a specific emphasis on environmental reviews. Ahead of the hearing, the committee requested that NMA submit testimony highlighting the impacts of regulatory and judicial uncertainty in the permitting process on domestic mining and energy development. NMA's testimony covered the impacts of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act and its PM_{2.5} standard. Please find the NMA's testimony for the record linked [HERE](#). The NMA will continue to work with committee and Senate staff to support permitting reforms that address industry priorities and improve outcomes.

Bipartisan and Bicameral Mining Regulatory Clarity Act Reintroduced

Last week, the bipartisan Mining Regulatory Clarity Act ([S. 544](#) / [H.R. 1366](#)) was reintroduced in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to address the improper 2022 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals "Rosemont Decision." In the Senate, the bill is led by Senators Catherine Cortez-Masto (D-Nev.) and Jim Risch (R-Idaho), and in the House by Representatives Mark Amodei (R-Nev.) and Steven Horsford (D-Nev.). The introductions maintain the bipartisan and bicameral support for the legislation. Please find a link to Sen. Cortez Masto's press release [here](#), Sen. Risch's press release [here](#), and Rep. Amodei's press release [here](#). In addition, please find the NMA's social media posts in support of the legislation [here](#) and [here](#). The bill text is identical to what was included in the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024, which passed out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last July by a bipartisan vote of 15 to 4. Please find a link to the NMA's memo on introduction of the legislation [here](#). In addition to the bipartisan co-leads in the Senate, Sens. Jackie Rosen (D-Nev.), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) once again joined as original cosponsors. The NMA will continue working to generate additional bipartisan cosponsors in the House and Senate and advocate for advancing the bill in both chambers as stand-alone legislation or as part of larger, must-pass bills.

House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Staff Tour Baltimore Coal Export Terminals



Today, the NMA's staff from the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Water Resources and Environment and Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittees toured the Core Natural Resources Coal Terminal and CSX Coal Terminal in Baltimore, MD. Representing NMA on the tour were James Young and Martha Newell, both Directors of Government and Political Affairs, and Caitlin McHale, Associate General Counsel. The visit gave committee staff an on-the-ground perspective of these facilities' vital role in moving U.S. coal to global markets.

As two of the most efficient coal export terminals on the East Coast, these operations serve as a critical gateway for American coal, forming the second-largest coal export hub in the United States. In 2023, they collectively handled 28 million short tons of coal, reinforcing their importance in meeting international demand for metallurgical and thermal coal.

The tour offered committee staff a deeper understanding of the logistics and infrastructure involved in coal exports, including rail and port operations, environmental safeguards, and the economic impact of these terminals. Coal exports from Baltimore support hundreds of local jobs and thousands more across the broader mining and transportation industries, underscoring the

sector's significance to domestic employment and international trade.

This visit aligns with the committee's oversight of critical infrastructure and transportation networks, providing staff with firsthand insights into how policies and regulatory decisions affect coal logistics, export capacity, and the broader supply chain. As global demand for U.S. coal remains strong, ensuring efficient and reliable export infrastructure is essential for maintaining America's competitive edge in the international market.

Washington Coal Club Kicks Off 2025 with Congressional Coal Caucus Co-Chairs

The Washington Coal Club will begin its 2025 luncheon series with a special event featuring the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Coal Caucus. Scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 12:00 pm in SVC-201, the event will provide attendees with insights from key congressional leaders on coal-related policies and legislative priorities for the coming year.

During the Club's recent annual meeting, members reelected Christian Palich (Eagle Specialty Materials) as President, Dennis Watson (American Consolidated Natural Resources) as Vice President, Dan Barron (Alliance Coal) as Treasurer, and Lorali Simon (Usibelli Coal Mine) as Secretary. James Young, NMA's Director of Government and Political Affairs, was also reelected to serve on the WCC's Board. The 2025 Board represents a broad range of leadership across the coal industry, reinforcing the Club's commitment to advocacy and engagement. With a strong leadership team, the Washington Coal Club looks forward to another productive year of discussions and collaboration on issues impacting the coal industry.

Please RSVP to Lorali Simon at lorali@usibelli.com by Friday, February 21.

NMA Webinar on the status of NEPA Regulations and the Trump Interim Final Rule Removing CEQ's NEPA Regulations

The NMA is hosting a webinar tomorrow focused on the current state of play regarding the Council of Environmental Quality's (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations in light of recent court decisions and EOs. Two recent court decisions have raised significant questions about CEQ's authority to issue binding regulations, including one of that vacated the Biden administration's phase 2 NEPA regulations. Additionally, President Trump's day-one EO, "Unleashing American Energy," revoked a Carter-era EO long understood as providing CEQ regulatory authority and directed CEQ to propose rescission of its regulations and develop guidance for agencies on NEPA implementation within 30 days. In furtherance of the EO, the administration last Friday submitted an interim final rule, entitled "Removal of National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations" to the Office of Management and Budget for interagency review. Please see NMA's [Feb. 11 memorandum](#) for details on how to join the webinar.

NMA Leads Coalition Letter Urging EPA to Withdraw Draft 2026 Multi-Sector General Permit

The NMA led a coalition of eight national and state trade associations in filing a letter urging the U.S. EPA to withdraw its [draft 2026 multi-sector general permit \(MSGP\) for industrial stormwater discharges](#). While we are pleased the agency extended the comment deadline on the draft MSGP to April 4, 2025, we encourage EPA to withdraw the draft permit and reconsider it in

light of President Trump's executive order directing agencies to freeze ongoing regulatory actions. The coalition also encourages EPA to use this opportunity to take a fresh look at the MSGP to align with the administration's policy priorities promoting efficient permitting processes. In the decades since EPA first developed the MSGP, the permit has become increasingly complex, and we believe there is an opportunity now to streamline it.

NMA Leads Coalition Letter Urging EPA to Withdraw Interim Framework for Advancing Consideration of Cumulative Impacts

The NMA led a coalition of 10 national trade associations in filing a letter urging EPA to withdraw its draft [Interim Framework for Advancing Consideration of Cumulative Impacts](#). The Biden administration developed this document to help EPA program offices incorporate analysis and consideration of cumulative environmental and health impacts into agency decisions. The coalition encourages EPA to withdraw the interim framework to align with President Trump's executive order directing agencies to freeze ongoing regulatory actions. Additionally, many of the documents on which the interim framework rely are either no longer in effect or are no longer publicly available, making it difficult to provide meaningful comment.

Upcoming Environmental Monitoring and Remediation Technology Assessment Initiative Quarterly Call

The Environmental Monitoring and Remediation Technology Assessment Initiative (EMRTAI) has announced the next quarterly call on Feb. 25, 2025, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. (Eastern). Register for this quarterly call is available [here](#). Last year, EPA's Office of Mountains, Deserts, and Plains launched this new initiative with Battelle Memorial Institute to focus on innovative technologies to recover critical minerals from waste materials at Superfund legacy hard rock mine and mineral processing sites and support the U.S. critical minerals supply chain. The EMRTAI Team has been busy planning for technology assessments in 2025. This quarterly call will [cover](#): (1) overview of proposals received from the call for applications including, technologies to recover critical minerals from mining influenced waters and technologies for characterization of critical minerals in solid mine waste; (2) technology assessment process and planning; and (3) upcoming technology assessments and need for future technical panels with subject matter expertise. The NMA will participate in this meeting to monitor the initiative's progress. We encourage member companies to also participate, particularly if you have relevant information and experience to share. Additional information is available [here](#).

NMA and Third Parties In the News

The [Wayne County News](#) (W.Va.), [Herald Dispatch](#) (W.Va.), [Duluth News Tribune](#) (Minn.), [Jacksonville Journal-Courier](#) (Ill.) and [Portsmouth Daily Times](#) (Ohio) all ran an op-ed by Rich Nolan in which he argues to achieve Trump's goal of jumpstarting U.S. mineral production, we now need to use all the tools available to the administration and Congress to tear down self-imposed barriers while also strategically leveling the playing field against foreign anticompetitive trade practices.

From our third parties, [Real Clear Energy](#) (D.C.) carries an op-ed by Danny

Ervin, a Professor of Finance in the Perdue School of Business at Salisbury University, in which he argues in favor of the use of coal plants to combat the electricity crisis.

[Wheeling Intelligencer](#) (W.Va.), [Cleburne Times Review](#) (Texas), [Salem News](#) (Ohio) and [East Liverpool Review](#) (Ohio) all ran an op-ed by retired brigadier general John Adams in which he argues now is the moment to vastly expand our National Defense Stockpile and use the authority afforded the Department of Defense to ramp up domestic mineral production, rebuilding the secure supply chains our economic and national security require.

Mining and Energy News

[Argus](#) reported that coal generation in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) rose from year-earlier levels for a second month in a row in January as generators cut natural gas generation.

[Politico Pro](#) reported that last week President Trump expanded his steel and aluminum tariffs to cover all imports, effectively canceling deals with the EU, the UK, Japan and others.

[Energywire](#) reported that Europe is teetering on the edge of its next energy crisis after natural gas prices soared to the highest in two years. After a long fight with surging bills, stubbornly high inflation and fading industrial activity because of the 2022 crunch, the continent again faces the threat of another prolonged rally that may trigger more economic pain.

[Greenwire](#) reported that President Trump said the U.S. should get a slice of Ukraine's vast natural resources as compensation for the hundreds of billions of dollars it has spent on helping Kyiv resist Russia's full-scale invasion. "I told

them that I want the equivalent of like \$500B worth of rare earth.”

[**Bloomberg**](#) reported that Energy Secretary Chris Wright said that the U.S. should stop the closure of coal plants, adding that the fuel source would be essential to the nation’s power system for decades to come.

In a recent [**Today in Energy**](#) report, the Energy Information Administration’s (EIA) power plant data indicates that the average cost of transporting coal to the U.S. power sector fell slightly in 2023 from \$19.29 per ton in 2022 to \$18.77 per ton in 2023.

[**Argus**](#) reported that EIA raised its 2025 coal generation and consumption forecasts in anticipation of higher natural gas prices.

[**AP**](#) reported that Japan has asked the U.S. to exclude it from the 25 percent steel and aluminum tariffs. The country exported 1.18 million tons of steel to the U.S. in 2024 according to the American Iron & Steel Institute.

[**Climatewire**](#) reported that Senate Majority Whip John Barrasso is leading an effort to pressure the International Energy Agency (IEA) to reverse its prediction that the world could soon reach "peak oil."

[**Politico Pro**](#) reported that two bipartisan critical minerals bills from last Congress are being reintroduced in the Senate, including a proposal that would create a pilot Energy Department program to provide price support to domestic critical mineral processing projects struggling to compete against China.

[**Argus**](#) reported U.S. generators should consider delaying more coal plant retirements to ensure electric grid reliability, thermal coal market participants said at an industry conference this week.

[**Energywire**](#) reported that China's power industry began construction on nearly

100 gigawatts of new coal plant capacity last year, the most in nearly a decade, a report from two clean-energy groups said last week.

[Mining.com](#) reported that the Ukrainian strategic minerals partnership with the U.S. can be considered the most promising, it is a logical and necessary action to ensure the rapid development of new competencies of Ukraine in high-tech and innovative sectors of the economy.

[AP](#) and others reported that last week President Trump rolled out his plan to increase U.S. tariffs to match the tax rates that other countries charge on imports.

[Bloomberg](#) reported that over the next three years, global electricity consumption is set to rise by an “unprecedented” 3,500 terawatt-hours, according to IEA analysis.

[Reuters](#) reported that China's retaliatory tariffs against U.S. energy imports is likely to be most keenly felt in the seaborne market for metallurgical coal (15 percent coal tariff).

Commodity Prices

Commodity Price - Snapshot		
Metals Prices	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	2/17/25	\$9.77
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	2/18/25	\$4.58
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	2/18/25	\$2,933.20
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	2/18/25	\$0.90
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	2/18/25	\$10.46
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	2/18/25	\$64.42
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	2/18/25	\$6.96
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	2/18/25	\$32.86
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	2/18/25	\$772.73
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	2/18/25	\$445.50
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	2/18/25	\$1.31
Energy Prices	Date	Price
Coal Price - Australian Premium Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	2/18/25	\$194.50
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	2/14/25	\$76.50
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	2/18/25	\$100.91
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	2/18/25	\$101.90
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	2/12/25	\$3.94
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	2/14/25	\$66.45

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

CORESafety



In the February edition of CORESafety TV, we discuss CORESafety's Module Number one, leadership and leadership development.



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

Please do not forward or post its content externally.

Copyright © 2025 National Mining Association, All rights reserved.

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

