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MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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Brought to you by the National Mining Association

This Week in The News

An extension of government funding through September 30 passed the House, shifting action to avert a Friday government shutdown to the Senate.

Meanwhile, the EPA acted boldly today to announce the reconsideration of numerous Biden administration rules. 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

With National Poison Prevention Week coming up, it's a good time to review [common poison risks around the house](#).

Trump EPA Announces Deregulatory Blitz: CPP and Dozens of Regulatory Actions Under Reconsideration



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced the agency will reconsider the Biden-Harris administration's "Clean Power Plan 2.0," along with 30 other actions to advance President Trump's Day One executive orders. The EPA's announcement called its actions "the most momentous day in the history of the EPA. While accomplishing EPA's core mission of protecting the environment, the agency is committed to fulfilling President Trump's promise to unleash American energy, lower cost of living for Americans, revitalize the American auto industry, restore the rule of law, and give power back to states to make their own decisions."

Given that most actions announced are reconsiderations of each rule, we will

be working closely with the administration to provide input and offer detailed recommendations on the path forward.

A full list of the EPA's actions can be found [here](#) and the NMA's press release can be found [here](#).

Meeting with National Energy Dominance Council at the White House



On Friday, NMA's Rich Nolan and Richard Russell joined members of the NMA Coal Executive Committee in a meeting at the White House with the heads of the new National Energy Dominance Council (NEDC). Joining NMA's leadership was Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum, chairman of the NEDC, Secretary of Energy Chris Wright, vice chairman, and Oliver McPherson-Smith, the council's Executive Director. The group discussed the administration's bold deregulatory agenda, the role of the Energy Dominance Council along with the administration's plans to address grid reliability. It was a very positive first

meeting. NMA will continue to work with the White House and agency heads to push issues of importance to NMA's members.

NMA Continues Pushback on USTR Shipping Fees

This week NMA continued to highlight the devastating impacts of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) proposed remedies targeting China's maritime, logistics and shipbuilding sectors with USTR directly and also with Congress, the Commerce Department, National Security Council and the National Coal Caucus. The USTR's proposed remedies could have severe unintended consequences for the U.S. mining industry, which relies heavily on global shipping networks. Increased costs, supply chain disruptions, and even the outright inability to import or export critical materials could bring the industry to a standstill—threatening U.S. manufacturing, energy production, and national security. The NMA continues to work with congressional allies and a broad industry coalition to create a ground swell from all U.S. sectors. The NMA appreciates members sending in information to inform our comments and testimony.

Senate Energy Committee Holds Hearing on Mining Bills



Today, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a legislative hearing on six bills with importance to the mining industry. Three bills of particular importance are the Mining Regulatory Clarity Act (S. 544) to provide for a fix for the Rosemont decision; the Critical Minerals Consistency Act (S. 714) to create parity between the Department of the Interior’s critical mineral list and the Department of Energy’s critical material list; and the Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act (S. 859), perennial, partisan legislation to amend the Mining Law. Hearing witnesses included NMA members Rich Haddock (Senior Advisor for Barrick Gold Corporation) and Brian Somers (President of the Utah Mining Association), with Chris Wood (President and CEO of Trout Unlimited) testifying on behalf of the minority. Please find a link to the hearing and witness testimony [here](#). Additionally, please find a link to the NMA’s initial hearing memo with bill descriptions [here](#). The NMA will continue to work with committee staff and seek out opportunities to advance S. 544 and S. 714 as stand-alone legislation or as part of a larger package.

House Passes Government Funding Resolution



Yesterday, the House of Representatives approved a Continuing Resolution (CR), linked [here](#), that would fund the federal government through September 30, 2025 which is the end of fiscal year 2025. The bill increases defense spending by \$6 billion while reducing non-defense spending by \$13 billion compared to Fiscal Year 2024. Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) advanced the bill with on a largely party-line vote of 217-213, with only Congressmen Jared Golden (D-Maine) and Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) breaking ranks with their parties. With a 60-vote threshold required for passage in the Senate, Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) will need Democrat support to pass the bill. Speaker Johnson has canceled votes in the House for the rest of the week, leaving the Senate responsible for either passing the CR or facing a government shutdown. The government is currently funded through midnight on Friday, March 14, and the Senate is expected to consider the CR before then.

Senate Confirms Last Remaining Trump Cabinet Secretary



On Monday, the U.S. Senate confirmed former U.S. Representative Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R-Ore.) as Secretary of Labor, with a bipartisan vote of 67-32. Her confirmation fills-out the Trump cabinet.

Also of note at the Department of Labor, [Walter Palmer](#) has been nominated to lead the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). A complete list of all Trump nominees can be found [here](#).

EPA and Army Corps Announce Plan to Revise WOTUS and Issue Interim Guidance

Today, U.S. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin **announced** that the agency will work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to review the definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS). During the press conference, Administrator Zeldin emphasized that the agency’s “goal is to protect American’s water resources consistent with the law of the land while empowering American farmers, landowners, entrepreneurs, and families to help Power the Great American Comeback.” Notably, EPA and the Corps released new **joint guidance** providing implementation of on the term “continuous surface connection” under the Clean Water Act’s definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS). The guidance affirms the agencies’ view that the U.S. Supreme Court in *Sackett v. EPA* provided a clear two-part test for determining CWA jurisdiction over adjacent wetlands. First, the adjacent body of water must be a WOTUS, which generally means traditional navigable waters, or a relatively permanent body of water connected to a traditional navigable water. Second, the wetland, assuming it satisfies the agencies’ longstanding regulatory definition of “wetlands” at 33 C.F.R. 328.3 and 40 C.F.R. 120.2, must have a continuous surface connection to a requisite covered water making it difficult to determine where the water ends and wetland begins. The Supreme Court recognized that there may be some instances where that line drawing problem is difficult, such as during periods of drought or low tide or in those instances where there may be temporary interruptions in surface connection. The agencies will work to resolve these scenarios on a case-by-case basis and provide further clarity when appropriate to guide future implementation. In addition to issuing guidance, the agencies opened a **docket** with a 30-day comment period to solicit recommendations and will hold additional stakeholder engagement opportunities in late March and April. The NMA’s Caitlin McHale and James Young attended the event with Administrator Zeldin announcing the news at EPA Headquarters this morning. Key congressional leaders, including Senators Boozman, Cramer, Ernst, Britt, and Representatives LaMalfa and Van Orden, also delivered remarks about the importance of a clear and implementable WOTUS Rule.

EPA to Reconsider Ozone Transport Rule

On Monday, EPA filed a [motion](#) in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit requesting a voluntary remand the Ozone Transport Rule with vacatur.

According to the filing, “new Agency leadership has begun reviewing the Rule in light of the priorities and policies of the new administration.” In a separate [declaration](#) by Abigaile Tardif, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation, the agency revealed additional details about the upcoming reconsideration rule. EPA identified several broad categories of issues including the scope of states included in the rule, the scope of sources subject to the rule, and what constitutes “significant contribution” (e.g., re-evaluating the feasibility and/or cost of emissions controls for covered sources, appropriate cost thresholds for control stringency, and the air quality impact of such controls). EPA plans to initiate a rulemaking process by June 2025, with a proposed rulemaking signed by early in calendar year 2026 and final rulemaking signed by Fall of 2026.

EPA Announces Intent to Reconsider TSCA Risk Evaluation Framework

This week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [announced](#) its intent to reconsider the regulation governing the review of chemicals already in commerce by initiating a new rulemaking. Last year, the Biden administration released a [final rule](#) amending the procedural framework for conducting risk evaluations under the Toxics Substances Control Act (TSCA), which amended the original framework from the first Trump term. EPA uses this framework to determine whether a chemical substance presents an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment under their conditions of use without cost considerations. In this reconsideration rulemaking, EPA plans to review its

approach under TSCA, including whether making a single risk determination per chemical substance is consistent with TSCA, whether EPA must evaluate all conditions of use of a chemical within the statutory three-year review period allotted by Congress to conduct its review, whether to consider the inclusion of personal protective equipment (PPE) and industrial controls in risk evaluations, and whether regulatory definitions should be broadened beyond statutory terms. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin stated that this announcement, “will allow EPA to develop a path forward to ensure a timely review of chemicals while bolstering our commitment to safeguard public health and the environment. This action will help advance American competitiveness and Power the Great American Comeback.” EPA’s announcement comes at the heels of the agency’s request in ongoing litigation in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to remand the final rule for reconsideration without vacatur, and to hold all proceedings in abeyance, including oral argument scheduled for March 21, 2025.

EPA to Reconsider Biden's Risk Management Program, GOP States and Industry Seek Abeyance

In a recent legal [filing](#), EPA announced its plan to initiate a new rulemaking to reconsider the Biden administration’s Risk Management Program (RMP) [final rule](#), which addresses chemical accident prevention at certain industrial facilities. EPA also requested that the D.C. Circuit put on hold an ongoing case challenging the final RMP during this reconsideration process. In a supporting declaration, Steven Cook, Deputy Assistant Administrator of EPA’s Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM), stated that the EPA “intends to undertake a new notice-and-comment rulemaking to reassess the requirements in the Final Rule in light of the new Administration’s policy priorities.” Furthermore, Cook adds that “EPA intends to complete this rulemaking as

expeditiously as practicable” and aims to publish a Final Rule in late 2026. During the last two months, the NMA supported an industry coalition in urging EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin to immediately commence a reconsideration rulemaking, including a [letter](#) and a meeting with leadership and staff in EPA’s OLEM where we discussed concerns with the Biden EPA rule and emphasized the need to find a durable solution for the RMP.

Register Now for the NMA Spring Board Meeting



We look forward to seeing you April 13-15, 2025, in Sea Island, Georgia, for our upcoming Spring Board of Directors and Members Meeting. An agenda follows below. To register for the board meeting, as well as registering a guest (partner, spouse and/or child), please [click here](#). Hotel rooms in the NMA block are on a first-come, first-serve basis. The group rate (\$569 /night) will be available until March 21, 2025, or until the block is full. [Click here](#) to reserve a room at the Sea Island Resort.

AGENDA

Sunday, April 13

- Noon – 5pm NMA Lounge Open
- Noon – 5pm Networking and Optional Activities Available
- 6pm – 10pm Welcome Dinner

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Monday, April 14

- 7am – 5pm NMA Lounge Open
- 8am – 9am Manufacturers & Services Board of Governors Meeting
- 9am – 10am **SPEAKER**
Brett Baier
Host of Special Report on FOX News Channel
- 10am – 11am Minerals CEO Meeting
- 11am – Noon Coal CEO Meeting
- 1pm – 5pm Networking, Official Golf Tournament and Optional Activities Available
- 5pm – 6pm Executive Committee
- 6pm – 10pm Reception and Dinner

Tuesday, April 15

- 7am – Noon NMA Lounge Open
- 8am – 9am **SPEAKER**
Tom Bevan
Co-Founder & President, RealClearPolitics
- 9am – Noon NMA Board of Directors Meeting

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS



Brett Baier

Host of Special Report on
FOX News Channel



Tom Bevan

Co-Founder & President,
RealClearPolitics

INVITED SPEAKERS



Doug Burgum

Secretary of the Interior



Chris Wright

Secretary of Energy



Lee Zeldin

Environmental Protection Agency
Administrator



Tim Sheehy

Senator
R-Montana



David McCormick

Senator
R-Pennsylvania



Katie Britt

Senator
R-Alabama

NMA and Third Parties In the News

[Real Clear Energy](#) (D.C.) carries an op-ed from Rich Nolan in which he argues the coal fleet has underused capacity and should underpin the administration's energy abundance agenda as electricity demand rises to power AI.

[DC Journal](#) quotes Rich Nolan in a story noting that, whatever the outcome of the infamous Oval Office blowup between President Trump and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelinsky, mining experts say it won't change one fact about the minerals needed to keep America's economy moving.

[The Detroit News](#) carries an op-ed that quotes Rich Nolan and argues for domestic minerals mining policy.

[Lloyds List](#) mentions the NMA in a story on the potential trade 'apocalypse' if the Trump administration's port fee plan isn't killed.

[Law 360](#) mentions the NMA in a story on the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling siding with San Francisco to strike down parts of a federal water pollution permit demonstrated a majority of justices' reluctance to force permit holders to interpret gray areas that could get them in trouble.

Mining and Energy News

The [New York Times](#) reported that it is more important than ever to foster minerals diplomacy.

[E&E Daily](#) reported that bipartisan lawmakers are relaunching a legislative

push to block imports of critical minerals from Russia, including platinum, palladium and copper.

[**Engineer Live**](#) reported that while the U.S. is somewhat dependent on foreign critical mineral supply chains, the mining industry is still very active within the country itself.

[**Greenwire**](#) reported that longtime mining executive Randall Atkins, founder of Ramaco Resources, is pushing the Trump administration to deem coal used to make steel as "critical," alongside other minerals and rare earth elements.

[**E&E Daily**](#) reported that House and Senate Democrats are planning to release legislation to reform the nation's 153-year-old mining law by imposing a royalty on minerals dug up on public land.

[**Argus**](#) reported that Virginia Maritime Association preliminary data show coal exports out of Hampton Roads, Virginia, decreased in January, possibly reflecting a mixture of rail shipment delays, mine production issues and muted export demand for metallurgical coal. Terminals at the port loaded nearly 2.2 million short tons, a 36 percent drop from January 2024.

[**Greenwire**](#) reported that President Zelenskyy said he's ready to sign a minerals and security agreement with the U.S. after a heated Oval Office meeting derailed discussions last week.

[**Argus**](#) reported that coal generation in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) nearly doubled from a year earlier in February, winning favor over natural gas as generators responded to increased heating demand.

[**Reuters**](#) reported that Ukraine still maintained steel production growth in the first two months of 2025 despite the loss of the sector's key coking coal mine in Pokrovsk in the eastern part of the country, according to data from the

Ukrainian steel producers' union.

[**Argus**](#) reported that coal power in the PJM Interconnection climbed by 56 percent in February compared with the year prior, as utilities substituted coal for some natural gas use during a cold snap that covered much of the eastern U.S.

The [**World Platinum Investment Council**](#) reported that platinum supply was up 3 percent in 2024 due to strong investment demand and higher than expected output from South Africa and Russia. Supply is projected to contract 4 percent this year on the expectation of lower refined mine supply in North America and lower output from South Africa.

[**Argus**](#) reported that U.S. thermal coal exports declined by 11 percent in January from a year earlier, reflecting constricted global demand, primarily in Asia.

[**Politico Pro**](#) reported that the Trump administration has abandoned a multibillion-dollar initiative to help other countries shift their economies from coal to clean energy, raising questions about the program's ability to survive without American support.

[**Mining.com**](#) reported that Rio Tinto has officially completed its \$6.7 billion acquisition of Arcadium Lithium, which will become Rio Tinto Lithium.

[**Washington Examiner**](#) reported that Trump's tariffs imposed this week – particularly those on Canada – pose a risk to energy stability in both the U.S. and Canada, regulators are now warning.

The [**Financial Times**](#) reported that the world's biggest mining groups have reduced spending on exploration in the past few years as inflation, higher interest rates and lower commodity prices have stalled the market.

[Mining.com](https://www.mining.com) reported that Freeport-McMoRan hopes President Trump declares copper to be a critical mineral when he announces his plan to boost American mining, CEO Kathleen Quirk said on Monday.

Commodity Prices

Commodity Price - Snapshot		
Metals Prices	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/11/25	\$12.58
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/12/25	\$4.81
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	3/12/25	\$2,936.56
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/12/25	\$0.94
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	3/12/25	\$10.34
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	3/12/25	\$63.36
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/12/25	\$7.54
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	3/12/25	\$33.25
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	3/12/25	\$940.40
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	3/12/25	\$445.38
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/12/25	\$1.33
Energy Prices	Date	Price
Coal Price - Australian Premium Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	3/11/25	\$181.00
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	3/7/25	\$76.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	3/11/25	\$104.95
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	3/10/25	\$99.00
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	3/5/25	\$4.40
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/11/25	\$63.95

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

CORESafety



In the March edition of CORESafety TV, we discuss CORESafety's Module Number two, Management Systems Integration and Coordination.



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