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MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

Issue 11 | March 19, 2025

Brought to you by the National Mining Association

This Week in The News

Congress extended government funding through September and both chambers are out of session this week. Meanwhile, the Executive branch is maintaining its rapid pace of pursuing Trump administration regulatory and economic priorities. 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 National Poison Prevention Week. Now is a good time to focus on two silent safety threats in the home: [Carbon monoxide](#) and [radon gas](#).

NMA Meets with USTR Team to Discuss Impacts of 301 China Shipping and Proposed Actions



Yesterday, the NMA met with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to discuss USTR's Proposed Action stemming from its Section 301 investigation of the People's Republic of China's targeting the maritime, logistics and shipbuilding sectors for dominance. This is the fifth meeting the NMA has convened with representatives from the Executive Office of the President and agency officials to discuss this matter. The NMA made it clear that USTR's proposal is already severely damaging contracts for U.S. exports and if it is unchanged, will make future exports of energy and mined materials uneconomic, harming the U.S. economy and the administration's effort to achieve U.S. energy dominance. In yesterday's meeting, the NMA met with Zoe Sophos, Deputy Chief of Staff; Daniel Matthews, Director of Industrial Competitiveness; Marshall Stallings, Director for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement; and Anjani Nadadur, Assistant General Counsel. The meeting is part of an all-avenues approach to address USTR's proposal, which includes outreach to Congress and governors of impacted states, the NMA

joining a coalition of more than 50 organizations, supporting an economic impact study, submitting comments and testifying next week before USTR.

NMA engages with Department of the Interior on Groundwater and Water Rights in the Eastern U.S.

This week the NMA's Caitlin McHale and James Young met with senior officials at the Department of the Interior (DOI) to discuss groundwater and water rights in the Eastern United States. The NMA highlighted the long-standing principle that, under the Clean Water Act, groundwater management is the responsibility of individual states—not the federal government.

The discussion emphasized the distinct nature of Eastern water law, where riparian rights are not quantified in the same manner as those in Western water law. This difference raises important considerations when federal agencies assess their role in water policy and infrastructure. The NMA stressed that any federal approach must respect state authority and avoid efforts to assert or imply federal water rights where they do not exist.

The NMA also discussed the role of the Water Subcabinet—created by Executive Order 13956 in 2020 and later codified into law through the 2022 FLOODS Act, now known as the Interagency Committee on Water Management and Infrastructure or the Water Policy Committee, co-chaired by the Department of the Interior and the EPA. Its statutory mandate highlights the importance of interagency coordination, but it must operate within the framework of state-led water governance, especially in the East.

NMA Re-Establishing the Good Samaritan Working Group



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is in the beginning stages of developing guidelines and a project application template for the 15 low-risk projects allowed under the NMA backed Good Samaritan Remediation of Abandoned Hardrock Mines Act of 2024 ([Public Law 118-155](#)), with the goal of approving the first round of projects and breaking ground in 2026. Over the next several months, there will be opportunities to engage with EPA and other stakeholders in ensuring that the pilot program is successfully implemented. Accordingly, the NMA is reestablishing the Good Samaritan Working Group.

Please fill out this [form](#) to nominate a representative (or multiple representatives) from your company by March 24, 2025. Regardless of whether your company plans to submit a project application, we need your expertise on abandoned mine land remediation to ensure that the program reflects on-the-ground realities while aligning with the intent of the law.

EPA Announces Future Actions on Coal Combustion Residuals

The EPA recently [**announced**](#) it is prioritizing actions on coal ash, such as reviewing state coal combustion residual (CCR) permit programs and reviewing the legacy CCR impoundments final rule. As part of the Powering the Great American Comeback initiative, EPA will work with states to place implementation of the coal ash regulations more fully into their hands and empower local expertise to oversee coal ash disposal operations. EPA will now encourage states to pursue their own oversight of CCR management and expressed its plans to work with states on preparing their state CCR regulations and permitting program applications tailored to their unique circumstances that are protective of human health and the environment. For example, EPA plans to demonstrate its commitment by proposing a determination on the North Dakota CCR permit program within the next 60 days. For the legacy CCR impoundments final rule, within the next year, EPA plans to evaluate whether to grant short and long-term relief such, as extending impending compliance deadlines.

Congress Passes Continuing Resolution to Keep Government Funded



Last Friday night, the Senate passed a Continuing Resolution (CR), H.R. 1968, to fund the government through the end of the current fiscal year -- September 30, 2025. The final vote was 54 - 46, with Sens. Angus King (I-Maine) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) supporting the measure. House Republicans passed the bill earlier in the week, largely along party lines, with one Republican and one Democrat voting against their respective parties. Following its passage, Speaker Johnson immediately dismissed his chamber for a congressional recess, leaving Senate Democrats divided on whether to vote in favor of it to keep the government open or to allow a shutdown to occur.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) took opposite positions during the debate, with Jeffries opposing the package and Schumer ultimately supporting cloture, which required 60 votes to allow the bill to proceed to final passage. The CR was signed by President Trump shortly after Senate passage.

Westerman Reintroduces Endangered Species Act Reforms



Earlier this month, House Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) reintroduced the Endangered Species Act Amendments Act of 2025 (H.R. 1897). The legislation correctly strikes a balance between the importance of recovery actions and the increasing need for transparency and accountability of recovery programs, all while providing a pathway to prioritize conservation activities, including those on private lands. Please find a link to the committee's press release on the legislation [here](#) as well as the "What They Are Saying" with a quote from the NMA's Richard Russell in support of the bill [here](#). The NMA will continue to work with committee staff to support this legislation and other solutions to improve the Endangered Species Act.

NMA Team Trains in Life Saving First Aid/CPR/AED Skills

The NMA team recently participated in adult and pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED training provided by the American Red Cross. Team members completed a comprehensive program that included an online curriculum and hands-on, on-site training. Quick action can make a critical difference during a cardiac emergency. Immediate CPR has the potential to double or even triple the

chances of survival, while bystander CPR contributes to the survival of nearly 45 percent of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest victims. However, with every minute of delay in CPR or AED use, the likelihood of survival decreases by about 10 percent. The NMA team's dedication to mastering these life-saving skills reflects their commitment to ensuring a safer environment for colleagues, families and anyone in need.

Register Now for the NMA Spring Board Meeting



Spring Board of Directors
and Members Meeting

Sea Island[®]

April 13-15

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

[Argus](#), [Reuters](#), [India West Journal](#) and others quote Rich Nolan on the Environmental Protection Agency reconsideration of more than 30 regulations issued under former president Joe Biden, including CO2 limits for power plants and automobiles, national air quality standards and methane limits for the oil and gas sector.

The [House Committee on Natural Resources](#) quotes the NMA's Richard Russell in a press release on the Endangered Species Act Amendments Act of 2025.

The [Washington Times](#) mentions the NMA in an op-ed that argues copper tariffs make U.S. manufacturers less competitive in global markets for varied electrical and electronic equipment.

[Newsbreak](#) and [Lexology](#) mention the NMA in a story on a coalition of business and trade groups has filed a lawsuit against Governor Kathy Hochul's administration, challenging the New York Climate Change Superfund Act.

From our third parties, [Jacksonville Journal Courier](#) (Ill.), [Sentinel Colorado](#) (Colo.), [Arizona Capitol Times](#) (Ariz.), [Pottstown Mercury](#) (Pa.) and [The Martins Ferry Times Leader](#) (Ohio) carry an op-ed by Matthew Kandrach, president of Consumer Action for a Strong Economy, in which he argues against exorbitant port fees.

[Daily Jefferson County Union](#) (Wis.), [DC Journal](#) (D.C.), [Boston Herald](#) (Mass.) and [River Reporter](#) (N.Y.) carry an op-ed by Jim Constantopoulos, a professor of geology and director of the Miles Mineral Museum at Eastern New

Mexico University, in which he argues for prioritizing domestic mineral production over flirtations with Ukraine and Greenland's minerals.

Mining and Energy News

[Bloomberg](#) reported that, on Monday night, President Trump said he would look to counter China's economic advantage from coal-based electricity by authorizing his administration to ramp up production of power from coal.

[Greenwire](#) reported that the Trump administration is open to exploring a partnership with the mineral-rich Democratic Republic of Congo, according to a spokesperson for the State Department.

[Reuters](#) reported that President Trump aims to build metals refining facilities on Pentagon military bases as part of his plan to boost domestic production of critical minerals and offset China's control of the sector.

[Argus](#) reported that coal generation in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) rose from year-earlier levels for a third month in February, driven by higher overall power demand and limited use of wind power.

The U.S. Geological Survey's new [World Mineral Outlook](#) report provides estimated mineral production capacities for cobalt, gallium, helium, lithium, magnesium, palladium, platinum and titanium for 2025 through 2029. The agency concludes that cobalt and lithium are expected to have large capacity growth in the next few years due to battery demand, while capacity growth for gallium, helium, palladium and platinum is expected to remain stable or exhibit moderate growth.

[Utility Dive](#) reported that the Canadian province of Ontario proposed a 25

percent tariff (\$7/MWh) on power exports to Michigan, Minnesota and New York, which it expected would generate about \$243,000 a day.

[**Greenwire**](#) reported that President Trump announced last week plans to double to 50 percent expected tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada in retaliation for Ontario's stiff duties on electricity.

[**Washington Examiner**](#) reported that coal plants may see a revival under the Trump administration, as Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said the U.S. is weighing using emergency authority to bring retired facilities back online.

[**Politico Pro**](#) reported that critical minerals is one of the few areas of bipartisan cooperation in Washington right now, leading to cautious optimism that the U.S. will take action to reduce its reliance on China for the raw materials needed to power the economy.

[**Argus**](#) reported on EIA's recent short-term energy outlook showing that U.S. coal generation will likely rise this year by a greater amount than previously thought because of colder than expected winter weather and elevated natural gas prices.

[**Politico Pro**](#) reported that the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security has formally launched two Section 232 investigations that could lead to import restrictions on copper, lumber and timber, according to Federal Register notices.

[**Argus**](#) reported that some coal market participants and the West Virginia attorney general are urging Maryland lawmakers to shelve legislation that would impose a fee on coal getting transported into the state, saying it would hinder exports and compromise interstate commerce.

[**Mining.com**](#) reported that U.S. copper imports could rise 50-100 percent in

the coming months as metal traders increase inventories before President Trump's planned tariffs go into effect.

Argus reported that a U.S. proposal to fine Chinese-built ships calling at U.S. ports is behind a near 20 percent rise for some dry bulk freight rates. Panamax rates for transatlantic coal and grain voyages loading out of the U.S. east and Gulf coasts rose by 18 percent on average last Wednesday, while rates for long-haul voyages rose 13.3 percent on average, as charterers have been willing to pay premiums for non-Chinese built ships.

Greenwire reported that "the administration is clawing back regulations and mulling executive authorities to prop up the nation's coal-fired power fleet and mining sector."

Financial Times reported that it takes 29 years to get approval for a new mine in the U.S., but the industry is hoping that will change.

Argus reported that U.S. regulators have approved a plan that would allow the Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC) to mine an additional 39.9 million short tons of coal at its Spring Creek operation in Montana.

Reuters reported that gold broke through the key \$3,000 per ounce barrier last Friday for the first time as investors piled on to a historic rally in the safe haven asset to seek cover from economic uncertainty sparked by President Trump's tariff war.

NPR reported that mining copper may be more critical than mining rare earth minerals.

Argus reported that U.S. metallurgical coal producers may sell more of their output as thermal coal given downward pressure on coking coal markets and recent gains in coal generation, industry executives said at the CERAWEEK

conference last week.

[Mining.com](#) reported that copper traded near a five-month high earlier this week after the Chinese government vowed to revive consumption with a special action plan aimed at boosting spending by increasing incomes.

[Reuters](#) reported that Russia plans large scale lithium production by producing at least 60,000 metric tons of lithium carbonate in 2030.

Commodity Prices

Commodity Price - Snapshot		
Metals Prices	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/17/25	\$16.40
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/18/25	\$4.98
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	3/18/25	\$3,032.67
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/18/25	\$0.94
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	3/18/25	\$10.38
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	3/18/25	\$62.11
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/18/25	\$7.36
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	3/18/25	\$33.99
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	3/18/25	\$939.39
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	3/18/25	\$441.47
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/18/25	\$1.34
Energy Prices	Date	Price
Coal Price - Australian Premium Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	3/18/25	\$173.33
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	3/14/25	\$76.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	3/18/25	\$97.07
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	3/17/25	\$96.75
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	3/12/25	\$4.19
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/17/25	\$63.00

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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