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# MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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Brought to you by the National Mining Association

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## This Week in The News

Congress returned to session facing a packed three weeks leading up to the Passover and Easter recess as Trump administration deregulatory and trade actions continue to roll out. 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.

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## Safety Share

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The National Safety Council pointed out that new technology in vehicles is causing us to become more distracted behind the wheel [than ever before](#).

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## Trump Administration Unveils Long-Awaited Minerals Executive Order



Last Thursday, President Trump signed an overwhelmingly positive Executive Order (EO), “[Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production](#).” The EO addresses many of the priorities that the NMA shared with administration officials in support of the hardrock mining sector and aims “to boost American mineral production, streamline permitting, and enhance national security.” Specifically, the EO addressed expansion of the critical minerals list; improving permitting efficiencies; addressing the Rosemont decision and subsequent string of cases; ensuring land access; and incentivizing mineral production. Please find a link to the NMA’s memo detailing key provisions of the EO [here](#) and a link to the NMA’s press release [here](#).

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## **NMA Meets with Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum**



On Friday, NMA's Rich Nolan, Katie Sweeney and Richard Russell met with the National Energy Dominance Council (NEDC) chair and Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum along with John Reiten of the NEDC and Greg Wischer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Lands and Mineral Management. The meeting covered how the Trump administration can best expand domestic mining and U.S. energy production. The Secretary expressed his desire to advance both stalled and pipeline mining projects and reinvigorate domestic energy and mineral production. The NMA will continue to work with the Department of the Interior and the NEDC to promote and expand domestic mineral and energy production.

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## **NMA files Comments and Testifies on USTR Section 301 Maritime Investigation**



This week, the NMA submitted comments to the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) regarding the Section 301 investigation into China's dominance in the maritime, logistics and shipbuilding sectors. While supporting efforts to reshore American industry, the NMA cautioned that the proposed actions could have severe unintended consequences for U.S. mining, harming energy and mining exports. The NMA urged USTR to adopt measures that protect these exports while minimizing economic harm. In addition to its formal comments, the NMA is actively engaging with USTR, the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Commerce, Congress and the White House National Energy Dominance Council; testified at a USTR hearing; supported an economic study outlining broad negative impacts; and submitted a coalition letter signed by more than 300 trade associations opposing the proposed remedies.

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## **House Energy & Commerce Confronts Grid Reliability Crisis Amid Surging Demand**



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY & COMMERCE**

Yesterday, the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing titled "Keeping the Lights On: Examining the State of Regional Grid Reliability," where Members of Congress and grid operators sounded alarm bells about the widening gap between soaring electricity demand and the nation's ability to meet it.

Regional grid leaders from Texas to New York described a rapidly accelerating need for power driven by AI, data centers, electrification and a domestic manufacturing boom. But while demand forecasts are climbing, new generation is not coming online fast enough—and too many dispatchable baseload resources are being retired prematurely. PJM CEO Manu Asthana made clear that "keeping what we have" is the most urgent near-term solution. He and other grid CEOs warned that federal and state decarbonization mandates—particularly EPA's Clean Power Plan 2.0—are forcing reliable coal and gas generation off the grid before replacements are ready. "The markets cannot keep a power plant open if it is illegal to operate it," Asthana testified, highlighting the need for policy alignment between energy reliability and environmental goals.

Rep. Julie Fedorchak (R-N.D.) drove the issue home, asking each grid operator whether government incentives or market forces were driving what gets built. Every one of them cited federal and state policies—not market signals—as the dominant force shaping new generation. "What I didn't hear," Fedorchak said, "is that the market need is driving these resources. That's a problem." She went further, urging Congress to explicitly value and compensate reliability attributes in market structures. Without doing so, she warned, the nation will see more projects that look good on paper but fail to deliver power when it's needed. "Incentivizing reliability discreetly and explicitly would be very helpful," echoed Pablo Vegas of ERCOT.

Much of the discussion turned to baseload generation and the dangers of retiring firm thermal plants too soon. Winter Storm Elliott, among other events,

showed that coal and natural gas still provide crucial backup when renewable resources fall short. As MISO's Jennifer Curran noted, "You make up for the shortfall with resources that have fuel on demand—coal and gas." Lawmakers from both parties acknowledged that reliability is not just about building more power, but about keeping the generation we already have. Several called for a reassessment of policies accelerating the retirement of dispatchable plants. "We need to slow down those retirements," Curran said, "and hang on to the generation that's still serving us well."

While grid operators stressed the need for new transmission, permitting reform and advanced technologies like AI and storage, they agreed that none of it can happen fast enough to fill the near-term gap. The first step, many said, is to stop the bleeding. As the hearing concluded, the most important theme emerged: meeting future demand will require an all-of-the-above approach that includes preserving today's generation—especially baseload coal and gas. The NMA will continue to work with the committee to promote common sense efforts to preserve and expand baseload power generation.

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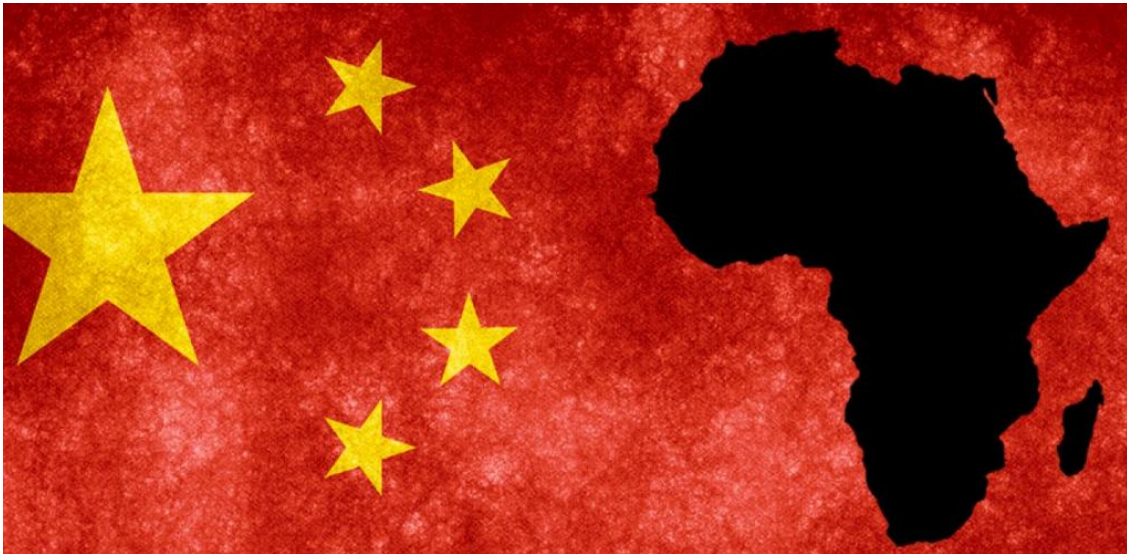
## **Bicameral, Bipartisan Reintroduction of the Mining Schools Act**

Today, the bipartisan and bicameral Mining Schools Act was reintroduced in the Senate by Senators John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.) and in the House by Representatives Burgess Owens (R-Utah) and Jim Costa (D-Calif.). The legislation remains a high priority for the NMA and would require the Department of Energy, in consultation with the Department of the Interior, to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education and training programs. In the last congress, the bill passed out of the Senate and its companion in the House passed out of the House Natural Resources Committee. Original cosponsors in the Senate include Senators Michael Bennet

(D-Colo.), John Curtis (R-Utah), Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), Jim Justice (R-W.Va.), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), John Hoeven (R-N.D.), Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.), Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) and Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.). The House bill is cosponsored by Representatives Blake Moore (R-Utah), Brittany Petterson (D-Colo.), and Maloy (R-Utah). The NMA will continue to work with congressional allies and committee staff to advance both bills in their respective chambers. Please find a link to Sen. Barrasso's press release [HERE](#) and Sen. Hickenlooper's release [HERE](#).

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## House Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Chinese Mining Practices in Africa



Yesterday, the House Foreign Affairs Africa Subcommittee held a hearing titled "Metals, Minerals, and Mining: How the CCP Fuels Conflict and Exploitation in Africa." A link to the hearing can be found [here](#). The hearing focused on issues such as child exploitation, human rights violations and environmental degradation caused by illegal and poorly regulated mining activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Zimbabwe, Zambia and other African nations linked to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Members of the committee and witnesses discussed strategies the U.S. can adopt to reduce child labor, including requiring community agreements for new mining operations and supporting World Bank education programs. The NMA will continue to engage with the committee as they seek oversight opportunities and explore solutions to counter China's influence over global mineral resources by promoting domestic mining. This week, NMA's Rich Nolan wrote an op-ed on countering China's mineral dominance which can be seen [here](#).

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## **Trump Nominates Adam R. Telle as Assistant Secretary of the Army**

Today, President Trump nominated Adam R. Telle to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Telle currently serves as Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.), a role he has held since August 2021. In this role, Telle will oversee the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works program, which manages the nation's water resources — including flood control, navigation and ecosystem restoration — maintains inland waterways and ports, implements Congressionally authorized water infrastructure projects and supports emergency response and disaster recovery efforts. A native of Northport, Alabama, Telle brings nearly two decades of legislative and executive branch experience. He previously served as Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs from 2019 to 2021, focusing on Senate relations. On Capitol Hill, he held senior roles with Senators Thad Cochran, Shelley Moore Capito, John Boozman and Richard Shelby, including service as Clerk for the Senate Appropriations Committee's Homeland Security Subcommittee. He holds bachelor's degrees in journalism and computer science from Mississippi State University, where he served as student body president and president of the State of Mississippi Student Body Council.

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## Lanny Erdos Renominated for OSMRE Director



This week, Lanny Erdos was nominated by President Trump to serve as Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). Once confirmed, he will resume the role he held during the first Trump administration. Erdos has been most recently working for Eagle Forge Services Company as the President of Cardinal Reclamation, LLC/VP of Regulatory and Environmental Compliance. Before his first stint as OSMRE Director, he worked for 31 years at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Mineral Resources Management (ODNR). He ultimately served as Chief at ODNR, where he had a wide range of responsibilities, including managing and regulating Ohio's coal and aggregate resources, as well as overseeing the Division's Abandoned Mine Land and Mine Safety programs.

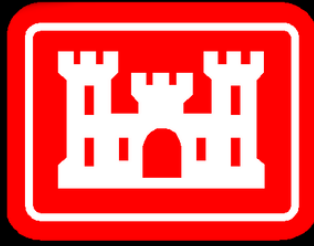
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## **Marco Rajkovich Renominated for Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission**

Yesterday, Marco Rajkovich was renominated to serve on the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a six-year term ending on August 30, 2030. Rajkovich had previously been nominated by President Joe Biden for his second term on the federal panel that hears appeals of mine safety citations and was originally nominated by President Trump in his first term in office. Before this role, Rajkovich practiced mine safety and health law for over 30 years at the law firm Rajkovich, Williams, Kilpatrick & True, PLLC. Rajkovich is a professional mining engineer, a land surveyor and a certified underground mine foreman in Kentucky. Prior to entering law, he spent a decade at U.S. Steel Mining Company, Inc., where he held various engineering and production roles.

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**EPA and Army Corps Announce WOTUS Stakeholder Listening Session Schedule; Comments Due April 23, 2025**



## US Army Corps of Engineers®

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) [published](#) in the Federal Register its notice seeking input from stakeholders on key topics related to the agencies' implementation of the definition of "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) under the Clean Water Act. Comments are due April 23, 2025. For more background information on the agencies' plans, please review the NMA's March 12, 2025, [memorandum](#). As a reminder, the NMA has scheduled a Teams meeting to discuss our comment strategy for this Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. (Eastern). To RSVP and download an Outlook invitation, please click [here](#). The agencies also announced the schedule for six listening sessions to solicit feedback from the public. The listening sessions will be held virtually and/or in-person at EPA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. from April 29, 2025, through May 1, 2025. More information on the timing of the sessions is available [here](#).

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## EPA to Revise Its National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives

EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) recently [announced](#) immediate revisions to its National Enforcement and

Compliance Initiatives (NECI) for Fiscal Years (FY) 2024-2027 to ensure that enforcement avoids discrimination based on race and socioeconomic status or shut down energy production while focusing on the most pressing health and safety issues. EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin stated that “by re-aligning enforcement with the law instead of activist goals, we can help deliver economic prosperity and energy security while ensuring compliance with sound regulations.” In a [memorandum](#), Acting EPA OECA Chief Jeffery Hall outlines these changes and provides guidance for implementing the 2024-2027 NECIs, focusing on shifting enforcement and compliance strategies, especially those affecting the energy sector, while addressing environmental justice considerations. Some of these changes include no longer using environmental justice considerations to inform enforcement and compliance assurance work, and that EPA shall not take any enforcement action that would shut down any stage of energy production “from exploration to distribution” or power generation absent an imminent and substantial danger to human health or express statutory or regulatory requirement. Furthermore, it adjusts specific NECIs to address climate change, coal ash contamination, air toxics and chemical risks. EPA will review and revise the NECIs as appropriate to ensure alignment between the NECIs and the administration’s directives and priorities.

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## **NMA Leads Coalition Letter Urging EPA to Withdraw and Pause Future Regulatory Action on Tire Chemicals**

The NMA recently led a coalition of 11 national trade associations in filing comments on EPA’s [advance notice of proposed rulemaking](#) (ANPRM) regarding potential future regulatory action on 6PPD and its transformation product, 6PPD-quinone, a chemical compound commonly found in vehicle tires and rubber products. The coalition letter urged EPA to withdraw the ANPRM to align with the new administration’s executive actions and policy priorities and

pause future and potential regulatory actions under the Toxic Substances Control Act and Clean Water Act until the agency can discuss the impact of these actions on potentially affected industry sectors.

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## **New NMA Resource: PFAS Regulatory Tracker**

As shared at the NMA's Environment and Lands Committee meeting in Scottsdale earlier this month, we are pleased to provide a [tracking document](#) detailing the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) regulations that the NMA has engaged on or tracked for members over the last few years. We developed this document to provide a one-stop resource for members and a quick reference to the PFAS-related matters NMA is tracking. Note, this document is not a comprehensive PFAS regulatory document as it is focused on the regulatory, guidance and policy PFAS matters identified as priorities by the mining industry. However, this document is a living document and the NMA will update it periodically as our engagement on an issue develops or a new PFAS regulation, guidance or policy is announced that could impact the mining industry. The NMA will continue to provide more detailed memoranda on individual PFAS matters as they occur and will alert members to future stakeholder engagement opportunities. The NMA will also continue to partner with a broad PFAS coalition run by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which involves a broad cross-section of industry association allies, in responding to future policy changes.

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## **Reminder: Good Samaritan Working Group Volunteers Needed**

The 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. 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.

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## **Register Now for the NMA Spring Board Meeting**

# Spring Board of Directors and Members 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

[CNN](#), [Reuters](#), [Politico Pro](#), [Washington Examiner](#), [E&E Greenwire](#), [Deseret News](#), [Aspen Public Radio](#) and others all quote Rich Nolan on President Trump's executive order on minerals.

The [Washington Times](#) (D.C.) carries an op-ed by Rich Nolan in which he argues defanging Chinese mineral extortion and rebuilding American mineral security will require the kind of focus and long-term commitment that is troublingly elusive in Washington, but the administration's executive order finally confronts the challenge with the tools and urgency the crisis demands.

The [Longview News Journal](#) (Texas) and [The Ohio Press Network](#) (Ohio) carry an op-ed from Rich Nolan in which he argues the coal fleet can and should underpin the administration's energy abundance agenda.

[Global Times](#) quotes the NMA in a report that the US government's proposed hefty fees on China-linked ship visits to American ports have drawn strong backlash from relevant US industries, with some already reporting negative impacts and others warning of severe consequences amid a public hearing held by the office of the US Trade Representative (USTR).

From our third parties, [Johnstown Tribune Democrat](#) (Pa.), [Lagniappe Mobile Daily](#) (Ala.), [Huntington Herald Dispatch](#) (W.Va.), [Kokomo Tribune](#) (Ind.), [Longview News Journal](#) (Texas) and [Victoria Advocate](#) (Texas), [Harrisburg Patriot News](#) (Pa.) and [Bryan Times](#) (Ohio) carry an op-ed by Matthew Kandrach, president of Consumer Action for a Strong Economy, in which he argues against exorbitant port fees.

## Mining and Energy News

[Mining.com](#) reported that Ramaco Resources has received \$6.1 million matching grant by Wyoming for a coal-to-products rare earth project.

[Carbon Credits](#) reported on the rationale for and importance of adding copper to the 2025 Critical Minerals list.

[Mining Weekly](#) reported that President Trump said on social media recently that he would look to counter China's economic advantage from coal-based electricity by authorizing his administration to ramp up production of energy from coal.

[Fox Business' Mornings with Maria](#) carries a video interview with USA Rare Earth CEO Joshua Ballard on the impact of mining from the Trump administration.

[Argus](#) reported that the U.S. government is continuing talks with Nippon Steel and US Steel over a revised deal after the Biden administration quashed Nippon's original \$15 billion acquisition plan. The Justice Department asked to delay a lawsuit the steel companies brought so that the three parties could reach an agreement.

[Mining Technology](#) reported that U.S. uranium producer Energy Fuels has formed a strategic alliance with the Chemours Company to enhance U.S. domestic rare earth and critical mineral supply chains.

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

[Greenwire](#) reported that President Trump, in a far-reaching executive order, invoked emergency powers to ramp up the nation's ability to produce critical minerals and reduce reliance on foreign imports from China.

[Argus](#) reported that U.S. coal export trading activity has come to a virtual standstill, as the industry awaits word on whether President Donald Trump's administration will impose fees of up to \$1 million on Chinese ships that dock in the U.S.

[Greenwire](#) reported that last week President Trump unleashed an ambitious and fast-paced executive order and plan for accelerating domestic mining and processing of minerals, copper, uranium and possibly coal — a strategy that faces potential legal risks, complicated coordination with states and myriad questions around funding.

The [Minnesota Star Tribune](#) reported that “more than 600 Iron Range steelworkers will be out of a job as mines that supply the struggling auto industry go offline. Cleveland-Cliffs will temporarily idle two Minnesota operations: Hibbing Taconite Co. in Hibbing and the Minorca Mine in Virginia.”

[Bloomberg](#) reported that KoBold Metals Co., backed by billionaires Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos, has told the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo it wants to develop one of the world's biggest hard rock lithium deposits.

The [International Copper Study Group](#) (ICSG) reported that their preliminary data indicates that world copper mine production increased by about 2 percent in January 2025, with concentrate production increasing by 2.9 percent and solvent extraction-electrowinning (SX-EW) declining by 0.9 percent. In 2025, global mine production is benefiting from additional output from new mine projects starting or ramping up to capacity, according to ICSG.

The [International Lead Zinc Study Group](#) reported that global zinc mine

production fell by 2.8 percent globally, influenced by decreases in Canada, China, South Africa and Peru, where output at the large Antamina mine declined substantially. Production in Europe was also lower, primarily as a result of reductions in Ireland and Portugal. However, there were rises in Bolivia, Mexico and Congo D.R., where Ivanhoe Mines commissioned the Kipushi mine in June.

[Mining.com](#) reported that gold was once again the dominant theme of mergers and acquisitions (M&A) deals within the precious and base metals mining space in 2024, accounting for 70 percent of the year's transaction count and total value, according to data from S&P Global.

## Commodity Prices

## Commodity Price - Snapshot

Metals Prices	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/25/25	\$15.24
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/25/25	\$5.18
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	3/25/25	\$3,021.35
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/25/25	\$0.94
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	3/25/25	\$10.20
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	3/25/25	\$61.86
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/25/25	\$7.35
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	3/25/25	\$33.43
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	3/25/25	\$919.19
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	3/25/25	\$443.63
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/25/25	\$1.34
Energy Prices	Date	Price
Coal Price - Australian Premium Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	3/25/25	\$175.00
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	3/21/25	\$78.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	3/25/25	\$96.45
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	3/24/25	\$97.05
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	3/19/25	\$4.22
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/25/25	\$64.25

Sources: publically available data from [eia.gov](http://eia.gov), [dailymetalprice.com](http://dailymetalprice.com), [tradingeconomics.com](http://tradingeconomics.com), [sgxgroup.com](http://sgxgroup.com), [investing.com](http://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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