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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

With government funding expiring in nine days, attention on Capitol Hill turned to negotiating a continuing resolution. Meanwhile, the Trump administration moved forward with tariffs and additional executive orders while the President addressed the joint session of Congress, recapping the first month plus in his second term and setting his priorities for the future. 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

National Poison Prevention Week is coming up in mid-March. Remember that the Poison Help Line is available 24/7 at 1-800-222-1222.

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### President Trump Addresses Joint Session of Congress



Last night, President Donald J. Trump [addressed a Joint Session of Congress](#) for the first time of his second term. During the session, the president highlighted a variety of mining and energy-related policy objectives, including his Executive Order on [Declaring a National Energy Emergency](#). He also criticized the Biden administration's efforts to shutter reliable and affordable energy generating facilities and promised to reopen closed powerplants. The president also indicated that the administration would take action to increase domestic mineral production, signaling that an announcement could come as early as this week to "dramatically" boost U.S.

production of critical minerals and rare earths. During his remarks, President Trump also discussed recent tariffs on aluminum, copper and steel.

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## **Trump Canada, Mexico Tariffs in Effect; China Tariffs Increase**



Twenty-five percent tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico are now in effect, with a reduced 10 percent tariff placed on Canadian energy resources, including coal, critical minerals and uranium. For China, the tariff on goods has increased from 10 percent to 20 percent. Canada has prepared retaliation measures, imposing 25 percent tariffs on C\$30 billion worth of U.S. goods, with further potential tariffs of C\$125 billion after a 21-day consultation period. China put tariffs of 15 percent on imports of American chicken, wheat, corn and cotton and 10 percent tariffs on other foods, from soybeans to dairy products, and 15 U.S. companies are no longer allowed to buy products from China except with special permission. The NMA has been working with its members and the administration to express our concerns and urge a speedy resolution to the issue.

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## **NMA Helps Secure Major Victory in U.S. Supreme Court Clean Water Act Permitting Case**

Yesterday, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision, issued its [opinion](#) in *San Francisco v. EPA* in favor of the NMA's position that EPA cannot enforce general conditions in Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, such as those that require the permittee to ensure that its discharges do not cause or contribute to a violation of water quality standards in any receiving water. The NMA led a coalition of 15 trade associations in filing an amicus brief urging the Court to take up this case and filed a coalition amicus brief supporting San Francisco. Specifically, the Court held that Section 1311(b)(1)(C) of the CWA does not authorize the EPA to include "end-result" provisions, or permit provisions that do not spell out what a permittee must do or refrain from doing but instead make a permittee responsible for the quality of the water in the body of water into which the permittee discharges pollutants in NPDES permits. Determining what steps a permittee must take to ensure that water quality standards are met is the EPA's responsibility, and Congress has given it the tools needed to make that determination. Notably, the Court relied upon and cited to our amicus brief, and adopted our argument that these types of permit conditions go beyond EPA's authority under the CWA. While San Francisco made this argument as well, it was not their lead argument, so the NMA coalition's amicus brief was critically important in shaping this outcome. This important decision supports the viability of the CWA section 402(k) permit shield and will help ensure that mining companies and entities that need NPDES permits are not at risk of unforeseen enforcement actions or citizen suits.

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## NMA Files Challenge to New York's Retroactive Liability Law

Last week, the NMA joined the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Petroleum Institute, and the Business Council of New York State, Inc. in [filing a lawsuit](#) in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York challenging the state's Climate Change "Superfund" Act. This new law seeks to collect \$75 billion from a targeted group of energy companies for their lawful conduct. New York joins its neighbor Vermont as the first states to enact legislation specifically intending to impose strict liability on companies for their purported shares of global, lawful greenhouse gas emissions. Our lawsuit argues that this law is unconstitutional and is preempted by the Clean Air Act.

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## Bipartisan Senators Introduce Legislation to Ban Russian Mineral Imports



Last week, Senators Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Gary Peters (D-Mich.), Tim Sheehy (R-Mont.) and Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.) introduced the Stop Russian Market Manipulation Act ([S. 808](#)), which would prohibit the import of minerals from the Russian Federation until it ends hostilities with Ukraine. Specifically, the bill would prohibit the imports of braggite, copper, nickel, palladium, platinum, rhodium, ruthenium and zinc. This legislation is the reintroduction of a bill introduced by Sen. Daines last year in response to the Silbanye Stillwater layoffs in Montana. Sen. Daines states, "there is no reason the United States should run to Russia for critical minerals that can be found right here at home, including in Montana. Under Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, American mines were under attack and Montana workers paid the price. We're turning a new leaf with President Trump and this bill will put American mines and American jobs first." Please find a link to Sen. Daines' press release [here](#), with a quote from the NMA's Rich Nolan.

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## **E&C Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Electricity Demand and Grid Reliability**



### **HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE**

Today, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on Energy, led by Chairman Brett Guthrie (R-Ky.) and Subcommittee Chairman Bob Latta (R-Ohio), held a hearing titled "Scaling for Growth: Meeting the Demand for Reliable, Affordable Electricity." Lawmakers examined rising power demand driven by AI, manufacturing, and electrification alongside concerns over grid reliability and energy affordability. Witnesses, including Basin Electric

Power Cooperative, PJM, and Southern Company, emphasized the importance of dispatchable energy sources like coal, natural gas and nuclear to ensure on-demand power generation and prevent capacity shortages projected as early as 2026-2027. Discussions also focused on the impact of premature baseload retirements, challenges with intermittent power generation integration, and the need for permitting reforms to accelerate energy infrastructure development. With grid operators warning about reliability risks, the hearing reinforced the urgency of maintaining a resilient power system by preserving and expanding reliable baseload generation, including coal, natural gas, nuclear and hydropower, to prevent capacity shortages and ensure affordable electricity. The NMA continues to educate committee members on the importance of baseload power for grid stability and will remain engaged in advocating for policies that support dispatchable energy generation and a secure, reliable electricity supply.

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## **NMA Holds Spring Environment & Lands Committee Meeting**



This week, the NMA held its Spring Environment and Lands Committee meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. We would like to thank those members who were able to participate in meeting. We had a record turnout, demonstrating that this meeting continues to be an integral part of the NMA's overall advocacy program as we develop strategies on the key regulatory challenges and opportunities facing the industry this year. This week's attendance and robust dialogue is a testament to the importance of the regulatory agenda and achieving our objectives. The NMA team looks forward to continuing this collaboration and advancing our priority issues throughout the upcoming year.

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## **House Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Experimental Populations under the ESA**

Yesterday, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing titled "Understanding the Consequences of Experimental Populations Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)." A link to the hearing can be found [here](#). This hearing focused largely on the use of section 10(j) experimental population status to establish experimental populations and the use of this authority by Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) without proper consultation with local stakeholders. Witnesses testified that the FWS and NOAA must improve their consultation with local stakeholders when establishing section 10(j) populations. Members of the committee and witnesses also recognized the importance of regulatory certainty in the application of ESA protections. The NMA will continue to work with the committee as they pursue oversight opportunities and seek ESA reforms that provide certainty to the mining industry.

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## NMA Joins Letter to EPA on PFAS Principles and Policy Recommendations

Recently, the NMA participated in a U.S. Chamber of Commerce [letter](#) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin on various principles and policy recommendations relating to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These principles include (1) recognizing that PFAS are a broad class of chemistries with very diverse and necessary properties, (2) accelerate the cleanup of PFAS in the environment using non-CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act) authorities, (3) maintain access to essential chemistries in critical sectors across the economy, (4) collaborate across the federal interagency community and the agency to ensure consistent regulatory action, and (5) establish regular engagement with the business community. The letter also expressed the need for immediate PFAS regulatory actions. These include: (1) propose and finalize a new rule that withdraws the previous Administration's decision to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA (2) propose and finalize a new rule that would implement traditional Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) exemptions (e.g., *de minimis*, articles, impurities, etc.) for the TSCA PFAS Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements Final Rule, (3) propose and finalize a new rule that re-instates traditional Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) exemptions (e.g., *de minimis*), (4) withdraw action and reopen stakeholder engagement on EPA's RCRA Hazardous Constituent Listing proposed rulemaking, and (5) support EPA policies and legislation proposing a U.S. government wide PFAS definition based on the Delaware and West Virginia laws. In addition, the letter highlights the endless liability designations slowing PFAS cleanup and substantially costing potentially responsible parties. NMA will track all EPA responses to these principles and policy recommendations.

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## **NMA at the Colorado Mining Association Conference**



The NMA's Rich Nolan and Tawny Bridgeford last week participated in the Colorado Mining Association meeting in Denver. Rich sat down for a fireside chat with CMA President Adam Eckman to discuss a range of topics including permitting, surging power demand, trade and workforce challenges. Tawny gave an overview of the administration's deregulatory agenda and ongoing litigation.

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## **NMA at the Juneau Alaska Mining Forum**



Mining leaders from across Alaska had an optimistic outlook at the third annual Juneau Mining Forum held on February 25th and hosted by the Alaska Mining Association. Speakers discussed a variety of mining topics including federal issues, environmental stewardship, critical mineral production and the unique challenges associated with Alaskan mining operations. Jerry Mullins from the National Mining Association participated in the forum discussing federal permitting challenges as well the opportunities the new administration provides.

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## **Coal Industry Advisory Board Associates Meeting**

The National Mining Association hosted the Coal Industry Advisory Board (CIAB) Associates Meeting on February 26-27. The CIAB, which advises the International Energy Agency (IEA) on coal and critical minerals, brought together industry leaders, policymakers and experts to explore coal's future amid shifting energy markets and technological advancements.

The event featured key presentations on political and energy developments,

with notable speakers such as former U.S. Senator Joe Manchin, and top officials from the U.S. Department of Energy, IEA and leading coal organizations. Topics discussed included coal's evolving role in energy security, carbon capture technologies and its growing importance in critical mineral supply chains.

Sessions highlighted innovative uses of coal, such as its role in carbon products, coal gasification for chemical production and leveraging coal resources for energy infrastructure. Emphasis was placed on the importance of collaboration, technological advancements and policy frameworks to secure coal's role in a sustainable energy future.

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## **SME Conference Highlights Safety and Health Handbook for Mining Industry**

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME) Conference in Denver recently highlighted its **SME Mine Safety & Health Handbook**. Authored by Dr. Emily Haas, a Research Behavioral Scientist at the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the handbook provides a comprehensive guide on safety, health, risk management, hazard assessment, risk controls, and case studies from the field.

Adam Gregor, Director of Health and Safety & Loss Control at Coeur Mining, and Paul Krivokuca, NMA Vice President of Health and Safety, contributed their insights to the handbook. Their input, based on the NMA's refreshed CORESafety framework, is tailored to meet the unique needs of the mining industry.

Dr. Haas's handbook offers practical applications and evidence-based methodologies that are essential for safety professionals in the mining sector.

It serves as an invaluable resource for those looking to stay current with the latest advancements in hazard assessment and risk controls.

For those interested in obtaining a copy, the handbook is available for purchase at the SME Bookstore.

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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

### Monday, April 14

7am – 5pm	NMA Lounge Open
8am – 9am	Manufacturers & Services Board of Governors Meeting
9:15am – 10:30am	Minerals CEO Meeting
10:45am – Noon	Coal CEO Meeting
Noon – 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
9am – Noon	NMA Board of Directors Meeting

## NMA and Third Parties In the News

Rich Nolan is quoted and the NMA is mentioned in [an Associated Press story](#) on the Trump administration and copper.

Rich Nolan is quoted in a press release from [the Office of Senator Steve Daines](#) stating U.S. Senators Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Gary Peters (D-Mich.), Tim Sheehy (R-Mont.) and Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.) introduced a bipartisan bill to protect American mining jobs by banning the import of critical minerals from Russia, including platinum, palladium and copper.

[E&E Daily](#) quotes Rich Nolan in a story noting that bipartisan lawmakers are relaunching a legislative push to block imports of critical minerals from Russia, including platinum, palladium and copper.

[WHMI](#) quotes Rich Nolan in a story noting that senators from Michigan are among those who have introduced a bill to ban the import of critical minerals from Russia.

[Politico Pro](#), the [Washington Post](#) and [Inside Climate News](#) all mention the NMA in news that the Supreme Court on Tuesday narrowed EPA's ability to regulate how cities and industrial facilities discharge wastewater, the conservative justices' latest ruling shrinking the agency's power to police pollution. The NMA is mentioned.

[Law 360](#) mentioned the NMA in a story on the filing by a U.S. Chamber of Commerce-led coalition asked a New York federal judge to block a "plainly unconstitutional" Empire State law that promises to impose \$75 billion in cost-recovery demands on fossil fuel companies to help pay for climate adaptation projects.

[\*\*E&E News PM\*\*](#) quotes the NMA in a story on reports that U.S. allies are moving to punish electricity prices and threatening to cut off shipments of valuable minerals like high-grade nickel used in military and energy technology as President Donald Trump moved forward with imposing tariffs on goods from Canada, Mexico and China.

[\*\*The Ripon Advance\*\*](#) and [\*\*Deseret News\*\*](#) mention the NMA in coverage of U.S. Rep. Blake Moore's (R-Utah) legislation that would ensure mining and mineral refining can swiftly and successfully be produced in the United States by American workers.

[\*\*Newsweek\*\*](#) mentions the NMA in a story on the United States' wealth of natural resources, with certain states leading the way in producing some of the most valuable minerals essential for industry, technology and economic growth.

The NMA is mentioned in a release from the [\*\*U.S. Chamber of Commerce\*\*](#) noting that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, along with the American Petroleum Institute, the National Mining Association, and the Business Council of New York, filed a lawsuit against the state of New York over its new retroactive liability law, which attempts to extract billions of dollars from energy companies lawfully operating in the state going back 25 years.

The NMA is quoted by [\*\*Engineer Live\*\*](#) in a story on the US mining industry and its abundant domestic resources.

[\*\*The Office of Senator Bill Cassidy\*\*](#) mentions the NMA in a press release which states U.S. Senators Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA), John Barrasso (R-WY), and colleagues introduced legislation to repeal the largest tax hike from the Democrats' 2022 reckless tax and spending bill that makes it harder to invest, produce, and manufacture in the United States.

[Alaska Public Media](#) mentions the NMA in reporting on the third annual Juneau Mining Forum.

[Argus](#) mentions the NMA in a report that Wyoming governor Mark Gordon (R) has signed a bill into law that reduces the state's severance tax rate on surface coal mining to 6pc from 6.5pc.

[Hoodline](#) mentions the NMA in news that senators across the aisle are teaming up to shore up America's access to critical minerals.

## Mining and Energy News

[The Washington Post](#) Editorial Board this weekend wrote, "In an increasingly unstable world, prudence suggests the United States must do more to build capacity at home to ensure an adequate, stable supply of critical minerals, metals and other materials. Unfortunately, we have not made good progress toward doing so, in large part because environmental interests have stood in the way."

[E&E](#) reported that bipartisan House lawmakers are sponsoring legislation that would establish a tax credit for the domestic production of high-performance rare earth magnets. Lawmakers introduced H.R. 1496 to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create the credit.

The [World Steel Association's](#) recent data indicates that world crude steel production for the countries reporting to the World Steel Association was 151.4 million metric tons (Mt) in January 2025, a 4.4 percent decrease compared to January 2024.

In a recent [Today in Energy](#), EIA found that electric generator companies plan to retire 12.3 gigawatts (GW) of power capacity in 2025, a 65 percent increase in retirements compared with 2024, with 66 percent or 8.1 GW of them being coal retirements. Some of the larger coal plant retirements included the Intermountain plant in Utah, the JH Cambell plant in Michigan, and the Brandon Shores plant in Marland.

[Energywire](#) reported on a new report from the American Enterprise Institute showing that electricity prices are tracking toward heights unseen since the 1990s when factoring in inflation. Skyrocketing demand from power-hungry technology like artificial intelligence is driving the trend, and Americans are feeling the pinch.

[E&E](#) reported that bipartisan senators have reintroduced legislation that would add copper to the nation's list of critical minerals, a move that would open related projects up to streamlined permitting and more federal funding.

[Energywire](#) reported that President Trump signed an executive order instructing the U.S. Department of Commerce to investigate whether to impose tariffs on copper and derivative products, key industrial materials, in order to protect national security.

[Newsweek](#) reported that the U.S. is home to a wealth of natural resources, with certain states leading the way in producing some of the most valuable minerals essential for industry, technology and economic growth.

[Argus](#) reported that Wyoming governor Mark Gordon signed a bill that reduces the state's severance tax rate on surface coal mining to 6 percent from 6.5 percent.

[Warrior Met Coal](#) has provided several positive operational and financial updates regarding its progress towards developing its world-class Blue Creek

steelmaking coal project. The coal mine is “on track for a shorter production timeline, with the first longwall production expected to start no later than Q2 2026.”

[\*\*E&E News PM\*\*](#) reported that the president of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the largest provider of some of the world’s most sought-after critical minerals, is pitching President Trump on a deal that would connect the nation's raw materials to military protection — following in the footsteps of a similar pact taking shape around Ukraine.

[\*\*Argus\*\*](#) reported that U.S. coal generation and consumption increased from year-earlier levels in December, following five consecutive months of declines.

[\*\*Las Vegas Review-Journal\*\*](#) reported that Albemarle, the company that operates the country’s only operating lithium mine, is seeking federal approval for an extension of the Nevada site that could increase its size by about 25 percent.

[\*\*Steel Industry News\*\*](#) reported that after rejection of a US Steel acquisition from the Biden Administration, Nippon Steel is now navigating a revised strategy under President Trump’s leadership, pivoting from an outright purchase to a capital investment framework.

[\*\*E&E News PM\*\*](#) reported that the minerals deal between the U.S. and Ukraine that was nearing the finish line quickly crumbled last Friday following a fiery meeting in the Oval Office between President Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

[\*\*Alaska Public Media\*\*](#) reported that mining leaders from across Alaska had an optimistic outlook at the third annual Juneau Mining Forum last week.

[\*\*Mining.com\*\*](#) reported on S&P Global analysis showing that mining exploration

started 2025 on a strong note, as most key metrics tracked by S&P including significant drill results, initial resource announcements and project milestones all saw upticks in January compared to December 2024.

## Commodity Prices

<b>Commodity Price - Snapshot</b>		
<b>Metals Prices</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Price</b>
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/3/25	\$10.87
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/4/25	\$4.53
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	3/4/25	\$2,910.82
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/4/25	\$0.91
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	3/4/25	\$10.36
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	3/4/25	\$64.61
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/4/25	\$7.23
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	3/4/25	\$31.83
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	3/4/25	\$915.15
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	3/4/25	\$452.15
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/4/25	\$1.27
<b>Energy Prices</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Price</b>
Coal Price - Australian Premium Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	3/4/25	\$185.50
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	2/28/25	\$76.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	3/4/25	\$101.52
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	3/4/25	\$96.50
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	2/26/25	\$3.91
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/3/25	\$65.45

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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