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MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

Issue 13 | April 2, 2025

Brought to you by the National Mining Association

This Week in The News

With tariffs dominating the news this week, Congress and the Executive Branch continue to press forward on a host of deregulatory initiatives. 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

Windows play a key role in escaping a fire or other emergency, but can also pose a risk for falls. You can observe [Window Safety Week](#) with resources addressing both issues.

NMA Challenges Biden Administration ESA Rules in Federal Court

This week, NMA filed a [complaint](#) in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia (District Court) challenging several Endangered Species Act (ESA) rules finalized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (collectively, the Services) under the Biden administration. Our lawsuit argues that the Services' 2024 ESA rules violate the ESA and the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). A summary of the complaint is available [here](#).

This lawsuit is a strategic move to provide the Trump administration with legal defenses for reconsidering the 2024 ESA rules. [On day one](#), the Trump administration revived an ESA "God Squad" as one tool for addressing a declared national energy emergency. Department of the Interior Secretary Doug Burgum subsequently issued a [Secretarial Order](#) to align with [Executive Order 14154](#), "Unleashing American Energy," that requires a review of all agency actions that potentially burden the development of domestic energy resources including the 2024 ESA rules. We believe our lawsuit provides critical legal considerations for this reconsideration process and expect the administration to request that the District Court put this case in abeyance while the reconsideration process is completed.

The NMA joined the American Farm Bureau Federation, American Petroleum Institute, National Association of Home Builders of the United States, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Public Lands Council, and Western Energy

Alliance in this lawsuit. Counsel also served the Services with a [notice of intent to sue](#) on the 2024 ESA rules.

Senate Committee Holds Hearing on Key Interior and Energy Posts



Today, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on the confirmation of Kate MacGregor to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior and James Danly to be Deputy Secretary of Energy. Please find a link to the hearing video [here](#). Prior to her nomination, MacGregor was the Vice President of Environmental Services for a Florida-based utility after serving as Deputy Secretary of the Interior in the first Trump administration under Secretary David Bernhardt. Before that, MacGregor served as the Regulatory Reform Officer at the Department of the Interior (DOI) after spending a decade on Capitol Hill as committee staff on the House Natural Resources Committee and as Legislative Director for former Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.). Similarly, prior to his nomination, Danly was partner and head of energy regulatory policy for an international law firm after spending several years at the Federal

Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as general counsel, Commissioner and Chairman. Ahead of the hearing, the NMA submitted letters of support for the confirmation of [MacGregor](#) and [Danly](#). The committee would like to advance both nominees quickly and could hold a confirmation vote as early as next week.

Republicans Hold Florida House Seats in Special Election



Yesterday, there were two Florida special elections in heavily Republican leaning congressional districts. In the 6th District, former Republican state senator Randy Fine defeated Democrat Josh Weil to fill the seat Trump National Security Advisor Michael Waltz vacated. In the 1st District race to fill the seat vacated by Republican Matt Gaetz, the GOP's Jimmy Patronis, Florida's former chief financial officer, beat Democrat Gay Valimont. While both districts are considered safe Republican seats, concerns over the substantial Democratic fundraising advantage and low turnout in an off-year special election raised concerns among Republican House leadership. Currently, Republicans have a very narrow 218 to 213 advantage in the U.S. House of Representatives. That

will increase to 220 to 213 when Congressmen-elect Patronis and Fine are sworn-in. Two House seats previously held by Democrats are currently vacant and will be filled by special elections later this year.

NMA Comments on Removal of CEQ NEPA Regulations

The NMA last week submitted comments on the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) [interim final rule](#) (IFR) to remove its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. The comments were primarily designed to inform CEQ's next steps as it works with federal agencies on appropriate implementation of NEPA in the absence of overarching government-wide regulations. Specifically, the NMA recommended that CEQ provide direction to federal agencies on proper implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) NEPA timeframes, maintaining the appropriate staffing levels to conduct permitting, and the use of the functional equivalence doctrine to prevent duplicative NEPA reviews.

The NMA also joined a 29-trade association coalition comment letter led by the U.S Chamber of Commerce. While supporting the goals of NEPA to inform federal decision-making, the coalition comments emphasized that NEPA is a procedural statute that does not mandate an environmentally determined outcome. Furthermore, the comments highlighted the importance of the FRA in addressing the overly complex, slow, and burdensome NEPA permitting process and urged further CEQ action to harness those process improvements. The IFR goes into effect on April 11, 2025.

NMA Comments on Section 232 Copper Investigation

Yesterday, the NMA submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), regarding the [Section 232 National Security Investigation assessing the impact of copper imports on U.S. national security](#). The NMA's comments present a high-level, broad, and primarily domestic perspective, synthesizing input from our members and emphasizing the importance of supporting domestic supply chains. We appreciate the substantial feedback provided throughout this process.

Attorneys General Fired up for Coal



Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall has joined a 23-state coalition urging Interior Secretary Doug Burgum to back the Trump administration's efforts to revitalize the nation's coal industry, calling it essential for energy security, economic stability and global competitiveness. In a letter led by West Virginia,

North Dakota and Wyoming, the coalition voiced support for reopening recently shuttered coal plants and expanding production to meet rising energy demands driven by a growing population, increased use of electric vehicles and the energy needs of data-storage centers.

“America’s energy crisis is real, and we are in a difficult position. Coal is critical for our energy future, and it provides the reliability, baseload capacity, and affordable energy necessary to fuel our nation’s growth,” stated Attorney General Marshall. “From artificial intelligence to manufacturing, we need coal-fired power to remain globally competitive, support industries like steel and aluminum, and protect our national security. Without coal, we risk losing our technological edge and the prosperity that comes with it. It’s time to unleash the power of American coal and ensure energy security for the future of our country.”

Environmental Monitoring and Remediation Technology Assessment Initiative Quarterly Call on May 20

The Environmental Monitoring and Remediation Technology Assessment Initiative (EMRTAI) has scheduled its next quarterly stakeholder call for May 20, 2025, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. (Eastern). Registration is available [here](#). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Mountains, Deserts, and Plains [launched this new initiative](#) with Battelle Memorial Institute to focus on innovative technologies to recover critical minerals from waste materials at Superfund legacy hard rock mine and mineral processing sites and support the U.S. critical minerals supply chain. This meeting will update stakeholders on the progress of technology assessments that focus on critical mineral recovery from mining-influenced water and solid mine waste characterization, as well as provide stakeholders with an opportunity to

contribute to planning for future assessments. EMRTAI is also planning an application process for technologies that can recover critical minerals from solid mine waste. The EMRTAI stakeholder group meets quarterly and is open to stakeholders interested in all aspects of mining and legacy mine site remediation. The NMA has established an ongoing dialogue with the EMRTAI program and can facilitate member involvement.

NMA Launches Mining Minute

As the NMA team continues to build out the ways that it communicates on behalf of and with the industry, we launched a new daily video feature: [**The Mining Minute**](#). Distributed each morning by 10 a.m. Eastern, the team works to highlight just a few key mining-related stories we're watching here in Washington and beyond. You can watch those features daily on any of the NMA's social channels.

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

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

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Monday, April 14

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| 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 |

SPEAKERS



Brett Baier

Host of Special Report on
FOX News Channel



Tom Bevan

Co-Founder & President,
RealClearPolitics



Tim Sheehy

Senator
R-Montana
(VIRTUAL)



Lee Zeldin

Environmental Protection Agency
Administrator
(INVITED | VIRTUAL)



Greg Wischer

Department of the Interior
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Lands
and Mineral Management



Steven Winberg

Department of Energy
Deputy Under Secretary for Infrastructure

NMA and Third Parties In the News

The [Washington Post](#) mentions the NMA in a story detailing how the president's environmental rollbacks, aided by surging energy demand from the tech sector, could extend the life of coal power plants.

[Reuters](#) and [EconoTimes](#) mention the NMA in reporting that President Donald Trump's administration faces growing criticism over its plan to impose steep fees—up to \$3 million per port call—on China-built ships entering U.S. ports.

[Law 360](#) mentions the NMA in a story noting that several national groups representing local regulatory officials responsible for overseeing infrastructure projects told the White House they're concerned about a rule rolling back regulations for complying with environmental review requirements.

From our third parties, [Grand Rapids Herald Review](#) (Minn.), [Wheeling Intelligencer](#) (W.Va.), [Monticello Times](#) (Minn.), [Grand Junction Daily Sentinel](#) (Colo.) and [Frankfort State Journal](#) (Ky.) all ran an op-ed by Matthew Kandrach, president of Consumer Action for a Strong Economy, in which he argues against exorbitant port fees.

[DC Journal](#) (D.C.) carries an op-ed by Terry Jarrett, a former State utilities regulator, in which he argues the underused coal fleet is a strategic asset we need to tap.

Mining and Energy News

[**Argus**](#) reported that coal exports out of Hampton Roads, Virginia, in February fell from a year earlier for a second month as weather disruptions hindered some rail shipments to the port. Terminals at the port handled 3.12 million short tons of thermal and metallurgical coal last month, down from 3.31 million tons in February 2024, according to Virginia Maritime Association estimates.

[**Energywire**](#) reported that a deal to keep two Baltimore coal-based power plants open into 2029 is the tale of repeated failures by PJM Interconnect, the largest U.S. power market to plan for a future without coal. The two Baltimore coal plants, Brandon Shores and H.A. Wagner, are the most important power source in central Maryland. They can serve more than 1 million households.

[**Washington Post**](#) reported that President Trump has announced plans to impose a 25 percent tariff on imported automobiles and auto parts, gambling that consumers will accept higher prices on cars today in return for the promise of regaining lost manufacturing jobs in the future.

[**Greenwire**](#) reported that Energy Secretary Chris Wright was part of a delegation that top Trump officials are leading to the mineral-rich Arctic island of Greenland, which President Trump has said he wants to acquire.

[**Mining.com**](#) reported that U.S. tariffs on copper imports could be coming within several weeks, months earlier than the deadline for a decision, according to people familiar with the matter. Copper traded in New York rose to a record.

The [**World Steel Association's**](#) latest preliminary data indicated that world crude steel production for countries reporting was 144.7 million metric tons in February 2025, a 3.4 percent decrease compared to February 2024.

[**Argus**](#) reported that Kemmerer Operations has laid off 28 workers at its Wyoming coal mine citing market conditions and "pending natural gas conversions" for the coal plants it supplies.

The International Energy Agency's ***Global Energy Review 2025*** report found that coal demand increased 1.1 percent in 2024 due primarily to record warm temperatures impacting electricity demand in China and India.

Argus reported that opponents of plans to heavily fine Chinese ships calling on U.S. ports doubled down on their claims the fees would be catastrophic for the U.S. economy during a hearing, pointing to a lack of provisions that would support the stated goals of boosting domestic shipbuilding and punishing Chinese practices.

Energywire reported from AP that copper prices have hit record highs as an ongoing trade war between the U.S. and its key trading partners threatens to squeeze supplies of the vital metal.

Argus reported that U.S. coal generation rose from year-earlier levels for the second consecutive month in January, with utilities relying more heavily on coal as temperatures dropped well below normal in some regions.

Washington Post reported that the president's environmental rollbacks, aided by surging energy demand from the tech sector, could extend the life of coal power plants.

E&E News PM reported that the Bureau of Land Management was taking public comment on a company's bid to explore for lithium on a large swath of mineral-rich land in Oregon created by an ancient volcano.

Washington Post reported that "Since taking office, President Trump has moved quickly to boost the coal industry as part of his strategy for "energy dominance."

Argus reported that Powder River Basin coal train loadings have started to

climb during the last few weeks as utilities seek to refill inventories before the summer generating season begins.

[Politico Pro](#) reported that the 33 Mine Safety and Health Administration offices that the Department of Government Efficiency flagged for closure earlier this month raises concerns over how the safety agency will complete legally required mine inspections.

[Reuters](#) reported that Moscow and Washington have started talks on joint rare earth metals and other projects in Russia, Russia's special envoy on international economic and investment cooperation told the *Izvestia* media outlet in remarks published on Monday.

[Greenwire](#) reported that President Trump tapped David Copley, formerly with Newmont mining company, and an industry and military veteran who worked at the State Department during his first stint in office, to oversee the administration's plan to unleash more mining and mineral processing across the nation. Copley is overseeing the mineral push on the National Energy Dominance Council.

[Bloomberg](#) reported that U.S. utility purchases of uranium has dropped by half as the imposition of Trump's 10 percent levy on Canadian energy exports approaches, according the most-recent data from pricing firm TradeTech. Reactor operators who typically rely on term contracts are standing on the sidelines to see how the tariffs play out.

Commodity Prices

Commodity Price - Snapshot

Metals Prices	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/31/25	\$15.40
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/1/25	\$5.01
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	4/1/25	\$3,113.72
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/1/25	\$0.90
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	4/1/25	\$10.19
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	4/1/25	\$62.10
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/1/25	\$7.29
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	4/1/25	\$33.64
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	4/1/25	\$893.94
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	4/1/25	\$438.92
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/1/25	\$1.28
Energy Prices	Date	Price
Coal Price - Australian Premium Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	4/1/25	\$179.00
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	3/28/25	\$78.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	4/1/25	\$102.53
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	4/1/25	\$104.25
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	3/26/25	\$3.86
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	3/31/25	\$64.60

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

CORESafety



In the April edition of CORESafety TV, we discuss CORESafety's Module Number three, Risk Management.



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