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MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

Issue 13 | April 9, 2025

Brought to you by the National Mining Association

This Week in The News

President Trump today delayed reciprocal tariffs on all countries while placing a 125% tariff on China. Yesterday, the President issued a suite of executive orders supporting coal mining and generation. Reactions to the latest tariff swings continue to reverberate and executive departments continue moving aggressively to address the administration's policy 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

Nearly 13 percent of workplace injuries may be attributed to fatigue, and more than 40 percent of U.S. workers are sleep deprived. National Safety Council's [Fatigue at Work Employer Toolkit](#) helps employers address this safety risk in the workplace.

Tariffs, Retaliation and a 90 Day Pause



The image shows President Donald Trump pointing to a sign titled "Reciprocal Tariffs". The sign lists various countries and their corresponding tariff rates. The sign is divided into two columns: "Tariffs Charged to the U.S.A. including Currency Manipulation and Trade Barriers" and "U.S.A. Discounted Reciprocal Tariffs".

Country	Tariffs Charged to the U.S.A. including Currency Manipulation and Trade Barriers	U.S.A. Discounted Reciprocal Tariffs
China	67%	3%
European Union	39%	20%
Vietnam	90%	46%
Taiwan	64%	32%
Japan	46%	24%
India	52%	26%
South Korea	50%	25%
Thailand	72%	36%
Switzerland	61%	31%
Indonesia	64%	32%
Malaysia	47%	24%
Cambodia	97%	49%
United Kingdom	10%	10%
South Africa	60%	30%
Brazil	10%	10%
Bangladesh	74%	37%
Singapore	10%	10%

Today, the President authorized a 90-day pause on tariffs above the 10 percent baseline described below, but increased China's to 125 percent to be effective immediately.

These developments come in the wake of last week's actions, when President Trump announced new tariff measures as part of what he called "Liberation Day." Effective April 5, 2025, the U.S. implemented a 10 percent tariff on most imported goods from nearly all countries. On April 9, tariffs of up to 50 percent

(now paused) were to be added on imports from 50 countries that maintain large trade surpluses with the U.S. and impose significant trade barriers on American exports. Goods shipped or in transit before these dates were exempt.

Regarding China, President Trump had already imposed a 10 percent tariff in February, over fentanyl-trafficking concerns, raised it to 20 percent in March, and added another 34 percent last week. Then China responded with its own 34 percent tariffs on U.S. goods, then last night the president announced an additional cumulative 50-percentage point increase in addition to several de minimis increases.

Bipartisan Senators Grill USTR Ambassador Greer on Tariffs and 301



At yesterday's Senate Finance Committee hearing, lawmakers urged U.S. Trade Representative Greer to speed up trade negotiations with countries targeted by President Trump's tariffs. Several senators emphasized that the tariffs should not be permanent policy, expressed concern over the sweeping scope and

economic fallout, and that this was not a way to treat longstanding U.S. allies.

More positively, however, as a response to Senator Cassidy's question about Section 301 on Shipbuilding, Greer said that these are only "potential remedies" and that "they are not all going to be implemented," saying "I have met personally with certain stakeholders" and that he thinks the President will "make sure that we have the right amount of time and incentives without impacting our commodity exports."

Trump signs Executive Orders on Coal at White House Event



Yesterday, President Trump signed four executive actions to promote domestic coal mining in an East Room ceremony at the White House surrounded by coal miners from NMA members. The orders were:

1. "[Reinvigorating America's Beautiful Clean Coal Industry and Amending Executive Order 14241](#)." This EO aims to remove federal regulatory barriers that undermine coal production, encourage the

utilization of coal to meet growing domestic energy demands, increase American coal exports, and ensure that Federal policy does not discriminate against coal production or coal-fired electricity generation. A White House fact sheet is available [here](#).

2. "[**Strengthening the Reliability and Security of the United States Electric Grid**](#)." This EO aims to ensure the electric power grid's reliability, resilience, and security, while ensuring adequate and reliable electric generation in America to meet growing electricity demand. A White House fact sheet is available [here](#).
3. "[**Protecting American Energy from State Overreach**](#)." This EO addresses discrimination against out-of-State energy producers and significant barriers to interstate and international trade, as well as states subjecting energy producers to arbitrary or excessive fines through retroactive penalties.
4. "[**Regulatory Relief for Certain Stationary Sources to Promote American Energy**](#)." This Proclamation finds that the Mercury Air Toxics Standards (MATS) rule's compliance timeline "raises the unacceptable risk of the shutdown of many coal-fired plants, eliminating thousands of jobs, placing our electrical grid at risk, and threatening broader, harmful economic and energy security effects." Therefore, the President exempted certain sources from compliance with the MATS rule for a period of two years beyond the rule's compliance date (or July 8, 2029).

These presidential actions were reinforced by complimentary press announcements from the Secretaries of the Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of the Interior (DOI), and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The NMA worked with the White House and the Secretaries of Energy and Interior in the lead-up to the event and on the extensive executive actions. Together, these actions represent the Trump administration's most comprehensive federal coal initiative to date, aimed at ensuring energy security, grid reliability and economic development.

The [Associated Press](#), [Reuters](#), [The Washington Post](#), [Bloomberg News](#), [The Hill](#) and many others all quote Rich Nolan on the day's events.

For additional information on the administration's actions, the NMA's memo can be found [here](#).

Senate ENR Holds Markup on Key Bipartisan Mining Legislation and Interior and Energy Posts



Earlier today, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (ENR) held a [markup](#) to consider the bipartisan Mining Regulatory Clarity Act ([S. 544](#)) as well as the confirmations of Kate MacGregor to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior and James Danly to be Deputy Secretary of Energy. S. 544 passed with bipartisan support by a vote of 14 to 6 with all Republican senators, along with Catherine Cortez Masto (D-Nev.), John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.), and Angus King (I-Maine), voting to support. Additionally, the nominations of Kate MacGregor and James Danly were favorably voted out of committee by a vote of 14 to 6 and 13 to 7 respectively.

The Critical Mineral Consistency Act of 2025 ([S. 714](#)) was originally scheduled to be voted on today, however, due to ongoing conversations between the majority and minority on an amendment to the bill, the vote has been postponed until the committee holds its next business meeting.

During consideration of S. 544, Ranking Member Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) discussed his amendment to the bill, which would permanently repeal the use of patented mining claims and double the mills site claims maintenance fees. Once finished, the Ranking Member withdrew the amendment so that discussions on the issue could continue before the bill is considered by the full Senate. The NMA will continue to champion the passage of both S. 544 and S. 714. The NMA's statements on committee passage of S. 544 can be found [here](#).

NMA Secures Temporary Stay of Silica Rule

Last week, the NMA filed a [motion](#) in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit to stay compliance deadlines in the Mine Safety and Health

Administration's (MSHA) silica rule pending judicial review. The NMA also filed an [emergency motion](#) for administrative stay and expedited briefing to provide interim compliance relief. The court responded two days later, [ordering](#) a temporary administrative stay until the court decides our motion to stay the compliance deadlines for both coal (April 14, 2025) and metal/non-metal (April 8, 2026) operators. Given the imminent compliance deadline for coal operators this is welcome news as the court reviews our stay motion. Thank you to Alliance Coal, LLC and American Consolidated Natural Resources, Inc. for supporting our stay motion with declarations. The court ordered MSHA to reply to our stay motion by April 9, 2025. We have an opportunity to reply on April 10, 2025.

MSHA Issues Temporary Enforcement Pause of Silica Rule for Coal Mine Operators

MSHA last night announced a [temporary enforcement pause](#) of the silica standard for coal mine operators. The pause will be in effect until August 18, 2025, four months from the original compliance date of April 14, 2025. There is a serious legal question about MSHA's authority to exercise enforcement discretion in this manner given section 104(a) of the Federal Mine Safety & Health Act of 1977 mandates the issuance of citations for violation of any mandatory health or safety standard. MSHA, however, maintains the pause is necessitated by the potential impacts of the restructuring of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health on the supply of approved and certified respirators and other technical reasons.

NMA Briefs House Republican Study Committee Staff on Mineral Priorities

On Friday, the NMA's Justin Prosser briefed congressional staff from the Republican Study Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives on industry priorities to support a robust domestic mineral supply chain. As part of a panel, Justin discussed existing domestic mineral reserves, actions and policies taken by the Biden administration to impede the U.S. mining industry, as well as legislative and regulatory actions Congress and the Trump administration should take to support and strengthen mineral supply chains, including permitting and judicial reforms, ensuring access to mineralized federal lands, maintaining and improving 45X, and addressing market manipulation tactics from geopolitical adversaries. The panel also included Mike Blakeney (Head of Government and Public Affairs at the Cobalt Institute) and Brigham McCown (Senior Fellow and Director of the Hudson Institute's Initiative on American Energy Security). The NMA will continue to seek out opportunities to educate policymakers and their staff on industry priorities to support domestic energy and mineral supply chains.

Fish and Wildlife Service Reopens Comment Period on Monarch Butterfly Proposal



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recently [reopened](#) its comment period for a proposed rule to list the monarch butterfly as a threatened species with protective regulations under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to designate critical habitat for the species. Given the monarch butterfly's wide geographic range, it is possible that any future determination and designation of critical habitat could impact mining operations. The Service initially issued this [proposal](#) in December 2024, soliciting feedback on a wide range of topics, including: land use designations and current or planned activities in the subject areas and possible impacts on the proposed critical habitat; probable economic, national security, or other relevant impacts of designating an area that may be included in the final designation; and specific areas that should be considered for exclusion under ESA Section 4(b)(2). The NMA is considering commenting on this proposal. More information is available [here](#). Comments are due May 19, 2025.

EPA's Extends Comment Deadline on Draft 2026 Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for Stormwater Discharges

Last week, the EPA informed the NMA that it has extended the comment deadline on the draft 2026 multi-sector general permit (MSGP) for industrial stormwater discharges to May 19, 2025. EPA will publish notice in the docket shortly. On Feb. 11, 2025, the NMA led a [coalition letter](#) urging the agency to withdraw the draft MSGP and reconsider it to align better with the new administration's regulatory and permitting priorities. We understand the agency is interested in hearing ideas from the regulated community about how to streamline this permit and make it more easily implementable for the mining industry and broader regulated community. This additional time will allow the mining industry to develop further recommendations.

**See You Next Week:
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

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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

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)



NMA and Third Parties In the News

Rich Nolan is quoted by [E&E Greenwire](#) in a story noting that President Donald Trump's aggressive barrage of policies — from cutting federal staffing to shuttering offices and imposing fees on Chinese ships — has sent shock waves through an industry he's repeatedly signaled he wants to revive: coal.

From our third parties, [Salem News](#) (Ohio), [East Liverpool Review](#) (Ohio) and [Lisbon Morning Journal](#) (Ohio) carry an op-ed by Matthew Kandrach, president of Consumer Action for a Strong Economy, in which he argues against exorbitant port fees.

[Kearney Hub](#) (Neb.) and [Janesville Gazette](#) (Wis.) carry 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

[Politico Pro](#) reported that a top Trump administration official said the U.S. was working to break China's dominance of critical mineral supply chains by striking deals with allies around the globe — including Ukraine and Greenland.

[Argus](#) reported that last month a Pennsylvania court approved the sale of Corsa Coal to fellow U.S. coking coal producer Rosebud Mining Company.

[Forbes](#) reported on Ramaco Resources' progress on extracting rare earth minerals from coal resources.

[Kallanish](#) reported that most groups in the U.S. steel supply chain favor the USTR proposed \$1 million port fee on Chinese built ships based on testimony at public hearings.

[Energywire](#) reported that western power giant PacifiCorp is no longer committing to the retirement of several of its large coal plants before the 2040s, a reflection of the policy uncertainty under the Trump administration.

In a recent **[Today in Energy](#)** report, EIA's analysis indicated that companies in the U.S. produced more uranium concentrate in 2024 than in any year since 2018 after a sustained period of higher uranium prices spurred production. The increase largely came from two in-situ recovery facilities, one in Texas and one in Wyoming, and the resumption of uranium production at White Mesa Mill in Utah, the only operational uranium mill in the U.S. Production in the fourth quarter of 2024 alone was higher than the total annual production for each of the years in 2019–23.

[Reuters](#) reported that Lithium Americas has reached a final investment decision (FID) for constructing the first phase of the Thacker Pass lithium mine in Nevada. The project is a joint venture between Lithium Americas and U.S. automaker General Motors, with phase 1 of the project expected to be completed in late 2027.

[Argus](#) reported that coal generation in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) power region climbed in March by 34 percent from year-earlier levels, marking the fourth consecutive month of year-on-year increases in the grid.

[Reuters](#) reported that the Trump administration took a key step recently toward leasing new areas to a North Dakota coal mine that is proposing to operate through 2045. New lease areas for North Dakota's Freedom Mine (owned by a division of NACCO) is aligned with President Trump's goal to

increase U.S. fossil fuel production and revive the use of coal to produce electricity.

[**Mining.com**](#) reported that carved into a mountain range in Arizona's Sonoran Desert, where temperatures often reach 118F (48C), a vast mining complex more than a century old is on the front lines of a race to unlock millions of tons of copper.

[**Global Energy Monitor's**](#) latest annual global coal plant survey report found that in 2024, global coal power additions dropped to their lowest level in 20 years, yet the world's coal fleet continued to grow. Data from their Global Coal Plant Data Tracker show that 44.1 gigawatts (GW) of coal power capacity was commissioned while 25.2 GW was retired in 2024, resulting in a net capacity increase of 18.8 GW.

[**E&MJ**](#) reported that Komatsu broke ground recently on a new state-of-the-art facility in Mesa, Arizona. The expansion will triple Komatsu's current mining equipment and sales operational footprint in Mesa and is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2026.

[**Argus**](#) reported that thermal coal will be exempt from President Trump's sweeping import tariffs, but the new tariffs, and countermeasures from affected U.S. trade partners, could prompt a global economic slowdown with thermal coal demand likely to be affected in its wake.

[**Utility Dive**](#) reported that "It is unlikely that enough power supplies can be built in time to meet near-term rising electricity demand in the Southwest Power Pool's footprint," according to Lanny Nickell, SPP president and CEO. "Excess generating capacity is dwindling, and it's dwindling to a point where it's becoming dangerous."

[**Mining Journal**](#) and others reported that U.S. plans to onshore rare earth

magnet supply chains and other high-tech manufacturing businesses could be threatened with China's announcement of new export restrictions on some heavy rare earths. The new measures were announced alongside retaliatory tariffs by Beijing on U.S. exports, as a tit-for-tat trade war ramps up.

[Hellenic Shipping](#) reported that according to data from the Signal Ocean Platform, global seaborne steel flows totaled an estimated 407.6 million metric tons across 2023 and 2024, highlighting the resilience and redistribution of trade amid shifting economic conditions.

[Greenwire](#) reported that along with the retaliatory tariffs, China also raised the bar for exports to the U.S. of critical raw materials, such as samarium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, lutetium, scandium and yttrium.

[Argus](#) reported that coal generation in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) rose in March from a year prior for the fourth month in a row, while natural gas use fell amid higher prices and renewables growth.

[Wall Street Journal](#) reported that President Trump is pressing for access to mineral rights across the globe, hoping to outduel China in a global competition for raw materials to fuel U.S. military and industrial might.

[Bloomberg News](#) reported that Barrick Gold Corporation is proposing to change its name to Barrick Mining Corporation, to reflect the company's changing production profile.

[Utility Dive](#) reported new analysis from the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) indicates that data centers and transportation electrification will drive U.S. electricity demand up 50 percent by 2025, and about 2 percent higher each year for the next quarter century.

[Associated Press](#) reported that Ukraine will send a team to Washington this

week to begin negotiations on a new draft of a deal that would give the U.S. access to Ukraine’s mineral resources.

Commodity Prices

Commodity Price - Snapshot		
Metals Prices	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/8/25	\$15.28
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/8/25	\$4.12
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	4/8/25	\$3,002.70
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/8/25	\$0.84
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	4/8/25	\$9.86
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	4/8/25	\$61.52
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/8/25	\$6.45
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	4/8/25	\$30.31
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	4/8/25	\$921.21
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	4/8/25	\$416.94
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/8/25	\$1.16
Energy Prices	Date	Price
Coal Price - Australian Premium Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	4/8/25	\$191.50
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	4/4/25	\$78.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	4/8/25	\$97.67
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	4/8/25	\$101.50
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	4/2/25	\$4.05
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/8/25	\$64.40

Sources: publically 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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