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# MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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## This Week in The News

Congress returned to session this week as President Donald Trump marked the first 100 days of his second term. 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

May 1 is National Heatstroke Prevention Day. Since 1998, more than 960 children have died from vehicular heatstroke - an average of 37 per year - and 53 percent of incidents involve a parent or caregiver forgetting the child was in the vehicle. The National Safety Council offers a variety of [free resources](#) to address the problem.

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## **NMA Meets with the Secretary of Labor Lori Chavez-DeRemer**



On Monday, the NMA's Rich Nolan, Katie Sweeney, Richard Russell and Paul Krivokuca met with U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer, Deputy Secretary Keith Sonderling and the senior leadership of the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) to discuss issues of importance to the mining industry. After a wide-ranging discussion covering a broad set of issues important to the mining community, Secretary Chavez-DeRemer agreed to strengthen the working relationship between the NMA and the Department to help ensure that DOL regulations protect work safety without discouraging domestic mining.

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# DOI Announces Emergency Permitting Procedures to Accelerate Energy and Minerals Projects

The Department of the Interior (DOI) recently [announced](#) it will implement emergency procedures to expedite the review and approval, if appropriate, of domestic energy and mineral projects within 28 days or less. The action builds off President Trump's day-one Executive Order 14156, [Declaring a National Energy Emergency](#). Recall, critical minerals are included in the definition of energy for the purposes of the order.

The announcement indicates that the use of emergency authorities is necessary as current project delays "pose significant risks to the nation's economic stability, national security and foreign policy interests." To meet the 28-day permitting objective, the department is utilizing emergency authorities under existing regulations to address three typical bottlenecks: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses, Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultations and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) compliance. Please note, these processes will only be used with the written permission of the project proponent.

To accelerate NEPA analyses, DOI is adopting [an alternative NEPA compliance process](#) that authorizes more concise documents and a compressed timeline. Under the alternative process, projects requiring an environmental assessment will be reviewed within approximately 14 days while projects requiring a full environmental impact statement will be reviewed in

roughly 28 days. For ESA consultations, DOI will utilize an [expedited Section 7 consultation process](#) which involves the appropriate bureau notifying the Fish and Wildlife Service that it is using emergency consultation procedures. Following such notification, the appropriate bureau can then proceed with deciding whether to approve the action. For compliance with NHPA Section 106, DOI is adopting [alternative procedures](#) for compliance or proposed undertakings. Under the alternative procedure, DOI bureaus include notification of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and any Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties likely to be affected by a proposed undertaking. These stakeholders would have seven days to provide notifications. After that notification and comment period and consideration of comments, the relevant bureau is authorized to decide whether to approve the proposed undertaking.

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## Senate ENR Holds Markup and Hearing on Mining Legislation and Interior and Energy Posts

Earlier today, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (ENR) held a [markup](#) to consider Chairman Mike Lee's (R-Utah) Critical Mineral Consistency Act of 2025 ([S. 714](#)). During today's markup, the committee considered a bipartisan Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (ANS) from Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) – linked [here](#) – which maintains the intent of the legislation and aligns the DOI and Department of Energy's Critical Mineral and Critical Material lists. The ANS was adopted, and the bill passed out of committee by a bipartisan voice vote.

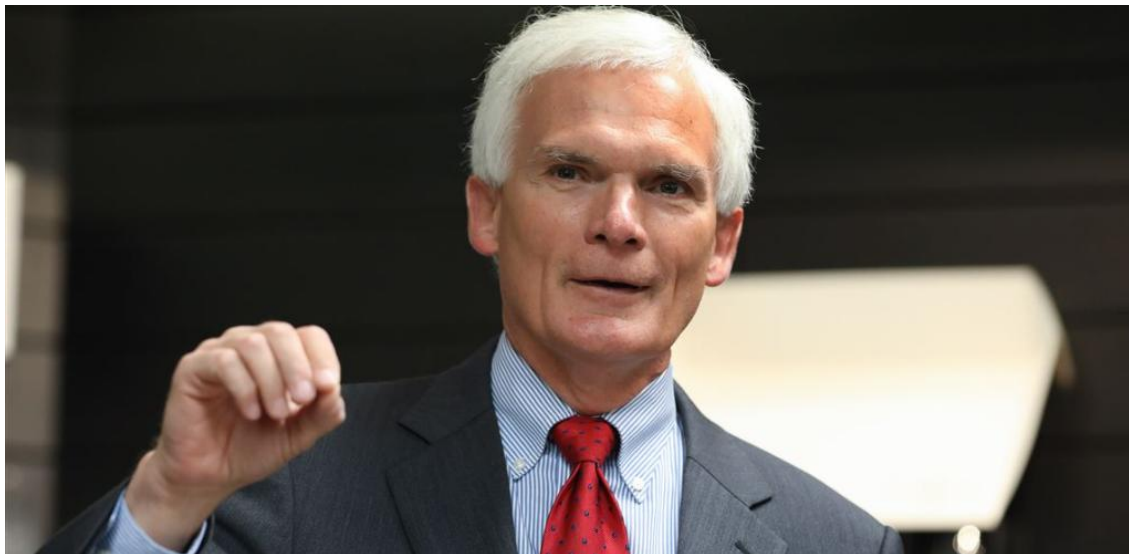
Following the markup, it held a confirmation [hearing](#) to consider several nominees, including Leslie Beyer to be Assistant Secretary for Land and

Minerals Management and Dr. Andrea Travnicek to be Assistant Secretary for Water and Science. Both positions are at the Department of the Interior.

Ahead of today's confirmation hearing, the NMA sent letters of support for both Leslie Beyer (linked [here](#)) and Dr. Andrea Travnicek (linked [here](#)). The NMA will continue efforts to advance S. 714 in the House and Senate and urge the ENR committee to vote both DOI nominees out of committee at their earliest opportunity.

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## **Energy and Commerce Committee Focuses on Grid Reliability Solutions**



Today, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy, led by Chairman Bob Latta (R-Ohio), held a hearing titled, "Assuring Abundant, Reliable American Energy to Power Innovation." The hearing reviewed 14 bills aimed at reinforcing grid reliability, strengthening energy supply chains, and safeguarding dispatchable generation. The committee heard from witnesses

representing the Department of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and industry organizations, including the president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. One of the bills, the Reliable Power Act, sponsored by Rep. Troy Balderson (R-Ohio), updates and strengthens the NMA-developed GRID Act introduced in the 118th Congress. The Reliable Power Act would require FERC to review and comment on new federal regulations that could impact the reliability or adequacy of the bulk-power system—ensuring that the real-world consequences for dispatchable resources like coal generation are fully evaluated before rules are finalized. The NMA will continue to work with the committee to move important legislation that strengthens our nation’s electric grid.

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## New CEQ Guidance on NEPA Implementation



The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has recently provided additional [guidance](#) to federal agencies related to the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) pursuant to Executive Order 14154,

"Unleashing American Energy." [Recall](#) that in its first steps in February, CEQ proposed the now final interim final rule to remove its NEPA regulations and issued initial [guidance](#) to federal agencies to expedite permitting processes and meet NEPA deadlines established in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA).

The guidance from CEQ that was leaked to the media takes the form of a non-binding and adaptable template "intended to support and coordinate agency efforts to enhance consistency, coordination, and best practices in their implementation of NEPA's procedural requirements." The template comes with numerous caveats to clarify that the document is preliminary and subject to further revision, does not establish new requirements or create legal obligations and should be tailored to agency statutory responsibilities and programmatic needs.

The new guidance is largely consistent with the earlier Feb. 2025 guidance's focus on speeding permitting to ensure compliance with FRA deadlines, establishing threshold NEPA applicability determinations and limiting impact analysis to reasonably foreseeable effects. In the context of soliciting public feedback on NEPA environmental analyses, however, the guidance CEQ supplements its views on NEPA implementation. CEQ is now advising agencies that the scoping stage is the only step in the context of preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) that requires a public comment process. Providing the opportunity for public comment at other stages would be optional. Furthermore, agencies would no longer be required to publish a draft EIS.

Around the same time the document was leaked, there were also media reports that CEQ provided verbal direction to agencies to rescind any binding NEPA rules and replace them with nonbinding guidance. Reportedly, CEQ has now backtracked on that direction and will continue to allow agencies with

codified NEPA regulations to maintain and update their NEPA procedures in that same format.

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## White House Deregulatory Announcements

During the month of April, the White House expanded its deregulatory efforts through various announcements, including an Office of Management and Budget notice requesting information to support the administration's deregulatory agenda. Comments are due May 12, 2025. Specifically, OMB seeks proposals to rescind or replace regulations "that stifle American businesses and American ingenuity," including regulations "that are unnecessary, unlawful, unduly burdensome, or unsound." On April 9, 2025, President Trump signed a [presidential memorandum](#) directing the heads of all executive departments and agencies to identify by June 7, 2025 "certain categories of unlawful and potentially unlawful regulations" and "begin plans to repeal them." See the White House's [fact sheet](#) for additional information. This presidential memorandum goes a step further than previous directives by mandating that agencies, where appropriate, repeal certain "facially unlawful regulations" using the Administrative Procedure Act's "good cause" exception to bypass traditional notice-and-comment rulemaking. This exception is used when a notice-and-comment rulemaking process would be "impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest." Courts have historically read the "good cause" exemption narrowly and have applied it in few circumstances. We expect that the administration's expanded use of this exemption will trigger legal challenges in the future. Under this "review-and-repeal effort" federal departments and agencies will evaluate the lawfulness of existing regulations under ten U.S. Supreme Court decisions issued in the last decade. President Trump also [signed on April 9 an Executive Order](#) (EO) directing agencies and sub-agencies that regulate energy industries to incorporate a "Conditional

Sunset Date," to the extent permitted by law, for specified "Covered Regulations," no later than Sept. 30, 2025. This EO applies to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Departments of Interior and Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. It also applies to the following sub-agencies related to mining: the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. A more detailed summary of these actions is available [here](#). The NMA is reviewing the announcements and additional opportunities to advocate for the review and reconsideration of our priority regulatory issues.

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## **NMA Files Comments on EPA and Army Corps' WOTUS Recommendations Docket**



Last week, the NMA filed [comments](#) on the EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) rulemaking [docket](#) on the Clean Water Act (CWA) definition of "waters of the U.S." (WOTUS). The NMA also joined [comments](#) filed by our industry coalition, the Waters Advocacy Coalition (WAC). Both the NMA's and WAC's comments reiterated key themes made in previously filed WOTUS comments regarding the importance of clear, consistent, and predictable rules for the mining industry; needed clarifications to the waste treatment system exclusion; and other recommendations to help clarify the WOTUS rule and promote efficient CWA permitting, such as addressing compensatory mitigation

reforms. This initial solicitation of recommendations will not be the only opportunity for the NMA to engage with the agencies on WOTUS. EPA and the Corps plan to initiate a rulemaking in the near future and we will also have an opportunity to provide comment on a proposed rule during that process.

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## **House Armed Services Committee Holds Markup for Reconciliation Package with Minerals Production Funding**

On Tuesday, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) held a markup session for its section of the reconciliation bill. The committee was responsible for allocating \$150 billion to renovate the defense industrial base and enhance the quality of life for servicemembers. Of this total, the bill included \$21 billion specifically aimed at replenishing and modernizing munitions, which encompasses efforts to increase the domestic minerals stockpile, domestic minerals extraction and production of rare earth elements. Additionally, it provided mandatory funding for loans and loan guarantees to develop reliable sources of critical minerals.

The HASC's reconciliation provisions passed the committee on a bipartisan vote of 35-21, with five Democrats joining all Republicans in voting yes.

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## **EPA Approves CCR Disposal Extension Request for Coronado GS Highlighting Reliability Concerns**

EPA recently approved the Salt River Project's (SRP) request to extend the deadline to cease using the Arizona Coronado Generating Station's (CGS)

evaporation pond to dispose of coal combustion residuals (CCR), citing grid reliability and resource adequacy concerns. This extension approval marks a distinct shift in agency position after the SRP's extension request was denied in the final days of the Biden Administration. In a [letter to SRP](#), EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management gave the utility until Sept. 30, 2026, to allow time for the design, permit, and construction of alternative disposal capacity. The EPA letter states that "EPA is committed to ensuring that the residents in the impacted service area have reliable, continuous access to electricity." Overall, the agency agreed that "this extension is needed," and that it "align[s] with EPA's efforts to restore American energy dominance while ensuring access to clean air, land, and water for every American." EPA's decision is a notable first step in what we expect to be a multi-faceted reconsideration of the CCR regulatory program. See an NMA [memoranda](#) outlining this action for further details.

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## EPA's Zeldin Announces EPA Actions to Combat PFAS Contamination



This week, the EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin [announced](#) a long list of actions to address contamination related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from all of EPA's program offices. Guided by several principles such as strengthening the science, fulfilling statutory obligations, enhancing communication, and building partnerships, EPA will provide the foundation and investment necessary for a toolbox for states and communities dealing with PFAS contamination. Zeldin notes that "this is just a start of the work we will do on PFAS," expecting more actions to come during the Trump Administration. Some relevant actions include: annual updates to PFAS destruction and disposal guidance; addressing drinking water systems related to national primary drinking water regulations for certain PFAS; how to better use the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to address PFAS contamination; enforce the Clean Water Act and the Toxic Control Substances Act (TSCA) limitations on PFAS use and release to prevent contamination; prioritize risk-based review of new and existing PFAS; implement TSCA section 8(a)(7) rulemaking to collect information without overburdening small businesses and article importers; and work with Congress and industry to establish a clear liability framework that operates on polluter pays and protects passive receivers.

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## **NMA Joins Alaska Miners and Business Representatives on the Hill**



On Tuesday, Richard Russell, James Young and Martha Newell from the NMA's Government Affairs (GA) team joined representatives from Alaska on the Hill to discuss recent executive and legislative actions related to mining. The NMA provided an overview of the current situation, highlighting the establishment of the National Energy Dominance Council and how the administration has integrated minerals and energy policy into the actions it has taken during its first 100 days. The GA team also talked about Coal Day and the four executive orders signed by President Trump to support the U.S. coal industry. They also shared insights on the executive order titled "Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production," which aims to enhance mineral development and strengthen domestic supply chains.

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## **Critical Minerals Program Co-Sponsored by the NMA**

The NMA is co-sponsoring a program through the Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law (FNREL) on "The Law and Policy of Critical Minerals." This informative two-day institute will examine the fast-evolving issues surrounding the development, production, distribution, and use of

critical minerals. This program will provide both an overview of issues, challenges, and opportunities relating to critical minerals, including government policies and actions to secure sustainable supply chains and foster investment, and practical, in-depth presentations on siting, permitting, and financing critical minerals projects. Registration is available [here](#). NMA members will receive FNREL member registration rates. Hotel information is available [here](#) and must be booked by May 13, 2025.

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## NMA and Third Parties In the News

[Fox Business](#) interviewed Rich Nolan on the Department of Interior's announcement concerning its efforts to streamline the permitting process.

The [Associated Press](#), [E&E Energywire](#) and others also quote Rich Nolan on the administration's efforts to streamline permitting.

The [Washington Post](#) quotes Rich Nolan in a story on the news that administration officials are analyzing whether to review national monuments in order to spur energy development.

## Mining and Energy News

[Greenwire](#) reported that Interior Secretary Burgum is confident President Trump will negotiate a tariff deal with China but stressed that building up national production of rare-earth minerals is a key element of the equation.

[Reuters](#) reported that layoffs are halting black lung protection programs for miners.

**[Energywire](#)** reported that sweeping layoffs and resignations at the Energy Information Administration (EIA) threaten to cripple some energy data reports. More than 100 EIA employees have resigned or been fired as the administration moves to shrink the federal workforce.

**[Mining.com](#)** reported on its latest survey data finding that the "world's most valuable miners are now worth \$1.4 trillion, up \$80 billion from end-2024, boosted by gold stocks after copper, lithium producers sold off again."

**[The Hill](#)** reported that in a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) pushed back on decisions that cut an office and workers seeking to support coal miners' health.

**[World Steel Association](#)** reported on recent association survey data indicating that steel production for reporting countries was 166.1 million metric tons (Mt) in March 2025, a 2.9 percent increase compared to March 2024. The U.S. produced 6.7 Mt, down 1.5 percent.

**[British Steel](#)** reported that it now plans to keep its two UK steel blast furnaces running.

**[Greenwire](#)** reported that the Trump administration is poised to fast-track the permitting of a host of energy projects — from oil and gas drilling to mining — and truncate the process to a maximum of 28 days.

**[Argus](#)** reported that U.S. utilities are considering additional extensions to coal plant retirements in response to recent policy changes, even though the benefit for the coal industry may be short-lived.

**[Reuters](#)** reported that China recently asked South Korean companies not to

ship products containing China's rare earth minerals to U.S. defense firms. The China's Ministry of Commerce delivered the message in letters to Korean companies which make power transformers, batteries, displays, electric vehicles, aerospace and medical equipment.

**E&MJ** reported that South32 broke ground on Centro, a remote operations center in Nogales, Ariz., which will support Hermosa's innovative and responsible approach to mining.

**Greenwire** reported that "Trump signed a multipronged executive order last week that paves the way for U.S. companies to begin exploring and plumbing offshore waters for critical minerals like cobalt, nickel and manganese — a move that's poised to trigger far-reaching legal and political debate."

**Coal Age** reported that "Eagle Summit Resources, LLC, formerly known as Eagle Specialty Materials, LLC, recently purchased substantially all of the Raven Crest LLC assets from White Forest Resources, Inc. The Raven Crest Mining complex is known now under its new ownership, as Eagle Horizon Resources, LLC."

**E&E News PM** reported that the Trump administration is contemplating cuts to a half-dozen national monuments across Arizona, California, New Mexico and Utah in a bid that could open previously protected federal lands to new mining claims.

**Argus** reported that U.S. coal generation climbed in February by 41 percent from the prior year thanks to colder weather.

**Associated Press** reported that the Trump administration agrees on the need to speed up energy projects, but not for wind or for solar, which is the fastest-growing source of electricity generation in the U.S.

[Mining.com](#) reported that the U.S. government is greenlighting the development of a historic rare earths mine in California next to the Mountain Pass rare earths operation as part of the Trump administration's recent executive order to bolster domestic production of critical minerals.

[Mining Magazine](#) reported that the executive director of the International Energy Agency, Fatih Birol, warned at an energy summit last week that the critical minerals supply chain could threaten energy security.

The [International Nickel Study Group's](#) latest market outlook predicts there will be a global nickel market surplus of 198,000 metric tons this year, with production expected to reach 3.7 million metric tons.

[Mining.com](#) reported from the Financial Times that KoBold Metals, the mining startup backed by Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos, is expanding its footprint into the Democratic Republic of Congo with plans to invest billions into the African nation's large endowment of resources.

## Commodity Prices

## Commodity Price - Snapshot

Metals Prices	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/28/25	\$15.28
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/28/25	\$4.83
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	4/28/25	\$3,278.65
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/28/25	\$0.89
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	4/28/25	\$9.43
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	4/28/25	\$61.86
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/28/25	\$7.10
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	4/28/25	\$33.01
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	4/28/25	\$879.80
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	4/28/25	\$420.93
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/28/25	\$1.19
Energy Prices	Date	Price
Coal Price - Australian Premium Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	4/28/25	\$184.00
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	4/25/25	\$78.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	4/28/25	\$95.45
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	4/28/25	\$92.80
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	4/23/25	\$2.93
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	4/28/25	\$67.10

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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