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MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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Brought to you by the National Mining Association

This Week in The News

Congress returned to Washington with the budget reconciliation debate shifting to the Senate. Trump administration deregulatory reforms continued to roll out. The National Mining Association (NMA) remains focused on actively engaging to advance mining's interests at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. Plus, we have updates on how the mining and energy markets are faring.

Safety Share

June is National Safety Month. To celebrate, the National Safety Council offers a host of [free safety resources](#) to highlight the leading causes of preventable injury and death.

CEQ Withdraws NEPA GHG Guidance



The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) last week formally [withdrew](#) its 2023 interim National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [guidance](#) on consideration of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate change. The withdrawal went into effect on May 28, 2025. As the basis for the withdrawal, CEQ cites [Executive Order 14154](#), *Unleashing American Energy*, as well as an Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) May 5, 2025 [guidance](#) on implementation of Section 6 of the EO regarding "prioritizing accuracy in environmental analyses." CEQ relies heavily on Section 6 of EO 14154, which requires all agencies to "adhere to only the relevant legislated requirements for environmental considerations" and not use methodologies that are "arbitrary" or "ideologically motivated." According to the EO, "[t]he calculation of the 'social cost of carbon' is marked by logical deficiencies, a poor basis in empirical science, politicization, and the absence of

a foundation in legislation." In direct conflict, the 2024 interim guidance recommended that agencies quantify and monetize GHG emissions using social cost of carbon estimates, as well as relied on previous administration EOs related to environmental justice and climate policies that President Trump withdrew by executive action. Accordingly, CEQ has withdrawn the guidance and "will address in a separate notice any new or revised guidance that may be appropriate." Additional information, including on OIRA's additional instructions to agencies, is available [here](#).

NMA's Nolan Joins Global Coal Forum



The NMA's Rich Nolan participated in the annual Global Coal Forum in southwest Virginia. The forum welcomed coal executives as well as Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin who discussed the importance of coal and baseload power to meeting the expected surge in AI electricity demand. The participants also heard from House Ways and Means Chairman Jason Smith, who joined in for a fireside chat with Rich Nolan on the Big Beautiful Bill moving through Congress and discussed both the importance of the bill to businesses and families as well as the outlook for final passage this summer.

Coal Producers Present at RETAC

Last week, the NMA participated in the Surface Transportation Board's Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) meeting. Representing the coal sector, Core Natural Resources delivered the Coal Producer Statement through Deck Sloane, with additional written comments submitted by the NMA (linked [here](#)).

The presentation emphasized the coal industry's reliance on Class I and other railroads to deliver coal to domestic steelmakers, electric utilities, and industrial facilities, as well as to allied nations abroad.

The NMA underscored coal's continued importance in the national energy mix, as recognized by the Trump Administration, especially as demand for electricity grows due to the rise of artificial intelligence and expansion of energy-intensive data centers.

In its comments, the NMA stressed the need for a resilient and adaptable rail network that invests in both infrastructure and workforce to ensure continued coal-hauling capacity. Such investment is critical to avoiding service

disruptions, costly reductions, or line abandonments that could threaten grid reliability.

NMA Meets with Chief of the Forest Service



Last week, the NMA's Richard Russell and Justin Prosser met with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Chief Tom Schultz to discuss NMA member priorities on USFS lands. Specifically, discussion surrounded the need to align USFS mineral regulations with the Bureau of Land Management's 5-acre rule, USFS deregulatory efforts to revise National Environmental Policy Act regulations and ensuring appropriate staffing levels to process permit applications. The NMA also urged the USFS to act expeditiously to issue the transfer of Oak Flat to Resolution Copper and support the Twin Metals project in Minnesota. The NMA will continue to work with Chief Schultz and his team to support NMA member priorities and the development of responsible mining projects on USFS lands.

President Trump Issues DPA Waiver to Support Minerals

Appearing in [today's Federal Register](#) is a Defense Production Act (DPA) [waiver](#) signed by President Trump on May 23. The waiver states that "action is necessary to increase production capacity of munitions, missiles and associated equipment, and minerals and that shortfalls in these areas would severely impair national defense capability." The waiver, which aligns with the President's [March 20 Executive Order](#) on minerals, results in additional flexibilities in DPA investments and timelines and specifically covers critical minerals as well as uranium, copper, potash and gold. The NMA will continue to back the administration's efforts to support domestic mineral projects through the DPA as well as reauthorization of the DPA, which expires at the end of the current fiscal year.

Congress and White House Advance Budget Proposals Affecting Mining and Energy Policy

As federal budget debates intensify on Capitol Hill, the NMA is tracking a series of legislative and administrative actions that could reshape access to public lands and regulatory priorities. President Trump has proposed a \$9.4 billion rescissions [package](#) targeting international aid, public broadcasting, and peace programs. Lawmakers have 45 days to act once the request is formally submitted.

At the same time, the White House's FY2026 [budget](#) proposal calls for a 22 percent cut in non-defense discretionary spending, with major reductions to

EPA, DOE, and USGS funding. The proposal would eliminate USGS's Ecosystems Mission Area and create a new "Geology, Energy & Minerals" division focused on data collection and expanded resource development. It would also cut the Bureau of Land Management's budget by 33 percent, reduce conservation and renewable energy programs, and increase funding for coal leasing oversight.

The budget also supports reclassifies metallurgical coal as a critical material, and backs projects like Alaska's Ambler Road. NMA's memo on budget activity can be found [here](#). Meanwhile, a wide-ranging reconciliation bill is advancing in the Senate, with a July 4 target for passage. Key sticking points include clean energy tax credits, Medicaid reform, and federal land policy. See NMA's update on the House-passed version [here](#).

OMB Director Testifies on Budget Request and Proposed Spending Reductions

OMB Director Russ Vought testified before House appropriators [today](#), defending the Trump administration's sweeping FY2026 budget proposal—which seeks to cut over \$160 billion in non-defense discretionary spending—while requesting a 13 percent funding increase for his own agency. Vought argued the increase is needed to support a major deregulatory effort and a restructuring of the federal workforce.

The hearing before the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee marked Vought's first public appearance since the release of a \$9.4 billion rescissions [package](#) targeting foreign aid, public broadcasting, and international climate programs. Lawmakers pressed Vought on both the scale of the proposed cuts and the rationale behind expanding OMB's budget amid broad agency reductions.

The hearing comes as the House begins markups on the FY2026 appropriations bills; the current schedule can be found [here](#). The Senate has not yet announced its timeline for considering the spending bills. Vought indicated that additional rescissions packages may be submitted in the months ahead.

White House Nominates Laura Swett to Succeed Christie at FERC



President Trump has nominated energy attorney Laura Swett to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to fill the seat of Chairman Mark Christie, whose term expires June 30. Christie, a longtime champion of grid reliability and fuel security, was appointed chair on January 20, 2025, and confirmed to FERC in 2020. He announced he will remain for several weeks past his term to help finalize key Commission orders.

Swett previously served at FERC as an enforcement investigator and adviser to Commissioners Kevin McIntyre and Bernard McNamee. Her nomination aligns with the administration's affordability, reliability and energy dominance goals,

calling for a refocus at FERC on grid stability, a reevaluation of market rules that disadvantage coal and nuclear, and a reduction in the use of climate-related cost justifications.

While the White House has not yet named a successor for the FERC chairmanship, Swett's confirmation would cement a shift toward policies that value dispatchable generation and state-led grid planning. Her nomination is expected to move forward in the Senate in the coming weeks. NMA's nomination tracker that follows all President Trump's key appointments can be found [here](#).

Executive Order on Restoring Gold Standard Science

President Trump recently signed [Executive Order \(EO\) 14303](#), *Restoring Gold Standard Science*, that will change how agencies conduct, evaluate, and issue scientific analyses. The purpose of the EO is to restore and expand on scientific integrity policies from President Trump's first term to ensure that "agencies practice data transparency, acknowledge relevant scientific uncertainties, are transparent about the assumptions and likelihood of scenarios used, approach scientific findings objectively, and communicate scientific data accurately." Notably, the EO sets forth rules governing the use, interpretation, and communication of scientific data, unless otherwise provided by law. Agencies must adhere to these rules by **June 23, 2025**. Among these new rules, agencies must in a "timely manner and, to the extent practicable and within the agency's authority," make publicly available: (1) "the data, analyses, and conclusions associated with scientific and technological information" that "will have a clear and substantial effect on important public policies or important private sector decisions (influential scientific information), including data cited in peer-reviewed literature"; and (2) "the models and

analyses" used to generate such influential scientific information. The EO explains that "risk models used to guide agency enforcement actions or select enforcement targets are not information that must be disclosed under this subsection." Certain exemptions also apply for national security, sensitive personal, and confidential information. Importantly, agencies are also required to review all regulations, guidance, policies, and scientific evaluations taken during the Biden administration and to revise them consistent with this EO. Additional information is available [here](#).

NMA Member Teams Showcase Skill and Dedication at Mine Rescue Contest



The 2025 Southeast Regional Mine Rescue Contest in Tennessee brought together dedicated mine rescue teams from across the region to test their skills, teamwork and technical expertise. Over several days, teams competed in various categories, demonstrating their preparedness for emergency situations and their commitment to safety in the mining industry. NMA member company teams who were recognized included the Doe Run Company's Maroon Team, the Nystar Grey Team, Tunnel Ridge's Tunnel Ridge Mine team and Alliance

Coal's River View, Hamilton County and Warrior Mine Rescue Teams. This year's competition underscored the unwavering dedication of mine rescue teams to safety and emergency preparedness. Congratulations to all participating teams and those that secured top placements in their respective categories.

Save-The-Date: Oct. 23-24 Environment & Lands Committee Meeting

We are excited to announce the dates for the Fall Environment and Lands Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. **Please mark your calendar for this two-day program on Oct. 23 and Oct. 24, 2025.** This meeting will be held in the conference center located on the second floor of the NMA office building at 101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. Like years past, this meeting is designed for in-person attendance. Virtual attendance options will not be provided. The NMA team is developing an informative program where members will: (1) receive an overarching staff update on priority rulemaking and policy matters; (2) have an opportunity to engage in strategy discussions and network with colleagues; and (3) hear directly from a slate of key executive branch and congressional staff that are working on our priorities with opportunities for direct engagement. Additional information will be shared on the agenda later this summer. If you plan to attend this meeting, please fill out this [RSVP form](#) so that we have an accurate list of attendees for planning purposes.

NMA and Third Parties In the News

Rich Nolan is quoted by [SMM](#) on a story on the Department of Energy's announcement including metallurgical coal used in steel production on its list of critical materials.

[E&MJ](#) reports that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit on April 11 granted the NMA's motion to stay compliance deadlines for the Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) silica rule pending judicial review.

From our third parties, [Hanford Sentinel](#) (Calif.), [Boston Herald](#) (Mass.), [Detroit News](#) (Mich.), [Nashua Telegraph](#) (N.H.), [Huntington Herald Dispatch](#) (W.Va.), [Santa Maria Times](#) (Calif.) and [Charleston Gazette Mail](#) (W.Va.) carry an op-ed by Terry Jarrett, who was appointed to the Missouri Public Service Commission in 2007, in which he argues Spain's blackout is a warning of reliability risks for the U.S.

[Real Clear Energy](#) (D.C.) carries an op-ed by Bernard Weinstein, a retired associate director of the Maguire Energy Institute at Southern Methodist University, professor emeritus of applied economics at the University of North Texas, and a fellow of Goodenough College, London, in which he argues the era of tearing down existing, well-operating power plants before reliable replacement capacity is built and connected to the grid is over.

Mining and Energy News

[Bloomberg](#) reported that the U.S. Supreme Court cleared a major obstacle to Rio Tinto Plc's construction of North America's largest copper mine, rejecting an appeal by a Native American group.

[Cowboy State Daily](#) reported that Wyoming's rare earth mining companies are scaling up for what could be the biggest opportunity in decades with a

growing demand for minerals that power everything from smartphones to fighter jets.

[Utility Dive](#) reported that the Federal Power Act's section 202(c) gives the DOE secretary the authority to temporarily order power plants to operate during wars and emergencies. It has been used 16 times since August 2020, according to DOE.

[Argus](#) reported that U.S. coal generation rose from year-earlier levels for the fourth consecutive month in March despite fewer heating degree days than a year earlier and record-high wind power.

[The New York Times](#) reported that the Environmental Protection Agency has drafted a plan to eliminate all limits on greenhouse gases from coal and gas-fired power plants in the U.S.

[E&E News PM](#) reported that the administration is reversing dozens of office lease cancellations involving the Labor Department's Mine Safety and Health Administration, following pressure from Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer and other Republicans.

[Argus](#) reported that a federal court has permanently blocked tariffs that President Trump has imposed on nearly all imports into the U.S., finding his unilateral deployment of tariffs exceeded the authority provided by Congress.

[Talon Metals Corp.](#) announced that it has secured a site currently owned by Westmoreland Mining, LLC as the location where it will develop its Beulah Minerals Processing Facility (BMPF). Talon is a joint venture with Rio Tinto to develop the high-grade Tamarack nickel-copper-cobalt project located in central Minnesota.

[Argus](#) reported that U.S. power plants received more Powder River Basin

(PRB) and Northern Appalachian coal last quarter than they had a year earlier as they worked to meet great-than-expected coal generating demand due to colder than normal weather and higher natural gas prices.

[**AIST Steel News**](#) reported that global steel demand is projected to rise 0.7 percent annually over the next five years, driven by consumption in the ASEAN countries, the Middle East and North Africa regions, according to a new projection from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

[**Greenwire**](#) reported that a unanimous Supreme Court last week restricted the scope of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews for federally backed projects, in a decision with potentially far-reaching consequences for how agencies analyze environmental impacts.

[**Argus**](#) reported that the U.S. will double its section 232 tariffs on imported steel to 50 percent from 25 percent, President Trump said on Friday at a rally at U.S. Steel's Mon Valley mill near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

[**New York Times**](#) reported that the U.S. allowed its rare earth metals industry to move to China and could now face severe economic disruption as China limits crucial supplies.

[**Mining.com**](#) and Northern Miner have created an infographic that maps global rare earth production, dividing the world into five rare earth "spheres of control."

[**Utility Dive**](#) reported on the administration's recent executive order to increase nuclear capacity by 300 GW and 10 reactors by 2025, as well as an executive order calling on DOE Secretary Wright to release at least 20 metric tons of high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) into a readily available fuel bank for private sector nuclear reactor projects to power AI infrastructure DOE

sites.

[Mining.com](https://www.mining.com) reported that Australia’s Ioneer, an emerging lithium-boron producing company, has quadrupled ore reserves at its Rhyolite Ridge lithium-boron project in Nevada, sharply increasing the project’s mine life along with its development cost.

Commodity Prices

Commodity Prices - Snapshot				
Metals Prices	Date	Price	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	5/27/25	\$15.28	6/3/24	\$15.28
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	5/27/25	\$4.70	6/3/24	\$4.82
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	5/27/25	\$3,295.75	6/3/24	\$3,358.20
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	5/27/25	\$0.90	6/3/24	\$0.90
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	5/27/25	\$8.61	6/3/24	\$8.38
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	5/27/25	\$64.83	6/3/24	\$66.29
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	5/27/25	\$6.97	6/3/24	\$6.99
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	5/27/25	\$32.90	6/3/24	\$34.25
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	5/27/25	\$823.23	6/3/24	\$870.71
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	5/27/25	\$421.53	6/3/24	\$407.78
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	5/27/25	\$1.22	6/3/24	\$1.22
Energy Prices	Date	Price	Date	Price
Coal Price - Austr. Prem. Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	5/27/25	\$186.50	6/3/24	\$183.00
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	5/23/25	\$79.00	5/30/24	\$79.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	5/27/25	\$100.10	6/3/24	\$104.14
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	5/27/25	\$94.30	6/3/24	\$98.90
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	5/21/25	\$3.19	5/28/24	\$3.14
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	5/27/25	\$72.00	6/3/24	\$71.90

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

CORESafety



In the June edition of CORESafety TV, we discuss CORESafety's Module Number five, Organizational Safety Culture.



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