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MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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This Week in The News

With Congress working an abbreviated week for the Juneteenth holiday recess, the Senate remains focused on its White House and self-imposed July 4 goal for passing the “big beautiful” budget bill. In the Executive Branch, major deregulatory actions moved into the formal rulemaking stage. 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

With Independence Day celebrations looming, the National Safety Council offers [fireworks safety tips](#) (but also points out that fireworks start an average of [19,000 fires a year](#)).

EPA Proposes Repeal of Power Plant CAA Rules



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin last week [announced](#) two proposals to repeal all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions standards for the power sector under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) (Carbon Pollution Standards Repeal) and to repeal amendments to the 2024 Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS repeal) under Section 112 of the CAA. Recognizing coal power plants as "essential sources of baseload power that are needed to fuel manufacturing and turn the United States into the Artificial Intelligence capital of the world," Administrator Zeldin emphasized that these rulemaking actions "would remove regulatory barriers that limit access to our Nation's energy resources and unleash America's true potential." The NMA issued a [press release](#) applauding these first steps to "nullif[y] two of EPA's most consequential air rules, removing deliberately unattainable standards and

leveling the playing field for reliable power sources, instead of stacking the deck against them." This week, EPA published the rules in the *Federal Register*, starting the clock for public comments. Comments on the [Carbon Pollution Standards repeal](#) are due on Aug. 7, 2025, with a public hearing on July 8, 2025. Comments on the [MATS repeal](#) are due on Aug. 11, 2025, with a public hearing scheduled on July 10, 2025. Additional information on these proposed repeal rules is available [here](#).

OSMRE Proposes Recission of Biden Ten-Day Notice Regulations



The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) this week published a [proposed rule](#) to rescind its Ten-Day Notice (TDN) regulations that were finalized in 2024. OSMRE [announced](#) this rulemaking just days before, stating that the 2024 rule “added unnecessary and confusing definitions, created rigid deadlines, and ignored the clear intent of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 [(SMCRA)], which gives states the lead role in regulating mining on their own lands.” If finalized as proposed, OSMRE contends that the regulations would streamline the process for

coordination with state regulatory authorities and minimize duplicative efforts on the administration of SMCRA. OSMRE also asserts that the proposed rescission would align the regulations with the single, best meaning of the statutory language in SMCRA. OSMRE provided only a 30-day comment period with comments due July 16, 2025. The NMA is drafting comments on this proposed rulemaking in support of state primacy and reversion to the 2020 Rule. Additional details on the history of this rule and the administration's current actions are available [here](#).

Governors Focus on Generation

Twenty-one governors from around the country gathered at the Republican Governors Association meeting in Nashville, Tenn., June 11-12. One of the major themes of the meeting was the rapid growth in electricity consumption and the real dilemma of how utilities can keep up with demand. The NMA helped organize a session focused on grid reliability led by Governors Braun of Indiana and Kemp of Georgia, where one solution was clear: expanding the life cycles of coal power plants. Over a dozen governors in attendance pledged their support for the coal fleet and using coal generation to safeguard the nation's power supply.

Senate Tax Bill Takes Shape



Senate Finance Committee Chair [Mike Crapo](#) (R-Idaho) on Monday released the Senate’s long-awaited version of President Trump’s tax agenda, which would make the 2017 corporate tax cuts permanent, and phase out renewable-energy tax cuts enacted under former President Biden. The 549 pages of legislative [text](#) sets the scene for a bumpy path forward that will likely see significant changes to the bill before it goes to the senate floor for a vote. A section-by-section discussion of the bill can be found [here](#), an overview of the bill can be found [here](#). Also, a state impact analysis of the bill can be found [here](#). The committee package differs in several respects from comparable provisions in the reconciliation bill approved by the House of Representatives on May 22, 2025. Senate leadership has pledged the bill will be passed before the July 4th recess.

DOE Secretary Chris Wright Testifies on FY26 Budget



Today, Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Chris Wright testified in support of the President's Fiscal Year 2026 budget before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Similar to last week's [testimony before the House Energy and Commerce Committee](#), the Secretary expressed support for coal as an affordable, reliable, and secure resource as well as the need to secure domestic mineral supply chains and "make mining and materials processing sexy again." The Secretary also expressed a desire to return DOE to its core mission and "prioritize research that supports true technological breakthroughs. Ahead of hearing, the NMA worked with committee staff and member offices to highlight industry priorities within the DOE's jurisdiction and provide additional background and questions. The NMA will continue to work with congress and the administration to strengthen energy and mineral supply chain for U.S. economic and national security.

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HELP Committee Considers Department of Labor Nominations

Today, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) committee held a [hearing](#) to consider several nominations to the Department of Labor (DOL), including Jonathan Berry for the position of Solicitor. Berry has previously served as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy at DOL during the first Trump administration.

Other nominees considered at the hearing were Andrew Rogers to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, and Anthony D'Esposito to be Inspector General of DOL. In advance of the hearing the NMA worked with the committee to prep staff on the issue currently before DOL that impact mining including the silica rule.

Senate Holds Surface Transportation Board Hearing



Today, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Maritime, Freight and Ports held a [hearing](#) titled, “On the Right Track: Modernizing America’s Rail,” highlighting the role rail plays in moving goods and energy around the country. Witnesses examined ways to foster innovation and improve efficiency in rail transport and discussed the need for infrastructure investments to protect rail’s long-term viability. The NMA recently attended the Surface Transportation Board’s meeting and, in [written comments](#), stressed the need for a resilient and adaptable rail network that invests in both infrastructure and the workforce to ensure continued coal-hauling capacity. Such investment is crucial to preventing service disruptions, costly reductions or line abandonments that could compromise grid reliability.

House E&C to Mark Up Grid Reliability Bills Next Week



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE

The House Energy and Commerce committee is expected to hold a full committee markup on June 25 to consider a suite of bills—many aimed at strengthening electric grid reliability, improving interagency coordination and preserving fuel-secure generation. The markup has not yet been formally noticed.

The package includes H.R. 3616, the *Reliable Power Act* (Rep. Balderson), which authorizes FERC to block the finalization of agency rules that pose grid reliability risks; H.R. 3632, the *Power Plant Reliability Act* (Rep. Griffith), which allows FERC to delay retirements of critical generation and requires five years' advance notice prior to closures; H.R. 3015, the *National Coal Council Reestablishment Act* (Rep. Rulli), which permanently reestablishes DOE's coal advisory body; H.R. 3628, the *State Planning for Reliability and Affordability Act* (Rep. Evans), which requires state energy plans to include 10-year reliability outlooks; and H.R. 3157, the *State Energy Accountability Act* (Rep. Langworthy), which mandates transparency regarding the reliability and affordability impacts of state renewable mandates. The NMA continues to engage with committee members and allied organizations to strengthen and advance these measures ahead of the markup.

House T&I Committee to Mark Up CWA Permitting Reform Package Next Week

The House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) committee will hold a full committee markup on Tuesday, June 24, to consider a [**comprehensive package of Clean Water Act**](#) (CWA) permitting reforms. The package, which includes 15 targeted bills, is designed to streamline federal permitting, enhance regulatory transparency, and provide greater certainty for infrastructure and energy projects nationwide.

This legislative package was spearheaded by the NMA, which convened and coordinated a coalition of 52 trade associations over the past several months to develop, refine and support these measures. The legislation addresses long-standing permitting inefficiencies under Sections 401, 402, and 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), with direct benefits for project developers, landowners, utilities, and the broader regulated community.

This markup reflects a major industry-led effort to bring transparency and accountability back to CWA permitting. The NMA will continue to lead advocacy efforts to help secure passage of the package in the House and build momentum for Senate action.

MINEPAC and COALPAC Host Chairman Westerman



Last Wednesday, MINEPAC and COALPAC hosted, and CATPAC; Coeur Mining PAC; COREPAC; Freeport-McMoRan Inc. Citizenship Committee; Hecla Mining Company, Hecla Limited PAC and Peabody Energy PAC sponsored, a fundraising reception for the Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.). The Chairman was joined at the event by his Chief of Staff, Nancy Peele, and briefly by former Ohio Congressman Bill Johnson. Rep. Westerman and his Chief of Staff fielded questions and asked for input on mining-related issues from the reception guests. Throughout the discussion, Chairman Westerman express a strong interest in mining, energy development, and their significance to the U.S. economy.

WOTUS Update



Yesterday, EPA [announced](#) that the agency and the U.S. Department of the Army have completed listening sessions intended to inform their reconsideration rulemaking on the definition of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) under the Clean Water Act. Since April, EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have held nine WOTUS listening sessions, including two public sessions in Utah and West Virginia. **Notably, EPA also announced their commitment to issuing a proposed rule "in the coming months" and "with the intention of issuing a final rule by the end of 2025."** EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin praised these listening sessions for providing "real-world perspectives as [the agency] work[s] toward a proposed rule that follows the Supreme Court decision in *Sackett*, ends the regulatory uncertainty and ping-pong that has persisted for years, supports our nation's farmers who feed and fuel the world, and advances the agency's [Powering the Great American Comeback initiative](#)."

The NMA provided [testimony](#) at the May 1, 2025, listening session for industry and agriculture stakeholders, highlighting numerous recommendations made in our [written comments](#) on the public docket, "WOTUS Notice: The Final Response to SCOTUS." Specifically, the NMA recommended that the agencies should undergo a targeted notice-and-comment rulemaking process to revise the 2023 Rule's preamble and regulatory text, provide clarifications around key regulatory terms such as "continuous surface connection" and "relatively permanent," exclude most ditches from federal jurisdiction, and preserve the longstanding waste treatment system exclusion.

Mine Rescue Teams Show the Best in Safety in Alabama



The 2025 Alabama Mine Rescue, First Aid and Bench Contest 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 Peabody's Shoal Creek and Francisco teams. NMA member company teams were also recognized at the 2nd Annual Missouri Mine Rescue Skills Competition. These teams included Doe Run's Gray and Maroon teams. Congratulations to all participants 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

The [Associated Press](#), [NPR](#), [Argus](#), [WMBD](#), [Utility Dive](#) and others all quote Rich Nolan on the EPA's proposal to repeal rules concerning fossil fuel power plants, an action that Administrator Lee Zeldin said would remove billions of dollars in costs for industry and help "unleash" American energy.

From our third parties, [MSN.com](#) (USA), [Bakersfield Californian](#) (Calif.), [Jacksonville Journal Courier](#) (Ill.), [Bryan Times](#) (Ohio), [Las Vegas Sun](#) (Nev.), [Grand Junction Daily Sentinel](#) (Colo.), [Deseret News](#) (Utah), [Yahoo News](#) (USA), [Martins Ferry Times Leader](#) (Ohio), [Salem News](#) (Ohio), [Lisbon Morning Journal](#) (Ohio), [East Liverpool Review](#) (Ohio), [Beckley Register Herald](#) (W.Va.), [Times West Virginian](#) (W.Va.), [Johnstown Tribune](#)

[Democrat](#) (Pa.) and [Bluefield Daily Telegraph](#) (W.Va.) carry an op-ed by Matthew Kandrach, president of Consumer Action for a Strong Economy, in which he argues while data center developers have signed deals to keep nuclear power plants running — and to even bring mothballed reactors back online — they should take the same exact approach with America’s coal fleet.

Mining and Energy News

[The New York Times](#) reported that China’s strict controls on the export of heat-resistant magnets made with rare earth minerals have exposed a major vulnerability in the U.S. military supply chain.

[Mining.com](#) reported that battery metals markets remain under pressure as falling prices and oversupply weigh on producers, with little sign of a near-term rebound, the last analysis from Fastmarkets, a cross-commodity price reporting agency, shows.

[Argus](#) reported that the number of people employed as coal miners in the U.S. decreased last month to the lowest level since April 2022, despite U.S. coal output exceeding year-earlier levels in every major basin this year.

[Mining.com](#) reported that Talon Metals announced it plans to raise approximately \$17.6 million to fund the development of its Tamarack nickel-copper-cobalt project in Minnesota.

[Reuters](#) reported that silver prices have soared to the key milestone \$35 per ounce, reaching its highest level since 2012 last week amid uncertainty over the administration’s tariff policy and the decline in the U.S. dollar.

[Komatsu](#) reported last week that it acquired six Core Machinery dealerships in

California and Arizona to expand its dealership network, its product offerings and improve customer access.

[Argus](#) reported that coal generation in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) increased for a sixth straight month in May as overall electricity demand grew and natural gas and wind power dispatch fell.

[Mining.com](#) reported that Dateline Resources has gained further political support in its bid to develop what could be America's second rare earth mine following the public backing of U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum.

[Politico Pro](#) reported that the administration says a "framework" agreement sealed by U.S. and Chinese trade negotiators in London last week will lift Beijing's crushing export restrictions on rare earth minerals essential to U.S. defense industry production lines.

[Inside EPA](#) reported that EPA is proposing to scrap two high-profile Biden administration rules imposing air toxics and greenhouse gas limits on fossil-fuel power plants, including by asserting that the facilities' GHGs do not "significantly contribute" to public health risks from climate change and thus should not be regulated at all.

[Mining.com](#) reported that Surge Battery Metals has issued a preliminary economic assessment (PEA) for its Nevada North Lithium Project (NNLP) that outlined what could be a low-cost, long-life producer of battery-grade materials for the U.S. market.

[Mining Technology](#) reported that Zimbabwe plans to ban lithium concentrate exports starting in 2027. This decision follows the country's prohibition of lithium ore exports in 2022 and is part of a broader initiative to encourage domestic processing within Africa's leading lithium-producing nation.

[Associated Press](#) reported that the EPA has proposed repealing rules that **[limit planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions from power plants](#)** fueled by coal and natural gas, an action that Administrator Lee Zeldin said would remove billions of dollars in costs for industry and help “unleash” American energy.

[Energywire](#) reported that electric power supply was significantly more reliable last year than earlier in the decade, but also more in danger of serious outages than ever before with near-term data center growth, according to NERC.

[Greenwire](#) reported that environmental groups are suing to overturn President Trump’s decision to give almost 70 coal power plants a two-year exemption on compliance with strengthened EPA air toxics regulations on mercury and other pollutants.

[Mining Journal](#) reported that President Trump signed an executive order on Friday to approve the takeover of U.S. Steel by Nippon Steel. The companies’ national security agreement with the U.S. government mandates \$11 billion in new investments by 2028.

[Reuters](#) reported that “the collective scramble to move as much physical copper as possible to the U.S. before the imposition of import tariffs is creating shortages in the rest of the world.”

Commodity Prices

Commodity Prices - Snapshot				
Metals Prices	Date	Price	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	6/10/24	\$15.12	6/17/24	\$15.12
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	6/10/24	\$4.87	6/17/24	\$4.78
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	6/10/24	\$3,327.65	6/17/24	\$3,380.55
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	6/10/24	\$0.90	6/17/24	\$0.89
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	6/10/24	\$8.39	6/17/24	\$8.41
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	6/10/24	\$66.73	6/17/24	\$66.33
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	6/10/24	\$6.94	6/17/24	\$6.76
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	6/10/24	\$36.76	6/17/24	\$37.06
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	6/10/24	\$879.80	6/17/24	\$863.64
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	6/10/24	\$411.01	6/17/24	\$410.28
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	6/10/24	\$1.20	6/17/24	\$1.19
Energy Prices	Date	Price	Date	Price
Coal Price - Austr. Prem. Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	6/10/24	\$177.00	6/17/24	\$173.25
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	6/6/24	\$79.00	6/13/24	\$79.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	6/10/24	\$103.53	6/17/24	\$106.16
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	6/10/24	\$102.70	6/17/24	\$103.85
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	6/4/24	\$2.82	6/11/24	\$2.74
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	6/10/24	\$70.50	6/17/24	\$74.50

Sources: publically 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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