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# MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

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Brought to you by the National Mining Association

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## This Week in The News

With Middle East conflict dominating the headlines, it's crunch time for the "big beautiful bill" in the Senate and soon the House. In the Executive Branch, deregulatory activity and trade negotiations continue apace. 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

It's hot out there in much of the country. The National Weather Service has a variety of [heat safety tips and resources](#).

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## House T&I Committee Passes the PERMIT Act with NMA Backed CWA Reforms



The House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) committee advanced the *Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today (PERMIT) Act* today, led by Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Chairman Mike Collins (R-Ga.) and Committee Chairman Sam Graves (R-Mo.). The [markup](#) featured an [Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute \(ANS\)](#) to H.R. 3898, combining more than a dozen previously introduced Clean Water Act (CWA) reform bills into a single legislative package. The NMA, which brought together 52 industry trade associations to help develop the proposals, [strongly supports effort](#).

The PERMIT Act includes wide-ranging reforms aimed at restoring clarity, transparency and efficiency to federal water permitting processes—without weakening water quality standards. Provisions address EPA's Section 404(c)

veto authority, codify longstanding exclusions like those reaffirmed in *Sackett v. EPA*, and streamline Section 401 water quality certifications. The bill also includes reforms on effluent limitation guidelines, judicial review timelines and the state assumption process under Section 404. The NMA remains in active discussions with EPA's Office of Water, the Department of Energy and committee members on further refinements and potential amendments.

The PERMIT Act was ultimately passed along party lines out of committee, with 34 yeas and 30 nays, and the bill now moves to the House floor as part of a broader effort by House Republicans to improve permitting certainty for infrastructure, energy, mining, agriculture and development projects nationwide.

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## House E&C Passes NMA Backed Grid Reliability Bills



### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE

The House Energy and Commerce (E&C) committee held a [full committee markup today](#), advancing 13 bills focused on improving electric grid reliability, preserving dispatchable generation and enhancing energy infrastructure permitting. Several measures endorsed by the NMA cleared the committee and will now move to the House floor.

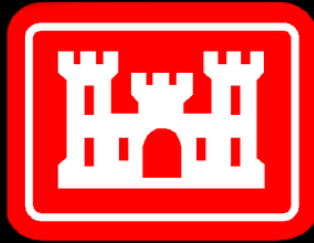
Among the bills approved were [H.R. 3616](#) (*Reliable Power Act*, Rep. Balderson), which grants the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

new authority to block federal rules that would endanger grid reliability; [H.R. 3632](#) (*Power Plant Reliability Act*, Rep. Griffith), allowing FERC to delay retirements of critical generation and requiring advance notice of closures; and [H.R. 3015](#) (*National Coal Council Reestablishment Act*, Rep. Rulli), which would permanently reestablish a formal coal advisory body at the Department of Energy. Additional bills would enhance state planning requirements ([H.R. 3628](#), Rep. Evans), increase transparency around renewable requirements ([H.R. 3157](#), Rep. Langworthy), and support domestic minerals, hydropower, LNG and pipeline development.

The NMA [supported the legislation](#) in advance of the markup and continues to work with lawmakers to ensure the final package strengthens fuel-secure generation and improves permitting certainty. The markup demonstrated growing momentum for pro-reliability legislation and greater federal coordination as the U.S. electricity system faces rising demand and resource adequacy concerns.

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## **U.S. Army Corps Proposes to Reissue and Modify Nationwide Permits**



## US Army Corps of Engineers®

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) recently [proposed](#) to reissue its existing nationwide permits (NWP) and associated general conditions and definitions, with some modifications. The Corps is also proposing a new NWP to authorize activities to improve the passage of fish and other aquatic organisms through aquatic ecosystems. NWP authorize categories of activities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 that have no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects. There are currently 57 NWP, which the Corps reissued in 2021 and are currently scheduled to expire on March 14, 2026. During the Office of Management and Budget's interagency review process, the NMA joined a coalition of industry associations in advocating, among other things, for increased acreage thresholds and changes related to compensatory mitigation. The Corps did not include our recommendations in this proposed rulemaking package. The Corps also did not make specific changes to the NWP traditionally used by the mining industry, including NWP 21 (surface coal mining activities), NWP 44 (mining activities), NWP 49 (coal re-mining activities), and NWP 50 (underground coal mining activities). The NMA is reviewing the proposed modifications to the general conditions and other NWP, particularly NWP 23 (approved categorical exclusions) and NWP 27

(aquatic ecosystem restoration, enhancement, and establishment activities).

**Comments are due on July 18, 2025.**

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## NMA Team Visits Harvey Mine and WVU Training Academy



This week, the NMA staff visited Core Natural Resources' Harvey Mine and training facility in western Pennsylvania, as well as the West Virginia University Academy for Mine Training and Energy Technologies at Dolls Run. Representing the NMA were Paul Krivokuca, Vice President of Health and Safety, and Martha Newell, Director of Government and Political Affairs.

The visit provided the NMA team with valuable on-the-ground insight into the current challenges facing the coal industry and highlighted how mine operators and academic institutions are collaborating to enhance safety and workforce readiness in mining operations. The NMA staff also gained a better understanding of the training techniques and technologies being used to

prepare the next generation of miners.

Harvey Mine is a longwall operation and part of the Pennsylvania Mining Complex, which includes the Bailey and Enlow Fork Mines. Coal from all three mines is processed at a central facility and transported to the Core Natural Resources Terminal in Baltimore, Md., for export.

The WVU Dolls Run facility is home to the university's Mining Extension Program, created to address the growing need for skilled workers in the mining sector. Built on land donated by Consol Energy, now part of Core Natural Resources, the facility has provided training to miners across the U.S. and to multiple international groups.

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## Legislation Introduced to Codify Mining Executive Orders

This week, House Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Chairman Pete Stauber (R-Minn.) introduced legislation ([H.R. 4090](#)) to codify portions of President Trump's March 20 [Executive Order \(EO\) 14241](#) titled, Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production, as well as other policies included in separate EOs and executive actions that are within the committee's jurisdiction. Additionally, Representative Mike Collins (R-Ga.) introduced legislation ([H.R. 4068](#)) to codify a portion of President Trump's April 8 [Executive Order 14261](#) titled, Reinvigorating America's Beautiful Clean Coal Industry and Amending Executive Order 14241 to expand the use of categorical exclusions for coal under the National Environmental Policy Act. This bill complements existing legislation, introduced by Representative Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.), that codifies other portions of President Trump's coal EO. These bills are expected to be considered at an upcoming, but as yet not scheduled, legislative hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee. The

NMA will continue to work with the Trump administration and Congress to advance regulatory and legislative policies that support a robust domestic mining industry.

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## HHS Budget Hearing

On Tuesday, Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert Kennedy [testified](#) in front of the House Energy and Commerce Committee on the President's Fiscal Year 2026 budget request for his agency. Members inquired about the proposed reorganization of NIOSH under the Administration for a Healthy America and its potential impact on their work, particularly for coal miners. The Secretary acknowledged NIOSH's importance and highlighted how the administration reinstated the Morgantown and Cleveland offices to ensure NIOSH could continue its work to support mining.

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## New Mexico's Grisham Hosts Western Governors



For the first time since 2004, a New Mexico governor hosted the Western Governors' Association Annual Meeting. Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham hosted the organization's policy summit June 23 and 24 in Santa Fe. Governors from Colorado, Utah, South Dakota and Wyoming gathered to discuss the region's most pressing issues, like burn scar flooding, rural health care and outdoor recreation. Guest speakers included Secretary of Interior Doug Burgum, Secretary of Agriculture Brook Rollins, Secretary of Education Linda McMahon and Secretary of Labor Lori Chavez-DeRemer. Multiple NMA members and staff were in attendance and had the chance to express both concerns and appreciation directly to the governors and secretaries.

The meeting in Santa Fe ended Tuesday with Gov. Grisham passing the chairmanship baton to Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, who announced his focus as the association's new chair would be on meeting the growing demand for energy in the West. Cox asserted, "we're seeing that we have a severe energy crisis happening all across the United States and all across the world, and so many of the solutions to our energy crisis exist here in the West."

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## **Ohio Valley Mine Rescue Teams Recognized for Skill, Teamwork and Expertise**

The 2025 Post 6 Ohio Valley Mine Rescue 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 recognized included Alliance's Tunnel Ridge team and Core's Bailey White, Harvey Gray, Bailey Blue and Enlow Fork teams. Congratulations to all

participants and those that secured top placements in their respective categories.

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## **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.

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### **NMA and Third Parties In the News**

[E&E News](#) quotes Rich Nolan on the news that the Trump administration formally reinstated the National Coal Council, an advisory group focused on fossil fuels that existed for more than three decades before lapsing under the Biden administration.

The [New York Times](#) quotes the NMA in a story on black lung.

From our third parties, [Forbes](#) (N.Y.) carries an op-ed by Jude Clemente in which he argues we need coal power for AI.

The [Maryland Daily Record](#) (Md.), [Wilkes Barre Times Leader](#) (Pa.), [West Virginia News](#) (W.Va.), [Marietta Daily Journal](#) (Ga.), [Provo Daily Herald](#) (Utah), [Longview News Journal](#) (Texas), [Montana Standard](#) (Mont.), [Helena Independent Record](#) (Mont.), [Ravalli Republic](#) (Mont.), [Steubenville Herald Star](#) (Ohio), [The Missoulian](#) (Mont.) and [Billings Gazette](#) (Mont) 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

[Politico Pro](#) reported that the Trump administration has advanced one of the nation’s largest proposed copper mining projects owned by Resolution Copper.

[Argus](#) reported that environmental groups are asking the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to block waivers that give multiple coal plants additional time to comply with new mercury limits.

[Washington Examiner](#) reported that China’s stronghold over rare earths is the major issue left unresolved following the recent deal struck by the administration.

**Greenwire** reported that as Beijing asserts itself amid global trade tensions, it is playing an ace it has kept up its sleeve for decades: control over the flow of minerals Western countries desperately need to fuel their green, digital and defense ambitions.

**Argus** reported that Ford Motor Company said it has shut down operations at some U.S. factories because of a shortage of rare earth magnets, which have been at the center of U.S.-China trade talks.

**Energywire** reported that Chevron has taken its first step into the lithium business with two land deals in northeastern Texas and Arkansas, becoming the second U.S. oil major to invest in producing a mineral crucial to electric vehicle batteries.

**Greenwire** reported that Joshua Kroon has been tapped to serve as deputy assistant secretary for textiles, consumer goods, materials, critical minerals and metals within the International Trade Administration, an agency that operates under the Department of Commerce.

**E&E News PM** reported that Earthjustice and other environmental groups are pushing back against the Trump administration's move last month to force the 1,560-megawatt J.H. Campbell coal plant in Michigan operating through the summer or past its planned retirement.

**AIST Rewind** reported that Nippon Steel Corporation and U.S. Steel Corporation finalized their 14.9 billion merger, cementing a historic partnership that is expected to bring \$11 billion in new investment to U. S. Steel's facilities.

**Washington Examiner** reported it has been over a week since the U.S. and China trade officials announced they have agreed to a deal, but U.S. companies remain wondering when they will receive Chinese minerals.

[14 News](#) reported employees and the community of Henderson got their first look at a brand-new underground coal mine that opened last Tuesday. The new Henderson County Mine is an expansion of the River View Mine, owned by Alliance Coal, in Union County, Kentucky.

[Energywire](#) reported Ireland became the latest European country to put an end to coal-based power generation.

[Utility Dive](#) reported that NERC has upgraded its MISO 2028-2031 timeframe risk for a regional power shortfall. The risk level has been reclassified to the more dire “high risk” classification after NERC re-analyzed corrected data. The more elevated risk means an area meets resource adequacy criteria, but under extreme weather conditions remains likely to experience a shortfall in power reserves.

[Mining.com](#) reported that “copper is experiencing an historic backwardation as traders react to rapidly falling inventories, potential U.S. tariffs, and a pricing crisis at smelters. Spot copper traded at a \$345-per-tonne premium to three-month futures on Monday, the highest level since a record surge in 2021, signaling a sharp backwardation.”

## Commodity Prices

<b>Commodity Prices - Snapshot</b>				
<b>Metals Prices</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Price</b>
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	6/17/25	\$15.12	6/23/25	\$15.12
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	6/17/25	\$4.78	6/24/25	\$4.87
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	6/17/25	\$3,380.55	6/24/25	\$3,318.77
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	6/17/25	\$0.89	6/24/25	\$0.91
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	6/17/25	\$8.41	6/24/25	\$8.35
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	6/17/25	\$66.33	6/24/25	\$65.37
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	6/17/25	\$6.76	6/24/25	\$6.77
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	6/17/25	\$37.06	6/24/25	\$35.82
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	6/17/25	\$863.64	6/24/25	\$896.97
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	6/17/25	\$410.28	6/24/25	\$411.37
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	6/17/25	\$1.19	6/24/25	\$1.22
<b>Energy Prices</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Price</b>
Coal Price - Austr. Prem. Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	6/17/25	\$173.25	6/24/25	\$176.00
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	6/13/25	\$79.00	6/20/25	\$79.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	6/17/25	\$106.16	6/24/25	\$106.57
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	6/17/25	\$103.85	6/23/25	\$103.45
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	6/11/25	\$2.74	6/11/25	\$2.74
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	6/17/25	\$74.50	6/23/25	\$77.55

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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