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MINE Update

MINING INDUSTRY NEWS E-COMM UPDATE

Issue 25 | July 9, 2025

Brought to you by the National Mining Association

This Week in The News

Congress pushed its massive budget bill across the finish line in time to be signed by President Trump on Independence Day. With the Senate returning this week and the House out of session until July 14, the next major focus will be on a July 18 statutory deadline to pass the White House's \$9 billion-plus rescissions package in some form. Meanwhile, executive branch trade and deregulatory actions continue to roll out at an unprecedented pace. 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

Impairment – both on and off the job – can be caused by chemical factors, such as legal or illegal substances; physical factors, like fatigue; and psychosocial factors, like mental distress and stress. National Safety Council has resources for [understanding and addressing impairment](#).

President Signs One, Big, Beautiful Bill into Law



Last week, after an all-night session and a record-breaking long speech by Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), the House passed the Senate amendment to H.R.1, the One, Big, Beautiful Bill, sending it to President Trump for his signature on July 4. Text for the new law can be found [here](#).

Key provisions that impact mining include:

Tax and fees

- Permanently extends first-year expensing (bonus depreciation) for business property acquired or placed in service on or after January 19, 2025.
- Permanently allows expensing for domestic research expenses for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024. Unamortized domestic research expenses incurred between 2021 and 2025 could be deducted on an accelerated basis over a one- or two-year period.
- Permanently reinstates EBITDA limitation for business interest expense deduction for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.

IRA Tax Credits

- Phases out and restricts advanced manufacturing production credit for producing critical minerals (Sec. 45X). The Senate bill offers a longer time frame for sunsetting the credit with final year of eligibility being 2033. The credit goes through an eligibility phase out of 75 percent in 2031, 50 percent in 2032 and 25 percent in 2033. Disallows various credits for prohibited foreign entities (specified foreign entities and foreign-influenced entities), the ownership thresholds for determining foreign-influenced entity is higher in the Senate bill than it was in the House bill -- e.g., a single specified foreign entity owns at least 25 percent (Senate) vs. 10 percent (House).
- Adds metallurgical coal to the list of critical minerals under the 45X tax credit. For metallurgical coal the credit is 2.5 percent. The credit for metallurgical coal ends December 31, 2029.
- Terminates clean vehicle credit and commercial clean vehicle credit (for vehicles acquired more than 180 days after enactment).
- Phases out and restricts clean electricity production credit and clean electricity investment tax credit.

Loans and financing

- Expands DOD funding for critical minerals supply chains, including \$5 billion for investments in critical minerals supply chains and \$500 million for loans, loan guarantees and technical assistance, for critical minerals and related industries and projects.
- Adds \$1 billion for Defense Production Act funding of domestic mineral and energy infrastructure projects.
- Includes \$1 billion "for enabling the identification, leasing, development, production, processing, transportation, transmission, refining, and generation needed for energy and critical minerals."

Federal Land

- Caps the royalty rate for coal mined on federal land for new and existing mines at 7 percent through 2034.
- Requires the Bureau of Land Management to promptly take a series of standard actions within set timeframes to issue coal leases to qualified applicants.
- Addresses the impacts of federal Resource Management Plans impacting coal leasing by mandating coal lease sales on 4 million acres with "known recoverable coal resources."

Going forward, the NMA will work with the administration to steer implementation of the mining-related provisions of H.R.1.

Administration Action on Reciprocal Tariffs and 50% Copper Import Tariffs



The administration has been active on the tariff front this week with an extension of the July 9 effective date for reciprocal tariffs on goods from 50 countries and an announcement on the imposition of a new 50 percent tariff on copper imports going into effect by August 1 or sooner. On reciprocal tariffs, President Trump issued a new [Executive Order](#) (EO) to extend the modification of the reciprocal tariff rates originally announced on April 5 and set to expire on July 9, 2025. Recall, an earlier EO would have imposed additional higher tariffs of [up to 50 percent](#) on goods from 50 countries that maintain significant trade surpluses with the United States and impose various tariff and non-tariff barriers on U.S. exports. According to the EO, the latest pause reflects additional information on the status of discussions with trading partners, which necessitates an extension of the effective date for reciprocal tariffs until August 1, 2025.

The White House also announced new trade actions in response to a Department of Commerce report on findings of its investigation under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act into the national security impact of copper imports. According to public statements by President Trump and Secretary of Commerce Luntick, the administration is planning on imposing 50 percent tariffs on copper imports to go into effect on or before August 1. The

investigation began in March pursuant to [EO 14220](#), “Addressing the Threat to National Security from Imports of Copper.” The NMA submitted [comments](#) in response to the department’s request on appropriate trade remedies to address China’s growing control over the global copper smelting and refining capacity. We expect to have additional information on the copper investigation and potential non-tariff remedies in the coming days.

DOI Undertaking Major Updates to its NEPA Regulations

The Department of the Interior (DOI) last week published an [interim final rule](#) that makes major changes to the department’s approach to implementation of its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. While titled an “interim final rule” and open for comment until Aug. 4, the rule is effective immediately, with the exception of “applications that are sufficiently advanced,” where the preexisting procedures will continue to apply. These updates are primarily motivated by three factors: (1) the congressionally-imposed NEPA requirements under the 2023 Fiscal Responsibility Act, including firm timelines; (2) the administration’s recent revocation of government-wide Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA regulations; and (3) the U.S. Supreme Court’s recent decisive NEPA ruling.

In the interim final rule, DOI is rescinding the majority of its NEPA regulations and will instead include departmental NEPA procedures in a revised [NEPA handbook](#). DOI, however, identified certain provisions to retain and make targeted updates. These provisions relate to (1) emergency responses to ensure that DOI can respond timely to any such event and to avoid any confusion regarding the continued validity of this already-established provision for action in emergency situations; (2) categorical exclusions and their use to avoid any instability in these vital procedures or uncertainty about the

continued validity of its already-established categorical exclusions; and (3) applicant and contractor preparation of environmental documents to provide a durable framework for the use of such documents. Please see the NMA's July 7, 2025, [memorandum](#) for more details on the DOI's rule.

BLM Initiates Scoping Process to Reopen the PRB to New Coal Leasing



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) this week took the first step to revise two Biden administration resource management plans (RMPs) that foreclosed new federal coal leasing in the Powder River Basin, the largest coal producing region in the U.S. The action complies with President Trump's Executive Order on Unleashing American Energy and a similarly titled secretarial order issued by Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum directing review of the 2024 RMPs for the Miles City, Montana and Buffalo, Wyoming field offices. The NMA, along with member company Navajo Transitional Energy Company, challenged the 2024 final RMPs in the U.S. District Court for Wyoming as unlawfully placing

more than two million acres off-limits to new coal leasing. The court recently remanded the rule on the administration's request to allow reconsideration and possible revision. The NMA and will participate in the scoping process to address remaining concerns. Comments on potential RMP amendments are due by Aug. 7.

White House Simplifying Critical Mineral and Material Projects

Last week, the White House [issued](#) a Presidential Memorandum directing federal agencies to streamline and coordinate their processes for funding energy infrastructure and critical mineral projects. Agencies are instructed to work with the National Energy Dominance Council (NEDC) to share information on funding applications and awards, reducing duplicative processes and overlapping requirements. The memo also calls for a common application for federal funding, allowing applicants to apply to multiple programs through a single portal. This effort aims to make funding more efficient and transparent, enabling faster and more strategic decisions that strengthen the U.S. mineral supply chains and energy infrastructure.

Senate ENR Considers Lanny Erdos to Lead OSMRE



This morning, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee [held a confirmation hearing](#) for Lanny Erdos, nominated to serve as Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) at the Department of the Interior. Erdos previously held the same position during the Trump administration, where he was unanimously confirmed. He has over three decades of experience in regulatory and compliance work, including 31 years at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Mineral Resources Management. His background in mine permitting, reclamation and environmental oversight will be particularly relevant as OSMRE continues to play a critical role in the implementation of federal surface mining laws and oversight of state regulatory programs. The NMA sent a letter endorsing his confirmation which can be found [here](#).

In addition to Lanny Erdos, the hearing covered the nominations of Audrey Robertson to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Timothy Walsh to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management, and David Eisner to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs.

House Panel Reviews Coal Ash Rules and Reuse Opportunities

The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment, chaired by Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-Va.), recently held a hearing titled "*A Decade Later: A Review of Congressional Action, Environmental Protection Agency Rules, and Beneficial Use Opportunities for Coal Ash.*" The hearing examined the impact of EPA's 2024 legacy Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) rule and explored the role coal ash can play in cement production and critical mineral recovery. Chairman Griffith opened the hearing by highlighting rising coal ash reuse rates—now approaching 70 percent—and noted that CCR stockpiles may contain as much as 11 million tons of recoverable rare earth elements.

Witnesses included Dave Glatt, Director of the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality; Michelle Freeark, representing rural electric cooperatives; Tom Adams of the American Coal Ash Association; and Lisa Evans of Earthjustice. They provided sharply contrasting views on the legacy rule, with Glatt and Freeark arguing that the rule imposes duplicative and retroactive requirements—even at sites with strong safety records—diverting resources from infrastructure and innovation. Adams stressed that regulatory uncertainty discourages investment in reuse, while Evans raised concerns about potential health risks. Republican lawmakers voiced frustration with the EPA's one-size-fits-all approach, and several members raised bipartisan interest in rare earth recovery.

The NMA continues to work with Congress and the administration to ensure that EPA rules recognize the value of beneficial use, respect qualified state programs and avoid mandates that could undercut domestic cement production, infrastructure investment and emerging technologies like rare earth recovery.

MSHA Proposes 18 Deregulatory Rules



In alignment with the Trump administration's deregulatory and energy policy initiatives, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) has proposed to withdraw or revise 18 regulations. These changes—some long requested by industry—are now being addressed through formal rulemaking. The proposed revisions aim to: (1) update or eliminate outdated technologies; (2) reduce regulatory burdens on mine operators; and (3) curtail excessive authority of district managers. A categorized list of the 18 proposed rules, along with links to the formal published versions, is available [here](#). Comments on the proposals are due July 31, 2025.

DOE Seeks Input to Inform Compilation of 2026 Energy Critical Materials Assessment

The Department of Energy (DOE) recently released a Request for Information (RFI) seeking public comments to inform compilation of the 2026 Energy Critical Materials Assessment. A link to the RFI can be found [here](#). Specifically, the DOE is seeking "information on data and/or other information that support energy technologies of interest, materials of interest, supply chain information, market dynamics, challenges to domestic industry, methodology, DOE critical materials and DOI [Department of the Interior] critical minerals lists, and other

stakeholder issues related to the Energy Critical Materials Assessment." The assessment will be used to update DOE's 2023 list of materials that are critical to energy. DOE anticipates updating the assessment every three years to reflect the most current data. Please find a link to the NMA's memo on the RFI announcement [HERE](#). The NMA plans to submit industry comments in response to the RFI and has requested information from interested member companies to justify expansion of the list.

Endangered Species Act Regulatory Package at Office of Management and Budget

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (collectively, the Services) submitted four Endangered Species Act (ESA) regulations to the White House's Office of Management and Budget for review by the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA). The proposed regulatory package will be reviewed by OIRA, which unless expedited by the administration typically takes up to 90 days before being made publicly available for review and public comment. Although the details of the proposed rules are not immediately evident, the titles of the rules indicate revisions to the ESA section 7 consultation process, and the process to list species and designate critical habitat under section 4. Recall, these regulations were modified in the first Trump administration, and again in the Biden administration. Earlier this year, the NMA joined a coalition of trade associations in a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to block the implementation of the Biden-era ESA regulations.

Focus on Safety Continues in Indiana



The 2025 Indiana 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 who were recognized included Sunrise Coal's Sunrise team, River View Coal's River View team, Prairie State's Lively Grove team, Alliance's Hamilton County team, Warrior Mine Rescue's team and the Gibson Mine Rescue team. Congratulations to all participants and those that secured top placements in their respective categories.

NMA and Third Parties In the News

Rich Nolan is quoted in the [White House's press release](#) on the One, Big, Beautiful Bill. Media outlets including [Reuters](#), [Investing News Network](#) and [Mining.com](#) also include quotes from Nolan. [Reuters](#) also quotes the NMA on the news that metallurgical coal got a break in the bill.

[E&E Greenwire](#), the [Washington Post](#) and the [Associated Press](#) quote the NMA on the Trump administration's move to reverse a Biden-era policy that blocked coal leasing in the Powder River Basin, the nation's largest coal-producing region.

From our third parties, [Frankfort State Journal](#) (Ky.) carries 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.

[Real Clear Energy](#) (D.C.) carries an op-ed by Ivan Maldonado, Professor at the Department of Nuclear Engineering at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in which he argues our dependence on imported minerals, particularly from adversaries, poses a grave threat to national security.

Mining and Energy News

[Greenwire](#) reported that President Trump ordered federal agencies to begin sharing grant application details for critical mineral and energy infrastructure projects with the National Energy Dominance Council.

[Argus](#) reported that U.S. coal generation increased from year-earlier levels for the fifth consecutive month in April, gaining ground on natural gas and wind generation.

[Argus](#) reported that coal producers across much of the U.S. continued to ship more coal during April than they had a year earlier, supported by higher coal generation.

The Energy Institute's [Statistical Review of World Energy 2025](#) estimated that 2024 global coal production increased 0.8 percent to 182 Exajoules (EJ) last year. All-time records were reached across all forms of energy (coal, oil, gas, renewables, hydro and nuclear). Electricity demand increased 4 percent, continuing to outpace total energy demand growth, "an indicator that the age of electricity is not just emerging but is shaping a new global energy system." The report also found that rare earth metals production increased 3.2 percent and lithium production increased 16 percent in 2024.

[Argus](#) reported that coal generation in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) last month was at its highest level for any June since 2022 as higher temperatures towards the end of the month led to increased electricity demand.

[Reuters](#) reported that that gold may be added to the 'critical mineral list.' The return of Donald Trump to the presidency is leading to a global reassessment of the relative safety of U.S. assets, the independence of the Federal Reserve and the likely worsening of the U.S. fiscal position. Add in Trump's attacks on the rule of law in the U.S. and the likely hit to both the U.S. and global economies from his trade policies, and the stage is set for a reevaluation of the role of gold.

[Fox Business](#) reported that the U.S. Secretary of Energy and other elected officials are preparing to travel to Wyoming for the opening of the first new coal mine in the state in more than five decades.

[Reuters](#) reported that advocates of clean energy last week decried the final passage of President Trump's tax cut bill by the House of Representatives as a reversal of course on the energy transition, while fossil-fuel interests rejoiced.

[Mining Journal](#) reported that United States Antimony is preparing to restart re-mining antimony in Montana, as the government is trying to secure the

supply of the critical mineral.

Greenwire reported that the Trump administration is considering reversing a Biden-era policy that blocked coal leasing in the Powder River Basin, the nation's largest coal-producing region. BLM is planning to conduct environmental reviews to decide whether to allow more leasing within the basin.

E&E Daily reported that House Democrats are planning to unveil legislation this week that would set aside more than \$10 billion for critical material projects to counter China's dominance.

World Steel Association's recent survey data show that global crude steel production for countries reporting to them was 158.8 million metric tons (Mt) in May, a 3.8 percent decrease compared to May 2024.

Greenwire reported that officials are moving to quickly approve coal mining on a large swath of public land in North Dakota to feed Coal Creek Station, the state's largest coal-based power plant, an about-face that ends a legal battle under the Biden administration.

Power Engineering reported that grid operators, PJM and MISO issued emergency alerts last week in response to the early summer heat wave.

Argus reported that Michigan attorney general Dana Nessel has joined an effort challenging a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) emergency order that has extended operations at the JH Campbell coal plant.

Utility Dive reported that the U.S. Department of Energy issued an emergency order allowing Duke Energy to exceed emissions limits in its power plant permits in the Carolinas during a heat wave.

[**Reuters**](#) reported the U.S. Department of Agriculture will rescind a Clinton-era policy that banned logging, roads and mining in undeveloped forests so it can manage those lands for fire risks, the agency said last week, a move opposed by environmentalists.

[**Argus**](#) reported that coal exports out of Hampton Roads, Virginia, last month were nearly half as much as they had been a year earlier as muted seaborne markets and an expected outage at DTA terminal expanded the gap from the elevated shipments handled at the port in May 2024.

[**E&E Daily**](#) reported that the House Energy and Commerce Committee approved legislation last week intended to speed construction of gas, coal and nuclear power sources.

[**Mining.com**](#) reported that platinum soared to its highest level since 2014 last week, fueled by supply concerns and a wave of speculative buying.

[**Mining.com**](#) reported from Reuters that the U.S. has reached an agreement with China on how to expedite rare earth shipments to the U.S., amid efforts to end a trade war between the world's biggest economies.

[**Argus**](#) reported that Wisconsin's We Energies is postponing by one year the retirement of coal units 7 & 8 at its Oak Creek power plant. The units were previously scheduled to be retired by December 31, 2025, but are now expected to continue operating through the end of 2026.

[**E&E News**](#) reported that President Trump finalized an agreement to quell fighting across Africa and boost U.S. access to the mineral-rich Congo amid congressional concerns and demands for more information.

The [**International Copper Study Group's**](#) preliminary data for April indicates that world copper mine production increased by about 2 percent over the first

four months of 2025, with concentrate production increasing by 2.2 percent and solvent extraction-electrowinning (SX-EW) by 1.7 percent.

Commodity Prices

Commodity Prices - Snapshot				
Metals Prices	Date	Price	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	7/2/25	\$15.12	7/7/25	\$15.12
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	7/2/25	\$5.15	7/8/25	\$5.41
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	7/2/25	\$3,338.50	7/8/25	\$3,306.22
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	7/2/25	\$0.93	7/8/25	\$0.93
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	7/2/25	\$8.59	7/8/25	\$8.76
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	7/2/25	\$60.95	7/8/25	\$60.89
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	7/2/25	\$6.94	7/8/25	\$6.81
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	7/2/25	\$36.30	7/8/25	\$36.65
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	7/2/25	\$883.84	7/8/25	\$886.87
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	7/2/25	\$422.65	7/8/25	\$422.92
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	7/2/25	\$1.25	7/8/25	\$1.23
Energy Prices	Date	Price	Date	Price
Coal Price - Austr. Prem. Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	7/2/25	\$179.50	7/8/25	\$175.00
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	6/27/25	\$79.00	7/4/25	\$79.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	7/2/25	\$112.02	7/8/25	\$109.19
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	7/2/25	\$108.20	7/8/25	\$108.00
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	6/20/25	\$3.10	6/25/25	\$3.26
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	7/2/25	\$77.80	7/7/25	\$75.95

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

CORESafety



In the July edition of CORESafety TV, we discuss CORESafety's Module Number six, Occupational Health and Well-being.



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