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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 the Senate facing down a Friday deadline to pass a funding recissions package, action in the House pivoted toward next year's appropriations cycle. In the executive branch, deregulatory activities show no signs of slowing down. 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

August is right around the corner. Time to revisit the National Safety Council's [back to school safety checklist](#).

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## Ramaco Hosts Administration, Elected Officials for Rare Earths Mine Opening



Ramaco Resources hosted a ribbon cutting and groundbreaking ceremony last week to commemorate the opening of its Brook Mine Carbon Ore Rare Earth project, the first new rare earth mine in the United States in more than 70 years and first new coal mine in Wyoming in over 50 years. The NMA's Rich Nolan and Jerry Mullins joined U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright, Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon, U.S. Senators John Barrasso and Cynthia Lummis, U.S. Representative Harriet Hageman and former U.S. Senator and Ramaco Board member Joe Manchin for the event and mine tour. "This is more than a ribbon cutting — it's a declaration of America's resolve to reclaim its leadership in critical minerals and energy independence," said Randall W. Atkins, Chairman and Chief Executive of Ramaco Resources. "We are proud that Ramaco will be developing the first new mine to lead the United States in creating a viable domestic supply line of strategic rare earths and critical minerals. "





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## **PERMIT Act and National Coal Council Bill Expected on House Floor Next Week**

Two NMA-supported bills—[the PERMIT Act \(H.R. 3898\)\(NMA support letter\)](#) and the [National Coal Council Reestablishment Act \(H.R. 3015\) \(NMA support letter\)](#)—are expected to receive House floor votes next week following a scheduled Rules Committee hearing on Monday. The

legislation is part of a broader Republican push to streamline permitting for energy and infrastructure projects.

The PERMIT Act, led by Rep. Mike Collins (R-Ga.), advanced out of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee along party lines in June. The legislation addresses permitting inefficiencies under the Clean Water Act by clarifying agency roles, reducing duplicative requirements, and providing greater certainty for project developers.

The National Coal Council Reestablishment Act, sponsored by Rep. Michael Rulli (R-Ohio), makes the Department of Energy's coal advisory body, which was reestablished by executive order earlier this year, permanent. The bill aims to preserve the Council's mission of providing expert guidance on coal-related infrastructure, research, and grid reliability.

The NMA will continue advocating for passage of both bills as floor consideration approaches.

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## House Armed Services Moves FY26 NDAA



Yesterday, the House Armed Services Committee held a markup of [H.R. 3838](#), the *Streamlining Procurement for Effective Execution and Delivery and National Defense Authorization Act* (SPEED NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26). The Committee adopted [several amendments](#) by voice vote to support domestic mineral production, particularly for rare earth elements and other critical

materials essential to national defense and munitions manufacturing.

Key amendments included:

- A report on advanced processing capabilities for extracting critical minerals
- Integration of mineral supply development and guarantees into the Australia–United Kingdom–United States (AUKUS) security partnership
- A report on critical minerals needed to support Department of Defense (DOD) requirements
- Supply chain disclosure requirements for large-capacity batteries
- A DOD briefing on the procurement of critical minerals and magnets from China and Russia
- A report on strategic material recovery for manufacturing rare earth elements and other critical materials in defense supply chains
- A requirement to establish a new program to track and manage U.S. critical mineral supply chain operations
- An audit and report of defense programs with supply chain exposure to China
- A report on enhancing U.S. critical mineral refining, processing, and workforce capacity

These amendments reflect growing bipartisan concern over the United States' reliance on foreign sources of minerals and the strategic importance of building secure, domestic supply chains to support defense technologies. The bill was advanced out of committee by a vote of 55-2.

The NDAA is an annual, must-pass bill, and the NMA will continue to monitor its progress and work closely with the Armed Services Committees and their staff throughout the legislative process to support important domestic mining provisions in the final package.

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## House Interior-EPA Spending Bill Advances Through Subcommittee

Yesterday, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies approved its [FY26 spending bill](#) by a party-line vote of 8-5. The \$38 billion package reflects a \$2.5 billion reduction from FY24 enacted levels and includes decreased funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Interior. EPA's budget would be set at \$7 billion—roughly 23 percent below current levels—while maintaining support for core state grant programs and water infrastructure.

The bill includes language from the [Mining Regulatory Clarity Act](#), a top priority for the National Mining Association. The provision would reaffirm the right to conduct mining activities on public lands and establish a new revenue stream to support the clean-up of abandoned mine lands. The inclusion of this language marks a significant step toward providing greater legal certainty for domestic mining operations. The NMA will continue to work with appropriators in both chambers to keep this important provision in the final bill.

The legislation also includes several policy provisions aimed at limiting the implementation of the former Administration's environmental regulations, particularly those affecting air quality, power generation, and permitting. The measure now moves to the full Appropriations Committee. It forms part of a broader House Republican effort to rebalance agency rulemaking authority and direct federal funding toward infrastructure, energy independence, and permitting priorities. The bill follows recent congressional action to rescind unspent Inflation Reduction Act funding, including environmental justice and climate-related grants at the EPA.

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## Senate Confirms Wells Griffith as DOE Undersecretary for Energy



On July 9, the Senate confirmed Wells Griffith as Undersecretary for Energy at the Department of Energy (DOE) by a vote of 54-43. Griffith, who previously served in senior energy policy roles at DOE and the White House during the first Trump administration, joins Secretary Chris Wright’s leadership team as DOE undergoes a broad restructuring. Griffith most recently served as a managing director at FTI Consulting and was part of the Trump transition team for DOE. His confirmation signals the administration’s continued focus on reorienting DOE priorities toward dispatchable generation, fossil fuel development, and national energy security. The role of undersecretary for energy—reinstated following its replacement during the Biden administration—will play a central part in overseeing DOE’s evolving program offices. The NMA will continue engaging with DOE leadership as restructuring efforts take shape.

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## Subcommittee Leadership Changes at House Energy and Commerce

Yesterday, the House Energy and Commerce Committee held a full committee [business meeting](#) to formalize changes to Republican subcommittee leadership and membership rosters. The reorganization, led by Chairman Brett Guthrie (R-Ky.), follows Rep. Earl "Buddy" Carter's (R-Ga.) recent decision to step down as Chair of the Health Subcommittee to focus more fully on his U.S. Senate campaign. The shuffle means that the Environment Subcommittee will now be chaired by Rep. Gary Palmer (R-Ala.). Upon his appointment, Rep. Palmer emphasized his priority to address critical minerals and rare earth elements jurisdiction, specifically targeting reduced dependence on China for economic and national security purposes.

Subcommittee Changes:

- Rep. Earl L. "Buddy" Carter (R-Ga.) will leave the Chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Health.
- Rep. Gary Palmer (R-Ala.) has been appointed to Chairman of the Subcommittee on Environment.
- Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-Va.) has been appointed to Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health.
- Rep. John Joyce (R-Penn.) has been appointed to Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.
- Rep. Neal Dunn (R-Fla.) has been appointed to Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
- Rep. Diana Harshbarger (R-Tenn.) has been appointed to Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Health.

The NMA will continue monitoring committee leadership developments and engaging with newly appointed subcommittee chairs and staff.

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# Big Sky Mining Meeting

The Montana Mining Association held its annual meeting at the Copper King Resort and Hotel in Butte, Mont., July 14-16. The meeting focused on the increasingly vital role critical minerals are playing in powering America's technologies of tomorrow. Also discussed was how Montana is uniquely positioned to capitalize on global mineral demand, can grow the state's economy, create jobs, and play an important part in securing U.S. critical mineral supply chain for the future. Speakers at the meeting included Senators Daines and Sheehy; Tim Shultz, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service; Cyrus Western, Region 8 EPA Administrator; Emily Arthun of the American Coal Council; and Jerry Mullins of the NMA.

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## Nevada Mine Rescue Teams Showcase Skill



The 2025 Nevada Safety Olympiad 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 Hecla's Lucky Friday team and Barrick/Newmont's Cortez team. Congratulations to all participants and those that secured top placements in their respective categories.

## NMA and Third Parties In the News

[Discovery Alert](#) cites NMA research in a report on how President Trump's announcement of a proposed 50% tariff on copper imports has sent shockwaves through commodity markets, with U.S. copper prices jumping significantly following the news.

From our third parties, [DC Journal](#) has an oped from Terry Jarret on coal's indispensable role in keeping the lights on during extreme heat events.

## Mining and Energy News

[E&E News PM](#) reported that some Trump administration officials are open to reconsidering its prior opposition to the contentious Pebble mine in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed, according to federal lawyers.

[Discovery Alert](#) reported that the recent inclusion of metallurgical coal in President Trump's tax legislation represents a significant shift in energy and industrial policy.

[Bloomberg](#) reported that blackouts in the U.S. could double by 2030 amid an expected increase in power demand brought on by AI, according to a Trump administration report that blames the expected energy shortfall on the closures of coal and natural gas power plants and overreliance on renewable energy.

**[Argus](#)** reported that U.S. thermal coal exports fell from year-earlier levels in May because of lower shipments to some countries in Asia and Africa. Roughly 3.95 million short tons of steam coal departed U.S. ports during the month, down from 4.58 million short tons in May 2024, according to preliminary Census figures.

**[Cleveland Cliffs](#)** announced its recently held ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of its new \$150 million stainless steel Bright Annealing Line at Coshocton Works facility in Ohio. The new facility will supply premium stainless steel for high-end automotive and critical appliance applications.

**[E&E News PM](#)** reported that President Trump announced he plans to slap 50 percent tariffs on imports of copper, a move that's drawing skepticism as the administration advances mines across the U.S.

**[Washington Examiner](#)** reported that the Department of Interior said it approved Creek Mining LLC's permit to mine coal in Bryson Mountain in Claiborne County, Tennessee.

**[Argus](#)** reported that coal generation in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) rose by 16.4 percent from year-earlier levels in June, as natural gas power declined for a fourth month and wind generation was lower.

**[Bloomberg](#)** reported that global banks channeled more than \$385 billion to the coal power industry over the past three years, with annual flows increasing last year from 2023, according to analysis by a group of nonprofits.

**[Argus](#)** reported on Energy Information Administration (EIA) projections that U.S. coal generation may be higher in 2025 and in 2026 than previously thought. Total U.S. power generation and consumption is also projected to soar to all-time highs in 2025 and 2026 because of increased demand from data

centers and manufacturing.

**[The Silver Institute's](#)** recent data indicates that "heightened geopolitical and economic uncertainties, along with positive price expectations, spurred silver investment in the first half of 2025. This action primarily drove the precious metal's price in June to its highest level in 13 years." Inflows into silver-backed exchange-traded products already surpass 2024 totals.

**[S&P Global](#)** reported that President Trump's new 50 percent tariff on copper will likely put U.S. markets in a difficult position as major copper trade partners will find other markets.

Rare earth producer, **[MP Materials](#)**, announced it has entered into a transformational public-private partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense to dramatically accelerate the build-out of an end-to-end U.S. rare earth magnet supply chain and reduce foreign dependency.

**[Mining.com](#)** reported that global copper mine production is set to rise by an average annual rate of 2.9 percent over the next decade, growing from 23.8 million metric tons in 2025 to 30.9 million tons in 2034, according to a new report by Fitch Solutions' BMI.

**[Argus](#)** reported that coal generation in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) increased for a seventh straight month in June, taking more market share from natural gas.

**[Axios](#)** reported that the new budget law creates hurdles for domestic critical minerals despite new support, Center for Strategic and International Studies analysts write.

**[Washington Examiner](#)** reported that an op-ed by former Republican Alaska Senator Frank Murkowski called for Trump to open federal land in Alaska to

gain rare earth and critical minerals.

[\*\*Argus\*\*](#) reported that global investment in coal projects climbed to \$130 billion in 2024, a 5.7 percent increase from year-earlier levels, despite widespread plans to prioritize renewable sources of energy, German environmental group Urgewald said in a new report.

[\*\*E&E Daily\*\*](#) reported that West Virginia Senator Jim Justice, whose family owns a sprawling coal business helped lead the quiet, last-minute effort to add a lucrative tax credit to the GOP megabill that could net the fossil fuel industry tens of millions of dollars. By his side was fellow West Virginia Republican Senator Shelley Moore Capito.

[\*\*Argus\*\*](#) reported that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued a coal exploration notice for Utah's Muddy Creek Canyon area for a 30-day period ending on August 11.

[\*\*Greenwire\*\*](#) and others reported that Energy Secretary Chris Wright was in Wyoming to rally around the Ramaco rare earths coal mine, a mine that backers say is poised to be a prominent producer of rare earth elements, materials that are at the center of the ongoing trade war with Beijing.

The [\*\*Wall Street Journal\*\*](#) reported that U.S. copper prices are trading at record levels ahead of the 50 percent tariff that the president has promised to impose on imports.

EIA's latest quarterly [\*\*Domestic Uranium Production Report\*\*](#) shows U.S. production of uranium concentrate (U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>) in the first quarter of 2025 totaled 310,533 pounds U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>, down roughly 65,000 pounds from fourth quarter of 2024. This quarter's total uranium production occurred at six facilities, two in Wyoming (Lost Creek Project and Ross CPP), two in Texas (Alta Mesa Project and Rosita), one in Nebraska (Crow Butte) and one in Utah (White Mesa Mill).

In a recent [Today in Energy](#) report, EIA found that total operating capacity of U.S. coal-based power plants is scheduled to fall from 172 gigawatts (GW) in May 2025 to 145 GW by the end of 2028, with 58 percent of the planned coal capacity retirements located in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions.

## Commodity Prices

Commodity Prices - Snapshot				
Metals Prices	Date	Price	Date	Price
Cobalt Spot Price (\$/lb)	7/7/25	\$15.12	7/15/25	\$15.12
Copper Spot Price (\$/lb)	7/8/25	\$5.41	7/15/25	\$5.56
Gold Spot Price (\$/ounce)	7/8/25	\$3,306.22	7/15/25	\$3,359.50
Lead Spot Price (\$/lb)	7/8/25	\$0.93	7/15/25	\$0.90
Lithium Spot Price (\$/kg)	7/8/25	\$8.76	7/15/25	\$9.04
Molybdenum Spot Price (\$/kg)	7/8/25	\$60.89	7/15/25	\$68.29
Nickel Spot Price (\$/lb)	7/8/25	\$6.81	7/15/25	\$6.89
Silver Spot Price (\$/ounce)	7/8/25	\$36.65	7/15/25	\$38.26
Steel HRC Price (\$/mt)	7/8/25	\$886.87	7/15/25	\$880.81
Steel Rebar Price (\$/mt)	7/8/25	\$422.92	7/15/25	\$426.75
Zinc Spot Price (\$/lb)	7/8/25	\$1.23	7/15/25	\$1.22
Energy Prices	Date	Price	Date	Price
Coal Price - Austr. Prem. Coking Coal Futures (\$/mt)	7/8/25	\$175.00	7/15/25	\$177.50
Coal Spot Price - Central Appalachian (\$/st)	7/4/25	\$79.00	7/11/25	\$79.00
Coal Spot Price - Newcastle futures (\$/mt)	7/8/25	\$109.19	7/15/25	\$67.57
Coal Spot Price - Rotterdam futures (\$/mt)	7/8/25	\$108.00	7/14/25	\$104.50
Natural Gas Spot Price - Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	6/25/25	\$3.26	7/8/25	\$3.08
Uranium Spot Price (\$/lb)	7/7/25	\$75.95	7/15/25	\$72.30

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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