

CEO Mine Recap

By Rich Nolan • Aug 11, 2025

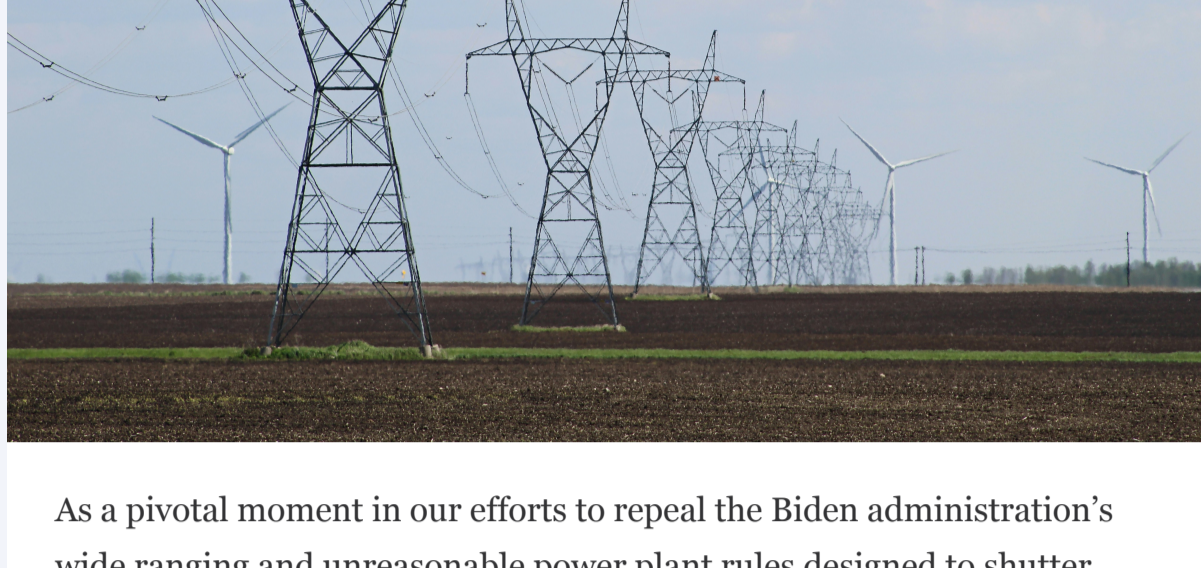
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With Congress finally in recess for the balance of the summer, it provides a brief pause in a breakneck pace of long-sought regulatory and policy developments that positively impacted our industry straight through July.

On the heels of the July 4 signing of the One, Big, Beautiful Bill, trade remained in the headlines, various agencies pressed ahead with deregulatory efforts and actions to streamline permitting and grids across the country were tested with extreme heat but kept the lights on with a powerful boost from coal generation. The Department of Defense also announced a significant mining investment and signaled a willingness to offer financial incentives and guarantees to chip away at China’s minerals dominance, and Congress moved forward with hearings and legislation designed to strengthen our supply chains, reflecting growing bipartisan recognition of mining’s importance to national security and energy stability.

From the White House to Capitol Hill, trade deals to financial deals, this is truly mining’s moment. With that in mind, I hope you’ve already marked your calendars for the NMA’s Annual Fall Board of Directors and Members Meeting, which will be held at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colo., Sept. 21-23. There will certainly be much to discuss.

NMA Supports Biden-Era Power Plant Repeal

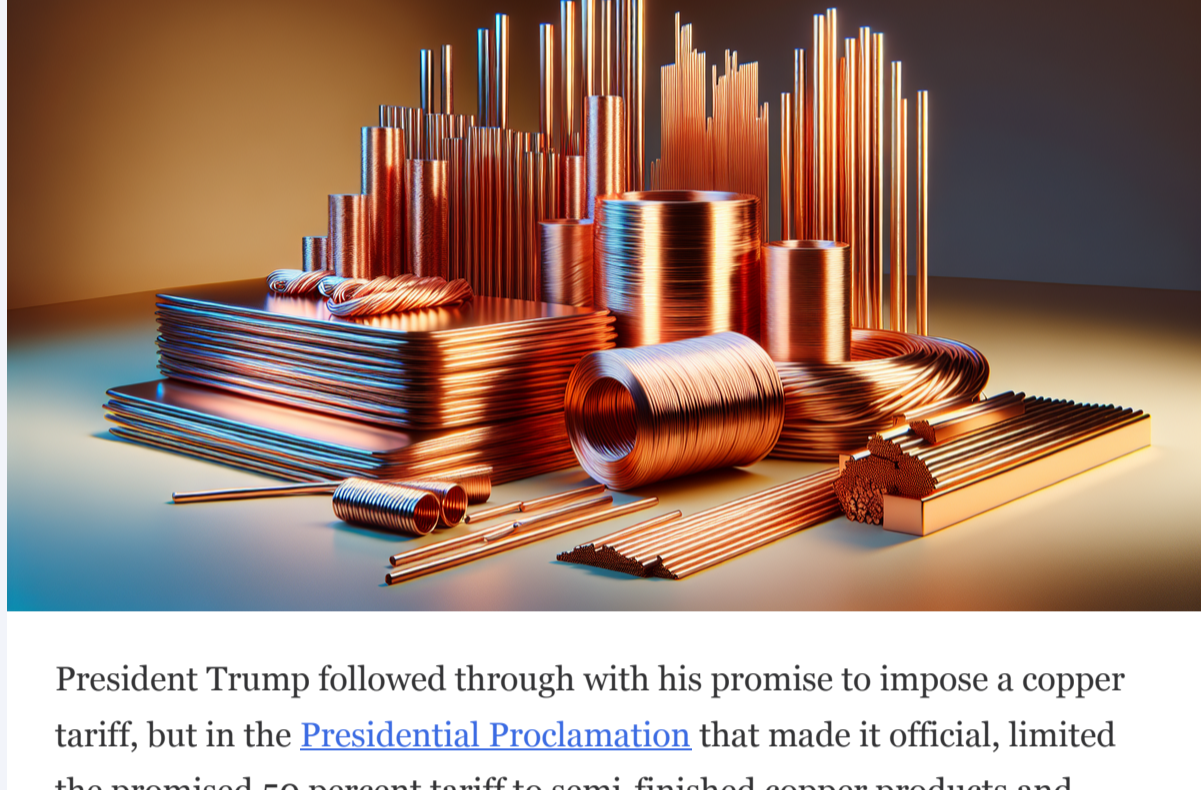


As a pivotal moment in our efforts to repeal the Biden administration’s wide ranging and unreasonable power plant rules designed to shutter coal power plants, the NMA submitted comments responding to the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) [proposal](#) to repeal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions standards for the power sector under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act (now called the Carbon Pollution Standards). See the NMA’s original [memo](#) on the rule.

Our comments support EPA’s decision to rescind the unachievable and unlawful 2024 rule that imposed unproven carbon capture and natural gas “co-firing” based standards. We also support EPA’s decision to address the Biden administration’s failure to properly conduct an appropriate significant contribution analysis under Clean Air Act section 111(b)(1)(A).

What’s next? While legal challenges from NGOs are a certainty, the EPA says it will issue a final rule by year’s-end.

Copper Tariffs in Effect, With Limits



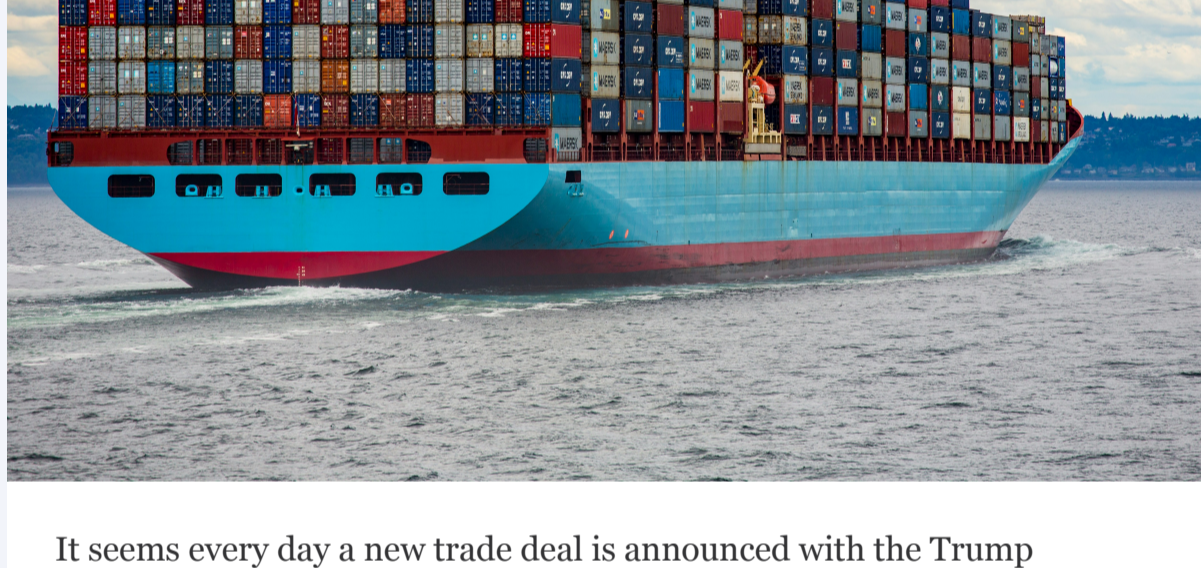
President Trump followed through with his promise to impose a copper tariff, but in the [Presidential Proclamation](#) that made it official, limited the promised 50 percent tariff to semi-finished copper products and goods. As detailed in the White House [fact sheet](#), copper ores, concentrates, cathodes, anodes and scrap are exempt.

What’s in and what’s out?

- 50 percent tariffs on semi-finished copper products (e.g., copper rods, wires, sheets) and copper-intensive derivatives (e.g., pipe fittings, cables).
- **Exemptions: Copper ores, concentrates, cathodes, anodes and scrap are not subject to tariffs.**
- The copper 232 tariffs do not stack with auto 232 tariffs. If a product is subject to auto 232 tariffs, then the auto 232 tariffs apply, not the copper tariffs.

The action completes the Secretary of Commerce’s Section 232 investigation, initiated to level the playing field for U.S. copper businesses to support a strong domestic copper industry, but more work remains around phased in domestic content requirements and further Commerce reviews of copper flows going forward.

Trade Talk



It seems every day a new trade deal is announced with the Trump administration continuing to work on trade deals with countries around the world.

- The U.S. and the European Union announced a framework trade deal that would lower U.S. tariffs on EU goods—including autos, pharmaceuticals and semiconductors—to 15 percent, while eliminating EU tariffs on key U.S. exports such as industrial products.
- U.S. and Chinese officials are working to extend a pause on mutual trade retaliation agreed to in May, with U.S. Trade Representative indicating that the two parties are about “halfway there.”
- India will face an additional 25 percent tariff rate along with a “penalty” tied to its continued purchases of military equipment and energy from Russia.

Meanwhile, the administration continues to negotiate with more than 50 countries and the NMA is actively engaged in advocating for member priorities.

NMA Continues to Advocate on 45x



This week we reached out to Treasury Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy Ken Kies to discuss needed changes to the advanced manufacturing production credit section contained in section 45X of the U.S. tax code.

- In an August 5 [letter](#), I outlined major concerns the industry has with the exclusion of extraction from the eligibility criteria for access to the manufacturing credit.

The NMA is committed to the growth of domestic mineral production and will continue to work with the Treasury Department and Congress to incentivize production.

EPA Moves to Repeal the Endangerment Finding



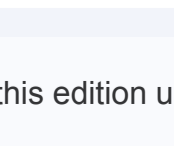
At an auto dealership in Indiana, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin [announced](#) a [proposal](#) to rescind the 2009 endangerment finding as part of a rulemaking reconsideration package on vehicle emissions standards.

What were the specifics? The EPA proposed: (1) a primary legal basis to repeal all GHG emissions standards for light-duty, medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles and engines as the best reading of Clean Air Act section 202(a); (2) an alternative basis to rescind the Administrator’s prior findings in 2009, relying heavily on a new 2025 Department of Energy (DOE) [report](#) evaluating the impact of GHGs on U.S. climate; and (3) another alternative basis to repeal GHG emission standards because no requisite technology for vehicle and engine emissions control can address the global climate change concerns identified in 2009 without risking greater harms to public health and welfare.

Comments on EPA’s proposal are due on Sept. 21 and on DOE’s report on Sept. 2. The NMA continues to review the details with counsel for impacts on industrial sources and the power generation fleet.

The NMA room block for this fall’s Annual Board of Directors and Members meeting is now open. Join us Sept. 21-23, 2025, at The Broadmoor, in Colorado Springs, Colo. Hotel rates in the NMA block are on a first-come, first-serve basis. The group rate (\$409/night) will be available until August 21, 2025, or until the block is full. [Click here to reserve a room](#). Registration for the meeting will open mid-August. We will notify you once it is available.

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