

# CEO Mine Monthly

By Rich Nolan • Feb 03, 2025

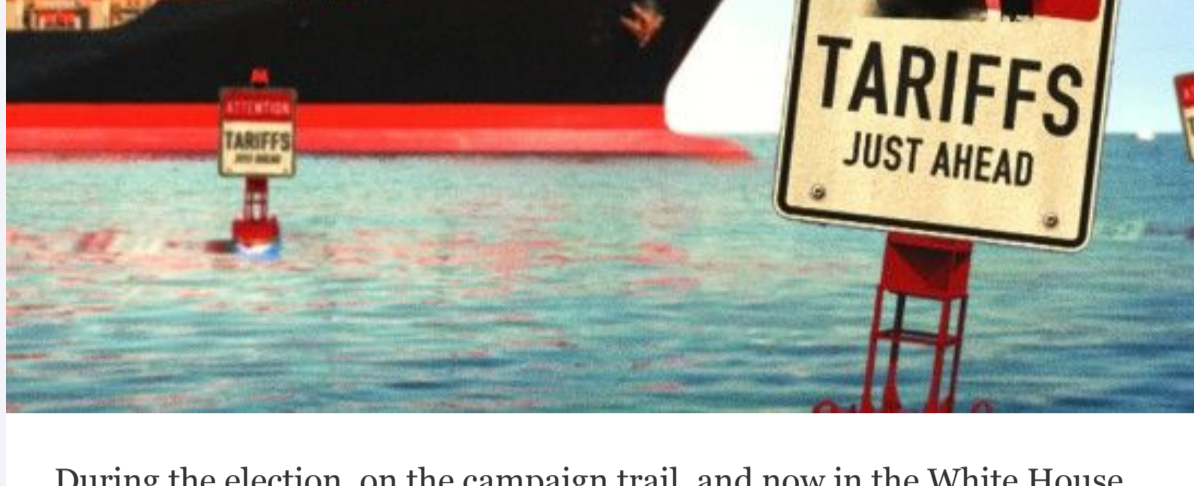
Smart Brevity® count: 3.5 mins..914 words

The initial days of the Trump administration have been anything but dull. The expected flood of executive orders began within minutes of the President’s swearing in, and mining received top billing within the first actions. This prominence and embrace of our industry marks a key shift in U.S. mining’s relationship with the federal government, from a period of overregulation and reluctant alliances to a new era of regulatory rollbacks and intense focus on domestic energy and mineral production.

While executive orders tend to fall more on the side of indicators of future action rather than concrete directives, this administration’s early moves signal a significant pivot that aims to bolster the mining sector and strengthen our economy and supply chains.

As the administration continues to develop its policies, we will be right there with them, working to highlight what is important to our member companies, shape policies that support domestic mining, and keep you informed every step of the way in what promises to be an eventful year.

## The Tariffs Question



During the election, on the campaign trail, and now in the White House, the Trump administration has widely discussed tariffs as a favored tool the President is eager to wield. Some could have significant implications for various industries, including mining. This weekend he made good on that promise, announcing 25 percent tariffs on Canada and Mexico, although tariffs on goods from Mexico have been paused for one month. Canadian energy resources, including coal, uranium and critical minerals, will be subject to a 10 percent tariff. The President also announced a 10 percent tariff on goods from China. President Trump is scheduled to have a second call with Canada today at 3 p.m. Eastern, although those close to the negotiations are not optimistic that Canada will get a one-month reprieve similar to the agreement with Mexico.

**Why it matters:** Tariffs are poised to reshape global trade dynamics, potentially affecting the cost structure and competitiveness of U.S. products. Industries heavily reliant on imported materials could face increased costs, impacting their bottom line.

**The big picture:** The administration’s approach aims to boost domestic production by making imports more expensive, thus encouraging local manufacturing. But, the ripple effects could be felt across global supply chains, influencing international trade relations.

**What’s next:** The NMA is in regular contact with the administration to better understand the impacts and determine what’s next. Key advisers are reportedly exploring ways to soften the impacts of the tariffs, considering more targeted trade actions that focus on specific sectors, rather than imposing across-the-board levies.

**One thing we know:** This story is only just beginning.

## Unleashing American Energy



Following his swearing-in, President Trump focused immediately on energy, declaring that it is in the “national interest to unleash America’s affordable and reliable energy and natural resources” and establish a plan to revitalize the energy sector through expansion of fossil fuel and hard rock mineral exploration and through deregulatory actions.

**What is the President prioritizing?** Top of the list are several things that matter a great deal to us including:

- “energy exploration and production on Federal lands and waters”
- becoming a leader in the production of “non-fuel minerals, including rare earth minerals”
- “ensuring that an abundant supply of reliable energy is readily accessible in every State and territory of the Nation”

**What else do the E.O.’s do?** In addition to highlighting priorities, the President directed all agencies to review existing regulations and agency actions that “that impose an undue burden on the identification, development, or use of domestic energy resources — with particular attention to oil, natural gas, coal, hydropower, biofuels, critical mineral, and nuclear energy resources.”

**Read the NMA’s memo:** [“Summary of Day One Executive Orders Impacting the Mining Industry.”](#)

## Regulatory Freeze



As part of the administration’s day one activity, President Trump signed several standard transition actions including (1) a Regulatory Freeze Pending Review; and (2) Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions.

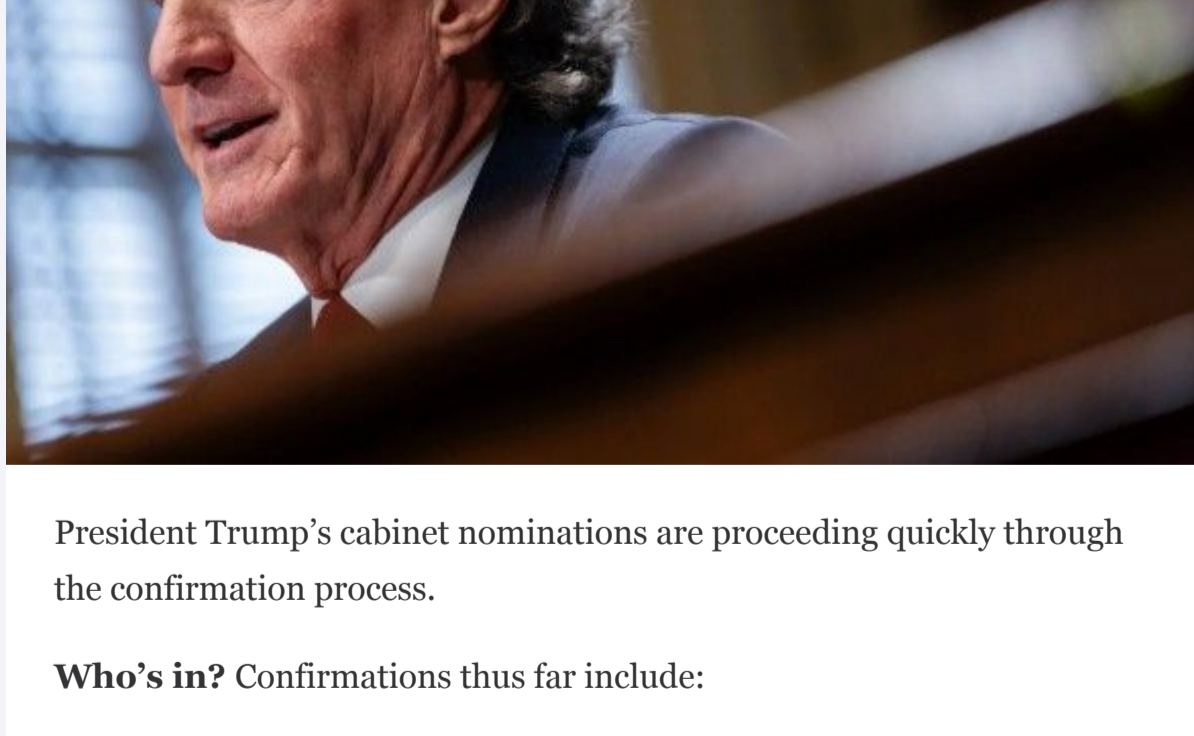
**Under the Freeze, President Trump ordered all departments and agencies to:**

1. Not propose or issue any rule until a department or agency head appointed by the President reviews and approves the rule.
2. Immediately withdraw any rules that have been sent to the Office of Federal Register but not published in the Federal Register.
3. Consider postponing for 60 days (e.g., March 21, 2025), “the effective date for any rules that have been published in the Federal Register, or any rules that have been issued in any manner but have not taken effect.”

**What’s next?** A list of actions ripe to rescind, replace or amend is due to the President within 45 days.

**Read the NMA’s memo:** [“Regulatory Freeze & Initial Rescission of Executive Orders and Actions.”](#)

## Cabinet Confirmations Continue



President Trump’s cabinet nominations are proceeding quickly through the confirmation process.

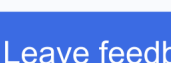
**Who’s in?** Confirmations thus far include:

- Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum
- Secretary of Treasury Scott Bessent
- Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy
- Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth
- Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem
- Director of the Central Intelligence Agency John Ratcliffe
- Secretary of State Marco Rubio
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin

**Who’s up next?** The Senate voted 62 to 35 to grant cloture for the nomination of Chris Wright to serve as the Secretary of Energy. His confirmation vote can now proceed this week.

A NMA confirmation tracker to follow the hearings and confirmations votes for senior Trump administration nominees can be found [here](#). A NMA tracker for senior officials Trump has selected to serve in his administration can be found [here](#).

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