

CEO Mine Recap

By Rich Nolan • May 06, 2025

Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...761 words

Coming from what was by all accounts one of the most successful NMA board meetings yet, encouraging developments continue for our industry.

Although the global trade situation is evolving, and market conditions continue to shift, we have seen that direct, specific and continuing engagement with this administration can yield positive results for our industry, whether in reshaping proposals for fees and taxes on industry, driving improvements in the way that mining projects are considered for approval, or highlighting unworkable rules and regulations that stifle responsible projects and economic growth.

If there is one thing we have learned in the first 100 days of this administration, it is that we must be prepared for anything. I am confident that your NMA team is poised to capture every opportunity available in this environment to secure a bright and positive future for mining.

Interior Streamlines Permitting



Acting on the President’s call for action in the [Declaring a National Energy Emergency](#) executive order, the Department of the Interior (DOI) [announced](#) it’s expediting the review and approval of domestic energy and mineral projects—all in 28 days or less.

How will it work? Using DOI’s emergency authorities under existing regulations, it will target delays in National Environmental Policy Act analyses, Endangered Species Act consultations and National Historic Preservation Act compliance. Please note, these processes will only be used with the written permission of the project proponent.

Who’s eligible? Projects will need to apply to be considered under the emergency review process.

Read our full memo [here](#).

20 Projects Selected for FAST Status



The Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council has announced 20 projects that will benefit from increased transparency, accountability and predictability in the permitting review process.

Projects from the [first](#) and [second](#) announcements can be viewed online, with a number of NMA members named, including: Resolution Copper, Stibnite Gold Project, McDermitt Exploration Project, Caldwell Canyon Mine Project, Libby Exploration Project, Lisbon Valley Copper Project, NorthMet Project, La Jara Mesa, Roca Honda Project, Greens Creek Surface Exploration, Stillwater Mine, 3PL Railroad Valley Exploration Project, Amelia A&B and Warrior Met Coal projects.

The administration has made it clear that these were just the first two announcements, with more planned for the future and the administration remaining open to proposals on new projects to be added.

USTR Charts a New Course on Final Port Fees



After weeks of industry engaging with the administration, in its final announcement on Section 301 actions targeting China’s dominance in the maritime, logistics and shipbuilding sectors, **the USTR made significant changes to proposed port fees to account for concerns from the mining industry.**

The original proposal called for port fees as high as \$1.5 million per ship per port visit, and would impose fees on any vessel whose fleet contained even one Chinese made ship.

The final proposal included several changes and exceptions, including exclusions for vessels arriving empty (for U.S. exports) or ballast and bulk vessels carrying 80,000 deadweight tons or less.

Fees will be imposed beginning in mid-October and increase annually in subsequent years.

Trade Watch



In April the President authorized a 90-day pause on tariffs above the 10 percent baseline imposed on April 5—what he called “Liberation Day.” The reprieve came on the heels of what the administration said was overwhelming outreach from countries around the world looking to make trade deals with the U.S.

China remains a wildcard. The President initially imposed a 10 percent tariff on China in February, over fentanyl-trafficking concerns. He then raised it to 20 percent in March, and added another 34 percent on Liberation Day. Things have only escalated since with the U.S. imposing tariffs as high as 145 percent on some goods from China. The President says the two sides are talking and members of his cabinet have said they remain optimistic that a deal can be reached.

NMA Hosts Successful Spring Board Meeting



From April 13-15, the NMA held its annual Spring Board of Directors and Members Meeting in Sea Island, Georgia.

In addition to informative meetings of the Manufacturers & Services Board of Governors, the coal chief executives, and the minerals chief executives, speakers included:

- The Honorable Lee Zeldin, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Senator Tim Sheehy (R-Mont.)
- Bret Baier, Host of Special Report on FOX News Channel
- Greg Wischer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior
- Steven Winberg, Deputy Undersecretary for Infrastructure, Department of Energy
- Tom Bevan, Co-Founder & President, RealClearPolitics

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Board of Directors and Members Meeting from September 21-23, 2025, at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colo.

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