CEO Mine Recap

By Rich Nolan • Sep 02, 2025

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They're baaaack... As Congress returns from its annual summer recess, the pace in Washington is set to accelerate quickly. Lawmakers face a packed legislative agenda, tight deadlines and growing political pressures as they head into the final stretch of the year.

While the range of issues is huge—from appropriations battles and looming funding deadlines to renewed debates over key policy issues—we're sure to see movement on many of our issues.

Right out of the gate the House and Senate will work to clear this year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) hoping to pass NDAA off the House and Senate floors before the month is out and beginning the process of reconciling the difference between each chamber's version of the bill. Work will continue on individual appropriations bills, while congress and the administration debate how to pass a Continuing Resolution to keep the government funded past September 30.

Meanwhile committees are pressing forward with hearings on important legislation including a subcommittee hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee on the bipartisan Mining Regulatory Clarity Act.

In the midst of that excitement, I hope all have registered for our Annual Fall Board of Directors and Members meeting, which will be held at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs from Sept. 21-23. See you there!

What's critical? The list gets bigger

The USGS released its draft 2025 Critical Minerals List, which now includes copper, lead, potash, rhenium, silicon and silver. The USGS is taking comments for 30 days and will publish the final list 45 days later—and that final list may differ from the draft. The current list does not include uranium or metallurgical coal, as both are considered "fuels," which are currently excluded from the list, but the Secretary of the Interior can make changes in the final.

In our public comments, I applauded the changes, but also highlighted the challenges of a limited list.

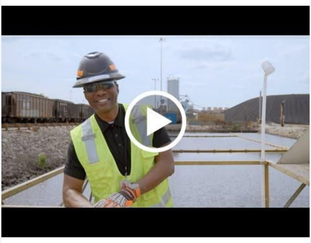
Silica rule remains stayed

U.S. Department of Labor
MSHA
Mine Safety & Health Administration

As reported in the spring, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit **granted** our motion to stay compliance deadlines for MSHA's silica rule. This means MSHA can't legally enforce the rule until litigation is resolved.

In August, the NMA received reports that some MSHA inspectors did not fully understand the breadth of the court order. In a **notice to stakeholders**, MSHA clarified that the court's order prevents enforcement of the silica rule until the litigation is concluded.

New video series focuses on miners



We recently launched a new video series to help boost your recruitment efforts and dispel misperceptions about our industry. The first video in the series can be viewed **here**. This initial video was followed by a series of shorter employee interviews and a longer video that focuses on the mining industry as a good neighbor.

We're promoting the videos across the NMA's digital channels through both organic and paid media promotion, targeting graduates and soon-to-be graduates looking at career opportunities; policymakers and their staff in both Washington, D.C., and mining states; and mining fans, friends and other interested individuals.

Please share these videos with your own teams.

None of these videos would be possible without the extraordinary time and efforts of the teams at Core Natural Resources and Perpetua, who spent months with the NMA planning in advance, and hosting us on-site for extended shoots and interviews; we thank them and all of their employees for their contributions!

Register today for the NMA Board Meeting

We're looking forward to seeing you all at our NMA Fall Board of Directors and Members Meeting, Sept. 21-23, 2025, at The Broadmoor, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Register here. We have great speakers lined up including Sen. John Barasso (R-Wyo.), Interior Deputy Secretary Kate MacGregor, Deputy Executive Director of the National Energy Dominance Council Blake Deeley, Former FERC Chairman Mark Christie, and others.

Please bring your families (at no additional charge if they don't work in the industry). Questions? Contact **Katie Coon**.

See you in Colorado!

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