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NMA Mining Week is a weekly publication of the National Mining Association. *Mining Week* archives are always available online at www.nma.org.

Congress close to approving economic stimulus package that funds clean coal technology, AML reclamation, new locks and dams

Congress this week moved closer to giving final approval to a nearly \$790 billion economic stimulus package that includes numerous provisions designed to help the mining community play a leading role in reversing the nation's current economic downturn.

By a vote of 246-183, the House of Representatives on Feb. 13 approved a stimulus deal that House and Senate leaders unveiled mid-week. A Senate vote on the deal is expected shortly to ensure the bill can be signed by President Obama before Congress adjourns for its President's Day recess.

Earlier in the week, the Senate approved an \$838 billion economic stimulus package that was markedly different from an \$819 billion version passed by the House two weeks ago. Following passage of the larger Senate bill, House and Senate leaders undertook hurried action to try and reach agreement on a compromise stimulus package.

The compromise package contains \$3.4 billion in funding to support the development of advanced clean coal technologies, including slightly more than \$1.5 billion to support a range of industrial carbon capture and energy efficiency improvement projects.

The bill includes \$1 billion to support fossil energy research projects, such as those capable of capturing and storing a high percentage of carbon dioxide emissions, one example being the proposed FutureGen project in Mattoon, Ill. Once completed, the FutureGen plant will be the world's first near zero-emissions coal-fueled electricity plant.

The bill also contains \$800 million for the third round of solicitations for the Department of Energy's Clean Coal Power Initiative.

See Stimulus, page 2

Sen. Specter visits NMA



Tommy Johnson, director of government affairs for CONSOL Energy, (right) and NMA Senior Vice President of Political Affairs Dan Gerkin (center) welcomed Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) (left) to NMA's Washington, D.C., offices during Specter's Feb. 10 visit.

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) used a Feb. 10 visit to NMA's Washington, D.C., offices to underline his commitment to ensuring that a federal economic stimulus package is used to help fund the development of advanced clean coal and carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies.

Specter stressed that coal is "fundamental" to America's economy, saying the country will "not be able to turn our backs on coal." He noted that clean coal and CCS technologies offer important opportunities to ensure that the country's massive coal reserves are properly utilized to boost energy independence.

As Congress prepares to consider climate change legislation, Specter warned against efforts to address climate change that mandate emissions reduction standards that cannot be met due to the unavailability of necessary technologies. ✕

Stimulus *continued from page 1*

A variety of tax incentives meant to accelerate the development of advanced carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies are also contained in the stimulus package. A total of \$3.2 billion in credits for qualified energy conservation bonds meant to support research into CCS technologies and fund CCS commercialization projects is available through the bill, along with a 30 percent investment tax credit for facilities engaged in the manufacture of advanced energy properties, including CCS projects.

Other clean coal funding in the bill will assist efforts to advance innovative concepts for beneficial carbon dioxide reuse. The bill provides \$50 million to aide site characterization activities in geologic formations that could be used to store carbon dioxide and an additional \$20 million for geologic carbon sequestration training and research grants.

The compromise package also provides a total of \$150 billion to support numerous infrastructure improvement projects, including efforts to improve the nation's system of locks and dams

through the construction of new projects or by performing necessary upgrades on existing waterway structures.

In addition, the stimulus package provides new funds to help remediate abandoned mine sites located on federal lands.

The bill gives \$125 million to the Bureau of Land Management for the "maintenance, rehabilitation and restoration of facilities, property, trails and lands and for the remediation of abandoned mines." The U.S. Forest Service will receive \$650 million for capital improvement and maintenance projects, which include efforts to remediate abandoned mine sites. Additionally, the "cleanup of abandoned mine sites" is eligible for \$589 million in National Park Service construction funding.

To ensure the timely issuance of permits and authorizations, including Clean Water Act Section 404 permits, that economic recovery projects need to get underway, the bill provides the Army Corps of Engineers' regulatory program with \$25 million in new funding.

Elsewhere, the bill gives the U.S. Geological Survey \$140 million to conduct surveys, investigations and research meant to help provide important metals and minerals data. ✕

New USGS data document economic impact of mineral mining

A new report from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) documents the massive economic contributions created by mineral mining and the use of mineral commodities in the United States.

According to USGS' *Mineral Commodity Summaries 2009*, the value added to America's GDP by major industries that consume processed mineral materials stood at approximately \$2.3 trillion in 2008.

"Minerals are fundamental to the U.S. economy, contributing to the real gross domestic product at several levels—mining, processing and manufacturing finished products," USGS said.

See USGS, page 3

MINE expo INTERNATIONAL® 2008 promotions package honored by Association TRENDS magazine

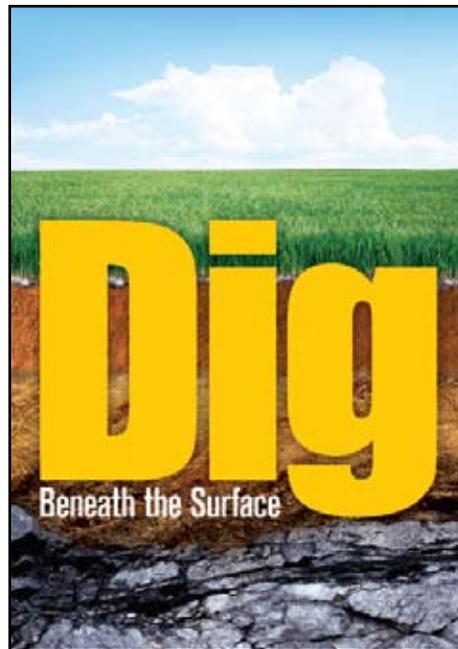
NMA was recently honored with a first place award by Association TRENDS magazine for a convention registration package developed to promote attendance at MINE expo INTERNATIONAL 2008.

As part of an annual awards program, the magazine placed the MINE expo INTERNATIONAL® package first in the "Convention Registration Promotion Package" category, which drew hundreds of entries from competing materials nationwide.

The 2008 show was the most successful in MINE expo's long history, with more than 38,500 people in attendance at the show that featured almost 1,300 exhibitors spread across approximately 600,000 square feet of exhibit space.

The next MINE expo is set for September 2012.

More information on the show is available at: www.minexpo.com. ✕



Association TRENDS honored NMA with a first-place award for this registration promotional package developed to promote attendance at MINE expo INTERNATIONAL® 2008.

NMA Outreach: NMA regularly participates in various conferences, events and other forums to highlight key association initiatives and spotlight important developments in the mining community. Here's a look at upcoming events.

- NMA President and CEO Hal Quinn will speak on Feb. 19 at the 36th Annual West Virginia Mining Symposium in Charleston, W.Va.
- NMA Senior Vice President of Communications Carol Raulston will present an overview of key mineral and metals issues on Feb. 20 at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C. The presentation is part of the college's Strategic Materials Industry Study.
- NMA General Counsel Katie Sweeney will give a Mining Law update at the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute in San Francisco, Calif., on July 25.



USGS *continued from page 2*

According to the report, the estimated value of mineral raw materials produced at mines in the U.S. in 2008 was \$71 billion, a slight increase from \$70 billion in 2007.

The report noted that the value of U.S. metal mine production in 2008 was \$27.6 billion, some 9 percent greater than the value in 2007, while the estimated value of U.S. nonmetal mine production in 2008 stood at \$43.6 billion.

Domestic mine production for 14 mineral commodities was worth more than \$1 billion each in 2008, with 11 states each producing more than \$2 billion worth of nonfuel mineral commodities. These states were, in descending order of value, Arizona, Nevada, Florida, Utah, California, Texas, Minnesota, Alaska, Missouri, Colorado, and Michigan. The mineral production of these states accounted for 59 percent of total U.S. mineral production.

The report also documented a slight decrease in the number of minerals for which the U.S. relies on imports to provide at least 50 percent of needed supplies. In 2008, the U.S. was reliant on imports to meet at least 50 percent of demand for 24 mineral commodities versus 25 in 2007. The U.S. was 100 percent dependant on imports for 18 commodities in 2008 compared with 19 in 2007.

While tracking a slight decrease in import dependency, the report also emphasized the significant historical growth in import dependency, highlighting that in 1978 the U.S. was 100 percent dependant for just seven commodities.

A complete copy of the report is available at: [USGS Mineral Summaries](#). ✕

New mineral investment survey warns on dangers of U.S. permit delays

A new survey documenting mineral investment trends in 25 countries, ranks the U.S. as one of the most attractive destinations for investors, but warns of the risks associated with permitting delays in the United States.

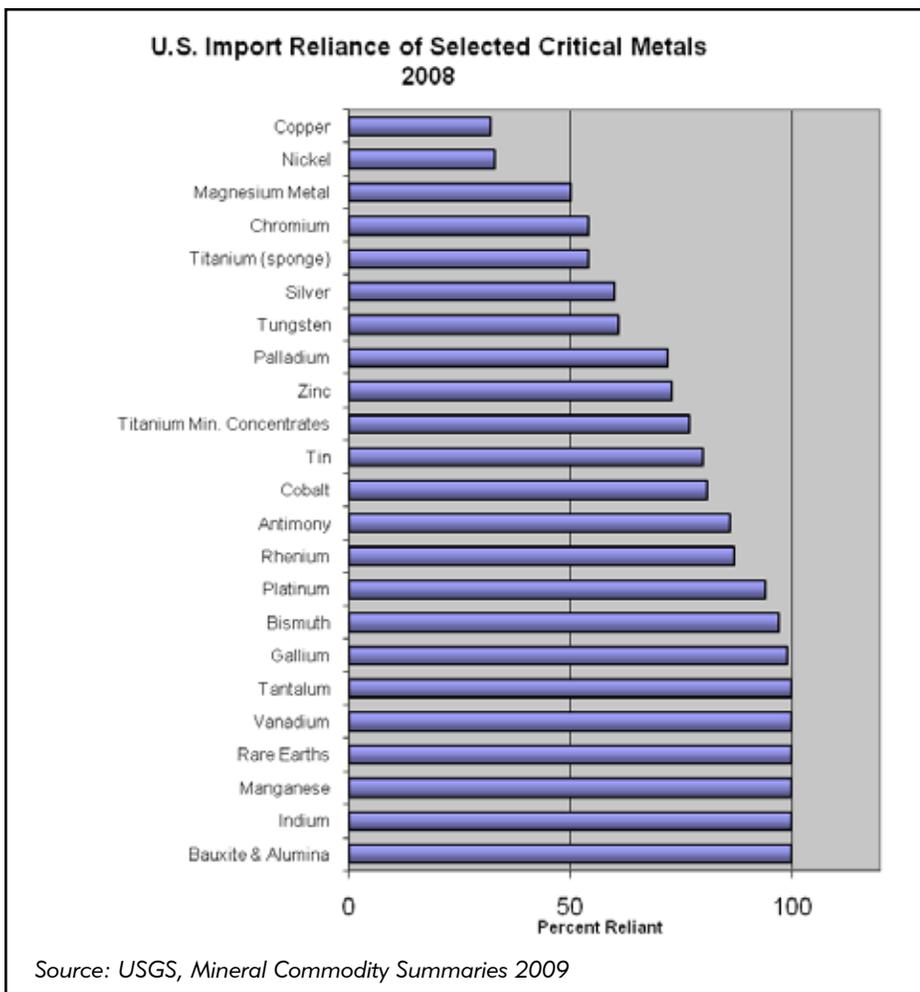
The latest version of an annual survey prepared by The Behre Dolbear Group, a mineral investment consulting group, ranks the U.S. as the fourth best country for mineral investing. Australia was the top ranked nation, followed by Canada and Chile.

The survey ranks countries based on their economic system; political system; degree of social issues affecting mining; delays in receiving permits; degree of corruption prevalent in a country; the stability of a country's currency; and a country's tax regime. The survey awards points on a scale of one through 10, with one being the lowest possible score in a category and 10 the highest.

The survey gives the U.S. the maximum score of "10" for its economic system and the absence of corruption, but awards the U.S. only a "2" in assessing permitting delays. Of the 25 countries surveyed, only Papua New Guinea also scored a "2" in the permitting category.

"Permitting delays in the United States are the most significant risk to mining projects," said the survey. The survey attributed the U.S.' poor showing in the category to the average five-to-seven year period required before mine development can commence. Australia led the permitting category with a score of "8."

A complete copy of the report is available at: [Mineral Investment Report](#). ✕





Mining Calendar Events and conferences covering important mining issues are routinely held across the nation. The following may be of interest to members of the mining community:

February 18-20 Charleston, W.Va. 36th Annual West Virginia Mining Symposium For registration information contact, Sandi Davison at the West Virginia Coal Association at (304) 342-4153 or sdavison@wvcoal.com.

February 22-25 Denver, Colo. 111th National Western Mining Conference & SME Annual Meeting The Colorado Mining Association and Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration will jointly host the conference, which will focus on the theme of "Stewardship & Sustainability - Getting it Done in the 21st Century." More information, including a conference program and exhibit space details is available at: [CMA-SME Conference](#).

February 24-26 Wilson, N.C. N.C. Mine Safety & Health Law School The North Carolina Department of Labor's Mine and Quarry Bureau will hold a Mine Safety & Health Law School designed to help mine owners, operators, contractors and supervisory personnel fully understand both federal and state mine safety laws. Detailed information and registration will be available Jan. 5, 2008. More information is available by calling William Gerringer at (919) 807-2790.

March 16-17 Washington, D.C. New Energy for America: Implementing the New Administration's Energy Plan Senior officials from the Obama Administration, key members of Congress and leading private sector representatives will discuss the new administration's energy policy agenda, including efforts to advance the development of carbon capture and storage technologies. Energy Secretary Steven Chu and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar are among the senior administration officials invited to participate. House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) are both confirmed speakers. The two-day summit will be held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. More information is available by contacting MHayter@CityandFinancial.com.

March 25-27 Washington, D.C. World CTL 2009 Conference Leading public and private sector representatives from the U.S. and around the world will gather in Washington, D.C., in March for the World CTL 2009 Conference. The conference will begin on March 25 with two parallel workshops focused on practical issues surrounding project development, with two days of plenary sessions following on March 26-27. The plenary sessions will feature presentations and discussions from leading coal, oil and technology leaders. West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin (D) and Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal (D) are among the distinguished roster of presenters for the plenary sessions. More information is available at: [World CTL Conference](#).

April 28-30 Bristol, Va. Geomorphic Reclamation and Natural Stream Design at Coal Mines The federal Office of Surface Mining will host the conference, which will address advances in technical innovations in geomorphic reclamation and natural stream design and region-specific issues for Appalachia, the Midwest and the West. Additionally, there will be a field trip to four different reclamation sites exhibiting stream channel reconstruction, riparian vegetation and natural stream channel design. Registration for the conference can be made online at: [OSM Conference](#).

April 30-May 1 Sunset Beach, N.C. 32nd Annual North Carolina Mine Safety & Health Conference. More information is available by calling William Gerringer at (919) 807-2790.

May 5-6 Vancouver, Canada B.C. Mining Opportunities 2009 Hosted by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Commercial Service, the conference will help U.S. mining-related companies gain local market exposure and identify agents/distributors, manufacturer's representatives and strategic alliance partners in the industry. The two-day trade mission will also educate U.S. companies on a number of issues regarding exporting mining products and services to the Canadian market. More information is available at: [Commerce Mining Mission](#).

May 11-15 Golden, Colo. Mineral Processing: An Introduction to the Principles. Hosted by the Colorado School of Mines. More information is available at: [Mineral Processing Conference](#). Further details are available by e-mailing space@mines.edu or calling (303) 273-3321.

June 9-11 Toronto, Canada BPI Mining Conference 2009 Penn State University's Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering is hosting the conference, which will include presentations from industry leaders in key mining sectors — coal, metals, and nonmetallic minerals — as well as from customers, suppliers and others with a keen interest in mining industry performance. Keynote speakers will include executive management from the world's largest and most successful mining companies and manufacturers. [BPI Conference](#).

June 28-30 Snowmass, Colo. Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute 105th Annual Mtg. and Convention The convention will offer technical sessions, mine rescue evaluations, scholarship awards and short course classes. Eugene Kranz, flight director of the Apollo 13 lunar mission, will be the keynote speaker. For more information, visit www.rmcmi.org.

July 1-2 Denver, Colo. 2009 NMA/NRC Uranium Recovery Workshop NMA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will again host a joint uranium recovery workshop offering an opportunity for industry representatives to communicate directly with federal and state regulators regarding regulatory trends and other important issues affecting the industry. For more information on this year's event, please contact NMA Legal Affairs Specialist Anthony Hagman at (202) 463-2655 or ahagman@nma.org.

NMA report charts sharp rise in bituminous coal exports

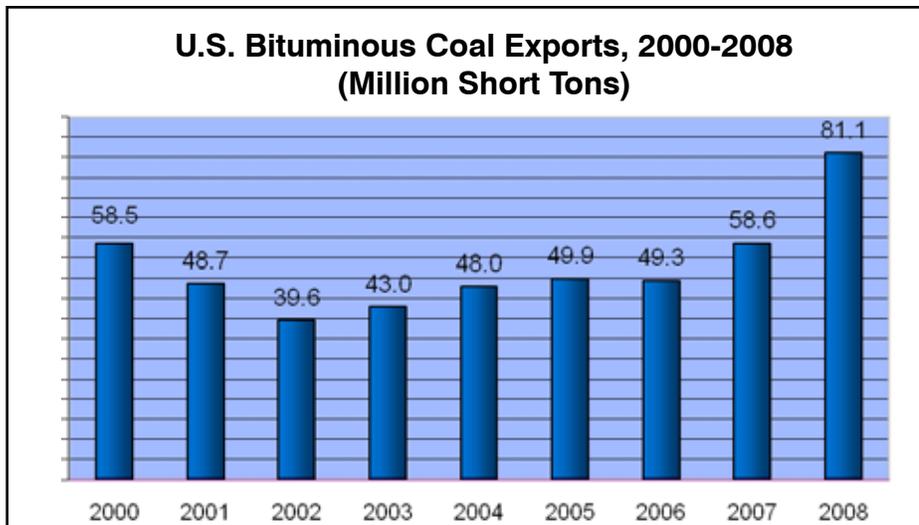
The latest edition of the *NMA International Coal Review* shows that bituminous coal exports jumped nearly 40 percent in 2008, while imports decreased slightly, marking the second consecutive year that exports have increased and imports have dropped.

U.S. coal exports jumped 38.4 percent to 81.1 million tons in 2008, due to strong market conditions, including a weaker U.S. dollar, that helped make U.S. coal a better value to overseas buyers. Coal exports were also aided by production constraints in other countries and strong Asian demand, primarily in China and India.

According to the NMA report, steam coal exports in 2008 increased more than 45 percent and metallurgical coal exports increased nearly 32 percent.

The review found that imported coal, which stood at 34.2 million tons, was down nearly 6 percent. Imports account for roughly 3 percent of U.S. consumption.

The latest *NMA International Coal Review* is available to NMA members at: [NMA International Coal Review](#). A subscription to the report can be purchased through NMA's web site, www.nma.org. ✕



DOE begins carbon dioxide injection study in Virginia

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced this week that a team of regional partners has begun injecting carbon dioxide (CO₂) into coal seams in the Central Appalachian Basin to determine the feasibility of CO₂ storage and the potential for enhanced coalbed methane recovery.

The results of the study will help assess the potential for safely and permanently storing CO₂ underground, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing production of natural gas.

DOE announced on Feb. 11 that its Southeast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership began injecting CO₂ at a test site in Russell County, Va., in mid January.

DOE said the site was selected because it is representative of the Central Appalachian Basin and has the capacity to store 1.3 billion tons of CO₂ in the coal seams while increasing natural gas production up to 2.5 trillion cubic feet.

The project is being coordinated by the Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research.

More information is available at: [DOE CO₂ Injection Project](#). ✕

OSM surface mining awards deadline is March 13

The Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining (OSM) is currently accepting nominations for its Excellence in Surface Mining Awards. The deadline for nominations is March 13. Nominations must be submitted to the state regulatory agency that oversees a nominated operation.

Nominations may be submitted by coal companies, regulatory authorities, state or federal mine inspectors, interest groups or landowners. Company officials and employees may nominate their own operations.

The awards recognize surface mining in three categories: the National Awards, the Director's Awards and the Good Neighbor Awards.

More information on the awards is available at: [OSM Awards](#). ✕

Newsbits

Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) was recently appointed as a member of the **House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming**. "Our energy future should be at the forefront of the national discussion, and I'm excited to bring a West Virginia voice to those issues as a member of this committee," said Capito in a Feb. 5 release. "From clean coal, to wind energy and other alternative technology, our state has an important role to play." The committee was established in 2007 to address climate change and energy security issues.

Mining Market Snapshot		
Coal Figures	Cumulative year to date	Change over last year
<i>Week ended January 31, 2009</i>		
EIA Coal Production (000 tons)	96,968	-1.7%
Edison Electric Institute Electricity Output (GWh)	396,593	-1.9%
American Iron and Steel Institute Raw Steel Production (000 tons)	4,510	-52.7%
Metal Figures		
Copper Prices (\$/mt - week avg. Grade A Cash) 1/30/09		\$3,227.05
Gold Prices (\$/troy ounce - week avg. London Final) 1/30/09		\$902.95
Source: NMA Weekly Statistical Summary/Platts Metals Week		



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