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## About Mining Week...

NMA Mining Week is a weekly publication of the National Mining Association. Mining Week archives are always available online at [www.nma.org](http://www.nma.org).

## Interior Department imposes two-year ban on new mining near Grand Canyon Park

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar this week announced a two-year ban on new hardrock mining on approximately 1 million acres of federal land near the Grand Canyon National Park. The ban took effect upon publication of a *Federal Register* notice on July 21 and the department is accepting public comments for a 90-day period.

While the ban is primarily aimed at uranium mining, it would prohibit new claims for any minerals governed by the General Mining Law. In making the announcement, the Department of the Interior (DOI) said the ban will not impact exploration and development at pre-existing claims.

However, in reality the only claims that will be fully exempted from the ban are claims that have demonstrated a physical exposure of a commercial mineral deposit.

The immediate ban gives the department a two-year window it says it will use to study whether the lands should be withdrawn from mining activity for 20 years.

*See Grand Canyon, page 2*

## New MSHA data tracks mining employment boost

New data recently released by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) document a mining employment upswing in 2008 and an increase in the number of U.S. mining operations.

<i>Mining Industry Employment and Operations - 2008</i>	2008	2007	Percent Chg. (08/07)
<b>Average Employment:</b>	<b>392,719</b>	<b>378,123</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
Coal Operators	90,055	84,071	7.1%
Coal Contractors	43,772	38,865	12.6%
Metal-Nonmetal Operators	183,441	187,343	-2.1%
Metal-Nonmetal Contractors	75,451	67,844	11.2%
<b>Number of Operations:</b>	<b>14,907</b>	<b>14,871</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
Coal	2,129	2,030	4.9%
Metal-Nonmetal	12,778	12,841	-0.5%

Source: MSHA Part 50 data, End of Year 2008

NMA summarizes these data in an annual members-only publication entitled *Number of Mines and Employment by State and Commodity*.

According to MSHA, the average number of mining industry employees rose from 378,123 in 2007 to 392,719 in 2008, marking an almost 4 percent jump.

The total number of U.S. mining operations increased 0.2 percent to 14,907 in 2008 from 14,871 in 2007. Coal operations stood at

2,129 in 2008, an almost 5 percent jump from 2007, while metal-nonmetal operations decreased 0.5 percent from 12,841 in 2007 to 12,778 in 2008.

The MSHA data are available at: [MSHA Statistics](#).

NMA's members-only publication is available at: [NMA Publication](#). ✕

## Grand Canyon *continued from page 1*

"Over the next two years, we will gather the best science and input from the public, members of Congress, tribes and stakeholders, and we will thoughtfully evaluate whether these lands should be withdrawn from new mining claims for a longer period of time," Salazar said in a July 20 statement.

The ban will affect lands that are home to some of the nation's richest deposits of uranium. Currently the U.S. imports 90 percent of the uranium needed to fuel nuclear-powered electricity generating plants, with Russia being a leading supplier of imported uranium.

The move by DOI means it will abandon its own five-year effort to revise the Arizona Strip Field Office Resource Management Plan, which provides for the management of much of the affected lands in northern Arizona.

Banning uranium mining near the Grand Canyon was a subject of a July 21 hearing by the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. The hearing explored the "Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2009" (H.R. 644). Introduced by subcommittee

Chairman Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.), the bill would permanently withdraw more than 1 million acres of public land adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park from any future mining claims.

Various local and state government officials and environmental organization representatives were invited to testify at the hearing, with no representatives from the mining community invited to address the subcommittee.

Earlier this year, Arizona Sens. John McCain (R) and Jon Kyl (R) wrote to Grijalva to emphasize that his bill was unnecessary given existing environmental protections.

A copy of the July 21 *Federal Register* notice is available at: [Interior Announcement](#).

A copy of Sec. Salazar's statement is available at: [Salazar Statement](#).

Testimony from the July 21 subcommittee hearing is available at: [Hearing Testimony](#).

A copy of the McCain-Kyl letter is available at: [Arizona Letter](#). ✕

## EPA delays re-issuance of permit for Alaska gold mine

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on July 14 notified the Army Corps of Engineers that it was delaying a request to extend an existing Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permit for the Kensington gold mine operated by Couer Alaska. The permit allows the mine to discharge mine tailings.

EPA's decision to delay re-issuance comes on the heels of a recent 6-3 U.S. Supreme Court decision that upheld the mine's CWA permit by overturning a lower-court ruling that had invalidated the permit.

The Corps had been responding to a request from Couer to have the permit re-issued. However that effort may now be on hold pending an EPA request that the permit be further reviewed, which EPA said it may be able to complete within an eight-month timeframe.

EPA Acting Deputy Regional Administrator Michael Gearheard said in a letter to the Corps that changes made to the mine's tailings facility, the mine's rate of daily production and acid rock drainage caused by excavation near Lower Slate Lake warranted forcing the Corps to re-evaluate issuance of the permit.

The Corps is required to consider EPA's comments, including the request to re-open the permit evaluation, in making a final decision on whether or not the permit will be reauthorized for an extended period of time.

A copy of EPA's July 14 letter is available at: [EPA letter](#). ✕

## Show your support for mining, visit ACT Online and contact your elected officials



Now more than ever, members of the mining community need to take an active role in advocating the critical role mining plays in providing jobs and shaping America's economic and national security.

NMA's Advocacy Campaign Team for Mining (ACT) is an online national network of mining community members who recognize the importance of being involved in the political process and are willing to make their voice

heard. So far this year, ACT Online supporters have sent more than 33,000 letters to Congress on key mining issues.

In Congress and state capitols across the nation, issues of enormous importance to the mining community are being debated. NMA's ACT Online homepage offers supporters the chance to contact their elected officials on a wide range of coal, mineral, metal, economic and environmental issues.

Visit [ACT Online](#) today and show your support for America's mining community. ✕

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are available on the  
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## Rep. Blunt visits NMA

America's future economic prosperity will depend heavily on utilizing the nation's vast coal reserves to ensure continued access to an affordable and abundant supply of energy, Rep. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) said during a July 23 visit to NMA's Washington, D.C., offices.

Blunt, stressed the importance of coal to Missouri, noting that it provides 85 percent of the state's electricity.

Blunt also warned of the economic dangers posed by the Waxman-Markey climate change bill, which was recently approved by a razor-thin vote in the House and is now being debated in the Senate.

The "ultimate bad news" about the bill is that it will force many high-paying American jobs to relocate overseas to countries that do not impose similar carbon control regimes, Blunt said.

Blunt, a former House majority leader, Republican whip and long-time member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, is a candidate to fill the Senate seat being vacated by retiring Sen. Kit Bond (R). ✕



Peabody Energy Vice President of Federal Government Relations Christopher Leahy (left) welcomed Rep. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) (right) to NMA's Washington, D.C., offices on July 23.



**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:

**July 28 Bluefield, Va. Coal Summit** The West Virginia Coal Association in partnership with the Greater Bluefield and Princeton/Mercer County Chambers of Commerce and the Pocahontas Coal Association will hold the first "Coal Summit" on Tuesday, July 28 at the Fincastle Country Club in Bluefield, Va. Confirmed to speak are Gene Kitts, senior vice president of mining services with International Coal Group and Myron Ebell, director, energy and global warming policy with the Competitive Enterprise Institute. There is no cost to attend the event. Reservations are necessary and can be made with the Bluefield Chamber at (304) 327-7184 or the Princeton/Mercer County Chamber at (304) 487-1502.

**August 2-6 Morgantown, W.Va. Energy & Mineral Law Foundation Coal Law Short Course** A comprehensive 25-hour course developed for lawyers new to the practice of coal and energy law, covering laws and regulations impacting coal mining and transactions, mineral ownership concepts and synthesizing environmental, labor and safety law concepts. More information available at [www.emlf.org](http://www.emlf.org)

**August 4-6 Prestonburg, Ky. Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative Conference** The Kentucky Department for Natural Resources, the University of Kentucky and the Office of Surface Mining will host the ARRI conference, which will address the role of industry in forestry reclamation by providing permitting and inspection guidance to coal applicants. Panels of industry and regulatory personnel will present case studies, success stories and topics of concern. The registration deadline is June 30. More information is available at: [ARRI Conference](http://www.arri.org).

**August 6-9 White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. West Virginia Coal Association Annual Meeting** The event will be held at The Greenbrier. For more information, call (304) 342-4153.

**August 11 Paducah, Ky. 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Inland Waterways Users Board** The 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Inland Waterways Users Board will be held on Tuesday, Aug 11, 2009, in Paducah, Ky., at the Luther F. Carson Four Rivers Center. More information is available by contacting Kenneth Lichtman with the Inland Waterways Users Board at (703) 428-8083 or Mark Pointon, executive secretary, Inland Waterways Users Board at (202) 761-4691.

**September 21-24 Belo Horizonte, Brazil Brazilian Mining Show** The U.S. Commercial Service of the U.S. Embassy in Brazil will again organize a pavilion for U.S. exhibitors for the show, which is expected to draw more than 40,000 visitors. This show is the most important mining sector event in Brazil and is held every two years. Exhibition space has sold out in the last editions and U.S. companies planning to participate are encouraged to contact the Commercial Service as soon as possible. More information is available at: [Brazilian Mining Show](http://www.brazilianminingshow.com).

**October 28-30 Lexington, Ky. 34<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Mineral Law Conference** sponsored by the Energy and Mineral Law Foundation. Watch for more information at [www.emlf.org](http://www.emlf.org).

**November 30-December 4 Reno, Nev. Northwest Mining Association 2009 Annual Meeting and Exposition** More information, including online registration, is available at: <http://www.nwma.org/convention.asp>.

**February 4-6, 2010 Captiva Island, Fla. Winter Workshops on Energy Law** sponsored by the Energy and Mineral Law Foundation. Watch for more information at [www.emlf.org](http://www.emlf.org).

**May 9-11, 2010 Amelia Island, Fla. Energy & Mineral Law Foundation Annual Institute** Sponsored by the Energy and Mineral Law Foundation. Watch for more information at [www.emlf.org](http://www.emlf.org).

## DOE partner announces plans for carbon storage project

Southern Company and the Southeast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership, one of seven members of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships program, this week unveiled plans to store carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) captured from an existing coal-fueled power plant.

This storage project, located in the Citronelle Oil Field north of Mobile, Ala., will inject CO<sub>2</sub> captured from Alabama Power's Plant Barry into a deep saline reservoir 9,000 feet beneath the surface.

Beginning in 2011 and continuing for at least four years, up to 150,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year will be captured at the plant, transported via pipeline and injected into a saline formation that has oil-bearing formations above and below. A thorough monitoring process will be used to track the movement of the injected CO<sub>2</sub> and ensure that it is safely and permanently stored.

A conservative estimate by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology suggests the storage capacity for the formation, which underlies an area of approximately 46,000 square miles in southern Alabama and Mississippi, the Florida Panhandle and Louisiana, at 10 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

More information is available at: [Carbon Storage Project](#). ✕

**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 General Counsel Katie Sweeney will give a Mining Law update at the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute in San Francisco, Calif., on July 25.
- NMA President and CEO Hal Quinn will provide an overview and outlook for the U.S. mining community on in Alexandria, Va., on Aug. 7 at a meeting of the American Institute for Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers.

## Rep. Lummis visits NMA



*Arch Coal, Inc. Vice President for External Affairs John Snider (left) welcomed Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.) (right) to NMA's Washington, D.C., headquarters on July 21.*

Lummis stressed the importance of mining to her state, saying "mining and Wyoming are basically inseparable," adding that mining is "a tremendously important employer" in Wyoming.

She noted that Wyoming is not only the largest coal-producing state in the nation, but also home to the largest uranium reserves, as well as other vital metal and mineral reserves. ✕

Congressional efforts to address climate change will fail unless a "more rational policy can prevail," Rep. Cynthia Lummis said during a July 21 visit to NMA's Washington, D.C., offices.

Lummis emphasized that as the Senate begins to formulate a climate change bill, to have any chance at success, the bill must be markedly different from the "American Clean Energy and Security Act" (H.R. 2454), which narrowly cleared the House late last month.

## Academy of Sciences report urges funding to support CTL development

An early draft of a new report from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) urges the federal government to ramp up funding to support the development and deployment of technologies that can help transform coal into liquid transportation fuels.

The report, *Liquid Transportation Fuels from Coal and Biomass*, concluded that the abundance of coal and biomass in the U.S. make both of them "attractive candidates to provide non-oil-based liquid fuels for the U.S. transportation system."

"Alternative liquid transportation fuels from coal and biomass have the potential to play an important role on helping the United States to address issues of energy security, supply diversification and greenhouse gas emissions," NAS said.

Ultimately, the report predicts that coal-to-liquid (CTL) plants could replace up to 3 million barrels of gasoline equivalent per day by 2035. The U.S. currently consumes approximately 20 million barrels of oil

per day, relying on imported oil for 12 million barrels.

Using a biomass feedstock, the report concluded that CTL fuels can emit fewer greenhouse gas life-cycle emissions than conventional gasoline, with further reductions possible by capturing and storing carbon dioxide emissions.

To help expedite domestic CTL production the report calls on the federal government to partner with industry to launch an "aggressive program" to build three to five commercial scale CTL demonstration plants.

More information on CTL fuels is available at [www.futurecoalfuels.org](http://www.futurecoalfuels.org).

A copy of the pre-publication report can be purchased at: [NAS CTL Report](#). ✕

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## NMA welcomes Sunrise Coal LLC as newest member



NMA recently welcomed Sunrise Coal LLC, an Indiana-based coal producer, as the association's newest member.

Sunrise owns and operates an underground coal mine in Carlisle, Ind., that opened in 2008. In 2009, Sunrise anticipates mining approxi-

mately 3 million tons of coal.

Its customers include four Indiana utility companies that take delivery via Sunrise's 100-car double rail loop, which is connected to both the CSX Railroad and Indiana Rail Road. Hallador Petroleum Company has an 80 percent interest in Sunrise Coal.

More information on the company is available at: [Sunrise Coal](#). ✕

## Newsbits

**Bucyrus International, Inc.** recently announced that **Deepak T. Kapur** has been elected as a new member of the company's board of directors. The appointment was effective on July 20, with Kapur a member of the class of directors whose term expires at the company's 2010 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Kapur serves as the president of **Navistar Inc.'s Truck Group**, the nation's largest combined commercial truck, school bus and mid-range diesel engine manufacturer... The **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) this week announced three senior staff appointments, with **Lisa Heinzerling** named associate administrator for the Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation; **David McIntosh** appointed as associate administrator for the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations; and **Seth Oster** as associate administrator for the Office of Public Affairs.

### Mining Market Snapshot

Coal Figures	Cumulative year to date	Change over last year
<i>Week ended July 11, 2009</i>		
EIA Coal Production (000 tons)	573,187	-5.6%
Edison Electric Institute Electricity Output (GWh)	2,064,947	-4.1%
American Iron and Steel Institute Raw Steel Production (000 tons)	28,899	-51.2%
Metal Figures		
Copper Prices (\$/mt - week avg. Grade A Cash) 7/10/09		\$4,875.95
Gold Prices (\$/troy ounce - week avg. London Final) 7/10/09		\$918.25
Source: NMA Weekly Statistical Summary/Platts Metals Week		



Mining Week is published as a service to members of the National Mining Association, Gary Goldberg, chairman, Hal Quinn, president and publisher.

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