



A new Mining Week is coming!

Beginning in September, *Mining Week* will become an exclusive NMA members-only publication and will feature a new look and a new publishing schedule. Our new format will give readers the flexibility to easily access each issue from their office and home desktop computers and while on the go using a Blackberry or other handheld device.

Mining Week's new format will also give readers the ability to download a single story or print a complete copy of each edition.

In addition, *Mining Week* will now be published each Wednesday in order to provide readers with mining news as it happens.

Look for the new *Mining Week* on Sept. 9.

Army Corps greenlights permit for Alaska gold mine

The Army Corps of Engineers this week reactivated a Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit for the Coeur d'Alene Kensington Gold Mine, located 40 miles northwest of Juneau, Alaska.

The Corps announced its decision on Aug. 17. In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the company had a valid 404 permit to dispose of tailings from the Kensington mine into Lower Slate Lake.

However, despite the court's ruling, the Environmental Protection Agency had pursued efforts to slow down permitting activity, insisting that the Corps re-evaluate the mine's tailings disposal plan.

With approximately 90 percent of the mine already complete, the company said it will immediately begin to finalize construction of the remaining areas of the operation.

"There is an extensive list of groups and individuals to thank for their efforts and continued support of Kensington," said Coeur Chairman, President and CEO Dennis E. Wheeler.

"The Company looks forward to getting back to accomplishing the main objective, which is to construct and operate a world-class gold mine that all stakeholders will be proud of," said Wheeler. ✕

Inhofe, Voinovich, Boucher express alarm over EPA NWP 21 permit plans

Sens. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), George Voinovich (R-Ohio) and Rep. Rick Boucher (D-Va.) recently called on the Army Corps of Engineers to address a number of worries regarding plans to ultimately eliminate the use of the Nationwide Permit (NWP) 21 for coal mining operations in Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

In an Aug. 11 letter, Inhofe and Voinovich, echoing a call from NMA, asked the Corps to grant a 60-day extension of the comment period the agency opened in order to accept public feedback on its plan to eliminate the NWP 21 permit.

A deadline extension of 30 days was agreed to, with the new deadline set for Sept. 14.

Inhofe and Voinovich also called for a series of public hearings regarding the possible elimination of the NWP 21 permit for coal mining in the six states. "Because of the extreme importance of coal mining to regional, state and local economies of these six states, the Corps must provide a meaningful opportunity for voicing local concerns," the senators wrote.

On Aug. 4, Boucher sent a letter to the Corps questioning plans by the Corps and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop an Interagency Action Plan on Appalachian Surface Coal Mining and the proposed NWP 21 suspension.

See NWP 21, page 2

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 part 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 almost 34,000 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. ✕

NMA, NIOSH to host metal, non-metal mining safety workshop



NMA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) Office of Mine Safety and Health Research will jointly sponsor a free workshop on Oct. 20 in Denver, Colo., focused on using risk-based analysis to improve safety performance in the metal and non-metal mining industry.

Reservations for the workshop must be made before Oct. 9.

The one-day workshop is designed to educate metal and non-metal mining industry safety professionals and managers about the Major Hazard Risk Assessment (MHRA) process.

Specifically, the workshop will focus on providing attendees examples of the MHRA process, how it's applied in the workplace, demonstrate its use through classroom exercises and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the process.

More information is available at: [NMA/NIOSH Safety Workshop](#). ✕

NWP 21 *continued from page 1*

Boucher's letter provides alternatives to eliminating the NWP 21 and requests the Corps and EPA establish a reliable process for issuing Section 404 permits, including adhering to regulatory timeframes and the proper scope of review.

"Mining in the Appalachian Region creates some of the highest paying jobs in the local economy, and the products and services purchased in the course of mining operations create thousands of additional jobs in support industries," Boucher wrote.

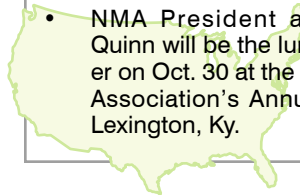
"The mining industry is the cornerstone of the economy of Virginia's coal producing region, and sweeping changes in policy that affect the industry should be carefully weighed before being implemented," said Boucher.

A copy of the Inhofe-Voinovich letter is available at: [Senate Letter](#).

A copy of the Boucher letter is available at: [House Letter](#). ✕

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 be the luncheon speaker on Sept. 10 at the New Mexico Mining Association's Annual Convention in Albuquerque, N.M.
- NMA Senior Vice President of Communications Carol Raulston will speak on Sept. 12 at the Nevada Mining Association Annual Convention.
- NMA Vice President of External Communications Luke Popovich will speak at the National Coal Transportation Association's Fall 2009 Meeting and Conference in Denver, Colo., on Sept. 15.
- NMA President and CEO Hal Quinn will speak at a Sept. 16 media breakfast with West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin (D) at the biennial Bluefield Coal Show in Bluefield, W.Va.
- NMA Vice President of External Communications Luke Popovich will speak at Platts' 32nd Annual Coal Marketing Days conference in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Oct. 1.
- NMA President and CEO Hal Quinn will be the luncheon speaker on Oct. 30 at the Kentucky Coal Association's Annual Meeting in Lexington, Ky.



Looking ahead: *Here's a look at what's ahead for the mining community in Washington, D.C.*

- The U.S. House of Representatives and Senate are in adjournment for the August congressional recess and will not reconvene until Sept. 8.

Mining Week archives are available on the NMA web site.
www.nma.org

NMA urges EPA against revising RCRA solid waste regulatory definition

NMA recently urged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) against revising a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulatory definition of solid waste the agency issued last year.

NMA detailed its position in comments submitted to EPA on Aug. 13 that also urged the agency to reject a Sierra Club petition seeking reconsideration of the RCRA rule.

NMA's written comments reiterate points made at a June 30 EPA public meeting. NMA's comments emphasized that EPA's authority is limited to secondary materials that are discarded, arguing that if EPA were to reopen the rule and pursue the suggested changes, it would again be returning to a legally indefensible regulatory definition of "solid waste."

NMA detailed its opposition to a variety of other proposed EPA actions, including plans to codify the definition of "contained" and incorporate a baseline design criteria for storage.

EPA has stated that it will issue a tentative decision to reconsider the final rule after reviewing the public comments submitted on the notice. EPA has also publicly announced its intention to complete an environmental justice analysis of the rule. However, the timing of these actions remains uncertain.

A copy of NMA's comments is available at: [NMA Comments](#).



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:*

August 25 Women's Mining Coalition Annual Meeting Internet Conference More information, including pre-registration details, is available at: [Annual Meeting](#).

September 7 Friends of America Labor Day Rally Holden, W.Va. A Labor Day rally to support American jobs and coal mining. The rally will be held on a reclaimed surface mine and features musical entertainment by Hank Williams Jr. and Ted Nugent and commentary by Fox News personality Sean Hannity. Free tickets are available at: [Friends of America Rally](#).

September 10-12 Reno, Nev. Nevada Mining Association Annual Convention Registration information is available at: [Nevada Mining Association Annual Convention](#).

September 16-18 Bluefield, W.Va. Bluefield Coal Show More information, including registration details, is available at: [Bluefield Coal Show](#).

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](#).

October 20 Denver, Colo. NMA/NIOSH Reducing Workplace Accidents Through Risk-Based Analysis NMA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's Office of Mine Safety and Health Research will jointly sponsor a free workshop on Oct. 20 in Denver, Colo., focused on using risk-based analysis to improve safety performance in the metal and non-metal mining industry. Registration deadline is Oct. 9. More information is available at: [NMA/NIOSH Workshop](#).

October 26-28 Reno, Nev. MSHA Joint Western Regional Mine Safety and Health Conference Key industry and government officials will explore the latest in mine safety and health improvement techniques. More information is available at: [MSHA Joint Western Safety Conference](#).

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

November 2-6 Anchorage, Alaska, Alaska Miners Association Annual Convention and Trade Show More information is available at [www.alaskaminers.org](#).

November 5-6 Westminster, Colo. Mine Closure, Financial Assurance, and Final Reclamation Hosted by the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, the forum is intended to give a broad overview of mine closure topics and issues and to assist in present day closures, planning for closures that may not occur for years or even decades, and designing mines that have yet to begin development. More information is available at [Mine Closure Forum](#).

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](#).

February 9-10, 2010 Denver, Colo., 112th National Western Mining Conference Sponsored by the Colorado Mining Association. More information is available at [www.coloradomining.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](#).

Lake Carriers' Association reports gain in July iron ore shipments

The Lake Carriers' Association (LCA) recently reported that shipments of iron ore on the Great Lakes totaled 3.5 million net tons in July, marking an increase of 635,000 tons compared to June. LCA attributed the increase to a slight increase in steel mill production rates that have risen from a 45 percent utilization rate to about 52 percent.

For the year, Great Lakes iron ore trade stands at 12.8 million tons, a decrease of 60 percent compared to the same period in 2008. Compared to the five-year average for the January-July timeframe, 2009 loadings are down by 58 percent. ✕

Lake Carriers' Association Iron Ore Shipments (net tons)			
Port	Jan-July 2008	Jan-July 2009	Percent Change
Duluth, Minn.	4,266,979	2,578,041	-40%
Superior, Wis.	5,445,568	1,582,506	-71%
Two Harbors, Minn.	6,760,995	2,397,460	-65%
Silver Bay, Minn.	4,588,814	543,663	-88%
Presque Isle, Mich.	3,742,610	1,789,924	-52%
Escanaba, Mich.	3,088,936	2,136,195	-31%
Canadian Seaway Ports	4,414,828	1,809,771	-59%
Total	32,308,730	12,837,560	-60%

source: Lake Carriers Association

Newsbits

Tickets are now available for the "Friends of America" Labor Day rally, set for Sept. 7 in Holden, W.Va. The rally is designed to showcase support for American jobs and coal mining and will be held on a reclaimed surface mine. The rally will feature musical entertainment by **Hank Williams Jr.** and **Ted Nugent** and commentary by Fox News personality **Sean Hannity**. Free tickets are available at: [Friends of America Rally](#).

Mining Market Snapshot		
Coal Figures	Cumulative year to date	Change over last year
Week ended August 8, 2009		
EIA Coal Production (000 tons)	656,949	-6.0%
Edison Electric Institute Electricity Output (GWh)	2,401,784	-4.7%
American Iron and Steel Institute Raw Steel Production (000 tons)	33,943	-49.9%
Metal Figures		
Copper Prices (\$/mt - week avg. Grade A Cash) 8/7/09		\$6,003.50
Gold Prices (\$/troy ounce - week avg. London Final) 8/7/09		\$960.15

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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