

## In this issue...

- DOI approves new Endangered Species Act consultation rule...page 2
- Coal industry leader highlights economic contributions of mountain top mining; uses of reclaimed land...page 2
- New 'Mining in the News' feature launched on NMA web site...page 2
- Action Alert: Urge Congress to boost America's economy with clean coal technologies... page 3
- Ohio CTL project receives critical air, water permits; Kentucky energy plan backs CTL plants...page 3
- Mining market snapshot... page 3
- New Army Corps of Engineers data document inland waterway coal transportation... page 4
- Arch Coal offers \$5 million university grant to support clean coal technology development...page 5
- Nevada Mining Association names new president...page 5
- Newsbits...page 5

## 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).

## Labor Department reports increase in mining jobs

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) recently reported that U.S. mine operators have created 16,000 new jobs in 2008, defying a nationwide job loss trend that has seen the U.S. lose 2.7 million jobs since December 2007.

To date in 2008, according to DOL's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), slightly more than 7,000 new coal mining jobs and almost 9,000 metal and mineral mining jobs have been created. The upswing in coal jobs represents an almost 10 percent increase from 2007, with mineral and metals jobs jumping almost four percent. Since this report some layoffs have been announced by U.S. producers due to worldwide economic conditions.

For November, BLS reported that the U.S. lost a total of 533,000 jobs. However, the agency reported that coal mining jobs jumped by almost 1,000 for the month, marking a 1 percent growth, while 300 metal and mineral mining jobs were created.

For more information on the vital contributions mining makes to America's economic well being, visit NMA's newly launched [Policy Makers Resources Page](#).

Detailed BLS employment information can be found at: [BLS Employment Data](#). ☒

### Mining Jobs November versus October 2008 (thousands)

Commodity	Nov. 2008	Oct. 2008	Jobs	Percent Change
Coal	86.1	85.2	0.9	1.06%
Mining (excl. oil and gas)	234.9	234.6	0.3	0.13%

### Mining Jobs Nov. 2008 versus Nov. 2007 (thousands)

Commodity	Nov. 2008	Nov. 2007	Jobs	Percent Change
Coal	86.1	78.7	7.4	9.40%
Mining (excl. oil and gas)	234.9	226.0	8.9	3.94%

source: BLS, *Employment Situation*, Nov. 2008

## Colorado governor urges Obama to support clean coal technology as part of economic stimulus

Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter (D) this week urged President-elect Barack Obama to pledge billions of dollars to support the development of new clean coal technologies as part of a package designed to stimulate the economy.

In a proposal submitted to Obama on Dec. 9, Ritter said \$10 billion is needed to support clean-coal technology research and development and called for another \$10 billion to support the construction of five pilot technology-deployment locations around the country.

"Coal will continue to play an important role in addressing our nation's energy needs, and research is needed to address climate change," Ritter said in his Dec. 9 letter.

Colorado is currently the seventh largest coal-producing state in the country and is home to the eighth largest demonstrated coal reserves.

"Through wise infrastructure investments, we can create jobs and hasten economic recovery in the short-term, and put the nation on a long-term path for growth that will allow us to compete and succeed on a global economic stage," said Ritter.

A copy of Ritter's letter is available at: [Ritter Letter](#). ☒

## DOI approves new Endangered Species Act consultation rule

The Department of the Interior (DOI) this week approved a new regulation to improve the Endangered Species Act's (ESA) consultation process. The rule is designed to reduce unnecessary federal agency consultations and make informal consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) more reasonable, while helping to protect threatened and endangered species by focusing federal resources where they are needed most.

The new consultation process unveiled this week will not take effect until 30 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. In October, NMA submitted comments to DOI supporting the department's efforts to improve the consultation process.

"The rule strengthens the regulations so the government can focus on protecting endangered species as it strives to rebuild the American economy," said Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne in a Dec. 11 release.

Under ESA Section 7, federal agencies are required to ensure that actions they fund, authorize, permit, or otherwise carry out, will not jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats. To accomplish this, federal agencies first determine if their proposed action may affect a listed species or critical habitat. If so, they must then proceed with either formal or informal consultations with FWS or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Under the regulations finalized this week, federal agencies must still follow all existing consultation procedures, except in specific and limited instances where an action is not anticipated to adversely impact any member of a listed species and that action fulfills one of four criteria.

The four criteria listed cover actions that have no effect on a listed species or critical habitat; actions that are wholly beneficial; actions where the effects cannot be measured or detected in a manner

that permits meaningful evaluation using the best available science; and actions resulting from global processes that cannot be reliably predicted or measured.

DOI stressed that agencies may still voluntarily engage in informal consultations.

The final regulation differs from a proposed regulation published in August in that the rule was narrowed to allow fewer opportunities for federal

agencies to proceed without consultation.

DOI also noted that the new regulation does not remove all consideration of the effects of climate change. According to the new rule, climate change should be considered when an action could potentially exacerbate an environmental condition that is also thought to be impacted by potential changes in climate.

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

## Coal industry leader highlights economic contributions of mountain top mining; uses of reclaimed land

A senior coal industry representative this week emphasized the important economic and environmental contributions mountain top mining makes throughout Appalachia and underscored the rigorous environmental rules that ensure mountain top mine sites are fully restored upon completion of mining operations.

In a Dec. 8 letter to the editor published in the *Huntington Herald Dispatch*, International Coal Group Senior Vice President and General Counsel Roger L. Nicholson warned that efforts to end mining in Appalachia "would result in the elimination of thousands of good-paying mining and related jobs."

Nicholson was responding to a column authored by an anti-mining activist. "The devastating economic impact on the counties, state and even our nation if these anti-mining efforts are successful is unimaginable. And that's a fact."

"Surface mining is highly regulated by both the state and federal governments," Nicholson wrote. "Before receiving mining permits, coal producers must provide regulatory agencies with extensive and

highly detailed mining plans that explain every facet of the mine's operation, its environmental impact and plans for reclaiming the land after mining is completed." He noted that sizeable bonds must be posted to assure that mountain top mine sites are reclaimed.

"Many reclaimed surface mining sites are productively used for farming, industrial parks, prisons, schools, housing subdivisions, airports and recreational activities -- beneficial uses that are not otherwise practical due to the scarcity of flat land in Appalachia," Nicholson said. "Other reclaimed mining sites support thriving populations of deer, elk, bear, turkey and other wildlife that feed on vegetation growing on the land," he added.

Nicholson also emphasized that many mining companies "are instrumental in the efforts to reintroduce the near-extinct American chestnut tree and honey bee colonies at reclaimed surface mining sites in Appalachia."

A copy of Nicholson's letter is available at: [Appalachia Mining Letter](#). ✕

## New 'Mining in the News' feature launched on NMA web site

NMA recently launched a new "Mining in the News" feature on its web site, [www.nma.org](http://www.nma.org). The new page is designed to provide mining community supporters with easy access to pro-mining opinion editorials and letters to the editor published across the country. The new feature also includes a compilation of resolutions approved by local governments and

town councils that support the need to develop and deploy advanced clean coal technologies.

This new page is updated regularly to reflect publication of supportive mining messages.

To view recent pro-mining opinion editorials, letters to the editor and local resolutions, visit: [Mining in the News](#).

## Action Alert: Urge Congress to boost America's economy with clean coal technologies



Congress is set to approve a massive economic stimulus and jobs creation package in January and it is vital that lawmakers understand the key role America's mining community can play in helping revive the nation's economy.

Using NMA's online Advocacy Campaign Team (ACT) for Mining, you can write your members of Congress and urge them to support an economic stimulus package that can get the American economy back on its feet by helping develop new carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies.

Visit [ACT Stimulus Alert](#) to make your voice heard.

Investing in CCS technology development will help create thousands of new green energy jobs across the country and provide American businesses and consumers with an assured source of clean, affordable and abundant coal-based energy.

Mining plays a pivotal role in supporting good, high-paying jobs and providing affordable energy and the minerals and metals American manufacturers rely on. Today,

- more than 342,000 Americans are directly employed at U.S. mines;
- mining jobs pay almost 40 percent more than the average annual wage for all industrial categories;
- 1.3 million jobs rely on U.S. mining nationwide, generating more than \$22 billion in wages.

ACT now and write to Congress and urge them to make mining an integral part of America's economic recovery. ✕

## Ohio CTL project receives critical air, water permits; Kentucky energy plan backs CTL plants

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency last month issued a final air permit to the Ohio River Clean Fuels project. The permit is the third and final state environmental permit necessary for Beard Energy to proceed into final design and construction of a proposed 53,000 barrel per day coal/biomass to liquids plant at the Columbiana County Port Authority site in Wellsville, Ohio.

Also on Nov. 21, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers issued the only federal permit, a section 404 Clean Water Act streams and wetlands permit, required for the project.

"Securing the various air, wastewater and streams/wetlands permits for this plant was necessary for us to confidently advance into the final engineering design and construction phase of the Ohio River Clean Fuels plant," said Beard Energy CEO John Baardson in a Nov. 21 press release.

"This is the first plant of this kind in Ohio as well as in the nation and there were many questions that had to be addressed," said Baardson. "With these permits, we can now complete the initial financing to finish the engineering and proceed with construction."

Also last month, Kentucky Gov. Steven Beshear (D) unveiled the state's first-ever comprehensive energy plan that aims to spur job creation, boost in-state energy production and achieve important environmental improvement goals. The plan centers on seven specific strategies,

one of which envisions the state becoming a leader in coal-to-liquid (CTL) fuel production.

The fourth strategy outlined in the plan calls for the state to "develop a CTL industry that will use 50 million tons of coal per year to produce 4 billion gallons of liquid fuel per year by 2025." That goal is part of a broader Kentucky effort to reduce the state's dependency on imported oil by 60 percent through a combination of increased alternative fuel use.

"With its vast coal resources, proven support from elected officials, and dedicated research and development program, Kentucky is uniquely positioned to develop a coal-to-liquid fuels industry that can serve as an engine for economic growth, while helping to reduce our dependence on foreign oil," Beshear said in a summary of the plan.

The summary argues that a "a strong CTL fuels industry would benefit the United States as a new industry in and of itself, but more importantly, would provide a dependable supply of liquid fuels at a predictable price and thus help make U.S. manufacturing more competitive."

A summary of Gov. Beshear's plan is available at: [Kentucky CTL Plan](#).

More information on the Beard Energy CTL plant is available at: [Baard Ohio CTL Plant](#).

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

<b>Mining Market Snapshot</b>		
<b>Coal Figures</b>	Cumulative year to date	Change over last year
<i>Week ended November 29, 2008</i>		
EIA Coal Production (000 tons)	1,067,318	1.7%
Edison Electric Institute Electricity Output (GWh)	3,748,235	-1.0%
American Iron and Steel Institute Raw Steel Production (000 tons)	95,947	-3.0%
<b>Metal Figures</b>		
Copper Prices (\$/mt - week avg. Grade A Cash) 11/28/08		\$3,653.40
Gold Prices (\$/troy ounce - week avg. London Final) 11/28/08		\$813.80
Source: NMA Weekly Statistical Summary/Platts Metals Week		

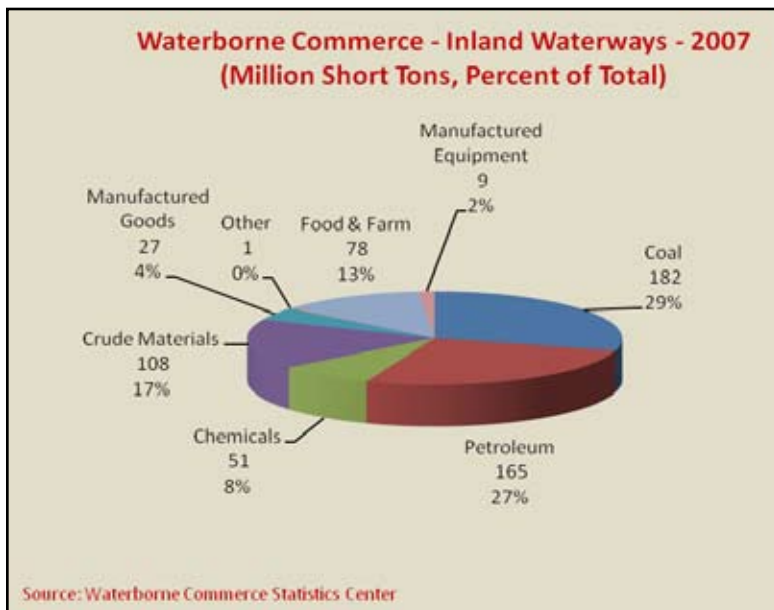
## New Army Corps of Engineers data document inland waterway coal transportation

New data recently released by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers documenting shipping on America’s inland waterways shows coal as the leading shipped waterways commodity.

According to the Corps, 182 million short tons of coal were shipped on inland waterways in 2007, accounting for 29 percent of all waterborne commerce. Coal was the largest waterborne commodity, followed by petroleum, which represented 27 percent of inland waterway shipping.

The 182 million short tons of coal shipping on waterways in 2007 marked a slight decrease of 0.61 percent from 2006, when 183 million tons of coal were shipped via waterway.

More information is available at: [Inland Waterway Coal Data](#). ✕



Domestic U.S. Waterborne Traffic on the Inland Waterways: 2007 VS 2006 (Million Short Tons)			
Commodity:	2006	2007	Percent Change
Coal	183.2	182.1	-0.61%
Petroleum	159.5	164.7	3.24%
Chemicals	48.9	51.0	4.13%
Crude Materials	120.4	107.9	-10.41%
Manufactured Goods	30.9	27.0	-12.58%
Food & Farm	73.6	77.5	5.28%
Manufactured Equipment	9.5	8.8	-8.30%
Other	1.4	1.2	-17.47%



**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 22-25, 2009

**Denver, Colo. 111th National Western Mining Conference & SME Annual Meeting** The Colorado Mining Association and Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration 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, 2009

**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 Gerring at (919) 807-2790.

### March 25-27, 2009

**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., next 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. Peabody Energy Chairman and CEO Greg Boyce, 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, 2009

**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, 2009

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

### June 9-11, 2009

**BPI Mining Conference 2009, Toronto, Canada** 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](#).

## Arch Coal offers \$5 million university grant to support clean coal technology development

Arch Coal, Inc. on Dec. 2 announced that it has pledged \$5 million over five years to help establish the Consortium for Clean Coal Utilization at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

The consortium's goal is to bring university researchers, industries, foundations and government organizations together to research clean coal technology, making St. Louis the nation's center for clean coal research.

"Arch Coal is pleased to partner with Washington University on this important new initiative," said Arch Chairman and CEO Steven F. Leer. "Global coal consumption has increased 35 percent

in the past six years, with emerging Asia building new coal-based power stations at a rapid pace," said Leer. "Arch is committed to supporting the research, development, demonstration and deployment of new clean coal technologies that will allow this indispensable fuel to continue meeting the challenges of our energy-constrained world."

Arch and other consortium partners will help establish the key priorities and laboratory facilities for clean coal research on Washington University's campus. These may include pilot-scale facilities where scientists can perform fundamental research and develop new technol-

ogy related to more efficient, cleaner combustion of coal and approaches to capturing and storing carbon dioxide.

"Arch is committed to working with researchers, policy makers, technology providers and customers to play a positive and constructive role in advancing climate-friendly solutions," said Leer. "We are convinced technology is the answer, and we are confident the research led by the Consortium for Clean Coal Utilization will play a vital role in helping the world chart a successful course to a cleaner and more secure energy future."

More information is available at: [Arch Clean Coal Grant](#). ✕

## Nevada Mining Association names new president

The Nevada Mining Association (NVMA) this week announced that Nevada native Tim Crowley will become the new president of the organization on Dec. 15, replacing former president Mark Amodei who resigned Dec. 5.

"Tim's passion, experience and knowledge of Nevada will be incredible assets for our association and the industry," said Greg Lang, chairman of the board of the NVMA. "He is a great commu-

nicator who understands the intricacies and complexities of the mining industry and champions its importance to our state."

Crowley previously served as the association's director of government affairs and community relations from 1998 until 2002.

"Growing up and working here in Nevada, I know how important this industry is to our state, especially the rural

communities," said Crowley. "Working with the Nevada Mining Association is a great fit for me, given my experience and knowledge of the state and its legislature."

Crowley is presently a partner and co-founder of the Griffin Crowley Group, a statewide public outreach and government affairs firm.

For more information on the association, visit: [www.nevadamining.org](http://www.nevadamining.org). ✕

## Newsbits

**Rep. Doc Hastings** (R-Wash.) was this week named ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee. Hastings replaces **Rep. Don Young** (R-Alaska)...An international panel of judges recently awarded **Peabody Energy** with dual honors at the 10th Platts Global Energy Awards in New York, NY. Peabody was honored with the Award of Excellence and the Strategic Energy Investment of the Year. "The Global Energy Awards are the Oscars of Energy and one more barometer of our success as a leading international energy company," said Peabody Energy Chairman and CEO **Gregory H. Boyce**. The Platts awards recognize innovation, leadership and superior performance in more than a dozen categories. Honorees are selected from nearly 200 entrants by a global panel of energy leaders, including former regulators, heads of major energy companies, leading academics and international energy experts. More information is available at: [Peabody Energy Awards](#).



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