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House committee approves sweeping climate change legislation

The House Energy and Commerce Committee this week approved sweeping legislation designed to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases through imposition of a new economy-wide cap-and-trade emissions program. Following nearly a week of committee debate and votes on dozens of amendments, committee members approved the bill on May 21.

The bill's cap-and-trade program requires U.S. carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions to ultimately be cut 83 percent below 2005 levels by 2050. In reaching that goal, the bill requires emissions to drop 17 percent by 2020 and 42 percent by 2030.

The bill also saddles coal-fueled electric utilities with an onerous performance standard that requires plants permitted after Jan. 1, 2009, to reduce CO₂ emissions by 50 percent, with plants permitted after Jan. 1, 2020, required to slash CO₂ emissions by 65 percent.

In a May 20 letter to committee members, which was referenced during committee deliberations, NMA President and CEO Hal Quinn warned that the bill mandates sharp near-term emission reductions before needed new technologies, such as carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies, can be deployed. "The result will be devastating losses of high-paying mining jobs, higher energy costs for businesses and the exporting of American business and jobs to countries that do not require similar greenhouse gas emission reductions," said Quinn.

"American's families, communities and businesses cannot sustain higher energy costs, additional job losses and further weakening of our economy," wrote Quinn.

To be effective, Quinn stressed that climate change policies must address global emissions and accelerate the development and commercial deployment of advanced clean coal and CCS technologies, saying the bill needed to provide sufficient and reliable fund-


See Climate legislation, page 2

NMA, NIOSH to host risk assessment 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 using risk-based analysis to improve safety performance in the mining sector. The workshop is scheduled for July 14 in Denver, Colo.



The one-day workshop is designed to educate mine 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 Workshop](#). 

Climate legislation *continued from page 1*

ing to accelerate the development of such technologies.

He also stressed that the bill needed to include a cost containment measure to protect against spikes in energy costs and “measures that maintain the global competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing and mining industries.”

In addition, Quinn said the bill should have included a comprehensive legal framework governing carbon capture

and storage liability, “in order to provide the certainty needed to attract investment,” and include “clear and comprehensive preemption of all federal, state and local laws addressing greenhouse gas emissions.”

Following this week’s committee approval it remains unclear when the bill could be voted on by the full House.

A copy of NMA’s letter is available at: [NMA Letter](#). ✕

NMA urges support for increased federal mineral program funds; backs new funding for Mining Law program

NMA recently urged members of the Senate Appropriations Committee to support a budget proposal from President Obama that would boost funding for key mineral programs at the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and help expedite mining permit reviews.

Obama’s fiscal year 2010 budget proposal, unveiled earlier this month, calls for budget increases for the Minerals Resources Program (MRP) and the Minerals Information Team (MIT), both housed at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The proposal reverses a long-standing trend that had seen previous administrations continually slash the budget for both programs. In real terms, MIT’s budget has been cut by nearly 30 percent since 1996.

Obama’s proposal would boost MRP’s budget to \$53.1 million in FY 2010, up from \$52.4 million in FY 2009. The proposal would increase MIT’s funding to approximately \$16 million, marking a 3.4 percent increase from the previous fiscal year.

In a statement submitted to the committee regarding the budget proposal, NMA said MIT “is the leading source of unbiased research on the nation’s mineral resources.”

NMA noted that MIT’s statistical and analytical information “provides the basis for informed policy decisions and is extensively used by government agencies, members of Congress, state and local governments, as well as industry, academia and non-governmental organizations.”

Elsewhere, NMA urged the committee to support Obama’s call for \$2 million in new funding for the Bureau of Land Management’s Mining Law Administration Program (MLAP).

NMA warned committee members that as the number of mining claims filed over the past six years has soared over 600 percent, the number of full time equivalent employees (FTE) assigned to the MLAP program has dropped from 359 to 298.

“Additional staffing and other resources are necessary in order to process the notices and plans of operations required for expanding our domestic mineral supplies,” said NMA. “Delays in obtaining permits and other authorizations remain a substantial impediment to the financing and development of mining projects in the United States.”

A copy of NMA’s statement is available at: [NMA DOI Budget Statement](#). ✕

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.



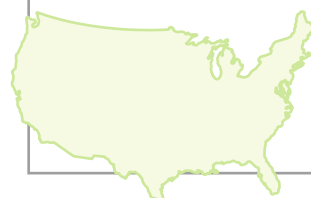
NMA’s Advocacy Campaign Team for Mining (ACT) is an online national network of mining community members who recognize the importance of being involved in the political process and are willing to make their voice heard. To date, ACT Online supporters have sent nearly 20,000 letters to Congress on key 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 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.





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:

May 27 Chicago, Ill. Railroad Customer Forum The Association of American Railroads (AAR), in partnership with the North American Rail Shippers Association (NARS), is sponsoring a Railroad Customer Forum. Senior railroad commercial officers and other senior railroad officers will participate in a question-and-answer format session. Break-out sessions will be offered for customers and senior railroad officers to meet for informal discussions. More information is available at: [Railroad Customer Forum](#).

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.

July 14 Denver, Colo. NMA/NIOSH Risk Assessment Workshop The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) Office of Mine Safety and Health Research and NMA will jointly sponsor a free workshop on using risk-based analysis to improve safety performance in the mining industry. The one-day workshop is designed to educate mining sector safety professionals and managers about the Major Hazard Risk Assessment (MHRA) process. More information is available at: www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining.

July 23-25 San Francisco, Calif. 55th Annual Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute The two and a half day program features presentation by leading public and private sector representatives focused on the latest energy, environmental, land management and international issues. More information is available at: [55th Annual Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute](#).

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](#).

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](#).

DOE announces plans for \$2.4 billion in CCS projects

U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu on May 15 detailed how the department will spend \$2.4 billion in carbon capture and storage (CCS) project funding provided as part of the nearly \$790 billion economic stimulus package President Obama signed into law earlier this year.

"To prevent the worst effects of climate change, we must accelerate our efforts to capture and store carbon in a safe and cost-effective way," said Chu in a May 15 statement. "This funding will both create jobs now and help position the United States to lead the world in CCS technologies, which will be in increasing demand in the years ahead," said Chu.

In addition to the project funding Chu announced last week, the department has yet to announce how it will spend

another \$1 billion provided in the stimulus bill. That funding is targeted at supporting fossil energy research projects capable of capturing and storing a high percentage of carbon dioxide emissions, one example being the proposed FutureGen project in Mattoon, Ill.

Of the \$2.4 billion in project funding announced last week, \$1.52 billion will be used for a two-part competitive solicitation for large-scale industrial emission source CCS projects. The second part of this solicitation will include innovative concepts for beneficial carbon dioxide reuse and capture from the atmosphere.

Chu also announced that \$800 million will be used to expand the department's Clean Coal Power Initiative, which provides government co-financing for new

coal technologies that can help utilities cut sulfur, nitrogen and mercury emissions from power plants. The new funding is meant to help researchers broaden their CCS commercial-scale experience by expanding the range of technologies, applications, fuels, and geologic formations that are tested.

In addition, \$50 million will be used to fund a competitive solicitation to characterize a minimum of 10 geologic formations throughout the U.S., and another \$20 million will be used to educate and train new geologists, scientists and engineers in disciplines needed to staff a broad national CCS program.

More information is available at: [DOE CCS Funding](#). ✕

New SME data track growth in worldwide mining exploration budgets

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME) detailed the latest trends in worldwide anticipated mining exploration spending in the most recent issue of *Mining Engineering*.

According to SME, planned exploration budgets in 2008 increased in all regions of the world reaching \$12.6 billion last year. U.S. exploration spending is expected to jump 34 percent to \$882 million. Despite this increase, U.S. exploration spending still accounts for just 7 percent of total worldwide funds budgeted for exploration.

As in previous years, Latin America leads the world in exploration spending with 25 percent of total spending. Canada was second with 19 percent, followed by Africa at 15 percent and Australia at 14 percent.

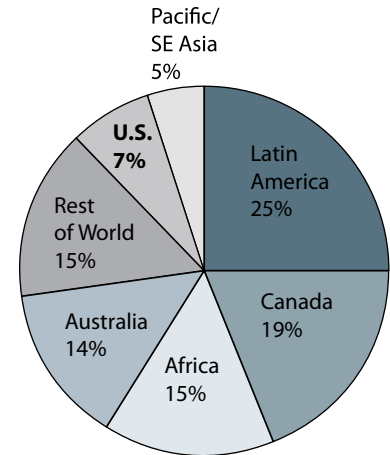
The largest budget increase in dollar terms took place in Latin America, where exploration spend-

ing increased by \$750 million, with Canada second with a jump of \$490 million and Africa third with an increase of \$290 million.

Summary information on exploration budgets in the SME publication are prepared by U.S. Geological Survey information specialists using various sources, including the Metals Economics Group exploration survey.

More information is available to SME subscribers at: [SME Exploration Survey](#). ❌

U.S. Share of Worldwide Exploration Budget Spending 2008



Mining Market Snapshot

Cool Figures	Cumulative year to date	Change over last year
<i>Week ended May 9, 2009</i>		
EIA Coal Production (000 tons)	395,115	-5.1%
Edison Electric Institute Electricity Output (GWh)	1,383,186	-3.3%
American Iron and Steel Institute Raw Steel Production (000 tons)	18,705	-53.0%
Metal Figures		
Copper Prices (\$/mt - week avg. Grade A Cash) 5/8/09		\$4,685.31
Gold Prices (\$/troy ounce - week avg. London Final) 5/8/09		\$909.81
Source: NMA Weekly Statistical Summary/Platts Metals Week		

OhioAmerican Energy coal preparation plant honored for safety achievement

OhioAmerican Energy, Inc.'s Star Ridge Coal Preparation Plant was recently honored with the Pacesetter Award for Mine Safety



Joshua Brady (left), vice president of the North Central West Virginia Holmes Safety Association, presented the Pacesetter Award for Mine Safety to Chris Brown (right), manager of the Star Ridge Coal Preparation Plant, a subsidiary of Murray Energy Corporation, recognizing the plant's record of 545 days without a lost-time accident.

from the West Virginia Council of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association. The award recognizes the plant's record of 545 days without a lost-time accident. OhioAmerican Energy, Inc. is an independent operating subsidiary of Murray Energy Corporation.

The Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association was named in honor of the first administrator of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, which was created in 1910 and was a precursor of the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). The Holmes Safety Association includes national, state and local councils, all working to

prevent fatalities and injuries and to improve health and safety in all phases of mining.

"Recognizing safe mining operations through awards such as this is one of the most effective ways to demonstrate that solid safety practices pay off," said Michael A. Davis, deputy assistant secretary for operations at MSHA. "Employees of the Star Ridge Preparation Plant successfully worked more than 41,000 hours in 2008 without any accidents or injuries, and MSHA is pleased to acknowledge that achievement."

The Star Ridge Preparation Plant annually processes approximately 2 million tons of coal from OhioAmerican Energy's Redbird West surface mine to produce steam coal.

"The Star Ridge prep plant is a small facility so it is vital that everyone does his part to maintain the safety of operations at all times," said Star Ridge plant manager Chris Brown. "We're very proud to receive this award because it demonstrates the emphasis we put on safety not only at the Star Ridge plant, but at OhioAmerican Energy and at all Murray Energy facilities." ❌

Newsbits

The **U.S. Department of Energy** (DOE) recently released a new report that examines the potential to store carbon dioxide (CO₂) underneath millions of acres of federal lands. The report estimates and characterizes the storage potential of more than 400 million acres of Federal land available for lease. In assessing the potential for storage beneath federal lands, the report addresses issues such as federal control, location of emission sources, and pipeline rights-of-way, as well as laws and regulations relevant to federal leasing. A copy of the report is available at: [DOE CO₂ Report](#).



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

Staff

Carol Raulston,
Senior Vice President, Communications
Corey Henry
Leslie Coleman Luke Popovich

NMA Mining Week

Executive and editorial offices: Communications Department, 101 Constitution Ave., NW Suite 500E, Washington, D.C. 20001, telephone 202/463-2600. www.nma.org, fax: 202/463-2614. Change of e-mail address should be directed to mphelleps@nma.org.