



## Memorandum

Minerals Policy Task Force

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**REMINDER:** Time Sensitive Request: Mining Questions from the NEDC

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As a reminder, in their efforts to create the initial workings of a domestic mineral strategy, the National Energy Dominance Council (NEDC) has asked the National Mining Association (NMA) to respond to a number of questions related to exploration, mine development, processing, and workforce. To ensure the NMA is able to provide comprehensive responses to these questions, we would like to enlist your help. Some of the questions are familiar to you and some are new concepts.

To the extent your company has expertise or can provide specific viewpoints on these questions, please provide the NMA with concise responses by no later than **NOON, TOMORROW, TUESDAY, JUNE 24** so that we can compile into an anonymous industry response and provide to the NEDC in order to meet their internal deliverable timetable.

### **Exploration**

1. How would the private sector feel about required submissions of exploration data a drill cores to public databases?
2. Would a public machine learning model estimating reserves be well-received and useful?
3. Which funding mechanisms would increase exploration?
4. Are there any other actions government should take to increase successful exploration?

### **Mine Development**

1. Which specific actions should we take, from the executive branch and congressional sides, to expedite NEPA and reduce lawsuit cost and time consumption?
2. Which other actions can we take to speed up mine development?
3. Are there any funding shortfalls we should address?
4. Do existing mines need any support to expand, go faster, or maintain operations?
5. What kind of marketplace development or price support would be helpful?

### **Processing**

1. For major CMs (rare earth elements, antimony, germanium, gallium, bismuth, etc.), what must we do to onshore processing?
2. Which R&D specifically should we support, how much will it cost, and how soon can we expect results?
3. What must we do to ensure commercialization of this research? Public private partnerships? Government-funded pilot plants? Other?
4. How can we encourage private-sector investment into processing? (May differ from secondary circuits such as gallium versus entirely novel processes such as rare earths)
5. Which promising new technologies should we prioritize for R&D funding?

### **Workforce**

1. Which skillsets and how many workers with each are we lacking to shore up our critical mineral demand?
2. Which actions should government take to ensure we have these skilled workers over the next 5-10 years? The Mining Schools Act would only provide \$10M of funding, which seems insufficient.
3. Should we offer expedited green cards and bonuses for foreign engineers with trade secrets coming here?

Upon receiving industry feedback to these questions, the NMA will then compile the responses into an anonymous format and share with the NEDC. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Sweeney at [ksweeney@nma.org](mailto:ksweeney@nma.org) or Justin Prosser at [jprosser@nma.org](mailto:jprosser@nma.org).

