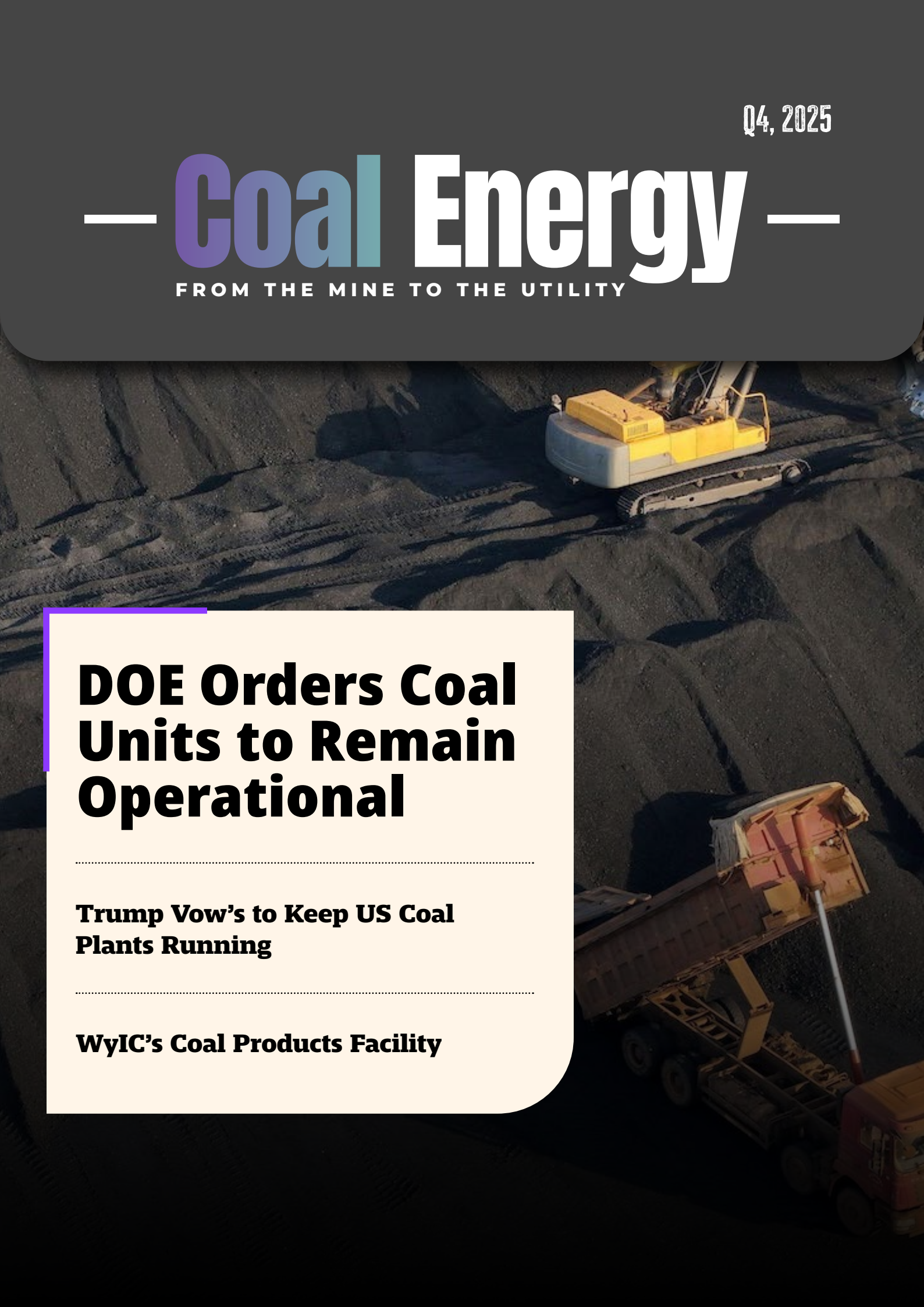
Q4, 2025

Coal Energy

FROM THE MINE TO THE UTILITY



DOE Orders Coal Units to Remain Operational

Trump Vow's to Keep US Coal Plants Running

WyIC's Coal Products Facility

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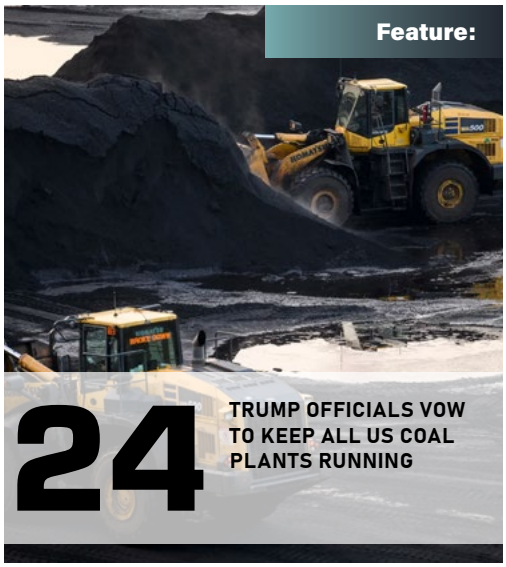

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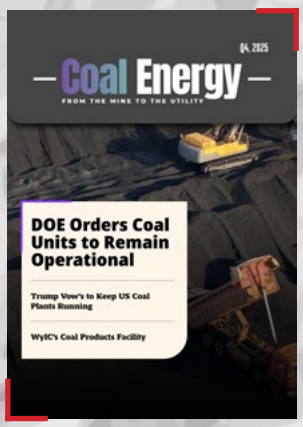

Dear Readers,

As we close out 2025, I'm pleased to share another issue packed with timely coverage, industry insights, and association-focused content for the coal community nationwide.

In this quarter's issue, we feature an important story on the U.S. Department of Energy exercising emergency authority to order additional coal units to remain online. This development underscores the ongoing role of coal in ensuring grid reliability and energy security when it matters most.

We also highlight President Trump's official vow to keep all U.S. coal plants running. His stance continues to shape the national conversation around baseload generation, jobs, and the long-term place of coal in America's energy mix.

Our third major feature examines Wyoming's bold investment in the nation's largest coal products facility near Gillette. This project illustrates how coal-producing regions are innovating, diversifying, and creating new value chains around coal and coal-derived products.

Beginning with this issue, we're introducing a new section titled *Echoes of the Past*. We hope this addition will be of particular interest to readers who value the rich history of coal mining and coal communities. In *Echoes of the Past,* we'll revisit the stories, struggles, and achievements of generations of miners and industry pioneers whose work laid the foundation for today's coal sector.

As always, we continue to provide association comparisons and an updated member directory to help you understand the evolving landscape of coal organizations, as well as to strengthen your professional connections. We're proud that our readership includes members from many of the largest and most influential coal associations across the country.

We sincerely thank our advertisers for their ongoing support, which makes this publication possible, and we thank you, our readers, for your continued engagement, feedback, and loyalty.

Warmest regards,

Maria Martonick

President

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Association Comparisons

www.nma.org

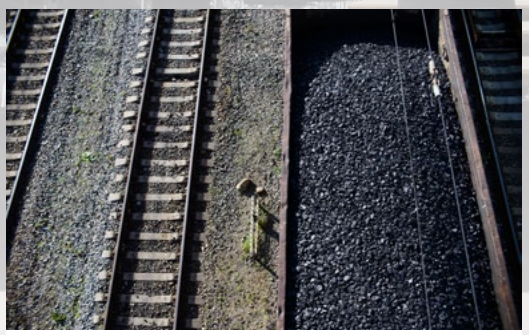
NATIONAL MINING ASSOCIATION (NMA)

Mission:

The NMA's mission is to build support for public policies that will help Americans fully and responsibly benefit from our abundant natural resources. Our objective is to engage in and influence the public process on the most significant and timely issues that impact mining's ability to safely and sustainably locate, permit, mine, transport and utilize the nation's vast resources.

NMA SERVES ITS MEMBERSHIP BY:

- Promoting the safe production and use of coal and mineral resources
- Establishing a strong political presence in the Nation's Capital
- Serving as the information center for and a single voice of U.S. mining
- Addressing the current and future policy needs of U.S. mining, mining equipment manufacturers and support for services members of NMA.

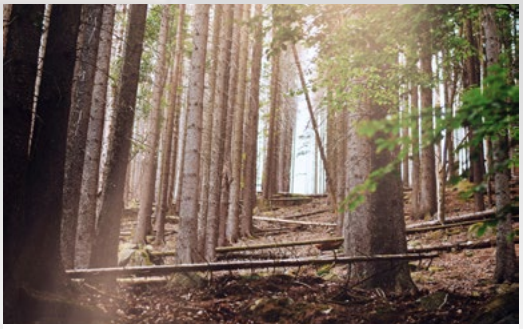


www.movecoal.org

NATIONAL COAL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION (NCTA)

Mission:

The mission of the NCTA is to provide education and facilitation for the resolution of coal transportation issues in order to serve the needs of the general public, industry, and all modes of transportation. This is accomplished through the sponsoring of educational fora and providing opportunities for the lawful exchange of ideas and knowledge with all elements of the coal transportation infrastructure.



www.asrs.us

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF RECLAMATION SCIENCES (ASRS)

Mission:

ASRS's mission is to represent and serve a diverse international community of scientists, practitioners, private industry, technicians, educators, planners, and government regulators involved in mineral extraction and disturbed ecosystem reclamation.

ASRS promotes the advancement of basic and applied reclamation science through research and technology transfer in the Society's annual meetings, workshops, published proceedings, newsletters, Reclamation Matters publication, Reclamation Sciences, and the ASRS website.

www.acaa-usa.org

AMERICAN COAL ASH ASSOCIATION (ACAA)

Mission:

The ACAA advances the management and use of coal combustion products in ways that are environmentally responsible, technically sound, commercially competitive and more supportive of a sustainable global community.

www.americancoalcouncil.org

AMERICAN COAL COUNCIL (ACC)

Mission:

American Coal Council (ACC) provides relevant educational programs, market intelligence, advocacy support and peer-to-peer networking forums to advance members' commercial and professional development interests.

ACC represents the collective interests of the American coal industry in advocating for coal as an economic, abundant and environmentally sound critical resource.

ACC serves as an essential resource for industry, policy makers and public interest groups. The Association supports activities and objectives that advance coal supply, consumption, transportation and trading.

www.futurecoal.org

FUTURECOAL

FutureCoal represents industry leaders, committed to building a sustainable future for global coal.

www.alltricitynetwork.org

ALLTRICITY NETWORK

Mission:

This short statement outlines the association's identity and business activities. The Mission Statement was modified to more clearly emphasize what the organization is, why it exists and who we serve:

Preparing the electric energy industry for the future through education and networking.

Since 1903, Alltricity Network has been an association by members, for members. Employees from member companies drive program content by serving on the association committees, presenting at events, writing in Alltricity Network's publications and providing feedback to the staff. Members also advocate for Alltricity Network, and the association sees growth because of the outstanding word-of-mouth promotion by members. When a member brings their colleague to an Alltricity Network event, that person experiences what the association is all about and leaves with an appreciation for the content and the trusted community of sharing. Electric energy professionals know they can get answers from Alltricity Network because of the knowledge and friendliness of the members. By working together through the association, they are driving their industry forward.

DOE ORDERS MORE COAL UNITS TO STAY ONLINE UNDER EMERGENCY AUTHORITY

By: Kevin Clark

- *The U.S. Department of Energy issued emergency orders in December requiring four coal-fired power plants in the Midwest and Western U.S. to remain operational beyond their planned retirement dates due to reliability risks from rising electricity demand and accelerated generation retirements.*
- *In Washington state, the DOE ordered TransAlta to keep Centralia Unit 2 operational through March 16, 2026, despite its scheduled retirement at the end of 2025, citing elevated risks during extreme winter conditions and projected capacity shortfalls.*
- *DOE also issued two orders in Indiana requiring coal units at Northern Indiana Public Service Company and CenterPoint Energy to remain available through March 23, 2026, due to resource adequacy challenges and projected capacity deficits in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator region.*

U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued a series of emergency orders in December requiring four coal-fired power plants in the Midwest and Western United States to remain operational beyond their planned retirement dates, citing near-term reliability risks tied to rising electricity demand and accelerated generation retirements.

The orders were issued under Section 202© of the Federal Power Act, which allows the energy secretary to direct generation during grid emergencies caused by shortages of electricity or generation capacity. All four orders cite similar drivers: growing load, limited new capacity additions, supply chain delays and heightened risk during extreme weather.

In Washington state, the DOE ordered TransAlta to keep Centralia Unit 2, an approximately 730-megawatt (MW) coal-fired unit, available for dispatch through March 16, 2026. The unit, which began operating in 1973, had been scheduled to retire at the end of December 2025 under a 2011 state law and agreement with Washington regulators. The order applies to the WECC Northwest region, which includes Washington, Oregon, Montana and parts of Idaho and California.

DOE cited the North American Electric Reliability Corp.'s 2025–26 Winter Reliability Assessment, which found the region faces elevated risk during extreme winter conditions, and a 2025 Energy + Environmental Economics study projecting a regional capacity shortfall beginning in 2026. Under the order, Centralia Unit 2 may be dispatched by Bonneville Power Administration or the California Independent System Operator when needed. The unit cannot be counted as a capacity resource and must comply with environmental requirements.

In Indiana, the DOE issued two separate orders covering coal units in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator footprint. One order requires Northern Indiana Public Service Company to keep the R.M. Schahfer Generating Station Units 17 and 18, each rated at approximately 423 MW, available through March 23, 2026. The Wheatfield, Indiana plant had planned to retire both coal units at the end of 2025.

The second Indiana order applies to CenterPoint Energy's F.B. Culley Generating Station in Warrick County. Culley Unit 2, an approximately 104 MW coal-fired unit that began operating in 1966, must also remain available through March 23, 2026.

Both orders cite MISO's year-round resource adequacy challenges, including increased emergency events outside the traditional summer peak season and projected capacity deficits later this decade. DOE pointed to MISO and NERC assessments showing elevated risk during winter, spring and fall seasons as retirements of dispatchable generation continue to outpace new additions.

In Colorado, the DOE ordered Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and its co-owners to keep Craig Station Unit 1, a 446 MW coal-fired unit, available through March 30, 2026. The unit, which began operating in 1980, had been scheduled to retire at the end of 2025. Craig Station is located in northwestern Colorado and serves the WECC Northwest region.

According to the order, the region faces increasing variability due to growing reliance on wind and hydro resources, combined with the planned retirement of baseload generation. DOE cited NERC and Western Electricity Coordinating Council assessments projecting continued demand growth and limited near-term replacement capacity.

An Associated Press report on Dec. 31 said Tri-State acknowledged the order would require repairs to a broken valve that forced Craig Unit 1 offline earlier in December. Tri-State CEO Duane Highley said compliance costs would ultimately be borne by the cooperative's members unless costs can be shared regionally.

All four orders require plant owners and grid operators to provide regular compliance reports to the DOE, file tariff revisions if needed and follow environmental monitoring and reporting requirements. None of the units covered by the orders may be treated as capacity resources.

The DOE said the emergency measures are temporary and tied to near-term reliability risks as new generation and transmission projects work through permitting, interconnection and supply chain constraints. The department has previously issued emergency orders to delay coal plant retirements in states like Michigan.

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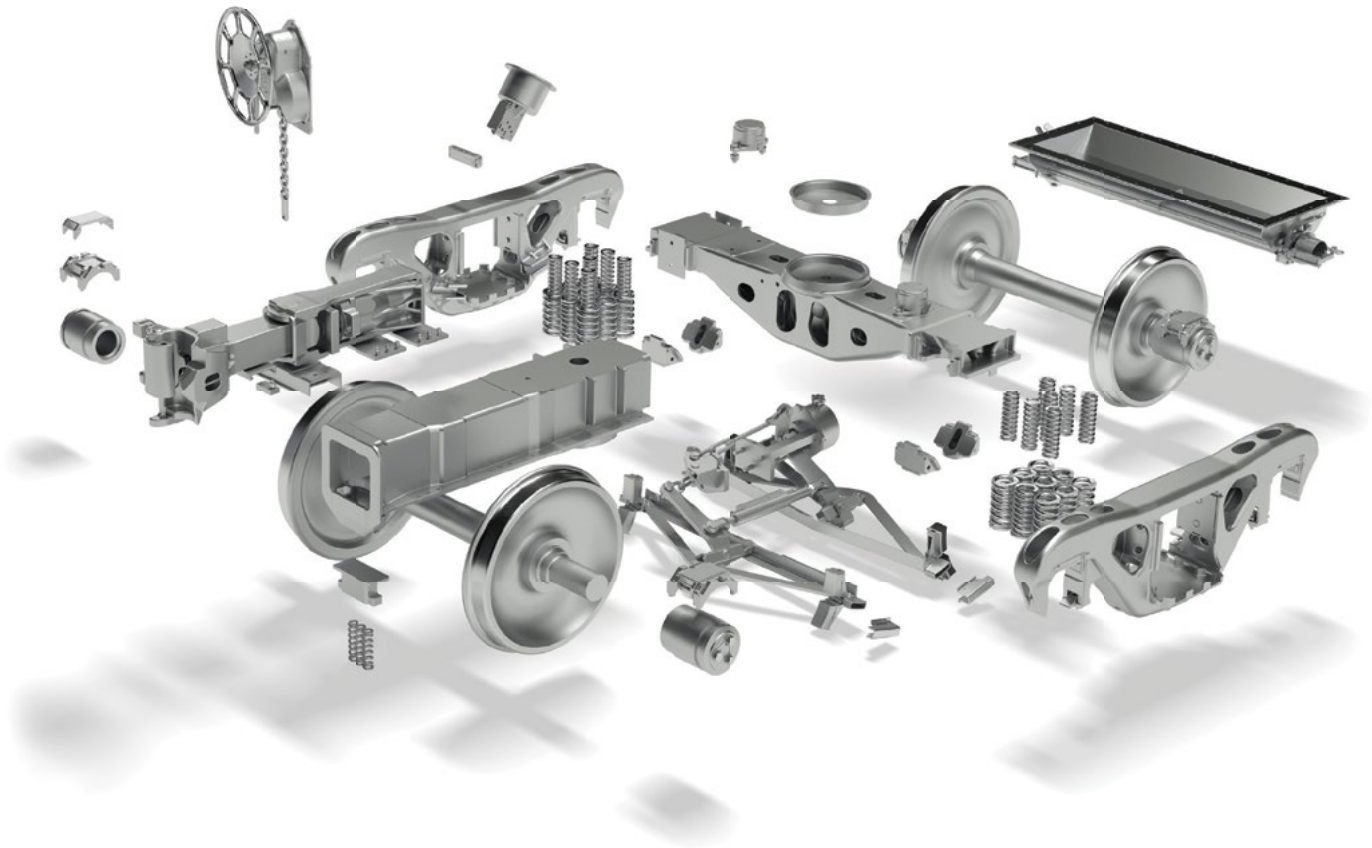

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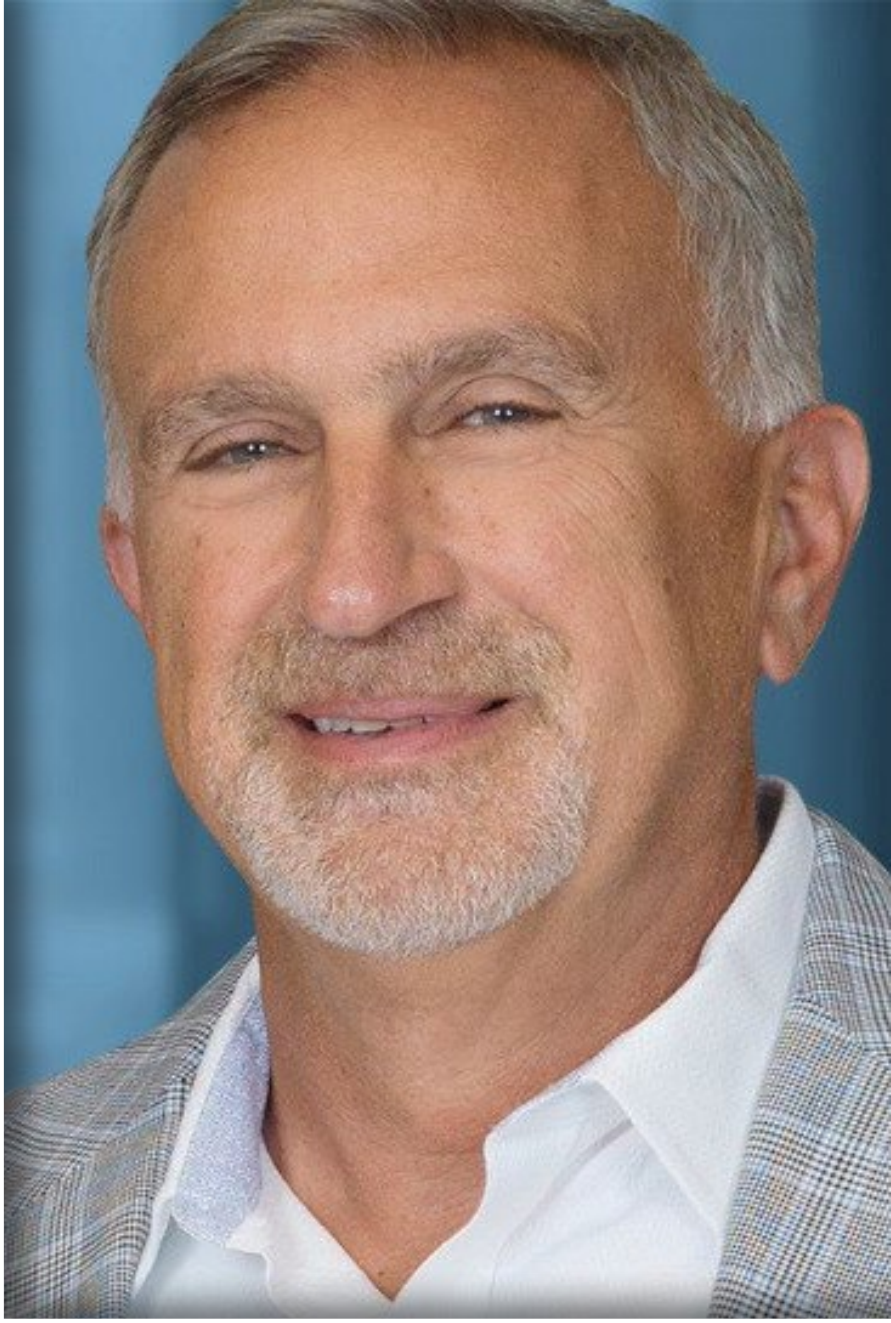
Peabody CEO Grech Appointed Chair of US National Coal Council

US coal major Peabody Energy president and CEO Jim Grech has been made chairperson of the National Coal Council (NCC), with the appointment formalised at a meeting at the White House.



The NCC provides advice and recommendations to the US Secretary of Energy, Chris Wright, on general policy matters relating to coal and the coal industry. The council was re-established by the Department of Energy in June 2025 after its charter was allowed to lapse in 2021.

Grech said coal remained central to US energy security and affordability.

"The United States has more coal than any nation has in any one energy source, and coal's importance to US energy security and affordability is enormous," he said.

He added that coal also held potential beyond power generation, including in the supply of strategic materials.

"Coal also represents untapped potential in such areas as rare earth elements and critical minerals, which are also cornerstones of American national security. I am honoured to serve in this role with the National Coal Council and look forward to working with the Trump Administration, Secretary Wright, Jimmy Brock as vice chair and our coal industry partners to advance policies that further strengthen American energy reliability and affordability," Grech said.

Peabody said US coal-fired power generation rose by an estimated 13% in 2025, supported by extended coal plant operating lives, cost advantages relative to alternative generation sources and rising electricity demand from AI and data centres. The company noted that increased US coal use contributed to global coal demand reaching a new record of about 8.8-billion tonnes in 2025, based on International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates.

The NCC's advisory role includes providing reports and advice on federal policy affecting the production, marketing and use of coal, as well as addressing technological, economic, regulatory and societal issues related to coal production and utilisation. The council also considers the appropriate balance among various elements of federal coal-related programmes.

Grech joined Peabody in 2021 and has more than 35 years of experience in the coal and natural resources sector. He also serves on the boards of America's Power, the National Mining Association and Blue Danube, and is a member of the IEA's Coal Industry Advisory Board.

In addition, he is an appointed member of the Surface Transportation Board's Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee.

Founded in the 1880s, Peabody is the largest coal producer in the US, operating eight thermal coal mines and one metallurgical coal mine domestically, as well as a portfolio of metallurgical and seaborne thermal coal assets in Australia. Its North Antelope Rochelle mine in Wyoming's Powder River basin is the largest surface coal mine in the western hemisphere and produces about 12% of total US coal output.

Peabody

COAL'S COMEBACK: A YEAR OF REALISM, RENEWAL, AND RESTORED CONFIDENCE

By: WVCA

Looking Back at 2025–and Forward with Confidence

As the calendar turns, it is worth pausing to take stock of where we've been and where we're headed. For America's coal industry—and especially for the men and women of the West Virginia coalfields—2025 marked a turning point. After years of regulatory headwinds and policy uncertainty, the nation began to regain its footing. The change did not come by accident. It came because leadership changed, priorities changed, and common sense began to reassert itself.

When President Donald Trump began his second term last January, he did so with a clear message: America would no longer apologize for producing energy. From day one, the administration moved to restore balance to federal energy policy—recognizing that affordability, reliability, and national security matter just as much as aspirational targets and glossy press releases.

That shift has made a difference. Regulatory reform efforts in 2025 focused on removing onerous rules, restoring permitting discipline, and re-centering federal agencies on statutory authority rather than ideological agendas. The result has been greater certainty for energy producers, utilities, and investors. Markets function better when rules are clear and durable. Coal has benefited because it competes best on a level field.

At the national level, the reassertion of American energy dominance has not been theoretical. It has been practical. The administration's approach acknowledged what grid operators and engineers have said for years: you cannot run a modern economy on intermittent power alone. Coal remains essential to grid stability, particularly during peak demand, extreme weather, and supply disruptions. In 2025, those realities became harder to ignore.

Across the country, utilities and policymakers were forced to confront reliability challenges brought on by years of premature baseload retirements. The lesson was simple and sobering: you cannot replace firm, dispatchable generation with hope. Coal's role in the nation's energy mix—never gone, but often dismissed—has been reaffirmed by necessity as much as by policy.

Here in West Virginia, we saw that same realism take hold. Governor Patrick Morrisey moved quickly to align state policy with the realities of energy production and economic development. His administration has made clear that West Virginia will not sabotage its own strengths. Coal is not a relic here; it is a foundation.

The Governor's and the Legislature's actions in 2025 sent an unmistakable signal: West Virginia intends to be an energy state, not an energy spectator. By defending reliable generation, supporting in-state production, and pushing back against policies that export jobs while importing risk, state leadership helped stabilize confidence across the coalfields.

At the federal level, West Virginia's congressional delegation played an equally important role. Whether pushing back against regulatory overreach, advocating for permitting reform, or reminding Washington that energy security is national security, our members of Congress helped ensure that coal's voice was heard. That coordination—state and federal, executive and legislative—made 2025 a year of regained momentum.

For the West Virginia Coal Association,

the past year was about more than policy wins. It was about rebuilding confidence. Confidence among producers making capital decisions. Confidence among miners wondering whether their livelihoods had a future. Confidence among communities that have endured years of being told—often by people far removed from reality—that their best days were behind them.

That confidence is returning, not because anyone is pretending coal has no challenges, but because the industry is once again being treated honestly. Coal does not need subsidies or slogans. It needs fairness, predictability, and recognition of its value. In 2025, we made progress on all three fronts.

Looking ahead, our vision for the foreseeable future is grounded and achievable. First, we will continue to press for durable regulatory reform that surviveselection cycles. Energy infrastructure requires long planning horizons; policy must reflect that reality. Second, we will work to strengthen coal's role domestically and globally where West Virginia coal has a healthy presence. Third, to expand coal consumption and utilization in a diversified, resilient grid—one that can meet rising demand from electrification, reshoring, and data-intensive industries. Fourth, we will focus on workforce stability and community investment. Coal jobs are not just paychecks; they are anchors for schools, small businesses, and local tax bases. Sustaining the workforce means sustaining the regions that power this country.

Finally, we will continue telling the truth—plainly and without apology—about coal's role in America's future. Not as a slogan, but as a fact supported by engineering, economics, and experience.

There is a new sense of optimism spreading across the country, and it is palpable in the coalfields. You hear it in conversations at mine sites. You see it in equipment orders and project planning. You feel it in communities that are tired of being written off and are ready to move forward again.

Optimism does not mean complacency. There is work ahead, and challenges remain. But 2025 reminded us that policy choices matter—and that when leaderschoose realism over rhetoric, American energy workers respond.

Coal helped build this nation. In 2025, the nation began to remember that. The years ahead offer an opportunity to turn renewed respect into lasting progress. The West Virginia coal industry stands ready to do its part.

U.S. Energy Secretary Appoints WV Coal Association President to National Coal Council

Chris Wright
U.S. Secretary of Energy

Chris Hamilton
President and Chief Executive Officer of the West Virginia Coal Association

U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright has appointed Chris Hamilton, President and Chief Executive Officer of the West Virginia Coal Association, to serve as a member of the National Coal Council (NCC).

The National Coal Council is a federal advisory committee established to provide expert guidance and recommendations to the U.S. Department of Energy on matters related to coal policy, technology, and strategic priorities. Members of the Council represent a diverse cross-section of coal industry leaders, researchers, utilities, and policy experts.

Hamilton said he is honored by the appointment and looks forward to representing West Virginia's coal industry and workforce on the national stage.

"It's a privilege to serve on the National Coal Council and contribute to the national dialogue surrounding energy security and coal's essential role in America's future," Hamilton said. **"West Virginia coal has long been a cornerstone of our nation's energy economy, and this appointment will help ensure our industry's voice and experience are well represented in shaping federal policy."**

As the state's leading advocate for coal producers and affiliated industries, the West Virginia Coal Association works closely with state and federal policymakers to promote responsible mining, reliable energy production, and innovation across the sector.

Secretary Wright's appointment of Hamilton recognizes his decades of leadership and advocacy for coal communities, energy policy development, and job preservation within the state and region.

Barr Touts Coal-First Energy Agenda, Says It's Key to Kentucky's AI future

By: Austin R. Ramsey

Republican U.S. Senate candidate Rep. Andy Barr unveiled his plan to jumpstart Kentucky's beleaguered coal industry by fostering artificial-intelligence infrastructure.

The Bluegrass State is ripe with resources AI data centers need to outpace foreign competitors, and coal-fired energy is the backbone of that strategy, Barr told reporters at a press conference in Harlan County.

Barr trails former Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron in a crowded GOP primary race to replace retiring U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell. The 13-year congressman is trying to distance himself from Cameron and others by firmly embracing Kentucky's coal-mining heritage and pledging to lead its return.

At an appearance at a mine in Lynch, he criticized Cameron for backing the closure of a coal-fired power plant as attorney general in 2021 and accused Lexington entrepreneur Nate Morris, who has also entered race, of embracing **"the radical climate agenda."**

"When it comes to who is going to actually stand for coal, there's only one candidate for United States Senate who has a plan," Barr said at a podium flanked on both sides by Eastern Kentucky miners.

The Cameron campaign responded to Barr's jabs, saying the congressman is not a true conservative. Cameron supported the closure of the Mitchell Power Plant, co-owned by Kentucky Power, in 2021 because it employs no Kentuckians and does not provide any **"economic value to the Commonwealth,"** campaign manager Nathanael Hirt told the Herald-Leader in an emailed statement.

Although there are no active coal mines in Barr's legislative district, which includes Lexington and much of the surrounding area, Barr has been an outspoken supporter of Kentucky coal since he was first elected in 2012. His pro-coal stance helped him curry favor with President Donald Trump, who campaigned for Barr in 2018 against one of his first real challengers, former Marine pilot Amy McGrath.

Last month, Trump's own support of the coal industry came into sharper focus when he ordered the U.S. Department of Energy to stop the imminent shuttering of two Indiana power plants and delayed enforcing new rules that would require the facilities to prevent toxic chemicals from leaching into drinking water sources.

Barr authored a package of legislation over the summer aimed at unlocking new domestic markets for Kentucky coal by prioritizing coal waste recycling efforts and fast-tracking coal companies for federal defense funding.

"We have to revive coal for national security, not just jobs and prosperity of the people of Eastern Kentucky, but because we're in a race for the technologies of the future and dominance in those technologies," Barr told the Herald-Leader shortly before event. **"We need to pay attention to what China is doing with AI, and we need to maintain a qualitative edge."**

American chip manufacturer CEO Jensen Huang made headlines in November when he said China is **"nanoseconds behind America in AI,"** yet the U.S. has overregulated the industry while China **"guarantees baseload power for AI"** by approving roughly two new coal-fired plants every week, Barr said.

Kentucky is uniquely situated to take advantage of U.S. investments in AI because of its existing coal-fired production infrastructure, plentiful water resources, skilled workforce and centralized location, Barr contends. That gives the state an edge over others where it is cheaper and easier to mine.

Barr's coal-first energy plan would also force regulators to tamp down on companies prioritizing environmental, social and corporate governance factors on Wall Street. "ESG," as it has become known, has become a political flashpoint among Republicans on Capitol Hill who are eager to stem the flow of investments into clean-energy alternatives they believe are ill-suited to replace safely reliable coal and natural gas.

In 2013, Barr acknowledged to reporters **"coal does contribute to climate change,"** but he insisted it is better for it to be used in the U.S. than shipped to other countries with poor environmental records.

Barr is a member of the Conservative Climate Caucus, which openly agrees with the global scientific consensus that **"the climate is changing"** and acknowledges the **"global industrial era"** has contributed. But the caucus also believes China is the greatest immediate obstacle to curbing global emissions and says fossil fuels **"can and should be a major part of the global solution."**

Prior presidential administrations have intentionally redirected money away from coal-mining and coal-fired production enterprises by weaponizing financial regulators, Barr said. The result has been a shortage in innovation that would make the U.S. a leader and exporter of cleaner, coal-fired technology, he said.

"If you really care about the environment, you would spend more, not less," he told the Herald-Leader. **"You would not divert capital away from this industry. You would put more and invest in it."**

The congressman spent touring a former coal mine in Lynch and meeting with representatives from the mining industry around Cumberland.

Bluegrass Natural Resources, which operates three underground metallurgical coal mines in Kentucky, sent several dozen miners to meet with Barr before the press conference.

Chief operating officer Don Hacker told the Herald-Leader his company has rights to more than 400 million tons of coal in and around Black Mountain, the state's highest point in Southeastern Kentucky and a hotbed for coal used in the steelmaking industry.

Half of that minable coal is steam coal used for energy production, but the company is not extracting any of it right now because demand is too low, Hacker said. Since 2009, he said, the company has had to lay off at least 2,000 miners.

"You bring some of those data centers and some of those power plants, we'd probably give them the property to put them on and provide the coal," he said. **"You bring some of the jobs that he's talking about here, and we'll supply the coal."**

Coal-fired energy is more expensive than clean-energy alternatives, according to new research commissioned by a group of Kentucky environmental advocacy organizations and released last month. That research has gone head-to-head against a coal consulting firm's study cautioning against the "**premature**" retirement of coal plants ahead of a General Assembly session set to get underway in Frankfort, where consumer pricing is expected to take center stage.

AI computation is highly energy-intensive and requires processing units to run continuously, often for months at a time. That drains the power grid, increases reliance on water for cooling and runs the risk of skyrocketing harmful emissions.

Firm McKinsey & Co. predicts data centers could consume nearly 12% of all U.S. electricity by 2030.

Rep. Andy Barr, center, tours a shaft mine in Lynch, Ky., Jan. 5, 2025, shortly before unveiling a coal-first energy platform in Kentucky's U.S. Senate race.

Rep. Andy Barr, center, tours a shaft mine in Lynch, Ky., Jan. 5, 2025, shortly before unveiling a coal-first energy platform in Kentucky's U.S. Senate race.

THE US ARMY ONCE DEPLOYED BOMBERS AND 2,500 TROOPS TO CRUSH 10,000 ARMED COAL MINERS IN WEST VIRGINIA

By: Allen Frazier

Ten thousand armed coal miners held Blair Mountain in late August 1921. They faced machine gun nests, private planes dropping bombs, and a growing force of deputies backed by coal company money. Then President Warren Harding made a decision that would end the largest armed insurrection since the Civil War.

He sent in the U.S. Army.

The Battle of Blair Mountain as it is now known, became the most infamous event of the West Virginia Coal Wars. In response, the federal government deployed troops, bombers, and military force to suppress American workers fighting for union rights. The intervention set a precedent that would shape how the military handled domestic unrest for decades.

A System Built on Control

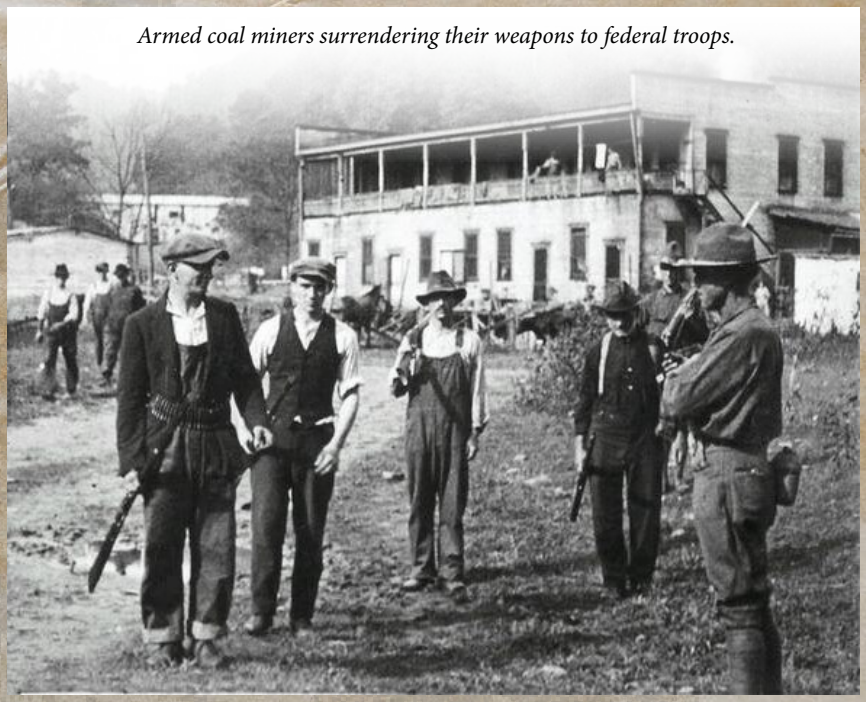
West Virginia's coal miners lived under what historians call an industrial police state. They worked in company-owned mines, lived in company-owned houses, and shopped at company-owned stores. Wages came as scrip, company currency worthless anywhere else. Miners rented tools from the company, bought overpriced goods from company stores, and fell deeper into debt with each paycheck.

Death rates in West Virginia mines were the highest in the nation. In 1918 alone, 404 miners died in the state. Gas explosions, roof collapses, and mechanical accidents killed thousands over the years. Safety regulations barely existed. Coal operators prioritized production over lives.

When miners tried to organize unions, companies deployed the Baldwin-Felts Detective Agency. These private agents functioned as hired muscle. They beat organizers, evicted families at gunpoint, and even killed union sympathizers. Mine guards patrolled towns on horseback carrying shotguns, rifles, and clubs. Free speech didn't exist. Miners couldn't gather in groups larger than two. Company postmasters read and censored their mail.

Making conditions worse, the coal operators controlled local sheriffs, judges, and politicians. The system was designed to crush any resistance before it started.

Armed coal miners surrendering their weapons to federal troops.



The Shooting in Matewan

On May 19, 1920, Baldwin-Felts agents arrived by train in Matewan, a small mining town in Mingo County. They came to evict miners from company housing for trying to unionize. Matewan Police Chief Sid Hatfield and Mayor Cabell Testerman confronted them, demanding to see warrants.

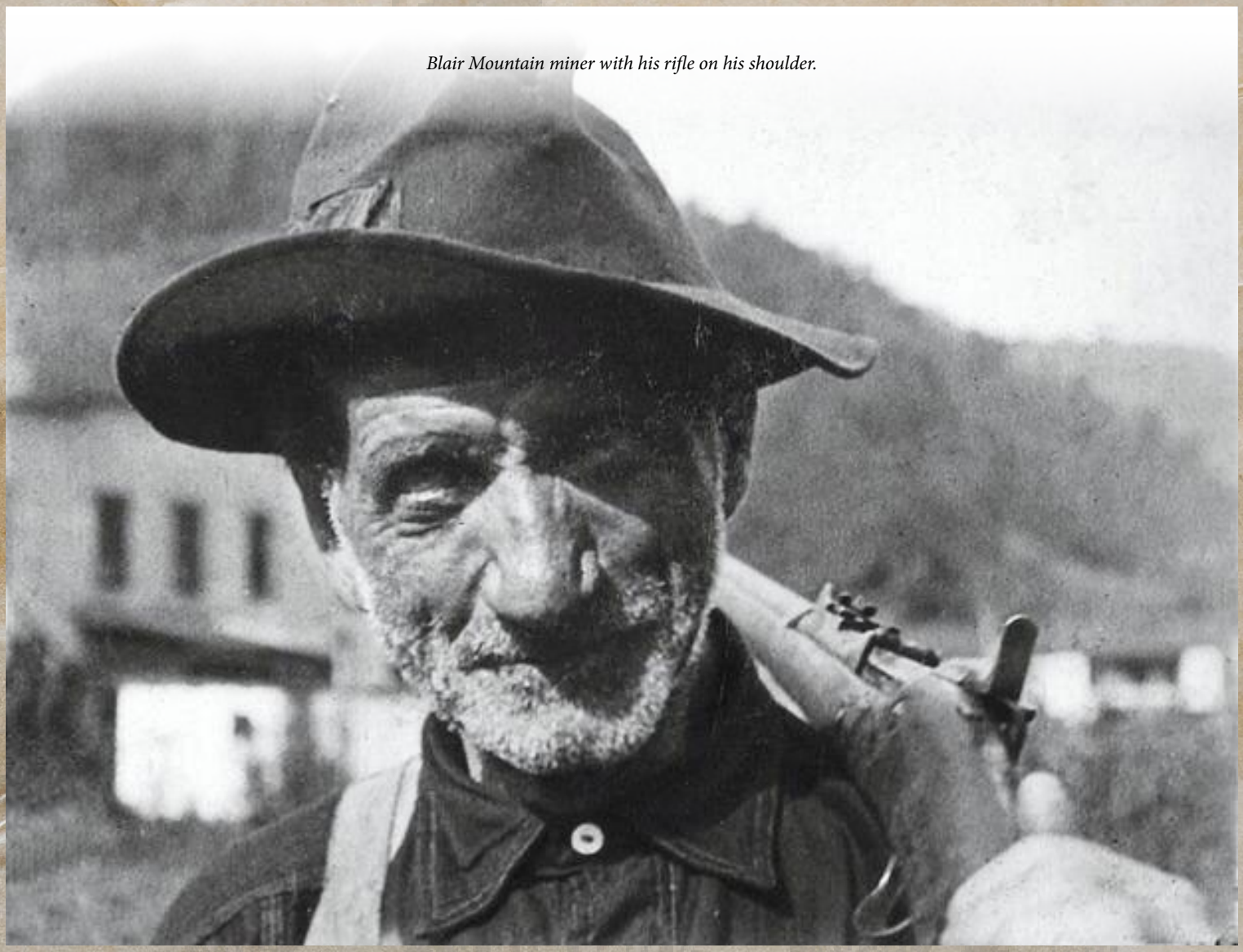
The agents couldn't produce legal documentation. Hatfield deputized several miners on the spot to stop the evictions. Tensions exploded into a gunfight along the railroad tracks. When the shooting stopped, 10 people lay dead including the mayor, seven Baldwin-Felts agents, and two miners.

Hatfield became an instant hero across West Virginia's coalfields. He had stood up to the coal companies. Miners saw hope that resistance was possible.

The companies saw a threat that needed to be eliminated.

Violence escalated throughout 1920 and into 1921. State police raided miner tent colonies, destroying shelters and arresting union members. Governor Ephraim Morgan declared martial law in Mingo County at the coal operators' request. Hundreds of union activists were jailed without trial. Families were assaulted in makeshift camps.

By the summer of 1921, West Virginia was a powder keg.



Blair Mountain miner with his rifle on his shoulder.

The Conflict

On August 1, 1921, Hatfield walked up the steps of the McDowell County courthouse with his friend Ed Chambers. Both men were unarmed. Their wives accompanied them. Baldwin-Felts agents opened fire from the top of the stairs. Hatfield died instantly. An agent ran down and shot Chambers again in the back of the head while his wife screamed.

None of the assassins faced charges.

Word spread through the mining camps like wildfire. Within days, miners began gathering at Lens Creek. By August 24, roughly 13,000 armed men started marching south toward Mingo County. Many were World War I veterans. They knew how to fight.

"It is time to lay down the bible and take up the rifle," declared John Wilburn, a Baptist minister and part-time miner who would lead troops up Blair Mountain.

The miners wore red bandanas around their necks to identify each other in the dense forests. The press called them the **"Red Neck Army."** They commandeered trains, including one they renamed the **"Blue Steel Special."** Their goal was to free imprisoned union miners in Mingo County, end martial law, and force the coal operators to recognize their rights.

One obstacle stood in their way. Logan County Sheriff Don Chafin had assembled a private army of 3,000 men along Blair Mountain's ridgeline. The Logan County Coal Operators Association paid for everything, creating the nation's largest private armed force.

Logan County Sheriff's deputies during the battle of Blair Mountain.

> *"No armed mob will cross the Logan County line," Chafin proclaimed.*

President Harding Intervenes

On August 25, Secretary of War John Weeks sent Brigadier General Henry Bandholtz to West Virginia with presidential approval. Harding chose carefully. Bandholtz had earned his reputation suppressing resistance to American occupation in the Philippines. He later served as Provost Marshal for the American Expeditionary Force in France during World War I. The 56-year-old general knew how to put down rebellions.

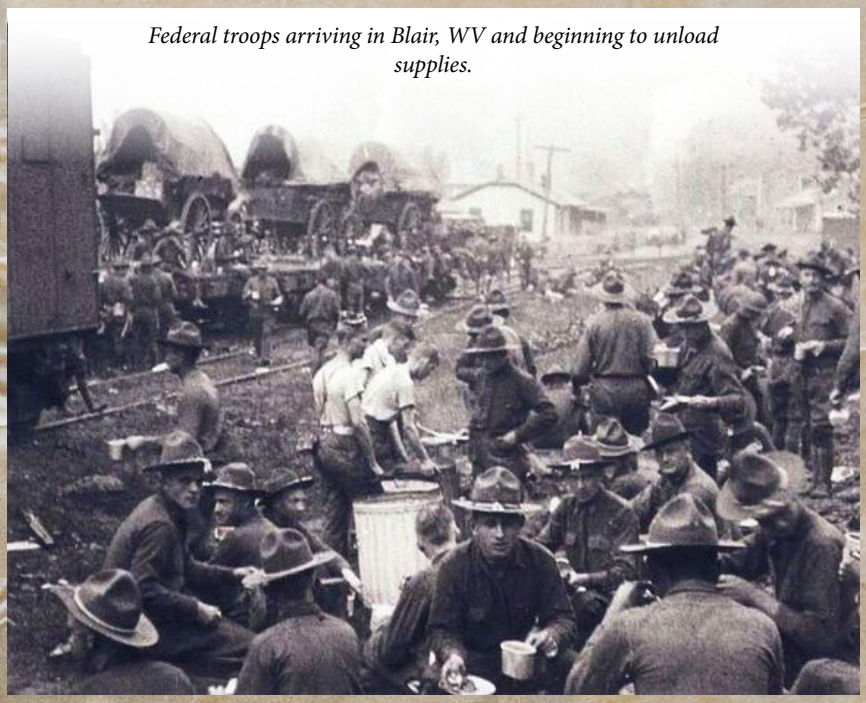
Bandholtz carried explicit orders to determine whether federal troops were necessary or if the threat alone would suffice. He was to restore order without delay, preferably without bloodshed.

He met with Governor Ephraim Morgan first. Morgan claimed the southern counties were at the mercy of an army of rabble. Only military intervention would prevent massive loss of life and property destruction.

Then Bandholtz met with union leaders Frank Keeney and Fred Mooney on August 26. He made his position crystal clear. He wasn't interested in labor disputes or mining conditions. He told them he was **"indifferent to the merits of the dispute between miners and coal operators"** but cared only about the president's directive to restore law and order.

If the miners didn't disperse, Bandholtz warned, the U.S. Army would **"snuff them out"** or arrest them for treason.

Keeney relayed the warning to miners gathered at a baseball field in Madison.



Federal troops arriving in Blair, WV and beginning to unload supplies.

> *"You can fight the government of West Virginia, but, by God, you can't fight the government of the United States," he told them.*

Map of the movement of the union miners during their march from Marmet towards Williamson.

The miners initially agreed to turn back. Then reports arrived that Chafin's forces had attacked union sympathizers in Sharples, killing miners and endangering families. The march resumed with renewed fury.

Bandholtz reported back to Washington with the news that federal intervention was necessary.

Four Days of Combat

Fighting erupted on August 31 when Wilburn led 70 miners up Blair Mountain before dawn. They encountered three deputy sheriffs, including John Gore, a notorious mine guard. Gunfire broke out. Gore fell dead with a bullet in his head. One miner, Eli Kemp, also died in the skirmish.

Soon, gunfights broke out all along the mountain.

The battle raged for four days across a 15-mile ridgeline. Chafin's forces held superior positions and better weapons. Private planes dropped homemade bombs filled with gunpowder, nuts, and bolts. They also allegedly dropped poison gas and explosives left over from World War I.

An estimated one million rounds were fired over that short time period. The miners pushed forward repeatedly, at times coming within

four miles of Logan. Military strategists would later note that the miners, many trained in WWI tactics, had nearly broken through Chafin's defenses.

But they wouldn't get the chance.

The Largest Domestic Military Deployment in Decades

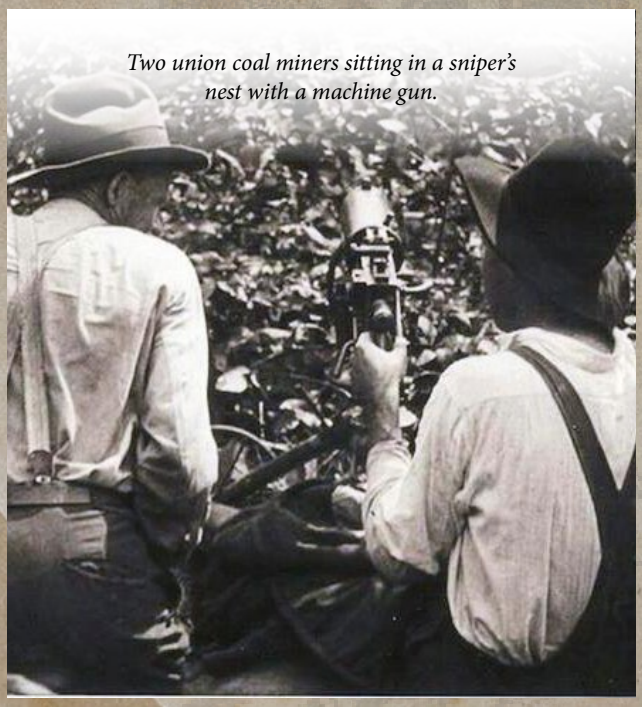
On August 30, President Harding issued a proclamation commanding all persons engaged in the insurrection to disperse. He threatened military force. Two days later, he ordered the deployment.

The response was massive. Harding mobilized 2,500 Army troops under Bandholtz's command, the largest domestic military deployment in over 40 years. He sent Army Air Service reconnaissance planes to patrol the skies and gather intelligence. Most dramatically, he dispatched Martin MB-1 bombers from Maryland under General Billy Mitchell, the same aviation pioneer who would later advocate for expanded air power.

The bombers never dropped ordnance on the miners. Their mission was surveillance and intimidation. One Martin bomber crashed on its return flight, killing four of the five crew members.

By September 3, federal troops poured into West Virginia. They established positions at Blair Mountain, Jeffrey, Sharples, and Logan. Soldiers built posts along the ridgelines. Bombers circled overhead. The military occupation was swift and overwhelming.

Governor Morgan issued a proclamation ordering peace officers to cooperate with U.S. troops "to the end that there may be unity of action." State and federal authority now stood united against the miners.



Two union coal miners sitting in a sniper's nest with a machine gun.

Coal miners in 1921 display an unexploded bomb dropped during the Battle of Blair Mountain.

Veterans Face Veterans

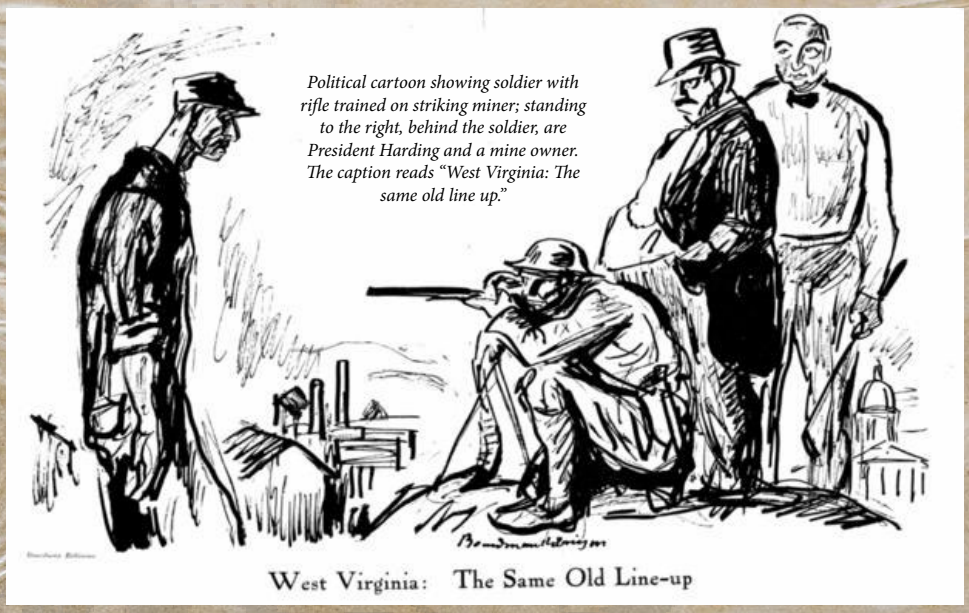
The miners faced an impossible predicament. Many had fought for their country in France just three years earlier. Now Army troops, their fellow veterans, stood between them and their goals. The miners were unwilling to fight the U.S. Army.

They laid down their weapons.

Some scattered fighting continued until September 4, but the rebellion was over. Roughly 1,000 exhausted miners surrendered directly to Army troops. The rest hid their rifles in the woods and returned home, hoping to avoid arrest.

Bandholtz refused Governor Morgan's request to use the Army forces to help civil authorities arrest the rest of the miners. His job was restoring order, not prosecuting workers. But he did establish censorship over news reports, removing descriptions of poverty conditions in mining towns. When journalist Boyden Sparkes tried to publish sympathetic coverage after being shot twice by state militia, Army censors told him, **"No sob stuff for those red necks."**

By the end of the Battle of Blair Mountain,16 people were dead, including 12 miners and four of Chafin's men. Hundreds more were wounded. The true death toll may have been much higher. Miners hid their casualties to avoid revealing losses to the enemy. Some bodies were likely buried in secret on the mountain.



Political cartoon showing soldier with rifle trained on striking miner; standing to the right, behind the soldier, are President Harding and a mine owner. The caption reads "West Virginia: The same old line up."

The Aftermath

West Virginia authorities indicted 985 miners on charges ranging from murder to treason against the state. Union leader Bill Blizzard faced treason charges in three separate trials in Charles Town, Lewisburg, and Fayetteville before prosecutors finally gave up. Most miners were eventually acquitted by sympathetic juries, though some served up to four years in prison.

Chafin, the sheriff who sparked much of the violence, was arrested several years later on corruption charges. He served time in federal prison for bootlegging, confirming what miners had claimed all along about Logan County's corruption.

At a later trial, some of the coal miners provided an unexploded bomb from the battle to argue that state authorities deployed excessive force against them.

The Battle of Blair Mountain established concrete precedents for military intervention in domestic labor disputes. When the Bonus Army of World War I veterans marched on Washington in 1932 demanding payment for the combat service, President Hoover deployed Army troops under Douglas MacArthur to drive them out. The military response mirrored Bandholtz's actions in West Virginia, using overwhelming force, swift action, and no negotiation against American civilians, including veterans.

It was the first use of military aircraft for domestic surveillance and intimidation. The Army going forward felt that overhead planes could compel rioters or rebels to disperse without shots being fired.

The intervention crushed the United Mine Workers in West Virginia. Membership collapsed across Appalachia. Coal operators tightened their grip on mining towns, and safety conditions deteriorated. Death rates in West Virginia mines during the 1920s reached over 400 miners per year, the highest in state history.

Union organizing wouldn't recover in West Virginia's coalfields until Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal in the 1930s. The National Labor Relations Act of 1935 finally gave workers legal protections that the miners at Blair Mountain had fought for at gunpoint.

The largest armed insurrection on American soil since the Civil War ended in favor of the coal bosses, after 16 people were killed. The Battle of Blair Mountain was one of the largest domestic uprisings and civil conflicts in American history, put down by the overwhelming deployment of federal troops to West Virginia.

Political cartoon with Uncle Sam saying to the miners "I'll give you until noon Thursday to go back to your home."

WORLD NEWS

A YEAR OF REALIGNMENT FOR THE COAL VALUE CHAIN

Michelle Manook, Chief Executive, FutureCoal, discusses how after years of fragmentation, the coal value chain is beginning to rediscover its voice, confidence, and strategic purpose.

By: Jody Dodgson

This past year marked a decisive turning point for the global coal value chain, not because the world suddenly embraced coal more warmly, or because energy debates have become less polarised, but because our own industry chose to unify.

Southern Africa: The first chapter and a blueprint for unity

One of the most significant milestones of 2025 was the launch of the Southern Africa Chapter, led by FutureCoal Chairman and Seriti Resources Group CEO Mike Teke. Bringing together the region's top four coal nations – South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana – the Chapter unites miners, transporters, industrial consumers, and policymakers across a region that collectively holds over 150 billion t of coal reserves.

Its establishment quickly demonstrated the impact of coordinated, fact-based engagement, and its early success has now become the template for the global movement that is taking shape.

India: A chapter rooted in confidence and clarity

Building on that momentum, FutureCoal launched the India Country Chapter in late 2025 – a platform designed to advance India's full coal value chain potential.

India is currently making some of the world's largest investments in modern coal transformation, including an ambitious national programme to gasify coal and produce cleaner synthetic fuels, fertilisers, and industrial chemicals. With government incentives totalling 85,000 crore to gasify 100 million t of coal by 2030, India is utilising technology to strengthen industrial resilience, reduce dependence on imported oil and gas, and expand its potential for further industrialisation and manufacturing.

These developments align directly with our Sustainable Coal Stewardship (SCS) framework – a technology pathway for nations to pursue a balanced, affordable strategy that delivers high efficiency, best environmental practices, and energy security.

Is the global debate becoming rebalanced?

For the past six years, I have called for a return to the Paris Agreement's principle of using all fuels and all technologies, while the rest fixated on a one-size-fits-all energy policy, to phase coal out. In 2025, that principle of technology neutrality finally resurfaced on the global stage.

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At COP30 in Belém, despite intense advocacy for a fossil-fuel phase-out, no such language appeared in the final agreement. Instead, nations reaffirmed realism: sovereignty, technological diversity and flexibility remain at the core of credible energy and climate pathways.

The G20 in Johannesburg went further still, underscoring that energy security, affordability and development must remain inseparable from climate ambition. These were not concessions; they were acknowledgements of engineering, economics and reality.

Australia: A critical partner - But falling behind

And then there is Australia – a nation that should be among the world's most advanced coal innovators, yet whose public debate has become one of the most polarised and least informed. This is despite Australia possessing:

- Some of the world's highest-quality coal.
- World-class engineering capability.
- Nearly 300 years of reserves.
- Industries still fundamentally reliant on coal.

While India, China and Southern Africa scale up gasification, coal-to-chemicals, carbon capture and high-efficiency technologies, Australia remains stuck in an outdated coal-versus-renewables binary. This framing is not only false, but also economically dangerous.

When I addressed the National Press Club of Australia in November, the depth of misunderstanding became clear.

Familiar misconceptions resurfaced: that coal is only for electricity, that there is no emission abatement pathway, and that renewables alone can deliver national industrial development.

Australia risks falling behind the race for effective sustainable solutions, not due to lack of capability, but due to lack of unity and factual clarity.

That is why FutureCoal will launch the Australia Pacific, or AUSPAC, Chapter in 2026, which will rebuild the nation's 'Coal IQ,' restore engineering-based debate and unite the value chain under one coordinated voice.

Fund fair. Fund equal: A turning point in global finance

One of the most significant shifts this year came from the finance sector — and from its growing recognition of SCS as a credible, responsible investment framework. SCS offers what financiers have long lacked: a practical, evidence-based pathway for supporting cleaner coal technologies that deliver emission reductions without compromising security, create industrial value and ensure economic resilience.

Against this backdrop, FutureCoal Chairman Mike Teke and I issued an open letter to more than 700 global finance, investment and government stakeholders, calling for fair, equal and better financial and regulatory support for sustainable coal solutions and all modern technologies, rather than policies that seek to phase out thermal coal entirely.

Our message was clear: exclusionary investment practices driven by ideology rather than evidence are no longer viable in a world where electricity demand is accelerating due to extreme summer cooling needs, electrified transport, digitalisation and the rapid growth of artificial intelligence.

The response was immediate. Many institutions sought meetings to discuss policy adjustments. At the same time, two major net-zero coalitions, the Net Zero Banking Alliance and the Net Zero Asset Managers Initiative, dissolved or were suspended. Their retreat reflected a deeper shift as investors began questioning rigid, inflexible mandates that

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undermine both financial performance and energy security.

Meanwhile, global investment in coal continued to rise. Commercial banks across Asia, Europe and the United States invested more than US$130 billion in 2024. Overall coal investment grew 6% last year and is projected to rise another 4% in 2025, reaching US$135 billion.

The year ahead: One value chain. One voice.

In 2026, we will build on this momentum by launching new Country Chapters, including the AUSPAC Chapter, the China Chapter and others already in development. Each will drive regional leadership, strengthen policy engagement and expand our global network of coordinated, fact-based advocacy.
We will also roll out new global campaigns promoting responsible investment, technology inclusion and evidence-driven energy policy, campaigns designed to reshape the narrative, not simply react to it.

But our success now depends on the entire value chain standing together. We need more members, more partners, more innovators and more leaders. Unity is no longer optional; it is the foundation of our industry's sustainability, competitiveness and longevity.

And here is the truth we must confront: if we do not unite, if we do not seize this moment, coordinate our voice and take control of the global narrative, others will define our future for us.

And we risk falling short of both our economic ambitions and our environmental responsibilities. By showing greater courage, coordination and conviction, we can remind the world, and ourselves, of coal's true capabilities in a modern, secure and sustainable energy future.

Michelle Manook
Chief Executive FutureCoal

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Upgrade your diesel to premium diesel performance with Crown CRT® Fuel Borne Catalysts. Our data-driven demonstration strategy will show:

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- 6-9% carbon/CO2e emissions reduction
- 30-40% reduced engine oil soot
- 10-25% improved lubricity protects injectors
- Typically greater than 2:1 return on expense!

Crown's CRT Catalysts are differentiated from normal fuel additives because of the patented fuel borne catalyst technology. This suspended particle promotes cleaner combustion earlier during the power stroke - think of it as advancing the timing of your diesel engine.
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Trump Officials Vow to Keep All US Coal Plants Running

By: Jennifer A. Dlouhy and Will Wade

(Bloomberg) - Trump administration officials vowed to keep US coal power plants operating, casting it as an imperative to meet surging electricity demand and drive a revival of the nation's industrial base.

"The goal is 100% open," said Interior Secretary Doug Burgum. **"That's the standard we're operating against."**

Burgum's comment came during the first meeting of Trump's newly reconstituted National Coal Council, an advisory panel that Joe Biden let lapse during his presidency. President Donald Trump, by contrast, has sought to engineer a coal resurgence in his second term, including by requiring some power plants to keep burning the fuel.

The bullish Trump administration predictions for America's coal — and the power plants that rely on it — contrast with a more skeptical view from analysts who point to generation from natural gas and renewables. The message comes as the Trump administration addresses concerns about rising electricity prices and consumer costs, an issue that weighs heavily on Republicans' bid to keep control of the House and Senate in November's elections.

Focusing on the existing coal fleet works better as a short-term strategy, according to Andy Blumenfeld, director of data analytics at McCloskey by Opis. While they're generating power now, many of the plants are old and will require significant maintenance if the administration expects them to remain in service for a while. And in the meantime, utilities will be able to turn to gas and nuclear capacity that will likely become more widely available over the next several years.

"We need the power, and the coal units are there now," said Blumenfeld. **"But in the long term, they're up against an aging coal fleet."**

In a move aimed at addressing some of these issues, the Energy Department is putting aside as much as $525 million to upgrade or build coal-fired power plants, a move criticized by environmental groups.

Trump has moved quickly to dial back regulations and subsidies that have encouraged emissions-free renewable power. Under Trump, the Energy Department also has issued emergency orders requiring some coal plants to keep running, and the Environmental Protection Agency recently rejected a bid by Colorado to force the closing of one of its coal plants in the central part of the state.

Meanwhile, the Interior Department has also moved to open more federal land for coal leasing in North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming.

"Seventeen gigawatts of coal generation are open today that would not have been open," said Energy Secretary Chris Wright, attributing some of that shift to the short-term emergency orders forcing plants to operate. **"You will not see those coal plants close during this administration."**

Wright said utilities are now calling the Energy Department in a bid to keep plants running, despite some states pushing to shutter the facilities.

Burgum, who leads Trump's National Energy Dominance Council, went even further, predicting new coal plant construction — though many analysts have foreclosed the possibility.

The National Coal Council meeting included discussion of options for maintaining and growing the nation's fleet of coal plants, as well as opportunities to expand exports of the fossil fuel.

The roughly 60-member panel includes executives from some of the nation's top coal producers, such as Peabody Energy, Warrior Met Coal Inc., Hallador Energy Co. and Nacco Industries Inc., as well as power utilities and co-operatives such as FirstEnergy Corp. and Norfolk Southern Corp. Joe Craft, chief executive officer of Alliance Resource Partners, a Trump donor, is a member; Jim Grech, CEO of Peabody Energy is chairing the group; and Jimmy Brock, CEO of Core Natural Resources Inc., is vice-chair.

US coal consumption has declined for years as utilities increasingly shift toward cheaper natural gas and renewables. Coal once accounted for more than half of the country's electricity generation, but that share fell to about 17% in 2025 and is expected to slip to 15% this year.

A boom in US electricity demand, however, has provided a near-term tailwind for coal producers. Utilities have delayed retirement of coal-fired power plants, while federal orders keep others running, supporting demand and contributing to a modest rebound in 2025.

Electric generation from coal climbed 13% last year, driven largely by higher gas prices. The downward trajectory is expected to resume in 2026, according to government forecasts.

During (the) meeting, coal and utility executives warned about overdependence on natural gas as a US power source. Some urged doing more to protect America's mines, others emphasized the need to keep rising electricity prices in check. Wright linked coal power to a thriving manufacturing sector, and Burgum said it's intertwined with US efforts to win the artificial intelligence competition with China — both Trump administration goals.

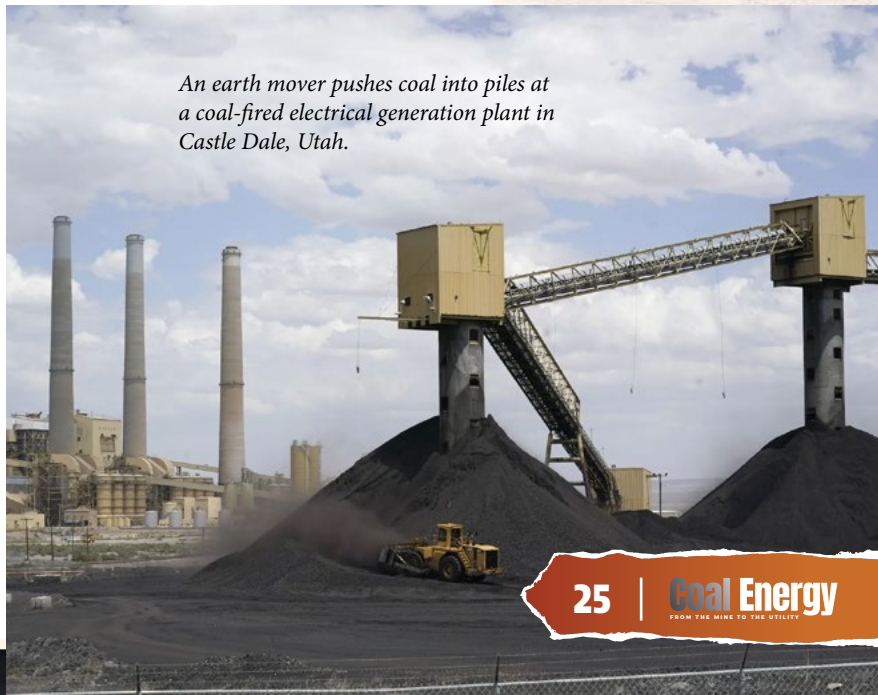
The immediate focus now is ensuring there's enough electricity, especially for the data centers that are key to developing AI capabilities, said Randall Atkins, CEO of coal supplier Ramaco Resources Inc. and a member of the council who attended the meeting.

"The objective is the data centers, and how we're going to figure out how to power them," Atkins said in an interview.

Separately, Wright warned that if courts compel some of the world's largest asset managers to divest coal-related assets, it could undermine efforts to buttress coal mining and electricity generation.

That's the potential outcome of a lawsuit alleging that BlackRock Inc., Vanguard Group Inc. and the asset management arm of State Street Corp. colluded to reduce coal output. Republican state attorneys general, led by Texas' Ken Paxton, say the firms violated antitrust laws by using environmental, social and governance-related initiatives, including carbon-reduction alliances, to suppress production.

Fossil fuel advocates have criticized ESG initiatives as forcing capital away from oil, gas and coal. But former Trump Energy Secretary and Texas Governor Rick Perry has predicted that if successful, the lawsuit would take an estimated $18 billion in coal holdings off the asset managers' books. He said that outcome would pose **"a direct threat to coal companies' ability to raise capital, finance infrastructure and support jobs."**



An earth mover pushes coal into piles at a coal-fired electrical generation plant in Castle Dale, Utah.

CURRENT NATIONAL COAL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

A. Stucki Company
Ameren Energy Services
American Consolidated Natural Resources, Inc
American Electric Power
Amsted Rail
Arch Resources, Inc.
Arizona Electric Power Coop. Inc.
Associated Electric Coop., Inc.
Associated Terminals
AVENTICS Corporation (Emerson)
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Blackhawk Mining
Cal Portland Cement
Cathcart Rail, LLC
Cleco Corporation
Coal Network
Colorado Springs Utilities
Consumers Energy Company
Cooper Consolidated
CPS Energy
Crown Carbon Reduction Technologies
Dairyland Power
David J. Joseph Company
Detroit Edison
Duke Energy
Eco Material Technologies
Entergy Services, Inc.
Exponent
GATX Rail
Grand River Dam Authority
High Country Railcar
Intermountain Power Service Corp.
Kiewit Mining Group, Inc.
L.E. Peabody & Associates, Inc.
Levin Richmond Terminal
Lexair, Inc.
LG&E and KU Energy
Lower Colorado River Authority
Luminant Energy
McCloskey by OPIS
McConway & Torley, LLC
Mid-American Energy Company
Midland Railway Supply
Miner Enterprises Inc.
Minnesota Power
MinTech Enterprises, LLC
Mississippi Lime
Navajo Transitional Energy Company
NiSource
Nebraska Public Power District
New York Air Brake
Oglethorpe Power Corp.
Oklahoma Gas & Electric Co.
Omaha Public Power District
Peabody Energy
Platte River Power Authority
Progress Rail Services, Inc.
Railroad Financial Corporation
Ramaco Coal
RAS Data Services
Salt River Materials Group
Salt River Project
Sandy Creek Energy Station
Slover & Loftus, LLP
Southern Company Services
Strato, Inc.
Tennessee Valley Authority
Transportation Services Inc.
TrinityRail
Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
TUCO/NexGen Services
Wabtec Corporation
WEC Energy Group
Wells Fargo Rail
Western Fuels Association, Inc.
Xcel Energy
Xcoal Energy & Resources

CURRENT AMERICAN COAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Coal Consumers
Ameren Missouri
American Electric Power
Blue Sky Energy
Cleco Power, LLC
Consumers Energy
Dominion Energy Fuel Services, Inc.
DTE Electric Company
Duke Energy
Entergy
JERA Global Markets North America, LLC
LafargeHolcim US Inc.
LG&E and KU Energy
Lower Colorado River Authority
MidAmerican Energy Company
NRG
Omaha Public Power District
Platte River Power Authority
Salt River Project
Sandy Creek Services, LLC
Tennessee Valley Authority
Xcel Energy

Coal Suppliers
Alliance Coal, LLC
Arch Resources
Blackhawk Mining, LLC
Bluegrass Natural Resources LLC
Central Coal Company
CONSOL Energy Inc.
Converse & Co Inc.
Glencore Ltd.
Global Coal Sales Group, LLC
Hallador Energy Company
Integrity Coal Sales, Inc.
Iron Senergy
JRL Coal
Kiewit Mining Group Inc.
Knight Hawk Coal, LLC
Lighthouse Resources Inc.
Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC
NexGen Coal Services, Ltd.
Peabody
PM Coal Company, LLC
Ramaco Coal, LLC
River Trading Company, LTD
Robindale Energy Services, Inc.
Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.
Western Fuels Association
Westmoreland Mining LLC
Xcoal Energy & Resources

Contributing Supporters
American Coal Ash Association
America's Power
Armatrue Advocacy
Carbon Utilization Research Council
Coal Association of Canada
Energy Policy Network
Illinois Coal Association
International CCS Knowledge Centre
Lignite Energy Council
Montana Coal Council
National Tribal Energy Association
West Virginia Coal Association
Texas Mining Reclamation Association

Coal Support Services
Analytical & Environmental
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
Eco Material Technologies Inc.
Gallagher Clean Energy
Hampton Roads Testing Labs., Inc.
Natural Resource Partners LP
Sampling Associates International, LLC
SGS North America Inc.
Standard Laboratories, Inc.
Veolia
Equipment & Materials
Charah Solutions, Inc.
Crown Carbon Reduction Technologies
Eco Solution Distributing
JENNMAR
Komatsu North America Mining
Liebherr USA, Co. Mining
Martin Engineering
MinTech Enterprises
Progress Rail
Trinity Industries

Finanacial, Capital & Marketing
Durham Capital Corporation

Technical & Economic Consultants
Energy Ventures Analysis, Inc.
Schneid Energy & Mining Consultants, LLC
McCloskey by Opis
John T. Boyd Company
Marshall Miller & Associates
Weir International, Inc.
Net-Negative CO2 Baseload Generation

Energy Traders
Deep Creek Resources, LLC
ITC Coal Resources International Inc. (ITO-CHU)
M Resources Pty Ltd
Visa Commodities AG

Transportation
Alleanza Rail, LLC
BNSF Railway
Canal Barge Company, Inc.
Capes Shipping Agencies
CN
Cooper Consolidated, LLC
Crounse Corporation
CSX Transportation
Donora River Terminal
Interlake Maritime Services
Norfolk Southern
Paducah & Louisville Railway
Savage Services Corp.
SCH Services, LLC
T. Parker Host
The Indiana Rail Road Company
Union Pacific Railroad
Warrenton River Terminal, LLC
Westshore Terminals Limited Partnership

CURRENT AMERICAN COAL ASH ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Utility Members
Ameren Missouri
American Electric Power (AEP)
Arizona Electric Power Cooperative
Big Rivers Electric Corporation
Colorado Springs Utilities
Colstrip Energy Limited Partnership
Dairyland Power Cooperative
Duke Energy Corporation
FirstEnergy Corp
Great River Energy
Kansas City Board of Public Utilities
LG&E and KU Services Company
Muscatine Power & Water
Nebraska Public Power District
Southern Company
Talen Energy
Tennessee Valley Authority
WEC Business Services LLC

Non-Utility Members
Heritage Environmental Services

General Marketer Members
ASHCOR USA Inc
Charah Solutions, Inc.
Eco Material Technologies Inc.
EP Power Minerals Americas
Heidelberg Materials
Kansas City Fly Ash LLC
LafargeHolcim – Geocycle
National Minerals Corporation
Nebraska Ash
Salt River Materials Group
Separation Technologies, LLC
The SEFA Group
Waste Management

Specialty Marketer Members
Ash Grove Cement
Beneficial Reuse Management/Gypsoil
Harsco Environmental
USC Technologies

Associate Members
AECOM
AJ Transport
Allu Inc
ASH Mineral Solutions
Braun Intertec
Brixx Technologies
Burns & McDonnell
CCR Strategies & Solutions, LLC
CertainTeed Gypsum
Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Clear Water Services
ClimeCo, LLC
Commercial Liability Partners LLC
Coomtech
CRC Coating Technologies Inc.
DONROSS LLC
Dustmaster Enviro Systems
Environmental Specialties International, Inc.
FeX, LLC
Firmographs, LLC
Franklin Technical Solutions
Frontier Group of Companies
GAI Consultants, Inc.
GEI Consultants, Inc.
Georgia Pacific Gypsum LLC
Global Containment Solutions
Gradient
Griffin Dewatering
Haley & Aldrich, Inc.
Hallaton Environmental Linings
Hanson
Hive Aggregates Limited
HTH, LLC
IDA Power, LLC
John Ward Inc.
Keller
Kline Consulting
LB Industrial Systems
Lhoist North America
Loureiro Engineering Associates
M A Norden Company, LLC
Nicholson Construction Company
Nu-Rock Technology USA
NXT Innovations
Ohio Valley Cement Materials
Ozinga Bros
P. Cassels Law, PLLC
PENTA Engineering Corporation
Phillips and Jordan, Inc.
Phoenix Environmental Research
QTS Group LLC
Quikrete Companies, LLC
Ramboll
Richard Kinch
Romano Consulting Company
Saiia Construction Company, LLC
Schnabel Engineering
Seneca Engineering
Sevenson Environmental Services Inc.
SMBC Rail Services
Son-Haul, Inc.
Sonoash LLC
Stantec
Superior Belt Filter
Tarmac International
Tetra Tech
The Mouat Company
Trans Ash, Inc.
TRC
TTL, Inc
United States Gypsum Company
University of Kentucky
Vecor Technologies
Verdantas
Waste Connections, Inc.
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Wyoming Building Nation's Largest Coal Products Facility Near Gillette

By: David Madison

Construction crews are assembling a field demonstration plant that will process up to 10 tons of coal per day into materials for roads, buildings, and nuclear fuel. The project is a critical step from research to commercial viability.

Trina Pfeiffer imagines a world where vehicles travel down roads paved with coal products, past structures built with coal products, through communities powered by coal-fired power plants and nuclear fuels manufactured with graphite made from coal.

As director of the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources' Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion, Pfeiffer is now watching that vision take physical shape at the Wyoming Innovation Center (WyIC) near Gillette, where construction crews are building a coal-to-products field demonstration plant she calls the largest coal products facility in the country.

"The new part is that we are actually building this," Pfeiffer said. **"We talked about building it for a long time and we had some delays. There were some financial delays and there were some technical delays, but we figured it all out, and now we're actually constructing."**

The Wyoming Innovation Center is on approximately 9.5 acres on two lots at Fort Union Industrial Park in Gillette and will consist of three main components: Main building with offices and labs; material processing building; open air pilot pads for development of innovative processes. The main building pictured below, with offices and labs, is 4,070 square feet.

Finally Real

The project has progressed from bench-scale research to pilot testing to what Pfeiffer describes as the critical field demonstration phase.

"This project has been a long time coming," Pfeiffer said. **"We started in 2016 with an idea of how we can repurpose coal, not just burning it, but using it for other resources, other products."**

"We went from bench to pilot to now field demo," she said. **"Wyoming is leading the way for coal products work when it comes to commercializing it."**

Scott Quillinan, acting executive director of the School of Energy Resources, said the physical scale of the project drives home how far the research has come.

"The thermal oxidizer that's up there, it's like a 60-foot-tall unit. So it's really large scale," Quillinan said. **"For me, really seeing this stuff grow up out of the lab, and then you get out there and you see what it looks like constructed in the field, that's the really neat part."**

How It Works

The facility will be capable of processing eight to 10 tons of coal per day, producing intermediate materials that can be manufactured into asphalt products, building materials, agricultural soil amendments and nuclear-grade graphite.

Researchers settled on two upstream processes: pyrolysis and solvent extraction.

"The coal pyrolysis component takes coal, and it burns it in high temperature without oxygen, and you're making like a coal char," Quillinan said. **"That coal char just breaks it down into basically carbon. And so that carbon is a really good building block for all of the construction materials that we build out of coal."**

Those materials include fascia components for building exteriors and structural units that could replace conventional lumber.

"We're doing some fascia components that would go on the outside of a building, like a veneer," Quillinan said. **"Structural units that kind of could take the place of 2-by-4s within a building."**

The solvent extraction process, meanwhile, will extract petrochemicals from coal to produce asphalt binder, **"that will then be used to pave a road out of coal,"** he said.

Novel Uses

"The fact that we can pave roads with it is a real novel use," Pfeiffer said, noting that petroleum-based asphalt binder is becoming harder to source as refineries crack heavy crude to extract lighter products.

"We're providing another raw material that can step in and fill it," she said.

The coal char produced through pyrolysis also shows promise as an agricultural amendment similar to biochar but at lower cost.

"So you can actually grow crops with this stuff too, because it helps with soil health," added Pfeiffer.

For higher-value applications, researchers are working with BWXT on developing nuclear-grade graphite and exploring extraction of rare earth elements from coal.

"The big point of all of this is to use every molecule of the coal," Pfeiffer said. **"We really think that you can use coal in a lot of different ways. Burning it, yeah, OK, fine. But everyone's been doing that for a long, long time. There's other uses for it."**

Proving Viability

The demonstration plant is designed to show investors that the technology can scale to commercial level, said Pfeiffer.

"In July, we're going to start that puppy up and we're going to be making a lot of char and a lot of material in order to demonstrate that we can make this stuff at a much larger scale," Pfeiffer said. **"So investors can see, yes, it is scalable. We can get engineering data to actually build the coal refinery — a big plant, if you will, a commercial unit."**

Quillinan said companies are watching closely.

"Most companies that we've been talking to want us to get through this demonstration phase to show that it can be done at commercial levels," he said. **"But there's tremendous interest in all of the products that are coming out of the coal refinery."**

Construction Timeline

Construction of the pyrolysis portion of the coal refinery is nearing completion, with the pyrolyzer scheduled for delivery in spring and start-up anticipated in August. The solvent extraction portion is planned to begin construction in late 2026.

Quillinan said the facility is approximately 85% constructed. The university is requesting $2.09 million from the upcoming legislative session to cover inflationary costs and complete the project.

"With the finish line now in sight, continued and immediate support is more critical than ever to ensure this project remains on track," Quillinan said. **"We are hopeful that the state will help to maintain our momentum and carry this work fully into operation."**

Perfect Location

The Wyoming Innovation Center, managed by Energy Capital Economic Development, provides space adjacent to some of the largest coal mines in the Powder River Basin for scaling up laboratory research into commercially viable products.

"This is precisely what this facility was designed to support," said ECED CEO Rusty Bell. **"As the largest project at WyIC, this initiative, alongside our other current tenancy hosting an SER-led project, exemplifies our mission to bridge the gap between research and commercialization utilizing Wyoming coal."**

Visitors to the University of Wyoming campus can already see an example of what the technology produces.

"We do have the coal house that we've built," Quillinan said. **"You can walk up to it and touch the coal bricks that were used to construct that demonstration building."**

Industry Support

The project has drawn support from the coal industry itself. Kemmerer Operations LLC recently established the Kemmerer Mine Carbon Innovation and Technology Fund to support coal-to-graphite research, providing what Quillinan called a demonstration of industry confidence in the program.

"We are very grateful to Kemmerer Operations for their generous support," Quillinan said. **"This gift underscores the importance of industry support, strategic partnerships and investment in driving high-impact research forward."**

Once fully operational, the integrated facility in Gillette can be replicated and adapted for coal from other Wyoming basins, potentially providing new markets for mines facing closure.

Pfeiffer said the original motivation remains central to the work.

"The main point of what started all of this was we wanted to try to keep the mines open and everybody employed," she said. **"This is a way to diversify the coal use. It's not going to replace the amount that you used to burn the coal. That's true. But if you diversify enough, you could really make a go of it, I think. And then the market doesn't have to just depend on who's in (federal) office."**

"There are so many benefits resulting from these projects supporting both the energy and agricultural sectors in Wyoming, as well as new industries in manufacturing, processing and engineering," Pfeiffer said. **"By constructing this integrated coal processing field demonstration plant at the Wyoming Innovation Center, we are not just testing technology — we are building a foundation for a diversified economy for Wyoming."**

EVENTS

NCTA (NATIONAL COAL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION)

April 20 - 22, 2026
2026 Operations and Maintenance Conference
Westin Jekyll Island Beach Resort
110 Ocean Way,
Jekyll Island, GA 31527

April 21 - 23, 2026
2026 Spring Conference
Westin Jekyll Island Beach Resort
110 Ocean Way,
Jekyll Island, GA 31527

September 21 - 23, 2026
NCTA 52nd Annual Business Meeting and Conference
La Fonda on the Plaza
100 E San Francisco St,
Santa Fe, NM 87501

ASRS (AMERICAN SOCIETY OF RECLAMATION SCIENCES)

March 3 – 5, 2026
AGM & Conference 2026
Edmonton Convention Centre
9797 Jasper Ave.,
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada

May 5 – 6, 2026
2026 Symposium West Virginia Mine Drainage Task Force
Morgantown, WV

June 7 – 11, 2026
43rd Annual Meeting of ASRS
Laramie, WY

August 30 – September 2, 2026
2026 Rocky Mountain Mining & Reclamation Conference
Durango, CO

June 6 – 10, 2027
44th Annual Meeting of ASRS
Pittsburgh, PA

ACAA (AMERICAN COAL ASH ASSOCIATION)

February 9 – 11, 2026
ACAA 2026 Winter Membership Meeting
The Francis Marion Hotel
387 King St,
Charleston, SC 29403

February 28 – March 2, 2026
NRMCA Annual Meeting
Las Vegas, NV

March 3 – 7, 2026
ConExpo - Con/Agg
Las Vegas Convention Center
3150 Paradise Rd.,
Las Vegas, NV 89109

March 29 – April 1, 2026
ACI Spring Convention
Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago
9300 W Bryn Mawr Ave.,
Rosemont, IL 60018

April 7 – 9, 2026
National Concrete Consortium
San Diego, CA

May 4 – 7, 2026
The World of Coal Ash
Central Bank Center
430 W Vine St,
Lexington, KY 40507

May 31 – June 4, 2026
ASTM C09 and C01 Meetings
Dallas, TX

September 29 – 30, 2026
ACAA Fall Membership Meeting
St. Petersburg, FL

October 5 – 8, 2026
ASTM E50 and E60 Meetings
Jacksonville, TX

October 11 – 14, 2026
ACI Fall Convention
Atlanta, GA

December 6 – 10, 2026
ASTM C09 and C01 Meetings
Jacksonville, FL

ACC (AMERICAN COAL COUNCIL)

February 10 – 12, 2026
Miami Coal Forum
Hyatt Regency – Miami
400 SE 2nd St,
Miami, FL 33131

February 10 – 12, 2026
The Coal Institute 2026 Spring Seminar
The Westin New Orleans
100 Iberville Street,
New Orleans, LA 70130

May 12 – 14, 2026
Women's Mining Coalition - Fly-In
Washington, DC

May 12 – 15, 2026
2026 Eastern Fuel Buyers Conference
Disney's Club Resort
1800 Epcot Resort Boulevard,
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

June 28 – 30, 2026
Rocky Mountain Mining Institute Annual Conference
Omni Interlocken Hotel
500 Interlocken Blvd,
Broomfield, CO 80021

August 5 – 7, 2026
The West Virginia Coal Association's Membership Meeting & America Coal Association's Annual Coal Forum
White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986

August 18 – 20, 2026
Coal Innovation & Market Strategies Conference
Chateaux Deer Valley
7815 Royal St,
Park City, UT 84060

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February 24 – 25, 2026
2026 Distribution Planning & Operations Conference
Evergy, One Kansas City Place
1200 Main St.,
Kansas City, MO 64105

March 4 – 6, 2026
2026 Safety Conference
The Salt River Project PERA Club
1 E Continental Dr.,
Tempe, AZ 85281

March 24 – 25, 2026
Transmission Planning, Operations & Maintenance Conference
Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association
1100 W 116th Ave.,
Westminster, CO 80234

April 27 – 29, 2026
2026 Alltricity Network Spring Conference
Hilton Omaha
1001 Cass Street,
Omaha, NE 68102

June 23, 2026
2026 Alltricity Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament
Arrowhead Golf Club
10850 Sundown Trail,
Littleton, CO 80125

October 5 – 7, 2026
2026 Fall Convention
Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort & Spa
9800 Hyatt Resort Dr.,
San Antonio, TX 78251

FUTURECOAL

March 30 – April 1, 2026
AsiaCoke 2026 Conference
Jakarta, Indonesia

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