



American Critical Minerals Association

March 2024 Newsletter Update

Welcome to the newest edition of the American Critical Minerals Association's newsletter, which highlights the latest news and policy developments around the continued efforts to strengthen and build out the U.S. critical minerals supply chain. We hope you find this to be an informative resource.

Let us know what you think: For general inquiries to learn more about ACMA or suggestions for future content, you may reach us at info@critical-minerals.us.

WASHINGTON UPDATE

Congress was heavily focused on efforts to avoid a partial government shutdown, which was avoided upon passage of funding bills on March 23. Additionally, critical minerals continued to be front and center on Capitol Hill and at federal agencies, as underscored by the introduction of resolutions and legislation on critical minerals and new executive branch announcements of critical minerals-related loans, grants, tax credits, and investments.

ACMA IN THE NEWS

I. ACMA Attends SAFE Summit

I. ACMA Attends SAFE Summit: ACMA on Mar. 13-14 attended the SAFE Summit 2024, which was focused on the energy and transportation sector as it relates to the security of the global critical minerals supply chain. The Summit featured industry and government representatives such as Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, President of Ex-Im Bank Reta Jo Lewis, and Founder and CEO of Redwood Materials JB Straubel. Read more about ACMA's participation in the summit [here](#).

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

- I. U.S. State Department Releases Statement on Minerals Security Partnership**
- II. Africa to Play 'Huge Role' in US Critical Mineral Strategy, Says Treasury's No. 2**
- III. LPO Announces Conditional Commitment to Lithium Americas Corp. to Help Finance the Construction of a Lithium Processing Plant in Nevada**
- IV. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$475 Million Investment to Support Clean Energy Solutions on Current and Former Mine Land**
- V. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$4 Billion in Tax Credits to Build Clean Energy Supply Chain, Drive Investments, and Lower Costs in Energy Communities**
- VI. Biden-Harris Administration Holds Connected Vehicle National Security Briefing**
- VII. U.S. Appeals Court Dismissed Child Labor Case Against Major Tech Companies, Including Apple and Google**
- VIII. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$62 Million to Lower Battery Recycling Costs Across the Nation**
- IX. U.S. Congressional Members Introduce Critical Minerals Legislation**
- X. Biden Mine Permitting Report Fell Short, Watchdog Says**

I. U.S. State Department Releases Statement on Minerals Security Partnership: The U.S. State Department on Mar. 4 [released](#) a statement from the Minerals Security Partnership following their meeting at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada annual convention. Led by U.S. Under Secretary of State Jose W. Fernandez, the meeting emphasized collaboration among MSP partners to promote high environmental and labor standards across the global minerals sector. Estonia joined as a new partner, and the establishment of MSP Forum was announced, which aims to expand engagement with minerals-producing countries. MSP partners stated that they are advancing 23 projects that are expected to bolster the global critical minerals supply chain, including EcoGraf's graphite project in Tanzania and a collaboration between Gecamines and JOGMEC in South Africa.

II. Africa to Play 'Huge Role' in US Critical Mineral Strategy, Says Treasury's No. 2: Reuters on Mar. 14 [reported](#) that the U.S. is looking to utilize African critical minerals to reduce the influence of China and Russia on the market for critical minerals. Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo said that given Africa's mineral wealth, the country will play a "huge role" in the future of the critical minerals industry. Since China has already made major infrastructure investments into lithium, cobalt, and copper projects in African countries, the U.S. and its G7 allies are looking to close that gap.

III. LPO Announces Conditional Commitment to Lithium Americas Corp. to Help Finance the Construction of a Lithium Processing Plant in Nevada: The United States Department of Energy Loan Programs Office (LPO) on Mar. 14 [announced](#) a conditional commitment to Lithium Nevada Corp. for a \$2.26 billion loan to help finance the construction of a lithium carbonate processing plant at Thacker Pass in Humboldt County, Nevada. Supported by an equity investment from General Motors, the facility is expected to produce approximately 40,000 metric tons of battery grade lithium carbonate per year, which could support battery production for up to 800,000 electric vehicles (EVs) annually.

IV. Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$475 Million Investment to Support Clean Energy Solutions on Current and Former Mine Land: The United States Department of Energy on Mar. 21 [announced](#) up to \$475 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding for five projects in Arizona, Kentucky, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The funding will support a variety of locally driven clean energy projects current and former mining communities across the country. The investments are poised to support jobs and economic development in the areas and communities most affected by the clean energy transition, while helping the U.S. meet the Administration's climate goals. The projects utilize a range of clean energy technologies to advance copper recovery, coal-to-pumped storage hydropower, decarbonizing gold mines, and repurposing coal-to-solar. The Office of Clean Energy Development (OCED) will hold a series of national and project specific community virtual briefings to provide further information...

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