

[View this email in your browser](#)**MINERALS
MAKE LIFE**

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Mineral [production remains vitally important](#) to the U.S. economy and national security.
- The U.S. remains firmly in China's grasp when it comes to our mineral import dependence.
- The Trump administration took several steps to [advance mining projects on U.S. soil](#) throughout the month of May.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

June 17, 2025

Dear Friend,

Minerals remain as important as ever with technological advancements in America's defense, advanced energy and automotive sectors. But despite increasing awareness of [our import reliance and efforts to decrease our dependence on China](#), extraordinary vulnerabilities remain.

Consider a few minerals you may not be familiar with. The mineral cesium is used in guidance systems for strategic missiles. Gallium is used in new radar technologies that can track smaller, faster threats from nearly double the distance. Military aircraft and drones get their enhanced strength and heat resistance from scandium. Tantalum is used in missile and other critical system parts due to its high melting point, corrosion resistance and strength. What these minerals have in common is that the United States is 100 percent import reliant for each of them, and China is one of the leading suppliers.

Moving to more commonly known minerals, [electric vehicles, comprising over 1-in-5 cars sold in 2024](#), use copper, lithium, cobalt and nickel for wiring and batteries, yet we're import reliant for a good portion of each to meet U.S. manufacturing needs. As industries like this one expand, forecasts show an even greater need for minerals. It is vital for the United States to increase domestic minerals production and reduce our mineral import reliance.

The United States is [heavily dependent on mineral imports](#), most concerningly from adversaries like China. This spring, [China tightened its grip on the world's mineral supply chains by imposing export restrictions](#) on several rare earth elements, limiting America's ability to scale up production of important defense technologies. With such a significant amount of minerals imported from overseas, America's economy and national security are at risk. Recent actions by Congress and the Trump administration are helping to close the gap to reaching mineral independence.

Under the FAST-41 permitting program, the Department of Interior has begun streamlining the approval of key mineral mining permits. President Trump has released several Executive Orders focusing on minerals and rare earths, most recently with an [EO aimed at reducing mineral import reliance](#). Simultaneously, Congress has proposed several minerals-related bills that focus on U.S. mineral vulnerabilities and increasing domestic mining operations. While encouraging, there is continued risk of supply chain disruption.

The U.S. must forge ahead to reduce our import reliance by cementing these

Thank you,

[Rich Nolan](#)
National Mining Association (NMA)
President and CEO



NEWS SPOTLIGHT



Minerals Make Life Blog — 6/13/25

[Minerals: Essential to U.S. Security, Innovation and Economic Power](#)

As transformative technologies like Artificial Intelligence, electric vehicles and data centers continue to grow, minerals have become indispensable – serving as the foundation for innovation, expansion and national competitiveness. However, many of the minerals that fuel the development of the tech sector are primarily mined overseas, presenting an economic and national security risk for the United States.

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The Verge — 5/15/25

[A new cold war is brewing over rare earth minerals](#)

The future of everything from smartphones, to military equipment, to electric vehicles hangs on 17 rare earth minerals and the magnets that they're made into. And China, the world's largest refiner and producer, is tightening its grip and threatening the US' largest automakers.



Axios — 5/06/25

[1 big thing: Minerals, the other data center vulnerability.](#)

Everyone knows getting power for data centers is a challenge for U.S. AI development — but don't sleep on minerals, new and recent analyses warn.

Why it matters: A new Barclays report finds that obtaining critical minerals and attracting elite talent are the "new battlegrounds in the fight for AI supremacy."

State of play: On the materials front, over 60% of the most critical raw minerals for AI hardware come from a few developing and emerging countries, it finds.

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