



Mining and Metallurgical Society of America

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Milk Comes from the Grocery Store

I have a subscription to the Wall Street Journal (WSJ). In the month of June, a number of headlines caught my attention and I thought I would share them with you:

- It's a Tricky Time To Be A CEO Without A Cause (WSJ, June 5, 2021)
- Solar Power's Land Grab Hits Snag: Environmentalists (WSJ, June 5-6, 2021)
- Businesses Brace for More Climate Cases (WSJ, June 7, 2021)
- Commodity Prices Skyrocket, Adding to Inflation Fears (WSJ, June 8, 2021)
- Miners Seek Green Investments (WSJ, June 9, 2021)
- China Slows Bid to Cut Emissions (WSJ, June 10, 2021)
- China's Manufacturing Prices Skyrocket (WSJ, June 10, 2021)
- Inflation Jumps to 13-Year High (WSJ, June 11, 2021)
- Food Companies Pass Rising Costs On To Customers (WSJ, June 11, 2021)
- Mining Firms Fail to Lure Women (WSJ, June 11, 2021)
- U.S. Struggles in Push to Mine Rare Earths (WSJ, June 21, 2021)
- Keystone Illustrates Pipelines' Hurdles (WSJ, June 22, 2021)



Amy E Jacobsen
MMSA President, 2019-2020

Many believe the "green economy" and the various social causes of our times are key to the health of the world's economy, but many of us realize, moving to a "green economy" will result in the "law of unintended consequences" showing up on the scene in ways we simply cannot imagine as of yet. Shortages caused by COVID have brought into sharp focus the fragility of global supply chains. These supply chain issues are going to continue to be stretched to the limit as we look to a future of renewable energy generation, electric vehicles and revisions to how we produce raw materials and manufacture end products.

There are inherent contradictions out there. For example, although solar power is coming to the forefront, there is also a growing realization that solar power can be damaging to the environment. Recently, in another WSJ article (Georgia Embraces Solar Due to Cost, Not a Mandate, August 23, 2021), the contradictions within the article were astounding. In one paragraph it stated job growth in solar projects will be temporary as compared to coal-fired power

NEWS AT A GLANCE

2021 DUES

Regular Member—\$150
QP Member—\$250
+ \$50 for each QP category
Retired Members—\$50
for Regular
\$100 for QP
Due by January 1, 2021
Contact *Susan R Wager*
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plants, yet in another paragraph it stated that people are beginning to associate solar projects with job creation and economic growth. Huh?

So why did I give this MMSA article such an odd title? I believe as a society we must realize there is a balance to everything (see my article from December 2019 – “Metallurgy 101: IN equals OUT”). As we all know, milk does not come from the grocery store. There is a whole lot that happens behind the scenes for the convenience of being able to run to the grocery store to grab that gallon of milk for your morning cereal (which also has its own complex supply chain).

Unfortunately, I often wonder if there is a complete understanding of the complexities of our first-world living by the average person. As another example, my husband showed me a Facebook post that someone made the case that “big grocery chains” were making a killing off ground beef because they were selling the packages for X dollars per pound but only paying Y cents per pound for the steer (the cow in the still breathing form). A whole lot of steps were missing from that analysis, including the cost of the meat packing plant and transportation. Yet, this post had a large number of “likes.” Yikes!

In December 2019 I stated “As engineers, scientists and professionals, we have the responsibility to present non-reactionary, science-based information to policy makers and the public”. I still stand behind that statement. Over the past two years, MMSA has sponsored several critical mineral webinars and we have held an online mini-symposium for Abandoned Mine Lands. We have an environmental-social-government panel discussion coming up in October. These have been terrific efforts, yet there is so much more to do.

Recently, Doug Silver, in the August 2021 SME Mining Engineering, addressed the issue of critical minerals in the U.S. Doug made 5 suggestions as to how the U.S. could potentially secure the critical mineral supply chain. All of them were great suggestions, but how do we get these suggestions into action?

I would propose it is going to take team work. The organizations that support our industry must team together in order to have a voice that can be heard. I would pose a question - is it time for the various organizations such as MMSA, SME, WMC, NMA, AEMA, CMA and CIM (if I left someone out – I apologize), to organize and facilitate a strategy session to discuss ways of addressing some of the issues facing our industry in the “green economy?” I am aware that this has been done before with varying levels of success – is it a waste of time or can

we truly accomplish something that can educate the public that “milk doesn’t come from the grocery store”? This effort needs a champion – who would be up to that task? I’m interested in your thoughts.

MMSA Committee News

QP Enhancement Committee

The committee has turned its attention to ESG. The MMSA offers an Environmental QP and Environmental, Social, and Government issues have an increasingly important role in mining projects. The committee is planning a high level panel webinar followed by more in-depth webinars.

Time and Date for the first ESG webinar: October 1, 2021, with panelists Patrick Williamson, Han Ilhan, and Lauren Meyer. https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ICsRPFAERaOe7vjVMTMrIw

The committee has planned another Webinar suggested by a member. This Webinar will be an update on NI43-101 requirements and will be held the first or second week of November. Look for more details on these webinars.

Abandoned Mine Lands Committee

The AML committee is gearing up for the April 6, 2022 in-person summit in Phoenix, Arizona. The event may have some on-line participation available. The summit will also include field trips. The original date for this summit was in April of 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic caused two postponements. The MMSA had previously hosted two very successful events on abandoned mine lands in Golden, Colorado and Reno, Nevada and is excited to continue. Look for more news on this event.

Government Committee

The Government Committee has incorporated ideas and comments from the committee members and from the membership on the RECYCLING- A PART OF THE LIFE CYCLE OF MINERALS fact sheet. This document has been presented to the Executive Committee and

will be sent out to House and Senate members and published on the MMSA website. Thanks to all who offered comments.

Ideas for future webinars and an in-person conference are being pursued.

Quality Membership Committee

The pilot mentorship program is underway and the committee has turned its attention to member recruitment.

The committee is currently preparing materials to facilitate discussions with potential members. All MMSA members are encouraged to look around for colleagues and associates for possible new MMSA members. The membership requirements are available on the MMSA website. Supporting information is being updated and will also be

Energy and Minerals

available on the MMSA website.

Daily on Energy: House Democrats take on industry with mining royalties. House Democrats are looking to impose a first-ever royalty fee on

new and existing hard rock mines on federal lands as part of their reconciliation package. The Natural Resources Committee’s portion of the \$3.5 trillion reconciliation package establishes a hardrock mineral royalty of 8% for new mines and 4% for existing ones, which Democrats say could raise around \$2 billion over 10 years. (Sept. 1, 2021)

<https://news.yahoo.com/daily-energy-house-democrats-industry-162900380.html>

Energy Transition Facing Potentially Debilitating Critical Mineral Supply Gap. Building new solar PV plants and wind farms, and supporting an expansion of electric vehicles (EVs) and green hydrogen as is planned to meet decarbonization goals, will dramatically expand demand for copper, nickel, cobalt, lithium, and rare earth elements. But the supply of these critical minerals is already fraught with risks, and that is raising serious concerns about their future availability. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), at the core of this dilemma is its assessment that the world’s energy system is rapidly morphing beyond its traditional fuel-intensive emphasis into a “material-intensive” system. (Sept. 1, 2021)

<https://www.powermag.com/energy-transition-facing-potentially-debilitating-critical-mineral-supply-gap>

Membership Update

Regular Member Applications:

None

QP Applications:

Chase Ruff

QP members in Process:

C. Travis Naugle

Membership Deletions:

None

Endorsers

Endorsers

Adam House

Debbie Laney

Scott Shuey

Bill Wilson

Mike Floresh

Paul Queneau

MMSA presently has a total of 330 members, two in process. Currently, 200 members are QP members. Additions, deletions and routine changes to the Society’s data base and member biographies are accessible through the Members On-ly page in our web site, at www.mmsa.net. This data base is the best source for information on any particular member.