National Coal Council (NCC) Meeting Agenda

Date: Thursday, January 15, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM EST

Location: White House, Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Indian Treaty Room 474

Chair: Jim Grech, President and Chief Executive Officer, Peabody Energy

Vice-Chair: Jimmy Brock, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Core Natural Resources, Inc.

Official Proceedings

11:00 AM – 11:05 AM Welcome from the White House—Deputy Executive Director Blake Deeley, National Energy Dominance Council

Blake Deeley welcomes everyone to the White house and expresses appreciation for their willingness to help with the revamped NCC.

He notes that this meeting is livestreamed to the public, and that private company information should not be mentioned.

He says clean coal is the priority of this council and the president.

He introduces U.S. Secretary of Energy, Chris Wright.

Introduction of Cabinet and Agency Leadership

- Secretary Chris Wright, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
- Secretary Doug Burgum, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
- Deputy Administrator David Fotouhi, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Chris Wright thanks everyone for attending and criticizes previous administration for disbanding the previous council. He describes the prioritization of climate initiatives in the United Kingdom (UK) and Germany that decimated their coal industries, leading to a decline in industry.

Industry, he says, cannot exist without coal. The Administration's agenda is to re-industrialize, build jobs, lead in artificial intelligence (AI), and be a global manufacturing powerhouse. Seventeen gigawatts (GW) of new power have been kept open by this administration. Coal plants are calling for 202c exemptions, and the administration is giving them out.

He Introduces U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Doug Burgum.

Doug Burgum thanks everyone and says happy birthday to Chris Wright.

He mentions the importance of energy to the economy and national security. He sees AI as a main factor in international security. He details how the U.S. will catch up to China regarding power generation by focusing on opening new power plants.

He speaks on regulatory red tape, how the current administration is removing it, claiming that environmental assessments are now only taking less than 14 days, where they previously took over a year.

Doug adds that critical minerals are also a matter of national security and that high quantities of these minerals exist in coal fields, which he points out is another reason to keep the coal industry alive.

He mentions Jarrod (Agen), the Executive Director of the National Energy Dominance Council, and encourages attendees to connect and work with him to drive policy, cut red tape, and keep things moving.

The floor is opened for questions from media.

- **Jennifer Dlouhy, Bloomberg**

  What would be the impact on coal production, coal producers and the President's energy dominance and industrial manufacturing goals if state AGs prevail and institutional investors are forced to divest their coal holdings?

  Wright: Everyone would be a loser. Hydrocarbon is what makes the world go round. It would be the height of ignorance for the U.S. to go with politically correct nonsense.

  Burgum: That means everyone who heats a house. That's everyone. President Trump calls it a "Green New Scam." We need energy addition, not energy transition.

  Wright: Per capita income in the United States is more than 50% higher than the UK because of their energy suicide.

- **Brad Plumer, New York Times**

  Twenty to thirty GW are scheduled to retire by 2028. How much are you trying to prevent from closing? Are 202cs your plan for the next 3 years, or is there a longer-term plan to make those orders unnecessary?

  Wright: We want to make sure those are unnecessary. It was actually closer to 100 GW before we came into office. And we came in and stopped that. The vast majority were driven by politics. We want to end the war on coal. They won't close during this administration and probably won't in the next. I speak with democrats who are getting it. Energy matters.

- **Tim Gardner, Reuters**

  (Secretary) Burgum, you said last year that coal plants might come out of retirement. Is there any news on that?

  Burgum: Yes. We have energy addition that is needed in this country, and we need more baseload (generation). We have some parts that transitioned to intermittent energy. I fully expect we'll see new coal plants being built in America.

- **Charlie Creitz, Fox**

  How important is this council to winning (the) AI race against China?

  Wright: Critical. We'd have no chance without coal. We could not build big data centers. We're not going to gradually pivot the battleship.

Deputy Administrator Fotouhi informs the meeting that the press has left the room, but the meeting is still being livestreamed, therefore participants should not share confidential information.

He goes on to share some accomplishments from the past year and discuss the year ahead. He reiterates that this administration will be rolling back federal regulations implemented by previous administrations. Changes are being made to the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Coal Combustion Residuals Permitting Program, and the Clean Water Act Water Quality Certification Program. He mentions dozens of other deregulatory actions planned for 2026.

11:20 AM – 11:25 AM: Strategic Context for the National Coal Council

- Assistant Secretary Kyle Haustveit, Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office, U.S. Department of Energy

Kyle Haustveit speaks on the need to eliminate regulations to protect industry. He highlights the steel industry's reliance on metallurgical coal.

Coal makes up 16% of our energy demand. It is vital to our energy grid and is the largest provider for global energy demand.

The administration is investing $625 million in the coal industry in the form of funding opportunities to help reopen shuttered plants.

The National Energy Technology Laboratory's (NETL's) Morgantown location is going to be the new Center of Excellence for Coal.

Feb. 5, 2026, there will be a tour in Morgantown, and he invites everyone.

He mentions an additional focus on expanding coal export opportunities to bolster the U.S. economy.

The council is asked to conduct two studies:

- Pathways to Protecting America's Coal-Fired Power Generation
- Opportunities for Expanding U.S. Coal Exports

The Department of Energy will have four (regional) workshops that will allow the council to hear what is needed.

11:25 AM – 11:35 AM: Introduction of National Coal Council Members

Each member states their name and company affiliation

- Jim Grech—President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Peabody Energy
- Buddy Hasten—CEO, Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation
- Jim Pfeifer—General Council, JENNMAR
- Mike Day—CEO, Eagle Summit Resources
- Michelle Bloodworth—President and CEO, America's Power
- Doug Kimmelman—Executive Chairman and Founder, Energy Capital Partners
- Todd Brickhouse—CEO, Basin Electric Cooperative
- William Fehrman—President and CEO, American Electric Power

- Brian Tierney—CEO, First Energy
- Jason Motyka—Co-Founder and Director of Business Development, Terra Energy Center Corporation
- Jeremy Fisher—Chief Business Officer, Tennessee Vally Authority
- Don Gulley—President and CEO, Big Rivers Electric Corporation
- Karl Moore—President and CEO, Powerscape Global
- J. C. Butler—President and CEO, North American Coal
- Katherine Gates—President and CEO, SunCoke Energy
- Randy Atkins—Chairman and CEO, Ramaco Resources
- Randy Short—President and CEO, Prairie State Energy Company
- C. J. Stewart—Director of Energy, Crow Nation
- Eric Skrmetta—Commissioner, Louisiana Public Service Commission
- Joe Usibelli—President, Usibelli Coal Mine
- Chuck MacFarlane—President and CEO, Otter Tail Corporation
- Adam Anderson—CEO, Western Fuels Association
- Ed Elkins—Chief Commercial Officer, Norfolk Southern Corporation
- Robert Shields—Senior Director of Rates & Regulation, Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation
- Jim Bunn—President and CEO, Central Coal Company
- Anthony Campbell—President and CEO Advisor, East Kentucky Power Cooperative
- Rich Nolan—President and CEO, National Mining Association
- Steve Nelson—CEO, Mountain State Energy Holdings/Longview Power, LLC
- Carson Pollastro—CEO, Wolverine Fuels
- Rob Moore—CEO, American Consolidated Natural Resources, Inc
- Stacy Tschider—CEO, Rainbow Energy Center
- Vern Lund—CEO, Navajo Transitional Energy Company
- Joe Craft—CEO, Alliance Resource Partners
- Brian Rich—President, Reading Anthracite
- Brian Thompson—President, Soft Rock Mining Division, Komatsu Mining Corporation
- Corby Robertson—CEO, Natural Resource Partners
- Walt Scheller—CEO, Warrior Met Coal
- Mike Nasi—Partner, Jackson Walker, LLP
- Ana Amicarella—CEO, Ethos Energy
- Jimmy Brock—Chairman and CEO, Core Natural Resources
- Jeff Wood—Partner, Baker Botts
- Matt Leopold—Partner, Holland & Knight

- Thomas Adams—Executive Director, American Coal Ash Association
- Danny Gray—Executive Vice President, Echo Material Technologies
- Ken Nemeth—Secretary and Executive Director, Southern States Energy Board
- Charlie Gorecki—CEO, Energy & Environmental Research Center at the University of North Dakota
- Dick Bajura—Director Emeritus, National Research Center for Coal and Energy at West Virginia University
- Manny Zeringue—Vice President for Generation, Big Rivers Electric Corporation
- Rob Creager—Executive Director, Wyoming Energy Authority
- John Ward—Executive Director, National Coal Transportation Association
- Sam McKown—President, Kentucky Coal Association

Lanny Erdos—Acting Assistant Interior Secretary and Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, U. S. Department of the Interior—and Curt Coccodrilli—Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (PDAS), U. S. Department of Energy's Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO) and Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS), Office of Coal—also introduce themselves.

11:35 AM – 12:15 PM: NCC Discussion and Identification of Deliverables

- Considerations for Maintaining and Growing the U.S. Coal Fleet
- Opportunities to Expand U.S. Coal Export Options

This session was conducted to discuss the topics of the two studies and the development of the initial outlines for the two reports. After this meeting, a letter will be distributed to ask members to:

1.) Review and comment on the initial outlines;
2.) Volunteer to lead topics and subtopics listed in the outlines; and
3.) List members of their organization that will be working on these reports, including contact information.

Based on this information, report (sub) committees will be developed, and timelines will be established at the next formal meeting. An initial timeline would be to complete these reports by early to mid-summer.

Jim Grech opens the floor for questions regarding the process. With no questions on the process, the discussion moves on to the topics. The first topic regarding maintaining and growing the U.S. coal fleet is up for discussion first. Jim opens the floor for discussion.

- **<u>Michelle Bloodworth, America's Power</u>**

  The coal fleet is a national security asset because of its ability to support the expansion of AI. The NCC can bring more focus to challenges such as meeting electricity demand and expanding AI. One challenge is the sheer number of coal retirements that are expected to occur unless major steps are taken.

  Longer-term solutions are needed to give the whole coal supply chain certainty related to investing in coal plants and making economic decisions. Nearly one third of the fleet has plans to retire before 2029. More than half of the coal fleet (or 100 GW) has announced intentions to retire by the end of 2034. Fortunately, utilities have begun reversing some of these retirement decisions.

  Investment in coal plants and making economic decisions should be considered. It is estimated that more than $1 billion/year might be needed to operate and maintain the coal fleets. New source review is critical and should be reformed by the EPA if we want to eliminate barriers to help those who want to upgrade and modernize their coal plants.

- **<u>William Fehrman, American Electric Power</u>**

  There have been many changes to make plants unaffordable. Consistency will be necessary to make investments in these plants. The winners of the AI battle will be those who have more electrons on the grid.

- **<u>Buddy Hasten, Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation</u>**

  National electricity prices have gone up 8% in 2025. Electric demand is rising, predictions show demand rising another 25% by 2030, and as much as 28% by 2050 due to data centers, onshore manufacturing, and electrification of everything. Meanwhile, in the last 15 years, America has shut down 142 GW of coal and 8.8 GW of nuclear, while at the same time bringing on 94 GW of natural gas and 249 GW of wind and solar power. Intermittent wind and solar power have led to capacity shortages. Supply chain constraints for new power plant infrastructure led to excessive lead times. The U.S. is becoming overly dependent on natural gas. There is a need to keep and invest in existing coal plants. A fresh look at EPA regulations is needed.

- **Rob Moore, American Consolidated Natural Resources**

  We need to be thinking about how to keep our coal mines operational. There are significant challenges at the mine level, and we must do more to protect them. The report should address overregulation.

- **Doug Burgum, Secretary of the Interior**

  Regarding overregulation and red tape, if there are issues at individual mines, the government wants to hear about it to help figure out where to cut red tape. Please bring your issues forward to DOE and NCC right away rather than waiting on these reports.

- **Jim Grech, Peabody Energy**

  Jim Grech thanks the Secretary and introduces Jimmy Brock to discuss the second report topic, expanding U.S. coal exports.

- **Jimmy Brock, Core Natural Resources**

  The U.S. holds 270 billion tons of reserve coal and is capability of meeting its own energy needs for centuries, while simultaneously facilitating U.S. energy dominance overseas. New exports can help increase U.S. importance on the international stage, support well-paying jobs and regional economies, contribute to a more positive balance of trade, facilitate more stable global energy markets, and ensure U.S. coal industries remain strong and resilient. Coal consumption growth trends forecast 8.8 billion tons of coal consumption next year.

  The U.S. is a cornerstone of global seaborn metallurgical supply, with seaborne thermal coal demand on an upward trajectory as well. The world's fastest growing coal-dependent economies are in Asia. The cost of exporting coal can be high, especially to Asian markets. On average, the cost to ship coal from the east coast to Asia is $25 a ton. As a result, the U.S. needs help from other players in the supply chain. Competitive rail rates could serve as a counterbalance. Railroad partnership is important, but lower rates would help. Overcoming terminal capacity could help. Shipping coal from the west coast could help. Exports off west coast are currently small. The biggest challenges producers face in global markets are geography and logistics. It is impossible to change geography, but we can expand port capacity.

Tax credits on metallurgical coal, designated as a critical mineral, helped make U.S. metallurgical coal more competitive on the world stage.

He invited Rich Nolan to make a few comments.

- **<u>Rich Nolan, National Mining Association</u>**

  Global coal use stands at record highs, with high demand for high quality U.S. coals. The key to getting our domestic coal into the global market is competitive prices.

  These three factors can help increase domestic coal as exports:

  - Trade agreements that prioritize U.S. coal exports in the largest markets. These would eliminate barriers to entry for U.S. coal, such as the Indian export fees or Chinese retaliatory tariffs. Long-term offtake agreements would ensure stability. Fire sale price rushing and Russian coal should be sanctioned.
  - Flexible, affordable, and reliable rail transportation.
  - Additional port capacity. Better shipping access to Asian markets would be gained by expanding port capacity on the west coast.
- **<u>Walt Scheller, Warrior Met Coal</u>**

  The U.S. can compete on an operational standpoint; we really need reliable and affordable rail transport. Barges are also worth talking about. Our rivers are not in great shape; the U.S. needs to focus on infrastructure. The Suez Canal shutdown has added cost for shipping to Asian markets, and this must be resolved.

- **<u>Karl Moor, Powerscape Global</u>**

  The key to export is providing technologies that could use American coal abroad. Until the U.S. can reclaim the lead in research and development in coal technology, we won't be able to expand exports.

- **<u>Ed Elkins, Norfolk Southern</u>**

  The rail industry is integrated into the supply chain for export as well as domestic production. The industry is sensitive to what it takes to keep coal competitive in the global marketplace. It is doing everything it can.

12:15 PM – 12:30 PM: Public Comment Period (as time permits)

Jim Grech states that due to time constraints, the discussion period has ended. Regarding other topics of interest, those will be addressed at the next meeting. In the meantime, Jim is available if there are other considerations for the future. Jim then turns the meeting over to DOE.

Joe Giove, one of two Deputy Designated Federal Officers (DDFOs) for the NCC, explains that the NCC is a federal advisory committee and thus it is governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) which stipulates we must have a public comment period at every meeting. To satisfy that requirement, DOE published the following statement in the federal register on December 23, 2025:

"Public Participation: The meeting is accessible to the public via live stream. Members of the public who wish to make oral statements pertaining to agenda items should contact Mr. Tom Sarkus at the email address or telephone number listed above. Requests for oral statements must be received at least seven days prior to the meeting. . .Those not able to attend the meeting or having insufficient time to address the Council are invited to send written statements to Mr. Tom Sarkus to be read at the meeting. Any member of the public who wishes to file a written statement to the Council will be permitted to do so, either before or after the meeting."

Joe states: "DDFO Tom Sarkus and I can attest that no statements were received seven days prior to the meeting." Joe goes on to state that no written statements were received either.

Joe says that this concludes and satisfies the public comment portion of the meeting, and he turns the meeting back over to Chairman Grech.

Jim Grech tells the group that they will be getting their letters next week and to remember, if they are experiencing issues, they do not have to wait until the report to address them. He also urges moving these reports along as fast as we can.

Chris Wright states that there will be a photo, and that connecting humans together is the important thing. He is excited to see the results of these reports, and he is honored and proud to be here.

Doug Burgum issues a secondary assignment: workforce development. The industry has been playing defense. Plants today are beautiful because they have survived. The U.S. should be the world's largest exporter. The U.S. needs workforce development programs. He also wants people to start considering rare earth elements.

Jim Grech reiterates that there are going to be photographs taken. The meeting is adjourned.

12:30 PM: Meeting Adjourns

12:30 PM – 12:40 PM: Council Group Photo

12:40 PM – 1:00 PM: Member Departure and Informal Networking

THOMAS SARKUS Digitally signed by THOMAS SARKUS Date: 2026.02.18 16:39:24 -05'00'

Thomas Sarkus

Deputy Designated Federal Officer

National Coal Council

JOSEPH GIOVE Digitally signed by JOSEPH GIOVE Date: 2026.02.18 16:19:37 -05'00'

Joseph Giove III

Deputy Designated Federal Officer

National Coal Council