



CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER

Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production

Executive Order #14241

Date Issued: March 20, 2025

Topic: Environmental Justice, Energy

WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?

- This executive order prioritizes expanding domestic mineral production to enhance national security and economic resilience. It directs federal agencies to expedite the permitting process for high-priority mineral projects by placing them on the [Permitting Dashboard](#) for accelerated review.
- The order mandates identifying and prioritizing federal lands with known mineral deposits for mining activities, ensuring that regulatory barriers are minimized. Additionally, the National Energy Dominance Council (NEDC), established through an executive order by President Donald Trump on February 14, 2025, should solicit industry feedback on regulatory obstacles and strategies to streamline mineral production.
- To facilitate investment, the order invokes the [Defense Production Act](#) to provide financial support for domestic mineral production. It establishes the National Security Capital Forum to connect private investors with mineral projects and reduces regulatory hurdles for accessing funding.
- The Secretaries of Defense and Energy are authorized to use their leasing powers to enter agreements with private entities for mineral production on federal lands, either through new development or modifications of existing structures.
- Furthermore, agencies responsible for financing mineral supply chain security must rescind certain disclosure requirements, where legally permissible, to ease financial restrictions and accelerate project funding.



HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- This executive order mandates an aggressive timeline to accelerate domestic mineral production by streamlining regulatory processes, prioritizing federal land use, and enhancing financial support.
- Within 10 days, the head of each relevant executive department or agency must submit lists of ongoing mineral projects to the Chair of the National Economic Development Council (NEDC), who will coordinate with agency heads to identify and expedite priority projects. The Secretary of the Interior is required to provide a list of federal lands with mineral deposits, ensuring land use plans under the [Federal Land Policy and Management Act](#) favor mining.
- Additionally, within 15 days, the NEDC Chair will designate select projects for transparency on the Permitting Dashboard, fast-tracking their approval under the [Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act](#). Within 15 days of receiving this submission, the Executive Director of the Permitting Council will publish the selected projects and set schedules for expedited review.
- Within 30 days, the Secretaries of Defense, Interior, Agriculture, and Energy will identify federal lands suitable for private mineral development, prioritizing sites that can be quickly permitted and operational. The Secretaries of Defense and Energy, alongside the Small Business Administration (SBA) and other relevant agencies, will ensure private entities leasing federal lands can access financial and technical support. The Secretary of Defense will designate mineral production as a priority under the [Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment Program](#), while the CEO of the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and the Secretary of Defense will propose a dedicated mineral investment fund. The President of the Export-Import Bank will issue guidance on financing tools to support both domestic production and global mineral feedstock access. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy shall convene mineral buyers and initiate a request for bids to supply minerals.
- Within 45 days, the SBA Administrator will submit legislative recommendations to enhance small business financing for mineral production and implement necessary regulations to support these efforts.



HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- The order includes provisions for the SBA to enhance financing opportunities for small businesses involved in mineral production. This could provide Black-owned companies with better access to funding and government contracts.
- Fast-tracking mineral projects may lead to investments in infrastructure, such as roads and utilities, in areas where mining operations expand. If managed fairly, this could benefit underserved communities. If mineral production projects create increased employment opportunities, Black communities, especially those in regions with high unemployment rates, could gain new jobs in mining, transportation, and related industries.
- Historically, Black communities have been disproportionately affected by environmental hazards. Prioritizing mineral production on federal lands and streamlining regulations may weaken environmental protection, resulting in greater pollution, water contamination, and air quality issues in nearby communities.
- Expedited mining projects could impact land use in ways that may overlook the needs of Black rural communities. If federal lands near Black-majority communities are designated for extraction, it could lead to displacement, land degradation, or loss of access to traditional lands.
- While the order promotes economic growth in mineral production, it does not explicitly outline policies ensuring that Black and minority mine workers, businesses, or communities receive equitable benefits. Without intentional inclusion, the wealth generated may bypass historically marginalized communities.



HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

- Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) have demonstrated a commitment to environmental justice and sustainable development for decades. In January of 2025, the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC), which includes **Rep. Marilyn Strickland**, CBC Secretary, and **Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove**, CBC Whip, issued a letter to President Trump about his executive actions that eliminated funding to address climate change in marginalized communities:
 - “We are committed to working with your Administration to accomplish those goals, but we will fight back against your efforts to dismantle the federal response to climate change, gut our bedrock pollution regulations, and run roughshod over landmark environmental protections.” [Full Statement](#)