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*Mining in Utah as we once knew it might be on the way back, due to a Trump administration change in regulatory practices. (Adobe Stock image)*

**EPA administrator promises new federal regulatory approach**

**Brice Wallace**  
*Salt Lake Business Journal*

There's a new sheriff in town. Actually, it's an old sheriff but one with new, even bolder swagger this time around.

From a federal regulatory standpoint, the Trump administration represents a brand-new day for mining companies, according to Cyrus Western, Region 8 administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, who spoke at the recent annual conference of the Utah Mining Association in Salt Lake City.

The Trump administration, including EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, have made clear that "the war on coal is over," Western told the crowd.

"I think the last four years, the industry in this state and across the country faced a nonstop onslaught of regulation," he said. "Regulation has its place, right? We all need it to have a level, equal playing field, but I think it was pretty clear that that regulation was designed really to do one thing, and that was to put you out of business."

Western was referring to the Biden administration, but his criticism extended beyond that.

"One of the things I hope that everyone in this room has been taking stock of is that we have survived that onslaught, right? And not only of the last administration, but of all the previous administrations of the last 10 to 20 years, where I think there's kind of been this kind of creeping push of regulations, right? — perhaps some well-meaning, perhaps not — that has ultimately led to this place where it has made it harder and harder for the folks in this room to fulfill their business models."

Western commended the audience for not only making it through all of that, but to still be operating and contributing to the nation's economy. Without provid-

ing many technical details about regulatory changes underway or planned by the Trump administration, Western promised a whole new approach, backed by a spirit of collaboration.

"In my mind, the days that the EPA, or any federal agency, coming into Utah, pounding our fists on our chests and saying, 'Hey, this is how it's going to be,' those days are over," he said. "Our approach is much more of, 'Hey, how can we work with you? How can we help you?'"

"Those days of trying to regulate this industry out of existence are over. We are here to have that relationship, have those tough conversations, and build that trust. Because I think that trust was fundamentally lacking in the last four years."

Western said he has emphasized to his staffers that the administration has "an ambitious agenda" and if they push back on it, he will need to fire them.

"We understand the importance of your role in this economy and we want to make sure that whatever's holding you back, it's not us. ... We want to make sure that we're doing everything we can to be helpful and not be an impediment."

Nonetheless, companies will be held responsible for following laws, rules and regulations.

"At the end of the day, if folks aren't following the law, there has to be accountability ... there has to be compliance," he said, adding that the EPA is seeking "outcomes that are fair and that, again, are ultimately in compliance."

He discounted the idea in place for years that actions or people were either pro-environment and anti-industry or they were pro-industry and anti-environment.

"I think that's just fundamentally not true, and I feel a responsibility to send that message ... that we can have both, and we can walk and chew gum at the same time, that we can help the regulated-industry folks ful-

fill their business model, create these awesome jobs and also adhere to high environmental standards as well," Western said.

In response to an audience question about whether future administrations will continue on the same path or pinball to something else — say, from another proverbial new sheriff in town — Western offered no guarantees but said the administration hopes to have "durable outcomes" from its actions, that important items "are thorough, that they are durable and we can ultimately win if they get challenged."

Western said he will serve as an evangelist for the industry and noted its impacts both large and small. While some people living on the coasts do not understand mining, the extraction industry is "one of the last vestiges of these really high-quality, middle-class, blue-collar jobs," he said, with mining contributing to communities in ways that few others do. On a broader scale, mining has contributed to "every great moment" of the past 150 years, with an example being the use of rare earth materials to manufacture rockets that put humans on the moon.

In his evangelist/cheerleader role, Western said Utah's high concentrations of critical minerals is among the reasons the state will have a key role in the years to come.

"I think this state has a very unique opportunity to play a role in the future of mining in America," he said. "I think that, as a matter of fact, we cannot achieve our full potential as a country without mining, and without mining right here in Utah."

Western issued to the audience a call to action. "You, the folks in this room, and the companies you run and the miners that you employ ... despite all the headwinds, have done an incredible job of meeting that call, of serving the nation. But we need you. Without you, I think our future is uncertain. But with you and with your whole effort, I think we can create this incredible future for America."

# COAL MINES

Ranked by Short Tons Produced 2024

BUSINESS JOURNAL **List**

Mine	County	Coal Field	Company	Thousand Short Tons Produced
1 SUFCO	Sevier	Wasatch Plateau	Wolverine Fuels	2,692,000
2 Skyline No. 3	Carbon/Emery/Sanpete	Wasatch Plateau	Wolverine Fuels	2,830,000
3 Emery	Emery	Emery	Bronco Utah Operations	798,000
4 Gentry Mountain No. 4	Emery	Emery	Gentry Mining	420,000
5 Lila Canyon Mine	Emery	Book Cliffs	American Consolidated Natural Resources	159,000
6 Coal Hollow Mine	Kane	Alton	Alton Coal Development	67,000
7 Castle Valley No. 3	Emery	Emery	Gentry Mining	*



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# METAL MINES

Listed Alphabetically

BUSINESS JOURNAL **List**

Mine Name	Commodity	Mine Location	Mining Method	Owner	Year Opened
Bingham Canyon Mine	Copper, gold, silver, molybdenum	Bingham Canyon, Salt Lake Co.	Surface	Rio Tinto Kennecott	1906
Deer Trail Mine	Silver, gold, lead, zinc	Marysvale, Piute Co.	Underground	DT Mining/Mag Silver	2020
Gold Springs Project	Gold, silver	Great Basin, NV and UT	Surface	Gold Springs Resources	2020
Henry Mountains Complex (Tony M & Bullfrog mines)	Uranium	Henry Mountains, Garfield Co.	Underground	Energy Fuels Inc.	*
La Sal Complex (Beaver & Pandora mines)	Uranium, vanadium	La Sal Mountains, San Juan Co.	Underground	Energy Fuels Inc.	*
Lisbon Valley Mine	Copper	Lisbon Valley, San Juan Co.	Surface	Lisbon Valley Mining Co.	2004
Spor Mountain Mine	Beryllium	Spor Mountain, Juab Co.	Surface	Materion Natural Resources	1968
Tintic Project	Gold, Silver, Lead, Zinc	Tintic District; Utah/Juab Counties	Underground Osisko Development/Tintic Consolidated Metals	Tamra Mining Co. LLC	2020
US Magnesium Facility	Magnesium	Great Salt Lake, Tooele Co.	Solar evaporation	US Magnesium LLC	1972
White Mesa Mill Facility	Uranium, vanadium, alternative feeds	Blanding, San Juan Co.	Mill	Energy Fuels Inc.	1980



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# MINING SERVICE PROVIDERS

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Company Name	Contact Info.	Services Provided	Company Name	Contact Info.	Services Provided
ACF West Inc.	acfwest.com 801-521-5141	Geosynthetic solutions	Milex Technologies	milextech.com 775-340-4942	Light tower & custom equipment manufacturer
Ames Construction Inc.	amesconstruction.com 801-977-8012	Heavy civil & industrial construction	Millcreek Engineering Co.	millcreekeng.com 801-904-2260	Engineering & construction management
Atkinson Construction	atkn.com 303-985-1660	Heavy civil & industrial construction	Monsen Engineering	monsengineering.com 800-821-0672	Product supply for design/build industry
Barney Trucking	barneytrucking.com 800-524-7930	Trucking services	North American Coal	nacoal.com 972-448-5400	Contract mining; technical, environmental & material handling solutions
Barr Engineering	barr.com 801-333-8400	Engineering & environmental consulting	NOW CFO	nowcfo.com 801-938-4764	Outsourced CFO, controller, accounting services
Boart Longyear	boartlongyear.com 801-972-6430	Drilling equipment & service	Parr Brown Gee & Loveless	parrbrown.com 801-532-7840	Legal services, natural resources practice
Bodell Construction	bodellconstruction.com 801-261-4343	Innovative mining construction services	Parsons Behle & Latimer	parsonsbehle.com 801-532-1234	Legal services, natural resources practice
Bowen Collins & Associates	bowencollins.com 801-495-2224	Engineering & environmental consulting	Pray and Co.	praysolutions.com 775-934-9308	Human resources, PR, org. effectiveness solutions
Brahma Group Inc.	brahmagroupinc.com 801-521-5200	Industrial construction & project management	Ray Quinney & Nebeker	rqn.com 801-532-1500	Legal services, natural resources practice
Brunel	brunel.net 801-987-5946	Recruitment & workforce solutions	Richwood Industries	richwood.com 800-237-6951	Bulk handling equipment distribution & service
C&G Construction	cgconst.com 435-882-1529	Civil construction, excavation, steel erection	Robinson Transport Inc.	haulcoal.com 435-529-7472	Trucking services
Dark Horse Timber	darkhorsetimber.com 435-738-0133	Mining timbers, lumber services	Rocky Mountain Industrial	rmiwyoming.com 307-472-5519	Flame-resistant & winter clothing, PPE supply
DC Power Solutions	dcpower.cc 800-326-0691	Large battery sales & service	Savage Services Corp.	savageservices.com 801-944-6600	Transportation, logistics, operations services
Dorsey & Whitney	dorsey.com 801-933-7360	Legal services—natural resources practice	Sapphire Gas Solutions	sapphiregassolutions.com 833-MOBLGAS	Mobile power generation solutions
DP Systems	dpindustrialinc.com 801-886-2170	Industrial scaffolding, insulation, siding	SITECH Intermountain	sitech-im.com 801-716-7777	Mining/construction technology systems
Dyno Nobel	dynonobel.com 801-364-4800	Blasting products & solutions	Smith Power Products	smithpowerproducts.com 800-658-5352	Equipment, engine rebuild & service
Em Strategies Inc.	emstrats.com 775-826-8822	Environmental consulting	Snell & Wilmer	swlaw.com 801-257-1900	Legal services, natural resources practice
Epiroc LLC	epiroc.com 844-437-4762	Equipment distribution & service	Stantec Consulting	stantec.com 801-617-3200	Engineering, architecture, project mgmt. services
ERM-Rocky Mountain	erm.com 832-924-5322	Environmental, health, safety consulting	Stoel Rives LLP	stoel.com 801-328-3131	Legal services, natural resources practice
Fabian Vancott	fabianvancott.com 801-531-8900	Legal services, natural resources practice	Strata Worldwide	strataworldwide.com 800-691-6601	Advanced mining safety solutions
FLSmith	flsmith.com 801-871-7000	Production facilities, equipment, services	Sure Steel	suresteel.com 801-917-5800	Supply and installation of structural steel
GeoStrata	geostrata-llc.com 801-501-0583	Engineering & geoscience services	SWCA Inc.	swca.com 801-322-4307	Environmental consulting
Geotemps Inc.	geotemps.com 775-746-7146	Recruitment & workforce solutions	TIC-The Industrial Co.	tic-inc.com 303-325-0300	Heavy civil & industrial construction
Gerhart Cole	gerhartcole.com 801-849-0055	Geotechnical engineering	Tierra Group International	tierragroupinternational.com 801-210-9600	Civil & geotechnical engineering
Golden West Industries Inc.	goldenwest-industries.com 435-637-5402	Chemical solutions for mining, materials handling	Tram Electric Inc.	tramelectric.com 435-637-7291	Electric motor rebuild & service
Golder Associates	golder.com 801-312-9320	Consulting, design, construction services	Turner Mining Group	turnermining.com 812-277-9077	Contract mining, overburden removal, drill/blast, crushing & screening, specialty earthworks, plant staffing
HDR Inc.	hdrinc.com 801-743-7800	Engineering, architecture, environmental services	Utah Metal Works	umw.com 877-221-0099	Industrial scrap & recycling services
Holland & Hart	hollandhart.com 801-799-5826	Legal services, natural resources practice	VCI	govci.com 914-381-0000	Heavy industry research, advisory, investment serv.
Hunt Electric	hunteletric.com 801-975-8844	Electrical contractor	Victaulic	victaulic.com 610-559-3300	Mechanical pipe joining solutions
ICM Solutions	wheelercat.com 385-297-8800	Crushing and paving products	W.W. Clyde & Company	wwclyde.net 801-802-6800	Heavy civil & industrial construction
Industrial Supply	indsupply.com 801-484-8644	Industrial supplies, MROP materials	Wagstaff Crane Service	wagstaffcrane.com 801-277-3820	Crane service & engineering
Ingenium Design	ingeniumdesign.us 801-413-7672	Engineering & design services	Wanzek Construction	wanzek.com 701-282-6171	Heavy civil & industrial construction
Jennmar Services	jennmarservices.jobs 435-637-9300	Recruitment & workforce solutions	WESCO	wesco.com 801-975-0600	Industrial supply chain solutions
Job Industrial Services Inc.	jobindustrial.com 801-433-0901	Engineering, procurement, construction mgmt.	Western Cultural Resource Management	wcrminc.com 303-449-1151	Cultural resource consulting services
Komatsu Equipment Co.	komatsueq.com 877-566-2878	Equipment distribution & service	Wheeler Machinery Co.	wheelercat.com 801-796-8333	Equipment distribution & service
Komatsu Mining	mining.komatsu 435-636-6100	Equipment distribution & service	Wollam Construction Co.	wollamconstruction.com 801-938-9170	Heavy civil & industrial construction
Liebherr USA Co.	liebherr.com 307-686-0948	Equipment distribution & service	Zooks Solutions Inc.	zookssolutions.com 888-772-4613	Recruitment & workforce solutions
Magnum Development	magnumdev.com 801-993-7001	Chemical, gas storage, clean energy storage			
McNeil Engineering	mcneilengineering.com 801-255-7700	Civil engineering & design services			

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# MINERAL MINES

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Mine Name	Commodity	Mine Location	Mining Method	Owner	Year Opened
American Gilsonite	Gilsonite	Near Vernal, Uintah Co.	Sub-surface	American Gilsonite	1904
Ash Grove	Portland cement products	Leamington, Millard Co.	Surface	Ash Grove Cement Co.	1980
Cricket Mountain	Limestone, limestone products	Near Delta, Millard Co.	Surface	Graymont Corp.	1976
Devil's Slide	Limestone, cement products	East of Morgan, Morgan Co.	Surface	Holcim Inc.	1904
Grantsville Facility	Limestone, limestone products	Grantsville, Tooele Co.	Surface	Lhoist North America	*
Great Salt Lake Minerals	Sulfate of potash, magnesium chloride	Great Salt Lake, Tooele Co.	Solar evaporation	Compass Minerals	1972
Moab Facility	Potash	Near Moab, Kane Co.	Solar evaporation	Intrepid Potash Inc.	1965
Morton Salt	Salt	Great Salt Lake, Tooele Co.	Solar evaporation	Morton Salt	1918
Red Leaf Resources	Oil shale	Uinta Basin, Uintah Co.	Surface	Red Leaf Resources Inc.	2012
Redmond Mine	Salt, bentonite	Redmond, Sevier Co.	Underground, surface	Redmond Minerals	1958
Sevier Playa	Potash	Sevier Dry Lake, Millard Co.	Solar evaporation	EMR Capital Investments	*
Simplot Vernal Mine	Phosphates and derivatives	Near Vernal, Uintah Co.	Surface	J.R. Simplot Co.	1960
Timple Facility	Salt	Great Salt Lake, Tooele Co.	Solar evaporation	Cargil Salt Inc.	*
US Gypsum	Gypsum	Sigurd, Sevier Co.	Surface	US Gypsum	*
Utelite Mine	Expanded shale	Coalville, Summit Co.	Surface	Utelite Corp.	1962
Wendover Facility	Potash	Great Salt Lake, Tooele Co.	Solar evaporation	Intrepid Potash Inc.	1938
Western Clay	Bentonite	Aurora, Sevier Co.	Surface	Western Clay Corp.	1963

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## Huge lithium facility to be built near Great Salt Lake

**Tom Haraldsen**
*Salt Lake Business Journal*

Lithium is an integral part of our lives, used in rechargeable batteries for electronics and electric vehicles, as well as for manufacturing of specialty ceramics and glass. It's also used as a medication for mood disorders. But it's seldom mined here in the U.S., with the largest lithium mine part of a project in Humboldt County, Nevada.

Now an Oakland-based company called Lilac Solutions is developing a process to get lithium from a cheaper and more environmentally safe way — by pulling it out of the Great Salt Lake. The company website says it was made for the GSL, and vice versa. Though the lithium concentration in the lake is relatively low — about 20 times lower than most production being done in South America — company officials say that through its method of returning all water it pumps back into the lake, there is no change in the water's chemistry aside from lithium removal. That means its water pumping is non-consumptive and doesn't involve commonly used drying ponds that lower water levels.

Lilac also claims it has achieved the ability to unlock scalable lithium production from the GSL. That would help double the nation's lithium production.

Lithium mining is traditionally bad for the environment because it heavily consumes water, can cause air and water pollution, and negatively impacts local communities and ecosystems. It can deplete groundwater and contaminate water sources with harmful chemicals. Mining also requires significant land use and energy and can cause social conflicts, especially in indigenous communities.

"We have engaged local stakeholders and regulators early and often to ensure that our resource develop-



A new plan from Lilac Solutions will get lithium from the Great Salt Lake using a process that won't use drying ponds as has been done in the past. (Adobe Stock image)

ment plans meet the state of Utah's vision for environmentally responsible lithium production on the Great Salt Lake," the company said on its website. "The next step for this project involves deployment of a field pilot. Then, we'll propose to regulators a first phase of commercial production totaling 3,000 tonnes per year of lithium carbonate by 2026. Ultimately, the lake can support up to 20,000 tonnes per year, which would be part of a future proposal."

Company CEO Raef Sully said most of the lithium used in the U.S. comes from Argentina and Chile, though it's processed and refined in China. That nation is the world's largest consumer of the mineral because of its large electronics and EV industries.

Sully said Lilac has raised about two-thirds of the \$250 million needed for the facility on the GSL, hoping to complete the first round of funding by early next year.

# Elementary school could be spark for interest in critical minerals

**Brice Wallace**

*Salt Lake Business Journal*

Many people agree that Utah has the components to become a leader in the mining and processing of critical minerals. But the stimulus for growth at future mines and processing centers is in an unlikely place.

Secondary schools.

Denee Hayes, senior fellow at the University of Utah College of Science and principal consultant at Bijih Resource Consulting, told a crowd at the recent Utah Mining Association annual conference that K-12 would be a great starting point for getting people interested in critical minerals activities and cultivating expertise in the industry.

“In grade school, that’s where we sort of develop some of these core interests that we can develop into careers in the mining industry,” Hayes said.

Young people used to be “rock hounds,” and often “that one teacher” sparked interest in geology and minerals, she said. Partnerships between industry and academia can also take the form of student field trips to mining operations, STEM programs featuring mining careers, science fair partnerships and summer camps.

“What I’m saying is, start early,” Hayes said. “Start in K-12 education. I know that’s a long lead time, but we will need industry professionals for the next 30 years to be joining and coming in.”

That interest can carry through into post-secondary education, with university programs such as internships, collaborations, industry guest speakers and projects with companies also developing interests and skills the industry will need.

The national security of the United States is at risk because China “has a stronghold and grip” on the majority of critical minerals processing throughout the world, she said. It has made investments in infrastruc-

ture, ports and transportation, and billions of dollars in places including Congo, Brazil and South Africa — all in an effort to “manipulate the markets and disrupt the supply chain,” she said.

That has left the U.S. relying on foreign supply chains. Earlier in the conference, attendees learned that 920 pounds of rare earth elements are in an F-25 Lightning II fighter; 5,200 pounds are in an Arleigh Burke DDG-51 destroyer; and 9,200 pounds are in an SSN-774 Virginia Class submarine.

The U.S. — and more specifically Utah — can be a leader in critical mineral production. The U.S. Department of the Interior, through the U.S. Geological Survey, recently produced the final 2025 list of critical minerals, and 50 of the 60 on the list can be found in Utah.

Hayes said industry and both state and federal government need to look at critical minerals stability “so we can afford to opt into the processing and mining of critical minerals.”

Hayes called for a place to concentrate talent, innovation and infrastructure, “and we have all of those things readily available in Utah to be able to do that.”

Utah being a critical minerals resource hub would have broad benefits, she added. “This will help us help other industries thrive, like aerospace and defense, medical technologies, other technologies, manufacturing, electric vehicles and any technology out there.”

Hayes also called for a public relations campaign to stir interest in mining and critical minerals — anything to make mining more visible.

At the other end of the age spectrum, retirees and those near retirement need to have their expertise preserved before “walking out the door,” she said.

“So, we need to plan for both an increase in expertise in critical minerals processing,” Hayes said, “as well as a loss of expertise within our industry to retirement.”

# Thousands of acres of federal land near Utah national parks are now open for coal leases

**Alixel Cabrera**

*Utah News Dispatch*

An initiative of Congress’ spending package known as the “big, beautiful bill” started becoming a reality recently, leaving environmentalists with deep concerns about the future landscape of national parks.

The map of 13.1 million acres of federal land now available for coal leasing triples the benchmark set by the law and includes parcels near or directly adjacent to landmarks like Zion, Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef national parks, an analysis from groups including the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance found.

“The Trump Administration views Southern Utah’s remarkable red rock country as just another place to exploit and plunder as they promote new coal mining. Nothing could be further from the truth. America’s national parks, national monuments, and wild public lands don’t deserve this fate and we’ll work tirelessly to stop it from happening,” Steve Bloch, legal director at SUWA, said in a news release.

About 48,000 acres of federally-owned land in Utah are available for coal-mining operations, a big step in the Trump administration’s plan to increase energy production in the country, particularly fossil fuels.

According to the analysis, an almost 12,000-acre parcel available for coal leases is directly adjacent to the west side of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and south of Bryce Canyon.

Mining in the area could affect the water that feeds tributaries of the Paria River, Jacqueline Grant, executive director of Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners, said in a statement.

There are also parcels on the east side of Zion National Park, including a portion of the North Fork of the Virgin River and North Fork Road, the analysis says. Public land bordering scenic roads



*A trail in Bryce Canyon National Park is pictured in May 2024. (Alixel Cabrera/Utah News Dispatch)*

like state Highway 89, also known as Utah Heritage Highway, and the Mount Carmel Scenic Byway would also be available for lease in the area.

East of Capitol Reef National Park, the Bureau of Land Management is also offering an approximately 2,000-acre piece of land for leases, the environmentalists said.

“Coal mines near Zion, Bryce Canyon or Capitol Reef? It’s absurd. It was decided decades ago that these lands would be off the table,” Cory MacNulty, Southwest campaign director for the National Parks Conservation Association, said in a statement. “Dirty energy development has no place near our national parks, es-

pecially as iconic landscapes across the Southwest are already at risk of having hazy skies, polluted water, and a degraded visitor experience from nearby drilling and mining.”

The Department of the Interior, however, argues that opening the land for lease, along with lowering royalty rates to 7 percent, will help strengthen supply chains and the country’s energy security.

“President Trump promised to put American energy workers first, and today we’re delivering,” Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum said in a news release. “By reducing the royalty rate for coal, increasing coal acres available for leasing, and unlocking critical minerals

from mine waste, we are strengthening our economy, protecting national security, and ensuring that communities from Montana to Alabama benefit from good-paying jobs.”

Lease sales are already happening across the country, according to the release. Together, they add hundreds of millions of tons of coal.

The agency is also spearheading efforts to recover minerals like uranium, zinc, germanium, tellurium and rare earth elements from mine waste and abandoned sites.

*This article was originally published in the Utah News Dispatch on Oct. 6, 2025. [www.utahnewsdispatch.com](http://www.utahnewsdispatch.com)*

# Anfield Energy nears Velvet-Wood Mine opening, buys underground truck fleet

Anfield Energy Inc. has signaled that it is getting close to starting operations at its recommissioned Velvet-Wood uranium-vanadium mine in San Juan County. In addition to a Nov. 6 groundbreaking ceremony at the mine site, the company has completed its first major procurement of specialized underground mining equipment. Anfield placed an order for eight custom-built underground haul trucks from Young's Machine Co., a family-owned manufacturer based in Monticello. The machines will be custom-outfitted for Anfield's use.

Anfield's mining project at Velvet-Wood was greenlighted with expedited approvals from federal government agencies and the state of Utah earlier this year. The reopening of the mine, which produced 4 million pounds of uranium in the late 1970s, was fast-tracked under a federal accelerated review process, designed in response to the national energy emergency declared by Pres. Donald Trump in January.

"Securing our first fleet of underground trucks from Young's Machine is a pivotal step in executing our near-term production strategy at Velvet-Wood," said Corey Dias, Anfield CEO. "Partnering with a proven, Utah-based manufacturer like Young's ensures we deploy rugged, fit-for-purpose equipment built for the unique demands of our high-grade uranium-vanadium material. This order not only de-risks our restart timeline

but also strengthens local economic ties as we advance American energy independence through domestic nuclear fuel production."

Anfield's order includes multiple units from Young's 960 Series dump trucks, designed for underground mining operations. The trucks are known for their durability, low overhead costs for buyers, and compatibility with uranium-vanadium material handling in challenging subsurface environments.

"In Anfield Energy's hub-and-spoke uranium and vanadium production model, deploying a uniform fleet of underground haul trucks reduces maintenance complexity, optimizes spare parts logistics, lowers operational costs and enables rapid scalability as additional spokes come online," the company said.

Young's Machine will begin delivering the dump trucks in the second quarter of 2026.

With mining locations in Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico, Anfield aims to restart its Shootaring Canyon Mill and scale production output up to 3 million pounds of uranium annually. The Velvet-Wood Mine will feed material to the mill, supporting a "hub-and-spoke" model that will contribute to the U.S. government's aim of energy independence, a company statement said.

Young's Machine Co., in business in Monticello since 1953, specializes in "mine-tested" equipment tailored for



A Young's Machine Co. Series 960 dump truck exits a uranium mine in San Juan County. Anfield Energy has ordered eight similar trucks for its soon-to-be-opened Velvet-Wood Mine near Monticello. (Photo courtesy Young's Machine Co.)

western U.S. operations.

"Their low-cost, high-quality build equipment make them an ideal local partner, reducing logistics costs for Anfield's Utah-centric projects," said Anfield. "This transaction also highlights Utah's role as a mining hub, with Velvet-Wood just miles from Young's facility."

"We're thrilled to partner with Anfield on this landmark order. It's a testament to

the trust they've placed in our custom 960 Series trucks," said Steve Young of Young's Machine Co. "Working with a forward-thinking team like Anfield's, right here in our backyard, reinforces our commitment to powering Utah's uranium revival with reliable, American-made equipment that stands up to the toughest underground conditions. We look forward to seeing these trucks haul the future of clean energy."

## Utah's national parks at risk

**Becky Ginos**  
The City Journals

Utah is known for its amazing national parks, drawing millions of visitors from around the world each year. Those landscapes could be in danger, marred by a piece of legislation that was tucked into The One Big Beautiful Bill that Congress passed in the summer.

"There is a provision calling on the Interior Department to identify more lands that would be available for coal leasing," said Steve Bloch, legal director of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA), whose mission is the preservation of Utah's wilderness-quality lands. "What that ended up looking like was Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum last month (October) identified millions of acres across the West — 13 million acres. There were 48,000 acres of those identified in Utah."

On one hand, that might seem like Utah made out better than say, Montana, which has more than 6 million acres identified, he said. "But the lands that have been identified as newly available for coal leasing in Utah are really significant landscapes. When SUWA dug into it and looked more closely at where those lands were located, it really raised the alarm bells for us."

That's because this package of 48,000 acres included lands that are immediately adjacent to the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and to Capitol Reef National Park, said Bloch. "It is in very close proximity to Bryce Canyon National Park and Zion National Park."

For example, said Bloch, some of the tracts for coal leasing would be visible from the end of the scenic drive in Bryce Canyon from Yovimpa Point. "There would be coal tracts that you would be driving through if you were going from the eastern side of Capitol Reef Nation-

al Park and driving to the Temples of the Sun and Moon. Or if you were driving from Highway 9 and you were driving up to hike the Zion Narrows, some of the coal leases would be right along or right on the road that would lead to that trailhead and ultimately be in the watershed of Zion."

It feels like such a disconnect, he said. "Here in Utah, we're so proud of the national parks and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and here is the administration almost thumbing their nose at all of that and saying, 'Well, we're going to make these lands available for leasing of coal.'"

It's also interesting to note that the majority of that 48,000 acres, about 40,000 acres, were lands that the George W. Bush administration in 2008 specifically identified as unsuitable for coal mining, Bloch said. "It was mainly because of the proximity to the parks in the national monument. And yet here was Trump and his administration reversing that and saying, 'No, let's make those lands available.'"

There's really nothing to challenge yet, he said. "What Burgum said was that these 48,000 acres along with the other 13 million acres across the West are now available for a coal company to come in and tell the Interior Department that they want to bid on it to acquire these leases."

That would start another review process, Bloch said. "We're going to remain vigilant for that. We think it's really important that people understand what's happening — exactly what the Trump administration is doing to some of Utah's most significant national parks."

Bloch said if it comes down to coal companies coming in and bidding, they would definitely get engaged in that process. "That would look like whatever kind of environmental reviews the Interior Department would do in the lead-up to making those lands available for leasing, like actually the leasing process itself."



Entrance to Zion National Park Narrows. Some of the coal leases would be right along or right on the road that would lead to the trailhead of the Narrows and ultimately be in the watershed of Zion. (Stock photo)

So if someone comes in and says they're interested in a 500-acre or 1,000-acre tract and want to acquire a lease for that tract, there would be more environmental reviews and SUWA would work to defeat that proposal, he said. "First, it would be working with the Bureau of Land Management, who's the agency that oversees it, and then, if necessary, we would appeal or litigate that kind of decision."

Bloch said he would like to see the public get involved. "On the one hand, it's just making sure people understand what's happening in this administration and how it hits so close to home. Then I think it's letting the members of our congressional delegation know that people are upset and shocked that there could be coal leasing right on the doorstep of these National Parks and Monuments."

That's not what Utahns want to see here, he said. "When visitors come to Utah from around the country and around the

world to enjoy the national parks in our state, the public lands in our state, that is not why they're coming here."

There are multiple tribal nations who have long ties to many of these landscapes, said Bloch. "I'm sure they would have things to say, had they been asked for their opinion on it."

Under President Trump, the Interior Department is actively trying to sell coal leases in Utah and in other western states right now, Bloch said. "They have been receiving several below-market bids for that coal and so there's really not the sort of interest that the administration had hoped to find. I feel like where we sit we have to take the administration at its face value."

They're really moving heaven and earth to make more land available for coal leasing and development right outside many of the national parks and monuments, he said. "We just can't sleep on that threat, so we're going to remain vigilant."