PENNSYLVANIA ANTHRACITE COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 138
Pottsville, PA 17901
Phone: 717-737-9825
Email: hardcoalorg@paanthracite.com

ANTHRACITE REPORT

Volume XXXI No. 3 April 2026

Federal Reclamation Efforts Highlight Benefits of Mine Cleanup Across U.S. The federal government is continuing to emphasize the importance of mine reclamation as a cornerstone of environmental protection and community safety, according to a recent post by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE).

In a March feature titled *"Innovation in Action: How Mine Reclamation Protects American Communities and Shapes the Future,"* OSMRE highlighted how reclaiming former mining sites is helping to reduce hazards, restore ecosystems, and create new economic opportunities in coalfield regions.

Across the country, abandoned mine lands—many dating back decades—pose risks such as unstable ground, open shafts, and polluted waterways. Federal officials say reclamation projects are addressing these dangers by stabilizing landscapes and improving environmental conditions for nearby communities.

"Millions of Americans live near abandoned coal mines," the agency noted in related materials, emphasizing that reclamation work plays a critical role in making these areas safer for residents, infrastructure, and recreational use.

Beyond safety, federal officials point to measurable environmental improvements. In some areas, reclamation efforts have dramatically reduced pollution levels, allowing wildlife to return and previously damaged waterways to recover. These restored landscapes are increasingly being repurposed for activities such as recreation, conservation, and even economic development projects.

The federal government has invested heavily in these efforts. Since the passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) in 1977, billions of dollars have been distributed to states and tribal programs to reclaim abandoned mine lands and mitigate long-standing environmental impacts.

Programs such as the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) initiative and the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program are designed not only to address safety and environmental concerns but also to support economic renewal in former mining communities. These initiatives aim to transform previously unusable land into productive assets that can generate jobs and attract investment.

OSMRE also emphasized the role of partnerships in carrying out reclamation work. Under a "cooperative federalism" model, most coal mining regulation and reclamation activities are managed by state and tribal authorities, with federal oversight ensuring consistent standards nationwide.

As federal officials continue to promote reclamation as a national priority, the agency's message is clear: restoring mined lands is not only about addressing the legacy of past mining, but also about shaping a more sustainable and economically viable future for coalfield communities.

Rising Imports, Declining Jobs: New Data Highlights Impact on Pennsylvania Anthracite Recent data underscores a growing concern for Pennsylvania's anthracite industry: a sharp increase in foreign imports coinciding with measurable declines in domestic employment and economic activity.

In 2025, imports of anthracite from Peru surged by approximately 361%, rising from about 40,000 short tons in 2024 to an estimated 184,450 short tons. During that same period, MSHA-reported Pennsylvania anthracite mining employment declined by 5.2%, representing a loss of 66 direct mining jobs.

While these figures reflect direct employment, the broader impact is significantly larger. Each mining job supports additional work across transportation, equipment supply, engineering, and environmental services. Using standard industry relationships, the decline in direct jobs corresponds to an estimated total impact of approximately 165 jobs across the regional economy.

The associated wage loss is substantial, with regional payroll impacts estimated in the high single-digit to low double-digit millions of dollars annually.

Beyond employment, imported anthracite does not contribute to key public benefits tied to domestic production. U.S. anthracite supports funding for the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program, contributes to federal Black Lung benefits, and drives ongoing environmental reclamation work across Pennsylvania. Imported coal provides none of these contributions.

This data does not assert direct causation but highlights a clear and concerning trend: increased reliance on imported anthracite is occurring alongside reduced domestic labor utilization and diminished economic and public-benefit contributions.

If current conditions continue, and employment trends move toward prior low levels seen during periods of high imports, the long-term economic and national-interest implications for Pennsylvania and the broader U.S. industrial base could be significant.

EAF Steel Expansion Faces a Hard Limit: Scrap Supply Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) steelmaking continues to expand globally, but the industry is increasingly confronting a fundamental constraint: scrap availability. While new EAF capacity is being announced and developed across multiple regions, the supply of usable scrap is not growing at the same pace—raising important questions about how far and how fast this transition can go.

Today, EAF production accounts for roughly 30% of global steel output and is expected to increase over the next decade. However, scrap—the primary input for EAF steelmaking—is widely recognized as a finite and regionally constrained resource.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has noted that scrap availability varies significantly across regions and is dependent on long-term industrial cycles, including the volume of steel reaching end-of-life for recycling.

Recent analysis from Boston Consulting Group indicates that global scrap supply is already lagging demand growth, particularly as more countries pursue EAF-based production. This imbalance is expected to intensify as additional capacity comes online, increasing competition for high-quality scrap, especially prime and low-residual material required for higher-grade steel products.

In more mature markets like the United States—where over 70% of steel is already produced via EAF—the challenge is not building new furnaces, but securing consistent scrap flows. In developing regions, where scrap availability is more limited, producers are increasingly pairing EAFs with Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) to supplement inputs.

Looking forward, industry forecasts suggest scrap will need to supply a significantly larger share of global steel production in the coming decades. However, without substantial improvements in scrap collection, processing, and trade systems, supply constraints are likely to persist.

The takeaway is clear: EAF steelmaking will continue to grow, but its expansion will ultimately be governed by access to scrap—and the ability of producers to secure it in an increasingly competitive global market.

How EAF Producers Are Securing the Scrap They Need As Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) steelmaking continues to expand, the critical issue is no longer just capacity—it is raw material supply. EAF production depends primarily on scrap, a resource that is increasingly recognized as both finite and strategically important.

Unlike traditional steelmaking, EAF production relies on recycled materials generated from manufacturing, demolition, and end-of-life products. This supply cannot be expanded on demand, as it is tied to long-term industrial activity and economic cycles.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has further noted that scrap availability varies widely by region and is becoming a key factor shaping global steel markets.

In response, leading EAF producers such as Nucor, Steel Dynamics, and Commercial Metals Company have moved aggressively to secure supply. These companies have built extensive recycling networks through acquisitions of scrap processors and metal recovery operations, allowing them to control material flow, improve quality, and reduce exposure to market volatility. The OECD has identified this vertical integration trend as a defining shift in the steel industry.

At the same time, global demand for scrap is rising faster than supply. Analysis from Boston Consulting Group indicates that scrap availability is lagging demand growth, with tightening conditions expected as more EAF capacity comes online. Competition is particularly intense for prime and low-residual scrap required for higher-grade steel production.

To manage these constraints, producers including Nucor and Steel Dynamics have invested in Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) and other supplemental iron units to reduce reliance on scrap alone and maintain production flexibility.

The takeaway is clear: EAF steelmaking is no longer just about melting scrap—it is about securing it. As the market evolves, competitive advantage will increasingly belong to those companies that control access to raw materials in an increasingly constrained global supply environment.

Pennsylvania House Advances Data Center Regulation Bill The Pennsylvania House of Representatives has approved legislation addressing the growing impact of data centers on the state's electric grid and ratepayers. House Bill 1834 passed by a 104–95 vote and now moves to the Senate.

The bill directs the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) to develop interim and permanent regulations for large-scale data centers. Driven by the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence and cloud computing, these facilities require enormous amounts of electricity, raising concerns about grid capacity and rising consumer costs.

A central feature of the legislation is cost allocation. Data center developers would be required to cover the cost of infrastructure needed to support their operations, including transmission upgrades and grid expansions. Supporters argue this protects residential and small business ratepayers from subsidizing large technology companies.

The bill also requires data centers to procure an increasing share of their electricity from cleaner energy sources over time. Proponents say this will help address environmental concerns while supporting long-term grid sustainability.

Opponents, however, argue the measure adds regulatory complexity and potential cost burdens that could discourage investment. They contend the legislation does little to address the core issue—ensuring adequate power generation—and emphasize that expanding reliable energy supply should be the priority.

As electricity demand continues to grow, this debate highlights the challenge of balancing economic development, grid reliability, and cost protection for Pennsylvania consumers.

Data Center Growth and the Rising Importance of Waste Coal Generation As Pennsylvania lawmakers debate how to manage the growing electricity demands of data centers, one critical question remains: where will the additional power come from?

While policy discussions have focused on cost allocation and clean energy mandates, the reality is that data centers require constant, around-the-clock electricity. This demand cannot be met by intermittent sources alone—it requires dispatchable generation that is available regardless of weather or time of day.
In Pennsylvania, one often overlooked source of reliable power is waste coal generation.

Waste coal plants utilize anthracite refuse—legacy piles left from decades of mining—to produce electricity. In doing so, they deliver meaningful environmental benefits, including reclaiming abandoned mine lands, reducing acid mine drainage, and improving water quality.

As electricity demand grows, particularly from large-scale data centers, these facilities offer a unique dual benefit: dependable baseload power and ongoing environmental remediation.

However, waste coal plants continue to face mounting economic and regulatory pressures, placing their long-term viability at risk. Without recognition of their role in both grid reliability and environmental cleanup, Pennsylvania risks losing a critical energy resource just as demand is accelerating.

2026 PAC Spring Golf Outing Set for Thursday, May 21 The Pennsylvania Anthracite Council will host its annual Spring Golf Outing on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at Mountain Valley Golf Course in Barnesville, Pennsylvania. The outing will begin with registration and a box lunch at 12:00 noon, followed by a 1:00 PM shotgun start. The entry fee is $125 per person.

This year's event will once again feature a variety of fun games and activities designed to enhance your playing experience — and maybe even improve your score. During registration, players will have the opportunity to purchase mulligans and move-ups. In addition, a game of chance will be located at one of the holes, giving participants the chance to spin the wheel to win extra 50/50 tickets, take a stroke off their score, and enjoy other prizes.

The tournament will be played in a four-person scramble format. The registration fee includes:

- Box lunch
- Cart and green fees
- Refreshments on the course
- Our traditional steak dinner
- Plenty of door prizes

Weather Notice: In the event of severe or unsafe weather conditions, the Pennsylvania Anthracite Council reserves the right to postpone the outing. If necessary, the event will be rescheduled, and all registered participants will be notified promptly of the new date.

PENNSYLVANIA ANTHRACITE COUNCIL

SPRING GOLF OUTING

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Featuring a four-man scramble.
At the Mt. Valley Golf Course,
Barnesville, PA

Entry fee: $125.00 per person.

Includes: Golf Cart & Green Fees,
Dinner, Refreshments and
Prizes

Tee Time: 1:00 PM Shot Gun Start

If you can't make a foursome, we will try to Find one for you.
Entry deadline: Friday, May 15, 2026

Please make checks payable to:
Pennsylvania Anthracite Council

Yes, I/we want to play

Name:	Company:	Phone:	E:-Mail:
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

____I will Sponsor a hole for $100 ___I will provide a door prize

____Dinner Only. Thursday Evening @ $50.00 Per person No. Attending _____

Check Enclosed for_____@$125.00 each

Please Respond by Friday, May 15h to:

PAC
P.O. Box 138
Pottsville, PA 17901
Phone: 717-737-9825
Fax: 570-628-2058
E-Mail: **hardcoalorg@paanthracite.com**