



STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Mike Braun
Governor

TO: Patrick Price, General Counsel
FROM: Indiana Rare Earth Recovery Council
RE: Executive Order 25-62

Executive Summary:

Pursuant to Executive Order 25-62, the Indiana Rare Earth Recovery Council (“Council”) has initiated execution of the Governor’s direction to:

1. Advance an environmentally sustainable coal-site reclamation and clean-up program;
2. Collaborate with industry to deploy technology to recover and refine rare earth elements (REEs) and critical materials;
3. Evaluate localized and regional refining potential;
4. Establish an Indiana based supply process using coal waste as strategic feedstock; and
5. Build a workforce development pathway with Indiana universities and educational institutions.

The Council is required to have two annual meetings, an annual report, and a final report due December 31, 2026.

The Council’s approach is also consistent with federal actions taken under President Trump to secure critical mineral supply chains, including Presidential Executive Order “Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production.”

This work directly supports the State’s goal in securing domestic critical materials as an economic and national security priority, particularly given global concentration of processing capacity and recent export restrictions. The State seeks to be a partner in national efforts to reduce reliance on foreign sources, innovate in environmentally responsible extraction technologies, and expand workforce capacity in emerging industrial sections.

National Strategic Context:

Nationally, the United States continues to import a significant portion of its rare earths and other critical minerals. Per U.S. Geological Survey data, the U.S. imported approximately 80% of the REEs it consumed in 2024, illustrating persistent supply vulnerabilities. The situation the U.S. finds itself in has triggered a broad policy response at the federal level. On March 20, 2025, the President issued an executive order mandating Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production, calling for rapid expansion of domestic mining, processing, refining, and stockpiling to reduce exposure to foreign supply shocks and strengthen national security.

EO 25-62: Directive and Progress to Date:

Signed in April 2025, Executive Order 25-62 articulates a strategic agenda for Indiana to transform legacy coal and its byproducts into feedstock for rare earth and critical mineral recovery.

The Council met on November 13th and December 16th.

On November 13th, the Council heard presentations from Sunrise Coal, Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Reclamation, Indiana Geological and Water Survey, and the U.S. Department of the Interior. These presentations provided a history of coal mining in Indiana, the work of the Abandoned Mine Land Program and ways to participate in recovery of REEs, an overview of REEs, and the investment in this initiative from the Department of the Interior.

On December 16th, the Council heard presentations from Indiana Geological and Water Survey on their prepared report regarding the availability of REEs in Indiana and their ability to be recovered, SMI Water who has the capability to get a pilot project running for extraction from acid mine drainage, and Purdue University.

Recommended Next Actions:

1. Adoption of this annual report, and the attached report from the Indiana Geological and Water Survey: Indiana's Opportunity in Rare Earth Elements and Critical Minerals.
2. Seek presentations from institutions currently engaging in extraction in ways that may be feasible in the state of Indiana.
3. Seek funding opportunities through federal grants regarding REEs to launch a pilot program.
4. Engage with educational institutions on workforce needs, after feasibility of extraction is decided.
5. Create a subcommittee dedicated to evaluating pathways for obtaining degrees regarding geological studies.
6. Create a subcommittee dedicated to evaluating funding options outside of federal and state grants, and opportunities for public private partnerships.

Conclusion:

Indiana's implementation of Executive Order 25-62 demonstrates meaningful progress toward establishing a state-centered rare earth recovery strategy that aligns with national critical minerals policy and capitalizes on the opportunities available in Indiana. Through structured Council activities, cross sector engagement, and alignment with federal policies, Indiana is advancing a comprehensive approach to transforming environmental liabilities into economic and strategic assets. The State's actions not only fulfill the immediate requirements of Executive Order 25-62, but also contribute to broader U.S. objectives to secure resilient, diversified supply chains for rare earth elements and critical minerals essential to the mid-21st century economy.