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# **Serving the States in a Changing World: Strategies for Action**

**Revised 2023**

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## ***WHAT IS THE INTERSTATE MINING COMPACT COMMISSION?***

The Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) is a multi-state governmental organization representing the natural resource and environmental protection interests of its member states. The Compact was established in April of 1971 following eight years of discussion and developmental action by a group of interested mining states under the auspices of the Southern Governors Conference. The Compact presently consists of 25 member states and 1 associate member state with representation from throughout the country, all of whom have significant interests in the mining of both coal and noncoal minerals.

Participation in the Compact is gained through the enactment of legislation by the states authorizing their entry into the Compact. The states are represented by their respective Governors who serve as Commissioners. The Compact acts through several committees that have responsibility for particular subject matter or policy areas including Environmental Affairs, Mine Safety and Health, Abandoned Mine Lands, Resolutions and Finance. The Governors are represented on these committees by duly appointed delegates from their respective states.

The Compact's purposes are to advance the protection and restoration of land, water and other resources affected by mining through the encouragement of programs in each of the party states that will achieve comparable results in protecting, conserving and improving the usefulness of natural resources and to assist in achieving and maintaining an efficient, productive and economically viable mining industry.

Among the Compact's powers are the study of mining operations, processes and techniques; the study of conservation, adaptation, improvement and restoration of land and related resources affected by mining; the gathering and dissemination of information; making recommendations; and cooperating with the federal government and any public or private entities having an interest in any subject within the purview of the Compact.

The IMCC was founded on the premise that the mining industry is one of the most basic and important to the Nation. Our manufacturing activities, transportation systems, and the comfort of our homes depend on the products of mining. At the same time, it is essential that an appropriate balance be struck between the need for minerals and the

protection of the environment. We recognize that individual states have the power to establish and maintain programs of land and other resource development, restoration and regulation appropriate to cope with the surface effects of mining. The IMCC would not shift responsibility for such programs. On the other hand, our member states believe a united position in dealing with the federal government affords us a decided advantage. Our commission feels strongly that the collective voice of many is important in our efforts to preserve and advocate for the regulatory and policy role of the states in the mining arena.

The IMCC provides several meaningful and critical benefits and services that greatly assist the states in their efforts to promote development of their abundant mineral resources while assuring adequate protection of the environment. In particular, the Compact provides opportunities and forums for interstate action and communication on issues of concern to member states. The Compact is actively engaged in a variety of state/federal partnerships and programs under the auspices of such statutes as the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), the Mine Safety and Health Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). On the coal side, the IMCC deals extensively with the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) on such issues as state program grants under Titles IV and V of SMCRA, administration of the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) programs including AMLER and BIL, significant OSM rulemakings, and federal oversight of state regulatory programs. We work extensively with the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) on development and management of the energy community revitalization program's state and tribal hardrock/noncoal AML grants program. We also interact with the Bureau of Land Management on federal coal leasing issues, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on endangered species matters, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on a variety of mining related matters.

The Compact also is active in recognizing the accomplishments of the industry that we regulate. Each year, the Compact presents a national reclamation award in both the coal and non-coal categories. We believe such a program highlights the positive work that the industry and the states together are doing in the way of environmental protection.

IMCC also presents annual Mineral Education Awards in the mineral educator awareness and public outreach categories to recognize the valuable work being accomplished by teachers and others to advance the knowledge of the public concerning the importance of minerals to our society.

Over the years the IMCC has become an organization of national scope serving as the spokesperson for the mining states in Washington, D.C. It strives to effectively represent the interests of the mining states in their dealings with Capitol Hill and the federal agencies in an effort to articulate the concerns and recommendations of the states in their role as primary regulators of mining activities within their borders.

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## ***INTRODUCTION***

In 2023, IMCC conducted its customary five-year update of its strategic plan. IMCC's strategic plan workgroup reflected upon the progress, challenges, and changing circumstances of the past five years and looked ahead to the opportunities and challenges to come as IMCC seeks to maintain its effectiveness and vitality into the future. The workgroup found that the basic purposes and functions of the IMCC, as set forth in its governing document (the "Compact"), continue to be sound and effective. It identified hardrock and noncoal mining and AML issues as a key area on which to enhance IMCC's focus. It also discussed a number of ways IMCC should adapt to increasingly prevalent digital means of doing business and to generally maintain its effectiveness and efficiency.

This strategic plan was approved by the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) at its annual meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on April 5, 2023.

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**VISION**

The Interstate Mining Compact Commission will be an advocate for the member states and will serve the states through information exchange, effective communication, benchmarking initiatives, liaison with the federal government and others, and educational outreach in an effort to assist the states in fulfilling the dual responsibilities of assuring development of their abundant and strategically important natural resources while protecting and improving the environment.

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**GOAL:**

*The Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) will improve methods for communication with and information exchange among the member states (and state government organizations) to enhance state program implementation.*

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**OBJECTIVE:**

*To increase the communication between the IMCC and member states and provide updated information on issues that may impact state programs.*

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**STRATEGIES FOR ACTION:**

- D The IMCC staff will continue to publish e-newsletters at least twice annually and at other times when information needs to be distributed to meet the needs of member states.
- D The IMCC staff will distribute minutes of all commission and standing committee meetings.
- D The IMCC staff will distribute e-memos on a regular basis regarding topics of interest and concern to the member states.

- The IMCC staff will post e-memos organized by subject on the IMCC website to serve as an issue tracking system.
- The IMCC will host, as needed or requested by the states, benchmarking workshops and roundtable discussions as well as national and regional state forums, that will focus on local, regional, and national topics of interest or concern to the member states.
- The IMCC will enhance the role of Officers, Committee Chairs, and workgroup leaders in planning agendas and leading discussion during IMCC Annual and Mid-year Meetings.
- The IMCC staff will update the IMCC website on a regular basis to contain the most current information, including e-memos.
- The IMCC staff will coordinate conference calls as necessary to brief member states and seek input on critical, time-sensitive issues.
- The IMCC staff will coordinate special studies on topics of interest identified by the member states. Results of the studies will be distributed to member states electronically, at workshops, or at annual meetings.
- The IMCC staff will, as needed or requested by the states, form and coordinate workgroups of member state representatives to study and discuss particular issues, and will, unless deemed unnecessary or inexpedient, document their findings and recommendations and present them to the appropriate IMCC committee for approval.
- The IMCC staff will publish the annual report of the Compact.
- IMCC will enhance its focus on hardrock and noncoal issues and devote additional time to these issues at IMCC meetings.
- The IMCC staff will pursue opportunities to advance the goals and objectives of the Compact by establishing partnerships and coordinating activities with like-minded state government organizations.

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**MEASURES:**

The IMCC measurement of these strategies will include:

- Reporting on communications distributed, including at least two e-newsletters and six e-memos each year.
  - Reporting on partnerships maintained or entered into with other agencies/organizations.
  - Reporting on participation by member states in meetings and conference calls.
  - Reporting on the number of interactive workshops or roundtables each year (e.g., benchmarking or regional)
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**GOAL:**

*The Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) will enhance relationships with federal government agencies, Congress, and other stakeholders to effectively communicate state positions on key issues and to foster partnerships.*

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**OBJECTIVE:**

*Provide for a continued exchange of information between the IMCC and federal agencies and Congress.*

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**STRATEGIES FOR ACTION:**

- IMCC staff will communicate regularly with congressional staff from the committees of jurisdiction (House Natural Resources; Senate Energy and Natural Resources) and the Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate, ideally

with IMCC member state representatives to discuss issues of concern.

- IMCC staff will meet regularly with appropriate federal agencies to discuss issues of concern to the member states, ideally with IMCC member state representatives.
  - IMCC will enhance the use of policy resolutions to communicate important information about the status of state programs and consensus policy positions of the member states.
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**MEASURES:**

- Reporting on the number of contacts made and meetings held with congressional staff
  - Reporting on the number of contacts made and meetings held with federal agencies
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**GOAL:**

*The Interstate Mining Compact Commission will advance the organizational, institutional, financial and administrative integrity of IMCC, pursue additional member states and retain existing member states.*

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**OBJECTIVE:**

*The IMCC staff will continue to promote and advance the IMCC membership's organizational integrity.*

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***STRATEGIES FOR ACTION:***

- IMCC staff will develop and distribute informational packages about the IMCC for potential new member states.
- IMCC staff will meet with potential new member states, ideally with help of existing member state representatives. Meetings will be followed up with phone calls and e-mails.
- The IMCC staff will meet with each associate member state annually to discuss Compact legislation for bringing the state into the Compact as a full member. Staff will perform all necessary follow up research and information to facilitate membership.
- IMCC will prioritize prospective member states that have a focus on hardrock/noncoal issues. IMCC staff will invite such states to IMCC meetings and strive to meet with them with help from existing member state representatives.
- Conduct annual audit and distribute to the Finance and Administrative Committee to review financial condition, compensation, and benefits programs before presenting to member states.
- IMCC will monitor potential opportunities for funding to support Compact goals and objectives and advance state regulatory programs and state/federal partnerships.
- The IMCC staff will periodically conduct surveys, both for general purposes and for benchmarking on specific issues,, and distribute results.

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***MEASURES:***

- Reporting on types and amount of funding obtained.
- Performing a general survey of member states periodically and distribute results.
- Striving to add at least one new member state every five years.

- Meeting with IMCC Finance and Administrative Committee at least two times in person, via e-mail, or via conference call per year.
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