



**MINING AND ENERGY  
EXPO**  
BETTER IN OUR BACK YARD

# AGENDA

## KEYNOTES



**JON CHERRY**

*PRESIDENT & CEO*  
PERPETUA RESOURCES (ID)



**CURTIS THOMAS**

*GENERAL MANAGER*  
RIO TINTO RESOLUTION COPPER (AZ)



**KATE MACGREGOR**

*DEPUTY SECRETARY U.S.*  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR (D.C.)

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## OCTOBER 1

### WELCOME RECEPTION

#### Foyer Radisson Blu

**5:00 – 7:00 PM**

Kick off the expo with an informal evening of networking—no speakers, just great connections.

# OCTOBER 2

## FULL-DAY EXPO WITH KEYNOTES, PANELS, AND SESSIONS

### 7:30 – 8:00 AM | BREAKFAST KEYNOTE

Lakes Ballroom A

**Jon Cherry**, President & CEO, Perpetua Resources (ID)

### 8:15 – 9:00 AM

Lakes Ballroom A

#### **Panel: Permitted Copper Projects**

**Moderator: Chris Temple**, Founder & Publisher, The National Investor (FL)

- **George Bee**, President & CEO, U.S. Gold (WY)
- **Adam Hawkins**, President, TAGC Ventures (AZ)
- **Robert Winton**, Senior VP of Operations, Gunnison Copper (AZ)
- **Barry O'Shea**, President & CEO, Highland Copper (Toronto)

### 9:15 – 10:00 AM

#### **Session: Navigating the One Big Beautiful Bill Act**

Lakes Ballroom C

**Presenter: Danielle Woodring**, Staff Geologist, Burns & McDonnell (MO)

#### **Panel: Opportunities in the West**

Lakes Ballroom A

**Moderator: Michael Fox**, President, The Prospector (CAN)

- **Michael Rowley**, President & CEO, Stillwater Critical Minerals (Vancouver)
- **Sam Ash**, CEO, Bunker Hill Mining (ID)
- **J.T. Starzecki**, Executive Chairman, Guardian Metals Resources (MN)
- **Scott Melbye**, Executive Vice President, Uranium Energy Corp (WY)

### 10:15 – 11:00 AM

#### **Session: Attracting a Strong Workforce in Mining**

Lakes Ballroom C

**Presenter: Thomas Haun**, President, Turner Staffing Group (IN)

#### **Panel: The Importance of Tribal Engagement**

Lakes Ballroom A

**Moderator: Jennifer Smith**, Director of Tribal Engagement, Enbridge Energy (MN)

- **Lindsay Dofelmier**, Counsel, Davis Graham & Stubbs (CO)
- **Roland Hill**, Partner & Founder, Indigenous Business Advisors (MN)
- **Cody Mayer**, Director of Tribal & Community Engagement, Talon Metals (MI)
- **Hayley Rambur**, Principal Owner, Lupine & Associates (ID)

### 11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

#### **Session: Copper Markets, Geopolitics and Supply Chains**

Lakes Ballroom C

**Presenter: Stephen Rowland**, Managing Director, Glencore (NY)

#### **Panel: The Upper Midwest – America's Critical Minerals Hub**

Lakes Ballroom A

**Moderator: Marty Fittante**, CEO, InvestUP (MI)

- **Dean DeBeltz**, VP of External Relations & Operations, Twin Metals Minnesota (MN)
- **Steve Donohue**, Director, Greenlight Metals (WI)
- **Jessica Johnson**, VP of External Affairs, Talon Metals (MN)
- **Jim Bougalis**, Founder & CEO, North American Iron (MN)

### 12:15 – 12:45 PM | LUNCH KEYNOTE

Lakes Ballroom A

**Curtis Thomas**, General Manager, Rio Tinto Resolution Copper (AZ)

### 1:00 – 1:45 PM

#### **Panel: Mining Projects & Federal Transparency**

Lakes Ballroom A

**Moderator: Andrea Hotter**, Special Correspondent, Fastmarkets (NY)

- **McKinsey Lyon**, VP of External Affairs, Perpetua Resources (ID)
- **Mike Satre**, Director of Governmental Affairs, Hecla Mining (MT)
- **Matt Zolnowski**, President, Greyfairs LLC (DC)
- **Zoe Oysul**, Senior Policy Analyst, SAFE Center for Critical Minerals Strategy (DC)

**2:00 – 2:45 PM**

**Session: The Pebble Mine Project**

**Lakes Ballroom C**

**Presenter:** Mike Heatwole, VP of Public Affairs, Pebble Ltd. Partnership (AK)

**Panel: Unleashing American Energy Dominance**

**Lakes Ballroom A**

**Moderator:** Bryan Zumwalt, Founding Partner, Ridgeline Advocacy Group (DC)

- **Amanda Jepson**, Manager Nuclear Regulatory Policy, Xcel Energy (MN)
- **Cynthia Niemeyer-Tieskoetter**, Policy Advisor, American Petroleum Institute (DC)
- **Chris Tiedeman**, Public Affairs & Political Consultant, Weber Johnson Public Affairs (MN)
- **Jon Heroux**, Corporate Counsel, External Affairs, Westmoreland Mining (CO)

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**3:00 – 3:45 PM**

**Session: Why Line 5 is Critical**

**Lakes Ballroom C**

**Presenter:** Paul Meneghini, Manager of Community Engagement, Enbridge (MI)

**Panel: Responding to the Opposition**

**Lakes Ballroom A**

**Moderator:** Lisa Bodine, President & CEO, Giant (MN)

- **Deantha Skibinski**, Executive Director, Alaska Miners Association (AK)
- **Lyndsey Wright**, Executive Director, Women's Mining Coalition (NV)
- **Ashley Burke**, Senior VP of Communications, National Mining Association (DC)
- **Nick De Leeuw**, VP at Resch Strategies, Great Lakes Michigan Jobs (MI)

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**4:00 – 4:45 PM**

**Session: Investor Relations for Junior Mining Companies**

**Lakes Ballroom C**

**Presenters:** Kimberly Darlington, Founder & CEO, and Annemarie Brissenden, Director of Investor Relations, Refined Substance (Montreal & Toronto)

**Panel: Attracting the Next Generation of Talent**

**Lakes Ballroom A**

**Moderator:** Dave McLane, Mining Manager, Burns & McDonnell (AZ)

- **Joe Lord**, VP of Sales, Turner Staffing Group (WI)
- **Misael Cabrera**, Director, School & Mining Resources, University of Arizona (AZ)
- **Andrea Brickey**, Professor, South Dakota School of Mines (SD)
- **Mikayla Mellesmoen**, Data Management Professional, NTS (MN)

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**5:00 – 5:30 PM**

**Panel: The Importance of Strong Communications in Industry**

**Lakes Ballroom A**

**Moderator:** Briana Clark, Principal, Holbrook & Associates (MN)

- **Kristen Vake**, Executive Director, Iron Mining Association (MN)
- **Nancy Schlepp**, VP of Communications & Government Relations, Black Butte Copper (MT)
- **Kimberly Darlington**, Founder & CEO, Refined Substance (Montreal)
- **Sarah Montalbano**, Energy Policy Fellow, Center of the American Experiment (MN)

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**6:00 – 7:00 PM | NETWORKING BREAK**

Passed hors d'oeuvres and cash bars available

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**7:00 PM | PLATED DINNER**

**Lakes Ballroom A**

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**7:15 – 8:00 PM**

**Panel: Why Copper is Critical & Permitting Reform**

**Lakes Ballroom A**

**Moderator:** Jeff Small, Principal, 76 Group (DC)

- **Congressman Pete Stauber** (MN) – Confirmed
- **Adam Estelle**, President & CEO, Copper Development Association (NY) – Confirmed
- **Congressman Tom Emmer** (MN) – Tentative
- **Congressman Tom Tiffany** (WI) – Tentative

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**8:15 – 9:00 PM | DINNER KEYNOTE**

**Lakes Ballroom A**

**Kate MacGregor**, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DC)

# OCTOBER 3

## CLOSING NETWORKING BREAKFAST

### FireLake Cocktail Bar

8:00 – 10:00 AM

**THANK YOU** for all of our sponsors making this inaugural year a success!



JOIN US FOR THE  
**BETTER IN OUR BACK YARD**  
**WINTER DINNER**  
JANUARY 15, 2026