

# The Rundown

By: CLEARPATH  
ACTION



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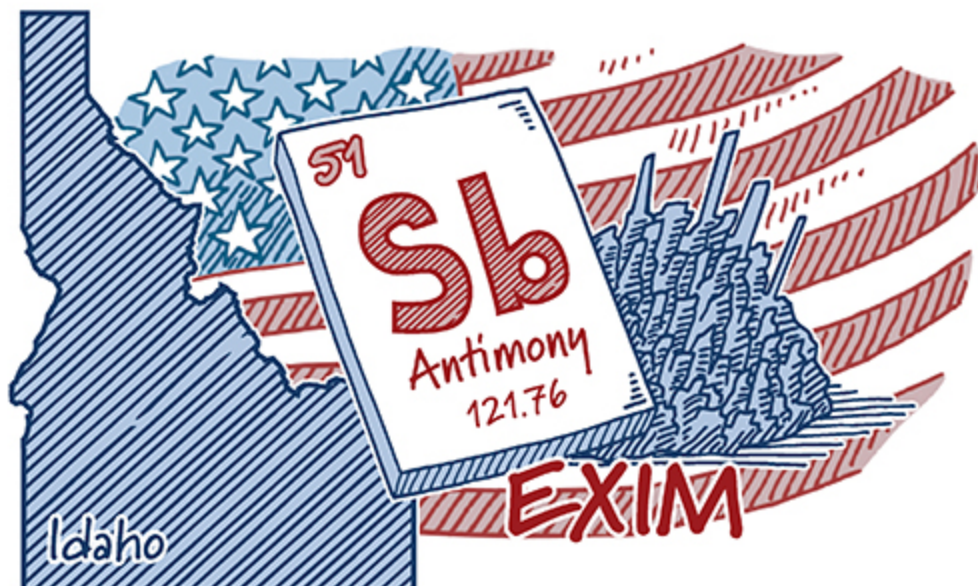
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ClearPath Action Rundown  
May 29th, 2026

Happy Friday!

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## 1. EXIM backs Idaho mine that could be America's only domestic antimony source



Antimony is a key mineral used in the energy, manufacturing and defense sectors. To strengthen U.S. supply chains, the Export-Import Bank (EXIM) approved a **\$2.9 billion loan** through its “**Make More in America Initiative**” to Perpetua Resources for Idaho's Stibnite Gold Project, which holds the nation's only reported antimony reserve.

**The Stibnite project will:**

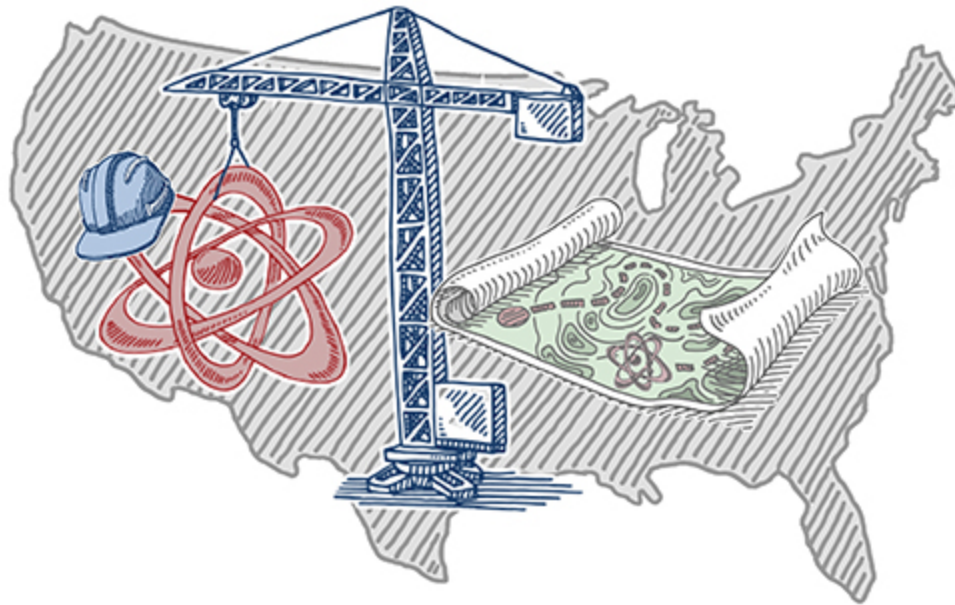
- Produce the only domestically mined antimony in the United States, an essential mineral used in batteries and semiconductors;
- Create more than 700 direct jobs per year over the life of the mines; and
- Fully fund the remainder of the project’s construction costs.

**What's clear:** China currently supplies half of the U.S. antimony demand. When American financing tools are deployed with strategic intent, U.S. companies can break Chinese mineral dominance and unleash American leadership.

**Plug in:** Read ClearPath's report **[Energy Financing Power: America vs. China](#)** for a breakdown of how modernizing EXIM strengthens domestic supply chains.

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## 2. A summer window to supercharge advanced nuclear investment



The Working Families Tax Cuts created an opportunity for governors to send a decade-long signal to nuclear developers. Starting July 1, governors have 90 days to designate Opportunity Zones. **ClearPath's new analysis** finds 3,662 census tracts across 32 states where federal incentives, including Opportunity Zones, the Energy Community adder and the Nuclear Community adder can all stack on the tech-neutral tax credit for a single project.

The three credits combine to:

- Reduce the cost of private capital for new advanced nuclear and geothermal projects;
- Direct investment to regions and communities with existing energy infrastructure, workforce and manufacturing; and
- Support communities with highly skilled advanced nuclear workforces.

**Plug in:** Read [Where Three Tax Credits Meet: Mapping America's Best Sites for New Nuclear](#) by [Will Bryant](#), [Casey Kelly](#) and Jake Kunzler for ClearPath's interactive map and state-by-state breakdown.

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### 3. USDA invests in farmer-led innovation



American agricultural innovation helps farmers stay competitive while strengthening U.S. leadership in food and energy systems. USDA **announced** \$65 million in funding for the **Conservation Innovation Grants program** to help farmers and ranchers conserve natural resources through innovation. This investment reinforces how the Working Families Tax Cuts is supporting American farmers and ranchers through conservation and innovation.

**What to know:**

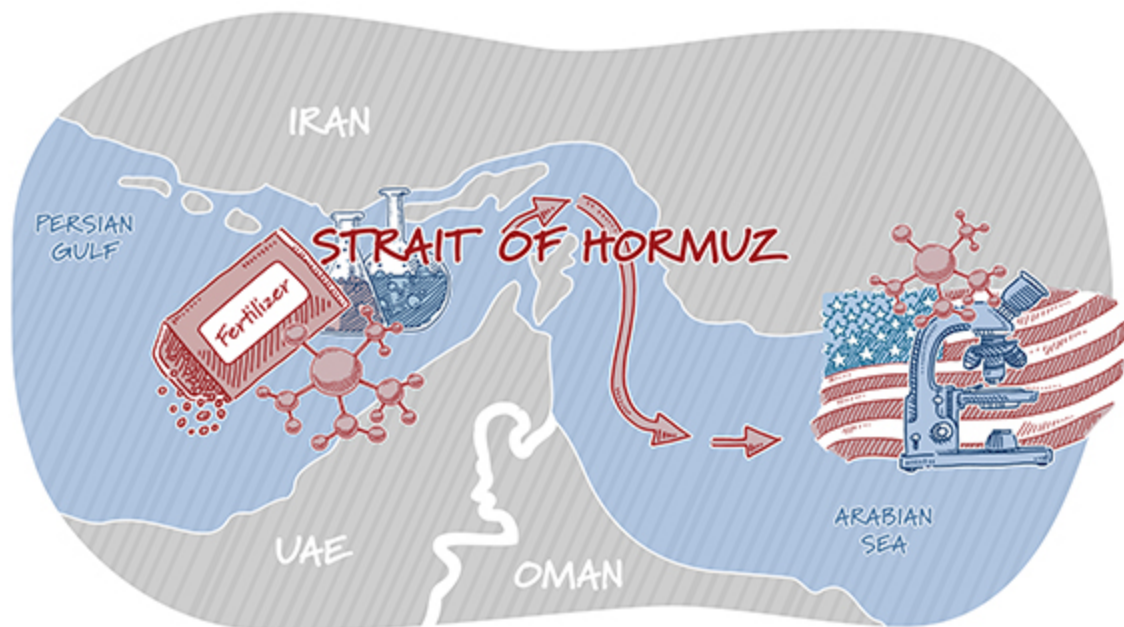
- Incentivizes the widespread adoption and evaluation of voluntary, innovative conservation approaches;
- Prioritizes nutrient management and soil health demonstration trials; and
- Partners with farmers and ranchers to offset the risk of implementing innovation.

**What's clear:** Innovation over regulation gives American farmers the tools to produce more, lower emissions and compete globally.

**Plug in:** Read "**Conservation Innovation Grants: Putting American Farmers First through Fertilizer Innovation**" to learn about fertilizer innovation, nutrient management and nitrous oxide.

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## 4. American chemical innovation can secure supply chain independence



Chemical manufacturing is America's largest export sector, and a frontline in the competition with China. But with Chinese public investment in chemical innovation running nearly three times that of the United States, the gap is real and growing. ClearPath's **new blog** makes the case that American innovators are already creating the clean technologies needed to solve today's supply chain challenges while

reducing global energy emissions, but only if U.S. policy gets behind innovation and bets on domestic production.

### Why it matters:

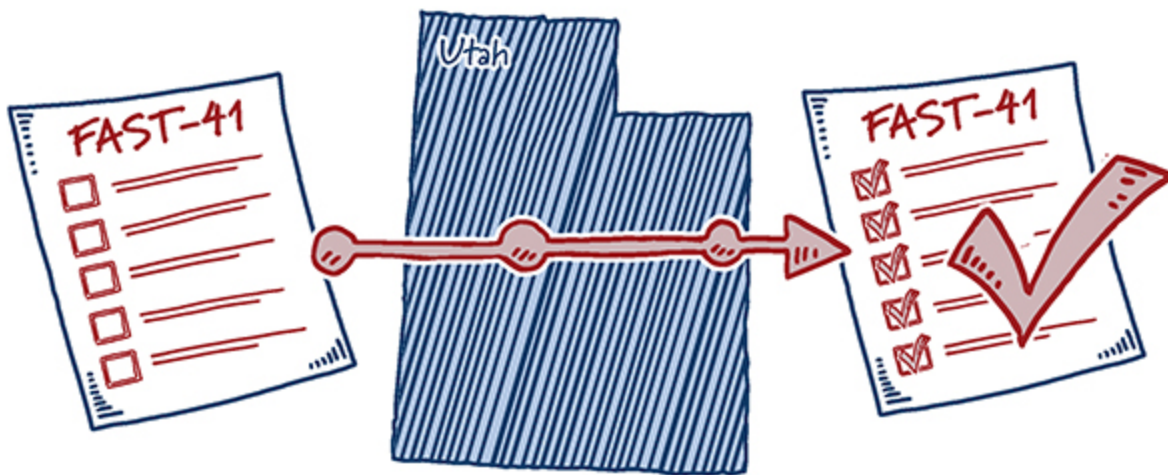
- Strait disruptions are impacting sulfuric acid and plastics while cutting off one-third of the seaborne fertilizer trade and pushing nitrogen-based fertilizer prices up over 30% from 2025;
- While China is restricting exports of critical industrial chemicals, American innovators like [Travertine](#) are developing secure supplies using CO<sub>2</sub>; and
- Energy Act of 2020 authorizations are expiring; Congress can renew them to give chemical innovators the R&D backing needed to scale.

**What's clear:** America's \$164 billion chemical export sector is a strategic asset. Sustaining that edge requires innovation, investment and policies that let American manufacturers build, compete and sell globally.

**Plug in:** Read ClearPath's [American Chemical Innovation Can Secure Supply Chain Independence](#) by [Audrey Magnuson](#) for the full argument.

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## 5. FAST-41 gains ground in Utah



America cannot build energy and critical mineral projects fast enough without permitting reform. The State of Utah and the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to align state and federal permitting efforts for major infrastructure projects under the FAST-41 process. The agreement aims to reduce delays and improve transparency to build the infrastructure needed to advance American energy dominance and strengthen domestic supply chains critical to U.S. competitiveness.

### Under the MOU, the Permitting Council will:

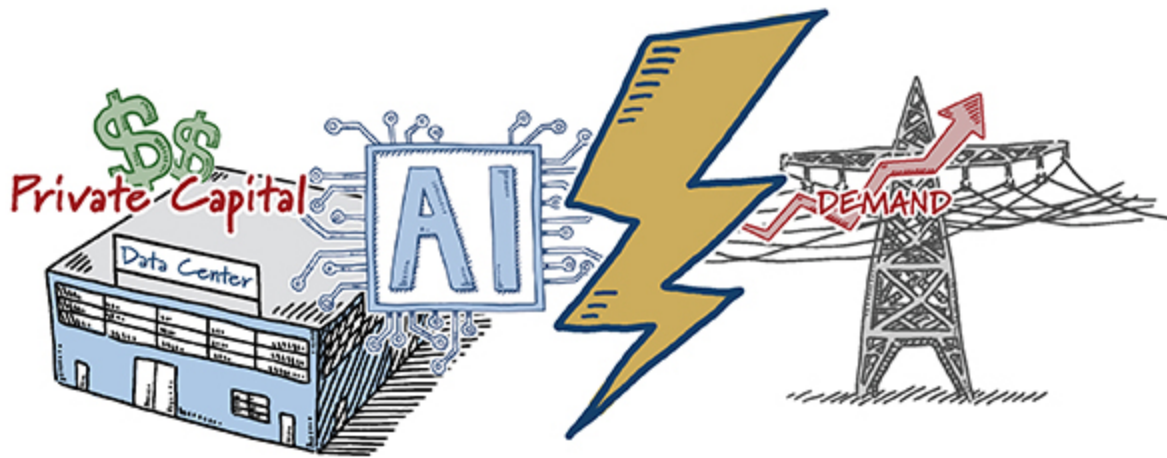
- Identify eligible FAST-41 projects in Utah;
- Coordinate state and federal agencies to streamline reviews and avoid duplication;
- Identify federal knowledge gaps while incorporating state expertise; and

- Explore funding opportunities and technology tools to improve Utah's permitting processes.

**What's clear:** Utah is the fourth state to sign an MOU with the Permitting Council (following Alaska, Idaho and Tennessee). Letting America build requires modernizing permitting and reducing unnecessary delays. Partnerships like these help advance American energy dominance.

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## 6. Hyperscalers and private capital partner to commercialize next-gen AI infrastructure



AI is driving unprecedented energy and materials demand and the private sector isn't waiting for Washington. Elemental Impact and four tech companies launched the [Data Center Innovation Initiative](#), investing \$500,000-\$5 million per project in up to 10 startups developing next-generation energy and industrial technologies for data centers.

### The details:

- Amazon, Google, Meta and Microsoft will identify priority technology areas and support deployment opportunities;
- Focus areas include energy storage, advanced electrical systems, cooling solutions and low-carbon materials; and
- Selected startups get capital plus hands-on project development support to accelerate commercialization.

**What's clear:** This is markets over mandates in action. Big Tech needs affordable, reliable power and materials now, and that urgency is pulling next-generation American technologies toward commercial scale.

**Plug in:** Read ClearPath's [energy storage explainer](#) for a breakdown of the storage technologies central to powering reliable data center infrastructure.

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## 7. 250 years of American energy innovation



As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, ClearPath is **highlighting** America's innovation story. From the earliest discoveries in electricity and steam power to modern nuclear, natural gas, advanced grid technologies and agriculture, American innovators have consistently pushed the boundaries of what's possible.

### **Brief history lesson — Enhanced oil recovery (EOR):**

- **1952** — **Atlantic Refining Company patents CO2-based oil recovery**, laying the groundwork for enhanced oil recovery.
- **1964** — **The first experimental CO2 injection takes place** at the Mead Strawn Field near Abilene, Texas and produced over 50 percent more oil than conventional methods.
- **1972** — **Commercial CO2-EOR launches at the SACROC field** in West Texas, the longest-running CO2-EOR operation in the Permian Basin and the oldest large-scale carbon capture project in the United States.
- **1990** — Congress **creates the first dedicated federal tax credit** for EOR projects, signaling Washington's recognition of the technology's energy security value.
- **2008** — **Congress establishes the 45Q Tax Credit**, providing the first major federal incentive for companies to capture and geologically store or utilize CO2, including through EOR.
- **Today** — **CO2-EOR enables the recovery of 245,000 barrels of domestic oil per day** and next-generation techniques could unlock more than 60 billion additional barrels.

**Plug in:** Read ClearPath's **Carbon Utilization 101** to see how captured CO2 is producing domestic oil, strengthening supply chains and opening new markets for American energy.

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## 8. ICYMI

- **Fusion energy** is poised for a streamlined federal permitting review, with experts noting the new NRC rules will reduce financial risk and unlock investment.

- **The U.S., India, Japan and Australia launched a [joint framework](#)** through the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative to coordinate investment, streamline regulatory cooperation and advance mineral recycling and recovery to strengthen diversified critical minerals markets.
- **[California Resources Corporation](#) achieved its first CO2 injection at Carbon TerraVault I**, making it California's first operational carbon capture and storage project.
- **Iron innovator Boston Metal [announced](#)** a \$75M fundraising round to expand its production of critical minerals such as niobium, tantalum and tin.
- **newcleo goes public** — Advanced modular reactor developer newcleo agreed to [merge](#) with NewHold Investment Corp III, valuing the company at approximately \$2.4 billion and expected to raise roughly \$374 million in net proceeds.
- **The Carbon Removal Alliance [spotlighted](#) companies** transforming mining waste into economic value, demonstrating how legacy environmental liabilities can become scalable commercial assets.



*ClearPath believes America must lead the world in innovation over regulation... markets over mandates...providing affordable, reliable, clean energy.*

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That's all from us. Thanks for reading and have a great weekend!

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