

# STATE OF INDIANA

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT INDIANAPOLIS

EXECUTIVE ORDER 25-62

**FOR: SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND ECONOMIC  
LEADERSHIP THROUGH RECOVERY OF RARE EARTH METALS  
AND CRITICAL MATERIALS FROM INDIANA COAL SITES**

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS.

**WHEREAS,** Indiana stands as a national leader in coal production and has garnered widespread recognition for its exemplary practices in reclaiming active operations and restoring abandoned mine lands;

**WHEREAS,** innovative, new technology can significantly improve reclamation efforts and cleanup efforts, driving environmental sustainability while fostering substantial economic growth and innovation;

**WHEREAS,** in a 2022 U.S. Department of Energy report to Congress entitled, “Recovery of Rare Earth Elements and Critical Materials from Coal and Coal Byproducts” the United States Government demonstrated the ability to recover rare earth elements and critical materials from coal and coal byproducts;

**WHEREAS,** rare earth elements and critical materials form the backbone of modern technology, powering innovations across industries, including energy components, advanced batteries, wind turbines, aerospace technologies, communication systems, and defense applications critical to national security;

**WHEREAS,** the United States remains fully dependent on foreign imports for 12 of the 50 minerals classified as “critical” by the United States Geological Survey, exposing the nation to significant vulnerabilities in its supply chain and national security;

**WHEREAS,** China dominates global production, refining 30 of the 55 critical minerals, processing 90% of rare earth elements, and commanding 60-70% of lithium and cobalt supplies, posing challenges to United States manufacturing and energy independence;

**WHEREAS,** On April 4, 2025, China imposed export restrictions on seven rare earth elements and magnets used in the defense, energy, and automotive sectors in response to President Trump's tariff increases on Chinese products;

**WHEREAS,** the United States needs a domestic supply for rare earth elements and critical materials for manufacturing essential technologies;

**WHEREAS,** exploration of materials within the borders of the United States and extracting previously used minerals are important aspects of creating a secure, domestic supply chain for rare earth elements and critical materials; and

**WHEREAS,** Indiana possesses vast, underutilized reserves of legacy coal byproducts, which, if responsibly remediated, could serve as a valuable domestic feedstock for the production of critical materials, advancing national

security, energy independence, and cutting-edge manufacturing capabilities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BRAUN**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby order that:

1. The Indiana Rare Earth Recovery Council (“Council”) is hereby established to:
  - a. advance the development of an innovative, environmentally sustainable coal site reclamation and clean-up program for existing and abandoned mine sites;
  - b. actively collaborate with industry partners to deploy cutting-edge technology in Indiana to recover and refine rare earth elements and critical materials for reuse;
  - c. evaluate the potential for localized and/or regional refining operations for creating a pipeline for industrial grade materials and economic development.
  - d. establish an Indiana-based supply process to unlock coal waste as a strategic feedstock for rare earth elements and other critical materials, ensuring their availability for use in domestic technology manufacturing; and
  - e. collaborate with Indiana universities and educational institutions to create a workforce development program aimed at equipping graduates with the technical skills necessary to support advanced mineral recovery and processing efforts.
2. The Council shall consist of the following thirteen (13) members:
  - a. The Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources, who shall serve as chair;
  - b. The following state agency officials by virtue of their position, or their designees:
    - i. The Secretary of Business Affairs;
    - ii. The Secretary of Commerce;
    - iii. The Secretary of Transportation;
    - iv. The Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources; and
    - v. The Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management;
  - c. Five (5) representatives of industries relevant to the mission of the Council, appointed by the Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources in consultation with the Governor;
  - d. A member of the Indiana House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House; and
  - e. A member of the Indiana Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
3. Members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority, or by virtue of their position as state agency officials, and vacancies shall be filled by the member’s appointing authority. Members of the Council shall serve without salary or per diem, except that members of the Council shall be reimbursed in accordance with state law and the policies of the Indiana Department of Administration and the State Budget Agency for actual expenses incurred in carrying out responsibilities as members of the Council.
4. A quorum of the Council shall consist of a majority of the members, and the affirmative votes of a majority of the members are required for the Council to take action on any measure, including final reports.
5. The Office of the Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources shall staff the Council.
6. The Council shall meet at the call of the chair at least twice annually.
7. The Council shall provide updates and recommendations in the form of an annual report to the Governor provided by December 31 of each year outlining the Council’s findings, actions, and any proposed initiatives to create a robust supply of rare earth elements and critical material for industrial use. The Council shall issue its final report to the Governor no later than December 31, 2026, and shall include recommendations to the Legislative Council concerning whether the Council’s utility merits its continuation through codification.



8. Unless further ordered by me or codified into law, the Council shall sunset June 30, 2027.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I,  
Mike Braun, have hereunto set  
my hand and caused to be affixed the  
Great Seal of the State of Indiana on  
this 21st day of April, 2025.

Mike Braun  
Mike Braun  
Governor of Indiana

DIEGO MORALES

ATTEST: Diego Morales  
Secretary of State