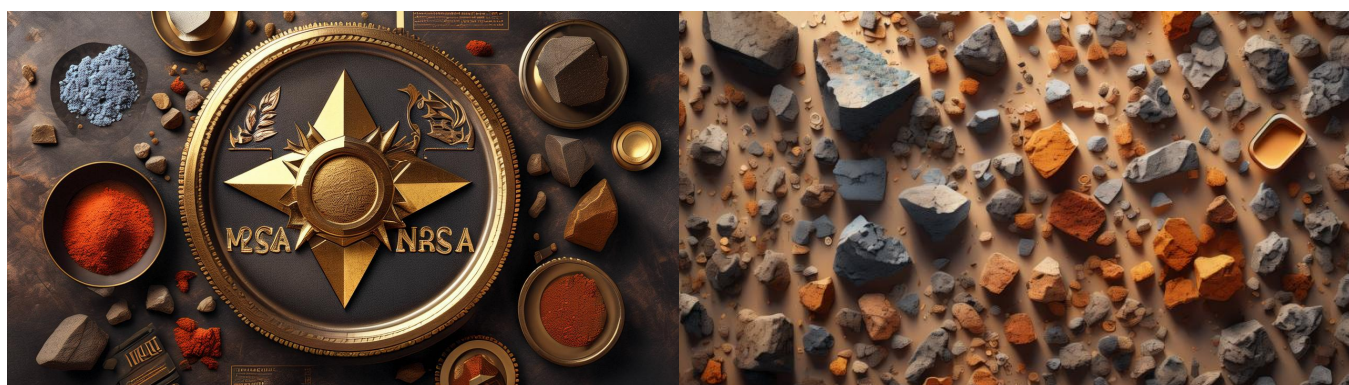




Let them dig

文章导读：矿产开采许可证在矿产行业中扮演着重要的角色，既有利也有弊。通过许可证制度，政府可以有效管理和监督矿产资源的开采，保护资源的可持续利用，规范市场秩序，促进投资，以及保护环境。这有助于确保矿产开采活动在合法、有序的框架下进行，维护资源的长期利益和环境的可持续性。然而，申请和获取许可证可能会增加行政成本，垄断风险可能会影响市场竞争，许可证的不确定性可能会给企业带来风险，而滥用权力可能导致腐败问题。因此，在制定和执行矿产开采许可证政策时，需要平衡各方利益，加强监管和执法力度，提高透明度和公平性，确保许可证制度的有效性和公正性，以促进矿产行业的可持续发展和社会经济的繁荣。



[1] The world needs more critical minerals. Governments are getting in the way

[1] 世界需要更多的关键矿产。各国政府正在从中作梗

[2] MINING COMPANIES have always mattered. Without the **iron ore**¹ and **copper**² they **unearth**³, there would be no steel to build with and no wiring to carry electric power. Today miners have an extra responsibility. If the world is to decarbonise, it will need 6.5bn tonnes of metals between now and 2050, according to the Energy Transitions Committee, a think-tank and not just **lithium**⁴, cobalt and nickel, the much-talked-about battery metals, but steel, copper and **aluminium**⁵, too. Because that output is several times greater than today's capacity, producing it will require miners to invest more and dig faster.

[2] 矿业公司一直都很重要。没有他们开采的铁矿石和铜，就没有建筑用的钢铁，也没有输电线路。如今，矿工有了额外的责任。根据智库能源转型委员会(Energy Transitions Committee)的数据，如果世界要实现脱碳，从现在到 2050 年将需要 65 亿吨金属——不仅是人们经常

1. **Iron ore** ['aɪərn ɔːr]
n. 铁矿石

2. **Copper** ['kɒpər]
n. 铜

3. **Unearth** [ʌn'ɜːθ]
v. 发掘，挖出

4. **Lithium** ['lɪθiəm]
n. 锂

5. **Aluminium** [ˌæljuˈmɪniəm]
n. 铝

谈论的电池金属锂、钴和镍，还包括钢铁、铜和铝。由于这一产量是目前产能的数倍，因此需要矿商加大投资，加快开采速度。

[3]Unfortunately,miners are investing a lot less than they once did,as their latest set of earnings,released this week,confirm (see Business section).The world's biggest miner,BHP,last year spent less than half of what it did a decade ago.In part that is for sensible reasons:miners are rightly conscious that theirs is a **boom-and-bust**⁶ industry.The last time they **splashed out**⁷,during the China-led **bonanza**⁸ of 20 years ago,a spectacular crash followed.Markets are **volatile**⁹.Whereas copper prices remain relatively high,those for cobalt,nickel and lithium have fallen dramatically,as more supply has come on stream.But lately investment decisions have also been tied up in **red tape**¹⁰. Governments insist they want to encourage the green transition.Their actions too often say otherwise.

[3]不幸的是，矿业公司的投资比以前少了很多，本周公布的最新收益证实了这一点(见商业部分)。全球最大的矿业公司 BHP 去年的支出不到十年前的一半。在某种程度上，这是出于合理的原因：矿工们正确地意识到，他们的行业是一个盛衰交替的行业。上一次他们大手笔投资是在 20 年前中国主导的繁荣时期，结果是一场壮观的崩盘。市场波动很大。尽管铜价仍相对较高，但随着更多供应的投入，钴、镍和锂的价格大幅下跌。但最近的投资决策也被繁文缛节所束缚。各国政府坚持他们希望鼓励绿色转型。他们的行为往往与此相反。

6. **Boom-and-bust**

[bʊm ənd bʌst]

n. 繁荣与萧条

7. **Splashed out** [splæʃt aʊt]

v. 挥霍，花钱如流水

8. **Bonanza** [bə'nænzə]

n. 富矿脉，幸运

9. **Volatile** ['vɒlə.taɪl]

adj. 不稳定的，反复无常的

10. **Red tape** [red teɪp]

n. 繁文缛节，官僚作风

[4]Official **rhetoric**¹¹ goes to great lengths to underline how much politicians value critical metals.America wants to **stockpile**¹² them in case foreign supplies are **imperilled**¹³,much as it has amassed a huge emergency reserve of crude oil.Its Mineral Security Partnership seeks to work with allies to secure resources and channel investment into the extraction of metals.Other countries have devised their own critical-minerals strategies.

11. **Rhetoric** ['rɛtərɪk]

n. 修辞，华丽辞藻

12. **Stockpile** ['stɒk.paɪl]

n/v. 储备，积累

13. **Imperil** [ɪm'pɛrəl]

v. 危及，危害

[4]官方言辞不遗余力地强调政客们对关键金属的重视程度。美国希望囤积这些武器，以防外国供应受到威胁，就像它积累了巨大的原油应急储备一样。其矿产安全伙伴关系(Mineral Security Partnership)寻求与盟友合作，确保资源安全，并引导投资进入金属开采领域。其他国家也制定了自己的关键矿产战略。

[5]But all this work is being undermined by resource nationalism and misguided environmentalism. One obvious problem is that many countries want control over their resources, even at the expense of driving private investment away. Last year Chile announced plans for a state-owned company to produce lithium. Others, including Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Mexico and Namibia, are charging sky-high **royalties**¹⁴, implementing export bans and indulging in other forms of state intervention. Politicians say they want to ensure more of a country's wealth from raw materials ends up staying at home. But too often such policies run the risk of being **counterproductive**¹⁵, as companies that are forced to compete with the state, or to hand over their profits, decide to pull out. In 2022 SQM, the world's largest lithium producer, paid \$5bn to the Chilean treasury. That amounted to 1.3 times its net profit. Such measures will only make more projects uneconomic in the long run.

[5]但所有这些工作都受到了资源民族主义和误入歧途的环保主义的破坏。一个明显的问题是，许多国家希望控制自己的资源，甚至不惜以赶走私人投资为代价。去年，智利宣布了成立一家国有公司生产锂的计划。其他国家，包括吉尔吉斯斯坦、马达加斯加、墨西哥和纳米比亚，正在收取天价的特许权使用费，实施出口禁令，并沉迷于其他形式的国家干预。政客们表示，他们希望确保一个国家从原材料中获得的财富最终更多地留在国内。但这类政策往往有适得其反的风险，因为被迫与政府竞争或交出利润的企业决定退出。2022年，全球最大的锂生产商 SQM 向智利财政部支付了 50 亿美元。这相当于其净利润的 1.3 倍。从长远来看，这些措施只会使更多的项目变得不经济。

14. **Royalties** ['rɔɪəltɪz]

n. 版税，专利权使用费

15. **Counterproductive**

[,kaʊntərprə'dʌktɪv]

adj. 事与愿违的，产生相反效果的

[6] Another problem is that the process of getting permits is **outrageously**¹⁶ slow. Average **lead times**¹⁷ on mines, from discovering a deposit to commercial production, are spread out over almost 16 years; just acquiring a permit can take nearly a decade. America is sitting on a **backlog**¹⁸ of almost 300 mining projects, and many big schemes have been stuck in licensing **limbo**¹⁹ for years, with no resolution in sight. In places like Chile, meanwhile, obtaining permits is getting slower. Governments could **streamline**²⁰ the process by reducing the number of departments and agencies that need to be consulted. Making the schedule of approvals predictable would also help ensure that projects are not delayed and capital is not needlessly tied up.

[6] 另一个问题是，获得许可的过程极其缓慢。从发现矿藏到商业生产，矿山的平均交货时间长达16年；仅仅获得许可证就可能需要近10年的时间。美国积压了近300个采矿项目，许多大型项目在许可证发放方面停滞多年，没有任何解决方案。与此同时，在智利等地，获得许可的速度越来越慢。政府可以通过减少需要咨询的部门和机构的数量来简化这一过程。制定可预测的审批时间表也将有助于确保项目不会被推迟，资金也不会被不必要地占用。

16. **Outrageous** [aʊt'reɪdʒəs]
adj. 可恶的，令人发指的

17. **Lead times** [lɪd taɪmz]
n. 生产交货期，交货时间

18. **Backlog** ['bæk,lɒg]
n. 积压的工作量，滞留

19. **Limbo** ['lɪmbəʊ]
n. 不确定状态，中间状态

20. **Streamline** ['stri:m,lam]
v. 使流程简化，使效率提高

[7] A last **complication**²¹ is the multiplication of rules in different jurisdictions. The **hotch-potch**²² of standards raises the cost of building new mines. These sometimes require **peripheral**²³ infrastructure like **desalination**²⁴ plants, which can cost \$1bn a time. Anglo American, a global miner, has to meet at least nine different standards for ethical practices around the world, for instance, some of which may be **inconsistent**²⁵ with each other. Ideally countries would be able to call on a unified set of sustainability standards, and report them as part of their **mandatory**²⁶ financial disclosures. Britain has taken such an approach, and other countries should follow. If miners will not invest then the energy transition will take longer.

21. **Complication** [ˌkʌmplɪ'keɪʃən]
n. 复杂情况，困难

22. **Hotch-potch** ['hɒtʃ,pɒtʃ]
n. 大杂烩，混合物

23. **Peripheral** [pə'reɪfərəl]
adj. 外围的，次要的

24. **Desalination** [ˌdiːsəleɪ'neɪʃən]
n. 海水淡化，脱盐

25. **Inconsistent** [ˌɪnkən'sɪstənt]
adj. 矛盾的，不一致的

26. **Mandatory** ['mændə'tɔːri]
adj. 强制性的，义务的

[7]最后一个复杂之处是不同司法管辖区规则的倍增。这些大杂烩的标准提高了建造新矿山的成本。这些设施有时需要像海水淡化厂这样的外围基础设施，一次可耗资 100 亿美元。例如，全球矿业公司英美资源集团(Anglo American)必须满足全球至少九种不同的道德规范，其中一些可能彼此不一致。理想情况下，各国将能够呼吁制定一套统一的可持续发展标准，并将其作为强制性财务披露的一部分进行报告。英国已经采取了这样的做法，其他国家也应该效仿。如果矿商不投资，那么能源转型将需要更长的时间。

adj. 强制性的，必须遵守的

一、内容概括

The world needs more critical minerals for decarbonization, requiring increased investment and faster mining. However, miners are investing less due to market volatility and government red tape. Resource nationalism and slow permit processes hinder mining projects, while varying standards across jurisdictions raise costs. Governments must streamline permit processes, unify sustainability standards, and encourage private investment to meet the growing demand for metals. Otherwise, the energy transition will be delayed.

世界需要更多的关键矿物进行脱碳，这就需要增加投资和加快开采速度。然而，由于市场波动和政府繁文缛节，矿商正在减少投资。资源民族主义和缓慢的许可程序阻碍了采矿项目，而不同司法管辖区的不同标准提高了成本。政府必须简化许可程序，统一可持续性标准，并鼓励私人投资以满足对金属日益增长的需求。否则，将推迟能源转型。

二、积累表达

1. 表达“强制性的，必须遵守的”

1.1. compulsory

- Wearing a seatbelt is compulsory in this vehicle.
- 在这辆车上，系安全带是强制性的。

1.2. obligatory

- It is obligatory for students to complete all assignments on time.
- 学生必须按时完成所有作业，这是义务的。

1.3. required

- A valid ID is required to enter the building.
- 进入大楼需要有效的身份证明。

1.4. necessary

- It is necessary for all passengers to fasten their seatbelts during takeoff and landing.
- 起飞和降落时，所有乘客都需要系好安全带是必要的。

2. 表达“事与愿违的”

2.1. go against one's wishes

- The outcome of the project went against our wishes and expectations.
- 项目的结果与我们的愿望和期望相悖。

2.2. contrary to one's hopes

- The weather turned out to be contrary to our hopes for a sunny day.
- 天气变得与我们期望的晴天相悖。

2.3. against one's intentions

- The situation developed against my intentions, causing more problems than solutions.
- 情况发展得与我的意图相悖，导致问题比解决方案更多。

2.4. not as one had hoped

- The outcome was not as we had hoped, leading to disappointment.
- 结果并非我们所期望的，让人感到失望。

2.5. in a way that defies expectations

- The new policy was implemented in a way that defies expectations, causing confusion among employees.
- 新政策的实施方式出人意料，让员工感到困惑。