

The Energy Workforce of the Future

Empowering Workers Through Revitalizing Energy Communities



Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization

Brian J. Anderson, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Interagency Working Group on
Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization
Director, National Energy Technology Laboratory



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY



NATIONAL
ENERGY
TECHNOLOGY
LABORATORY

July 15, 2021

Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization



- The Interagency Working Group (IWG) was established by [Executive Order 14008](#), Sec. 218, on Jan. 27
- The IWG released an [Initial Report](#) with recommendations to catalyze robust economic activity and support workers in America's energy sector

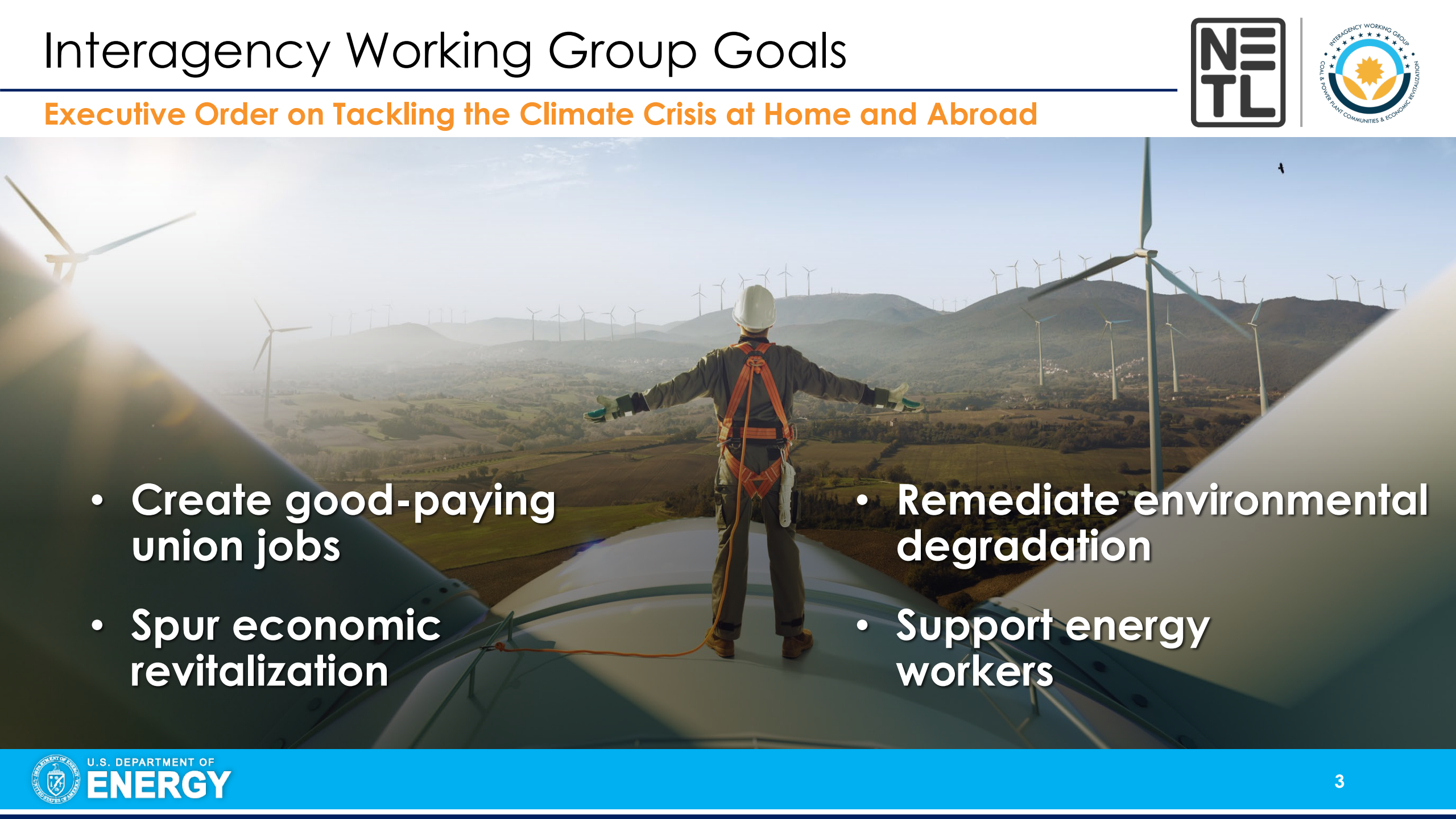


Initial Report to the President on Empowering Workers Through Revitalizing Energy Communities, Released April 23, 2021

Interagency Working Group Goals

Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad



- 
- A worker in a white hard hat, orange safety harness, and dark clothing stands on the nose of a large white wind turbine. The worker's arms are outstretched, looking out over a vast landscape filled with numerous other wind turbines on rolling hills under a clear blue sky. The scene is bathed in the warm light of a low sun, creating a hazy, golden glow.
- Create good-paying union jobs
 - Spur economic revitalization
 - Remediate environmental degradation
 - Support energy workers

Stakeholder Engagement

Ensuring Impacted Communities are Empowered to Direct Their Own Futures



During stakeholder engagement with impacted communities for the Initial Report, key learnings included:

1. There are no silver bullets.
2. Local community engagement matters.
3. Immediate jobs and a long-term strategy.
4. Job creation and job retention.
5. Invest in workers.
6. Invest in local entrepreneurs and place-based organizations.
7. Infrastructure matters.

Lasting Community Engagement

Town Hall Meetings

Regional Planning

Federal Advisory Committee

Guiding Principles

Initial Report to the President



- Create good-paying jobs
- Support energy workers by securing benefits and providing opportunity
- Provide federal investment to catalyze economic revitalization
- Prioritize pollution mitigation and remediation
- Adopt a government-wide approach
- Formalize stakeholder engagement efforts



Initial Report to the President on Empowering Workers Through Revitalizing Energy Communities



- Identified **25** priority Energy Communities
- Coal communities identified as immediately challenged
- Additional analyses forthcoming

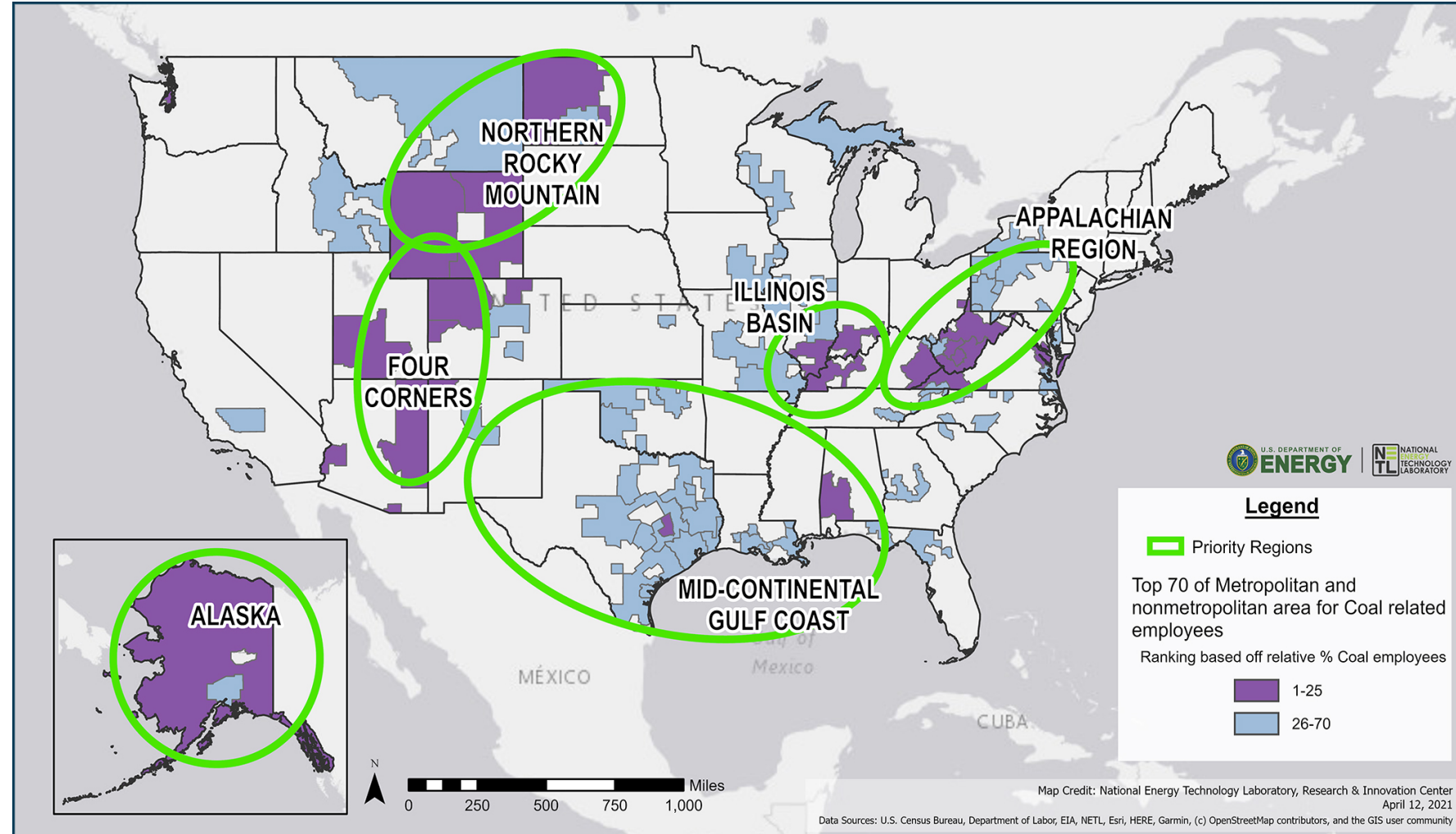


Figure 2 in the report. The IWG recommends focusing initial federal investments in areas with high concentrations of coal-dependent jobs.

Working Across the Federal Government



\$38B
in potential funding

COORDINATE

CATALYZE

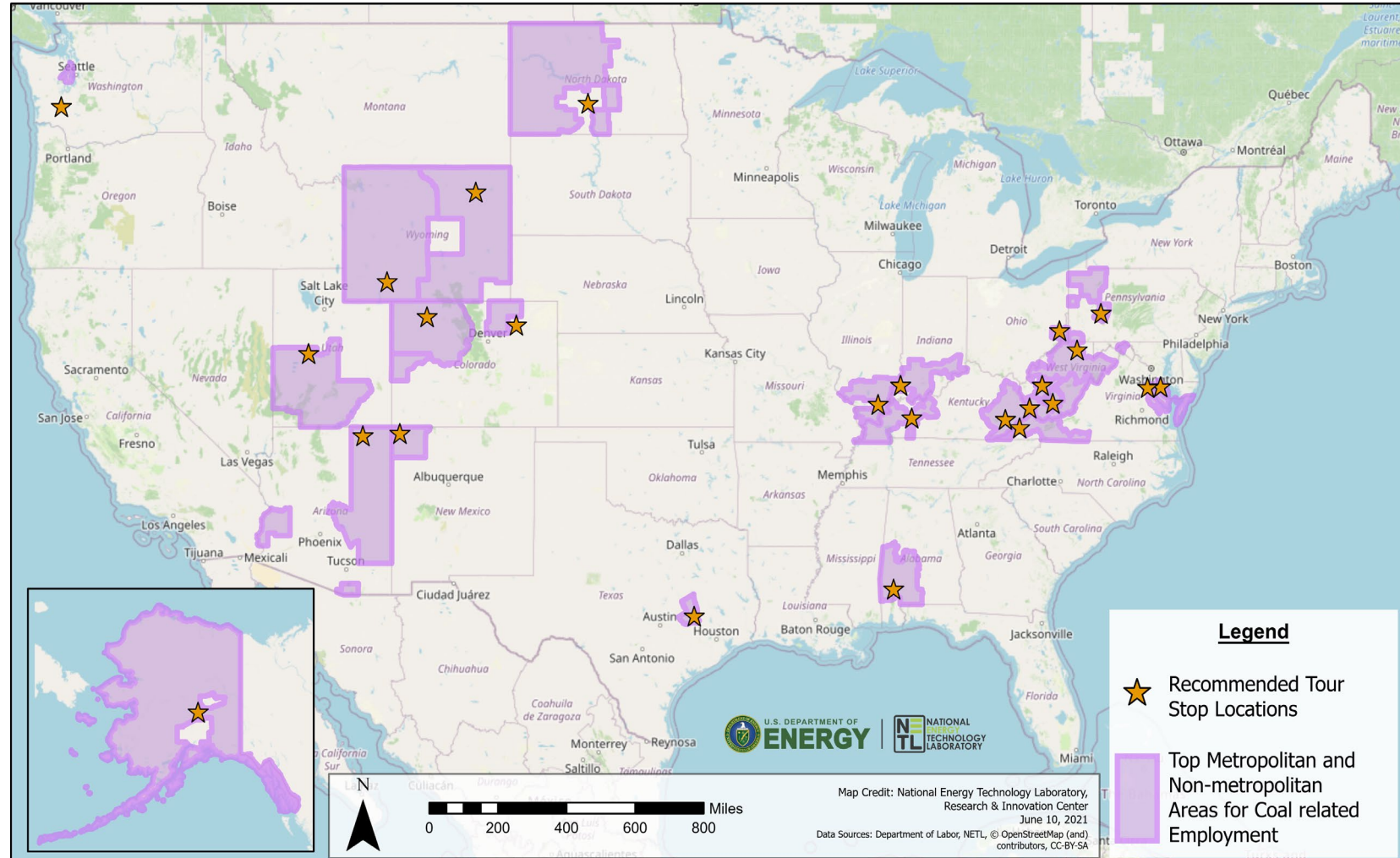
TARGET

The Looney Ridge mine in Wise County, VA

Stakeholder Engagement

Authentic, Unfiltered Engagement

- Visit all 25 priority areas.
- Senior officials, roundtable discussions, community tours, public hearings, workshops, and return visits.
- Shape government policies, target investments, and assist communities to access federal resources.



Next Steps



Near-Term Priorities

1. Continue **engaging stakeholders** and **listening tour**
2. Continue **job-creating investments** in priority Energy Communities, particularly ARP roll out.
3. Enable **easier access to federal support** for Energy Communities
4. Plan for **long-term engagement** and **ongoing support**. Establish a FACA.
5. Develop **policy recommendations** for President by end of 2021.

Calls To Action



- Share your budget and policy perspectives
- Encourage stakeholders to provide their needs & solutions:
 - Community Engagement
 - Investments
 - Integration
 - across federal govt.
 - vertically fed-state-local
 - Policy

Questions?

Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY



NATIONAL
ENERGY
TECHNOLOGY
LABORATORY