

MINING AND MINERAL EXPLORATION COMMITTEE 2024-2025 REPORT

Committee chair: Jiajia Sun

Committee vice chair: Dan Hollis

Technical program chair: Xiaolong Wei

Committee members: Ezzedeen Alfataierge, Jose Arce, Glenn Chubak, Blake Cross, Ana Curcio, Sarah Devriese, Craig Funk, Alan Jones, Seogi Kang, Genéne Kleppe, Sacha Knox-Bruessow, Fang Kwok, Anais Lavoue, Jean Legault, Keith Martin, Chris Nind, Jeffrey Shoffner, Richard Smith, Sean Walker, Ken Witherly

Board liaison: Marianne Rauch

Staff liaison: Laurie Whitesell

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024-2025, the Mining and Mineral Exploration (MME) Committee strengthened its leadership structure by introducing a new Past Chair position and transitioning all key roles to one-year terms to enhance continuity and engagement.

The committee advanced SEG's global presence through several strategic initiatives, including the launch of the 2026 Critical Minerals Forum, to be held 27-29 October 2026 in Vancouver, British Columbia, and active participation in major industry events such as the GEOMIN Symposium and the AME Roundup short course on ground and borehole electromagnetics.

The committee also revived the long-standing MME Luncheon at IMAGE, organized multiple technical sessions, and hosted a highly successful postconvention workshop on lithium mineral systems attended by leading mining and energy companies. In addition, MME members coordinated a forthcoming special section on "Geophysics for Mineral Exploration" for *The Leading Edge*.

Collectively, these initiatives underscore the MME Committee's commitment to advancing technical excellence, leadership development, and global collaboration in mineral exploration geophysics.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

- **Leadership structure and governance**

In 2025, the committee implemented a Board-approved bylaw revision establishing a Past Chair position to retain institutional knowledge and provide additional leadership capacity to meet the growing demand for mining and mineral exploration expertise. The Chair, Vice Chair, and Key Contact positions were transitioned to one-year terms to encourage broader participation and leadership development.

- **2026 Critical Minerals Forum**
The committee initiated planning and development for the SEG Critical Minerals Forum, approved by the SEG Board and scheduled for Vancouver, Canada, in October 2026. The venue and dates were confirmed, contracts finalized, and advance payments completed. Three organizing committee meetings were held to define technical themes and logistics.
- **Industry engagement and event support**
MME members provided technical expertise and global promotion for the GEOMIN Symposium, serving as technical committee members and subject matter experts.
- **Short course development**
The committee contributed to the design of a preconference short course, “*Ground and Borehole Electromagnetics for Geophysicists*,” developed by former MME Chair Sarah Devriese as part of the AME Roundup Conference, a premier event in Canada’s mineral exploration industry.
- **Revival of the MME Luncheon**
The committee reinstated the MME Luncheon at IMAGE, a long-standing tradition within the mining community that had been paused since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Technical and workshop programming**
The committee organized two oral sessions, two poster sessions, and two special sessions at IMAGE. In addition, a postconvention workshop on lithium mineral systems, led by Alexandra Price (Viridien), brought together 25 participants from leading mining and energy companies, including Rio Tinto and Saudi Aramco. The workshop received highly positive feedback for its technical depth and collaborative approach, featuring presentations from global leaders in lithium exploration and production.
- **Publication initiatives**
Jiajia Sun (Chair, 2024-2025) and Sarah Devriese (Chair, 2023-2024), together with Yongyi Li and G. Didem Beskardes, organized a forthcoming *Leading Edge* special section on “Geophysics for Mineral Exploration,” scheduled for publication in November 2025.
- **Leadership transition**
During the MME Committee Meeting at IMAGE ’25, a new leadership team was approved:
 - o **Chair:** Dan Hollis
 - o **Vice Chair:** Xiaolong Wei
 - o **Key Contact:** Marco Nieto
 - o **Past Chair:** Jiajia Sun