

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT

FEDERAL – Legislative

House Natural Resources Committee Hearing on Forest Water and Power Supplies. On January 8, the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, held an oversight hearing titled, *Fix Our Forests for Affordable and Reliable Water and Power Supplies*, focused on policies for restoring healthy forests to “promote affordable and reliable water and power supplies” and provide for electrical grid reliability. To access a full video recording of the hearing and witness testimony, [Read more](#).

FEDERAL – Regulatory

BLM Instruction Memoranda Related to Energy Resources. On December 16, 2025, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued three instruction memoranda related to energy resources. As noted by the BLM, “instruction memorandum are directives that supplement the BLM manual sections and handbooks. Instruction memoranda or IMs contain new policy or procedures that must reach BLM employees quickly, interpret existing policies or provide one-time instructions.” The first is [IM2026-002 - Oil and Gas Industry Training](#). “The purpose of this Instruction Memorandum (IM) is to provide guidance to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Offices (FOs) and State Offices (SOs) on the implementation of a quarterly training program for oil and gas operators. This program is intended to offer voluntary training that enhances operator understanding of and compliance with the BLM’s oil and gas regulations, policy, and operational procedures. The training will serve as a proactive measure to foster collaboration, improve regulatory compliance, and ensure responsible resource development on public lands.” The second

memorandum is [IM 2026-003 - Acreage Rent and Capacity Fee Billing and Collection for Intermittent Energy](#) which “provides the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Field Offices (FOs) with instructions for implementing the billing and collection of the acreage rent or capacity fee for all solar or wind energy development rights-of-way” as required under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The third memorandum is [IM2026-004 - Promoting Annual Competitive Geothermal Lease Sales](#). According to the BLM, this memorandum “sets a policy for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) State Offices (SO) to hold competitive geothermal lease sales (sales) annually. This shift reflects the Department’s commitment to accelerating the development of reliable, steady-state baseload energy, cutting red tape, and supporting the American Energy Dominance Agenda.” As reported by law firm Perkins Coie, “This policy reflects a broader federal energy agenda by emphasizing reduced timelines for certain energy projects, increased leasing frequency, and accelerated market access, in part to power data centers.” [Read more](#).

BLM Oil and Gas Lease Sale – Wyoming. The BLM announced it has “opened a 30-day public comment period to receive public input on plans to include 112 oil and gas parcels totaling 120,927 acres in Wyoming in a June 2026 sale. The comment period ends Jan. 20, 2026. The BLM completed scoping on these parcels in November 2025 and is now seeking public comment on the parcels, potential deferrals, and the related environmental analysis. The BLM will use input from the public to help complete its review of each parcel.” [Read more](#).

BLM Oil and Gas Lease Sale – Eastern States. On January 8, the BLM “announced an oil and gas lease sale scheduled for March 12, 2026, to offer eight

oil and gas parcels totaling 506 acres in Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, and Mississippi. The BLM completed scoping on these parcels July 2025 and held a public comment period that closed in December 2025 on the parcels and the related environmental analysis. A 30-day public protest period to receive additional public input opened today and will close Feb. 9, 2026.” [Read more.](#)

BLM Oil and Gas Lease Sale Results – New Mexico; Oklahoma. The BLM reports that its latest quarterly oil and gas lease sale in New Mexico and Oklahoma generated nearly \$327 million in revenue through the leasing of 31 parcels totaling 20,399 acres. The sale also brought in “over \$218,751 for a single acre, the highest ever earned during a BLM competitive oil and gas lease sale” in decades. [Read more.](#)

BLM Extends Regulatory Deadlines for Oil and Gas Leases. On December 19, 2025, the BLM announced it “extended two regulatory enforcement deadlines to provide relief and predictability to operators with oil and gas leases on public lands. These deregulatory actions are intended to provide additional time for operators to meet requirements included in oil and gas regulations finalized in April 2024, while further deregulation by the BLM is considered.” As provided by the BLM, “Under the previous administration’s Fluid Mineral Leases and Leasing Process Rule, the statewide minimum bonding requirement for operators was increased from \$25,000 to \$500,000. The BLM has extended the phase-in deadline for compliance with the minimum amount for statewide oil and gas bonds by one year. The deadline for compliance will now be June 22, 2027. This one-year extension aligns the statewide bonds deadline with individual lease bond phase-in date, simplifying implementation, reducing confusion, and giving operators additional time to adjust to the new financial assurance requirements.” This in addition to our recently reported BLM extension of Biden-era deadlines “for the measurement and sampling of flaring volumes and the filing of leak detection and repair programs for applicable leases. The BLM is providing operators with an additional year

to have measurement devices and sampling in place for flares flowing between 1,050 and 6,000 mcf/month. The rule extends the compliance deadline to Dec. 10, 2026, allowing operators additional time to implement necessary equipment and procedures to meet these requirements.” [Read more.](#)

BLM Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendments. As an update to our 2025 reporting, on January 7, the BLM provided their completed Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendments. According to the BLM, they are “amending specific greater sage-grouse goals, objectives and management from previous planning efforts in 77 resource management plans across ten western states (California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming). These changes are to enhance greater sage-grouse conservation through management of sagebrush habitats on BLM-managed lands. This effort builds on the 2015 and 2019 greater sage-grouse planning efforts and is focused on changing those actions and decisions for which additional scientific information has emerged, or which will enhance conservation while allowing for continued multiple use on BLM-managed lands.” [Read more.](#) Regarding the amendments, acting BLM Director Bill Groffy said, “We are strengthening American energy security while ensuring the sage-grouse continues to thrive.” [Read more.](#)

BLM National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan. On December 23, 2025, the BLM announced it issued a new Record of Decision (ROD) for the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) Integrated Activity Plan (IAP). According to the BLM, “This ROD aligns management of the 23-million-acre NPR-A consistent with the IAP as adopted in the 2020 NPR-A IAP ROD. This new Decision supersedes the 2022 IAP ROD. This decision is based on the NEPA analysis presented in the 2020 IAP Final Environmental Impact Statement and the 2025 IAP environmental assessment (EA) that incorporates new information that has arisen since the publication of the 2020 IAP/EIS.” [Read more.](#) The IAP will reopen “nearly 82 percent of the 23-million-acre

reserve to oil and gas leasing.” Acting BLM Director Bill Groffy said, “This updated plan is a major step forward in restoring the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the purpose Congress intended. By opening more of the reserve to responsible development, we are helping meet national energy needs while continuing the legacy begun in the 2020 plan for thorough environmental review and strong engagement with Alaska communities.” [Read more.](#)

BOEM Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Draft

Proposed Program. To follow up our prior reporting, on January 7, the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) urged industry stakeholders to submit supportive public comments on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s (BOEM) 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program initially released in November 2025. [Access the BOEM program resources here.](#) According to the IPAA, “While many of you operate onshore, the implications of this proposed program extend well beyond offshore producers alone. Offshore development is an essential component of our American energy supply, and the health of the offshore sector directly affects the broader oil and gas industry. Onshore producers, service companies, and the entire supply chain benefit from a stable and predictable offshore program. This is a critical opportunity for independent producers to speak with one voice and support robust American oil and natural gas production.” The IPAA has also provided a useful form letter template for public comment submissions. [Access the IPAA letter here.](#) The public comment period is open through January 23, 2026. [Access the BOEM public comment portal here.](#)

EPA Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program. On January 6, the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) sent a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) “urging the agency to address issues within Subpart W in the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP) that negatively affect small business, low production well operators.” [Read more.](#) The IPAA letter “details two important areas that need to be addressed in Subpart W. The first relates to the definition of facility in Subpart

W. The second involves specific inaccuracies of emission factors.” Specifically, the IPAA notes “the adverse effects the definition creates for small business, low production well operators and its inconsistencies with the Clean Air Act. As currently written, Subpart W can subject low production, marginal wells to the methane tax despite the intent of Congress to exclude small businesses from the impact of the tax. The complexity of the 2024 Biden Administration Subpart W calculation process will also likely force thousands of independent producers to incur significant costs [...] just to confirm they fall below reporting thresholds.” On the second issue, the letter “provides suggested revisions to the emissions factor calculations that would make estimates more accurate and reflective of operations.” [Read the letter here.](#)

Interior Department Endangered Species Act

Petition – New Mexico; Texas. On December 4, 2025, environmental group, the Center for Biological Diversity, filed a petition with the U.S. Department of the Interior’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeking Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for the Allred’s flax – a rare flowering plant that is “found only in the Permian Basin in New Mexico and Texas. Much of its known and potential habitat overlaps with oil and gas leases that are being drilled or could be.” [Read more.](#) According to the petition, “Oil and gas development may lead to habitat loss and degradation for Allred’s flax through well construction and related infrastructure, dust from new or existing roads and the spread of invasive species.” [Read the petition here.](#) Industry stakeholders reject the call for an ESA plant designation “as a threatened or endangered species” as provided in the petition. New Mexico Oil and Gas Association President Missi Currier said, “association members protect native species like Allred’s flax and are ‘committed to science-based solutions and collaborative approaches that balance conservation with the energy needs that power our nation and beyond.’” [Read more.](#)

Interior Department Pauses Offshore Wind Leases.

On December 22, 2025, the Interior Department announced “that it is pausing—effective immediately—

the leases for all large-scale offshore wind projects under construction in the United States due to national security risks identified by the Department of War in recently completed classified reports. This pause will give the Department, along with the Department of War and other relevant government agencies, time to work with leaseholders and state partners to assess the possibility of mitigating the national security risks posed by these projects.” [Read more](#). The 90-day pause affects five offshore wind projects. [Read more](#). In response, project developers are challenging the pause in court with multiple lawsuits filed in the past few days. [Read more](#).

Interior Department Notice of Information

Collection. On January 8, the Interior Department published a notice of information collection, *Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Access and Consent Forms* ([91 Fed. Reg. 718](#)) seeking to renew an information collection. The information collection relates to a Request for Individual Access to Records Protected under the Privacy Act, Consent for Disclosure of Records Protected under the Privacy Act, and forms for individuals to submit requests for accessing, and consenting to the disclosure of, records protected under the Privacy Act. The public comment period is open through February 9, 2026. [Read more](#).

National Environmental Policy Act Regulatory

Removal. To follow up our prior reporting in 2025, on January 8, the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued a final rule, *Removal of National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations* ([91 Fed. Reg. 618](#)), that adopts its interim final rule published on February 25, 2025, as final and which rescinds CEQ's NEPA implementing regulations put in place prior to the Trump administration. The rescission effectuates President Trump's second term day-one directive in Executive Order, [Unleashing American Energy](#), to “expedite and simplify the permitting process.” CEQ Chairwoman Katherine Scarlett said, “In this Administration, NEPA's regulatory reign of terror has ended. Thanks to President Trump's leadership, CEQ acted early to slash needless

layering of bureaucratic burden and restore common sense to the environmental review and permitting process. The Trump CEQ is putting the American people first by cutting red tape that has held back growth of the U.S. economy and refocusing its attention on ensuring the certainty needed in the permitting process to invest in American infrastructure. Renewing our energy and other infrastructure will lead to job creation, energy dominance, economic growth, and better environmental outcomes.” [Read more](#). As reported in *The Hill*, “Republicans and their allies in various industries have long sought both regulatory and congressional reforms to the law, saying that its requirements put up too much red tape preventing the U.S. from building efficiently. In recent years, some Democrats have also sought reforms to promote renewable energy projects.” [Read more](#).

Office of Natural Resources Revenue Notice. On January 6, the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) published a notice, *States' Decisions on Participating in Accounting and Auditing Relief for Federal Oil and Gas Marginal Properties* ([91 Fed. Reg. 379](#)). According to the notice, “ONRR regulations provide two types of accounting and auditing relief for Federal oil and gas production from marginal properties: the cumulative royalty reports and payments relief option, which allows a lessee or designee to submit one royalty report and payment for the calendar year's production; and other requested relief, which allows a lessee or designee to request any type of accounting and auditing relief that is appropriate for production from the marginal property and meets certain requirements. By October 1 of each calendar year, ONRR provides a list of qualifying marginal Federal oil and gas properties to the States receiving a portion of Federal royalties from those properties. Each State then decides whether to participate in neither, one, or both relief options. This notice provides the public each State's decision on whether to participate in marginal property relief.” [Read more](#).

White House Withdraws from United Nations Climate Change Treaty.

On January 7, the White House announced that the United States is

withdrawing from the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) treaty. [Read the Presidential Memorandum here.](#) As reported by *The Hill*, the UNFCCC “seeks global cooperation on climate change,” but the Trump administration says that being part of the UNFCCC was “contrary to the interests of the United States.” [Read more.](#) The move withdraws U.S. support for the UNFCCC and “66 international bodies and commissions,” including, “the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which produces the world’s premier climate reports.” According to a State Department statement, “The Trump Administration has found these institutions to be redundant in their scope, mismanaged, unnecessary, wasteful, poorly run, captured by the interests of actors advancing their own agendas contrary to our own, or a threat to our nation’s sovereignty, freedoms, and general prosperity.” [Read more.](#)

FEDERAL – Judicial

Natural Gas Bans – California District Court.

On January 5, the Trump administration sued two California cities in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California over their local laws banning natural gas infrastructure in new buildings. In [United States v. City of Morgan Hill](#) (Case No. 5:26-cv-00056-BLF), the administration claims that the ordinances “violate a 1975 federal statute prohibiting states and municipalities from regulating the energy use of products already covered by federal standards.” In its complaint, “the government says the local rules conflict with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, a federal law that sets national standards for how appliances use energy. By effectively prohibiting gas-powered stoves, furnaces, water heaters and other equipment in new construction, the cities are regulating products that Congress placed under federal control.” Notably, in 2023, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit struck down a similar ban by the city of Berkeley, holding that federal law preempted the use of building codes to restrict access to natural gas. The Trump administration believes this set a precedent in the current complaint. [Read more.](#)

STATE – Legislative

For all bills AAPL is currently monitoring and tracking for members, please see the continuously updated member-exclusive AAPL Governmental Affairs Bill Tracking Summary spreadsheet, available on the AAPL website [here.](#)

STATE – Regulatory

Corporate Greenhouse Gas Reporting and Climate-Related Financial Risk Disclosure Proposed Regulations – California.

To follow up our prior reporting throughout 2025, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has announced it will hold a public hearing on February 26, 2026, for adoption of their “proposed Climate Data and Financial Risk Reporting Fee Regulation.” The meeting offers an in-person and virtual attendance option and also provides for public comment. [Read the CARB notice here,](#) which also includes detailed explanatory information on the proposed regulations. You may also access the official CARB notice published in the California Regulatory Notice Register (Dec. 26, 2025, p.1554) which provides instructions and access for submitting public comments through the February 9, 2026 deadline, [available here.](#) For background, on December 9, 2025, CARB released these proposed regulations to implement 2023 legislation, Senate Bills 261 and 253. [See the proposed regulations here.](#) “SB 261 requires covered entities to publish biennial, climate-related financial risk reports, and SB 253 requires reporting entities to disclose scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas emissions.” As reported by law firm Foley & Lardner LLP, “While the proposed regulations provide some additional information on, and limit, the scope of applicability, as well as information related to the required compliance fees, they provide little guidance on the substance of the information that is required to be included in the reports that must be prepared and submitted under these laws.” [Read more.](#) For a deeper dive and further legal analysis of the CARB SB 261 and SB 253 proposed rulemaking, [Read more here.](#)

Proposed State Lease Royalty Reductions –

Louisiana. The Louisiana Department of Conservation and Energy has released a “proposed 2026 State Lease Investment Program, which would create a system of state lease royalty reduction incentives.” The proposed guidelines outline “a set of royalty reduction incentives on new and existing state mineral leases intended to incentivize and encourage increases in oil and gas production from state lands and water bottoms.” As provided by the Department, “What the proposed guidelines lay out is a process allowing for amending existing state leases to allow for reducing royalties by up to 8 percent (but never reducing it below the legal floor of 12.5 percent) for up to five years for drilling new wells or re-starting production on wells shut in for six months or longer. They would also allow for similar reductions on new leases proposed by operators taking over orphaned wells. For completely new proposed leases, the Mineral and Energy Board could give consideration to bids below traditional rates, taking all factors into account.” Mike Moncla, president of the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association, said “the proposed royalty reductions are not limited to new drilling projects. Operators with wells that have been inactive for extended periods could also benefit,” adding that “If you have inactive wells that have been inactive for more than six months, they can do workover on those wells to try to bring that production back.” [Read more.](#) The public comment period is open through January 28, 2026. For more information on the draft proposal and instructions on how to submit a public comment, [Read more.](#)

Proposed Amendments to State Air Quality

Regulations – Nebraska. The Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment (DWEE) has announced proposed amendments to [Title 129 – Air Quality Regulations](#). According to the DWEE, “Title 129 protects the health and safety of the public by regulating air quality throughout the state. [Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-1501](#) & [§ 81-1505](#). DWEE administers Title 129 Air Quality Regulations, which impact regulated sources of air pollutants in the state. The proposed revisions will ensure that state regulations contain language that is clear, complete, and current. The

Department proposes revisions to all chapters of the regulations to correct typographical, grammatical, and formatting errors; clarify and simplify regulatory language; update reference dates for federal regulations cited in the title; incorporate federal rulemaking; remove obsolete references; and reflect agency name change due to merger.” On February 12, 2026, the Nebraska Environmental Quality Council (EQC) will hold a public meeting and hearing on the proposed amendments. “The purpose of the hearing is to take testimony and evidence of proposed amendments to Title 129 – Nebraska Air Quality Regulations. Following the hearing, the EQC will vote on the adoption of the proposed amendments to Title 129.” For a detailed DWEE redline and explanation of the regulatory amendments, [Read more here](#) and [here](#). For further information on attending the hearing and instructions for submitting public comments, [Read more.](#)

NMED Emissions and Permit Fees – New Mexico.

(Update to 12/22/25 Report) On December 23, 2025, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) announced it will hold a virtual public informational meeting on January 15, 2026 for the proposed rule changes to repeal and replace [20.2.71 NMAC](#), *Operating Permit Emissions Fees*, and [20.2.75 NMAC](#), *Construction Permit Fees*. [Access the NMED calendar here to attend.](#) According to the NMED, “Department staff will provide an overview of the proposed changes to both 20.2.71 NMAC and 20.2.75 NMAC, and there will be time for questions from stakeholders and the general public.” Additionally, the NMED will hold virtual “office hours” on January 22, 2026, “to provide interested persons an additional opportunity to ask questions or provide feedback on the proposed rules.” These sessions are in addition to the previously announced public hearing dates in March 2026, noted below. [Read more.](#) For background, on December 8, 2025, the NMED Air Quality Bureau (AQB) petitioned the Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) to repeal and replace those regulations. As provided, the “New Mexico Air Quality Control Act and the federal Clean Air Act require that NMED collect sufficient emissions and permit fees to cover the reasonable costs of NMED’s Title V Permit Program and Construction

Permit Program. NMED initiated this rulemaking to increase fees for both the Title V and Construction Permit Programs after determining the current fee structures are inadequate to sufficiently fund the direct and indirect operating costs of these programs.” The EIB considered the petition at its regular meeting on December 19, 2025, and “scheduled a public hearing beginning on March 23, 2026, and continuing through March 25, 2026, or as long as required to hear all testimony, evidence, and public comment.” [Read more](#). For further information, including the NMED petition and accompanying exhibits, which include the proposed replacement rules, you may access the NMED’s docketed matters website (See Environmental Improvement Board; EIB 25-77 (R): In the Matter of Proposed Repeal and Replacement of 20.2.71 NMAC – Operating Permit Emissions Fees and 20.2.75 NMAC – Construction Permit Fees) [available here](#). For a deeper dive into the NMED’s Proposed Air Quality Regulations and Plans, including the proposed regulatory changes, [Read more](#).

Railroad Commission Public Listening Sessions.

On January 7, the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) announced it will begin the new year with the next edition of its series of virtual Listening Sessions, taking place on January 14, 2026. The RRC says, “the session will provide the public with another opportunity to share their perspectives on the RRC’s role as the state’s oldest regulatory agency. Residents from across Texas are encouraged to participate. The virtual sessions, occurring every other month, are organized by the Office of Public Engagement and will feature an overview of the Commission’s regulatory functions followed by an opportunity for participants to provide comments and ask questions during a brief Q&A session with RRC subject matter experts. Registration is required for participation and commenting.” [Read more](#).

STATE – Judicial

Statute of Frauds; Mineral Deeds – Texas.

Recently, in [Alcott v. 1893 Oil and Gas, Ltd.](#) (Case No. 13-23-00492-CV), the Texas Court of Appeals, Thirteenth District (Corpus Christi), found that a

mineral deed violated the statute of frauds, noting that “Appellants do not adequately explain on appeal how the Alcott Deed and referenced documents sufficiently describe the surface area or the 2,092.08 acres; thus, we conclude that this basis also supports a conclusion that the Alcott Deed does not comply with the statute of frauds.” As noted by law firm Gray Reed’s Energy & the Law blog, “The court found the Alcott Deed’s property description was deficient. It lacked any qualifying language limiting the grant to minerals under land owned by the seller, and nothing within the four corners of the instrument supplied data sufficient to locate the property’s size, shape, and boundaries. The Alcott heirs relied on plats prepared in 1913 and 1920 to bolster their claim, but those documents did not provide enough information to identify the general area where the claimed mineral interests would lie.” [Read more](#).

Leasing; Drainage – Texas. Recently, in [EOG Resources, Inc. v. CNH Enterprise Holdings, Ltd.](#) (Case No. 04-24-00160-CV), the Texas Fourth Court of Appeals (San Antonio) affirmed a trial court ruling refusing to grant EOG’s motion to dismiss under the Texas Citizens Participation Act (TCPA). The underlying issue was CNH’s failure-to-protect against drainage claim that CNH brought against EOG alleging that “EOG breached its obligation to protect the Hundley Lease by failing to drill an offset well to prevent the drainage allegedly caused by the Gary 2H Well.” EOG argued “that CNH’s failure-to-protect claim falls under a broader claim for breach of the implied covenant an operator owes the owner of a leasehold to ‘protect the leasehold, which includes protection from local and field-wide drainage.’” Thus, EOG argued “that the claim that should be dismissed was based on EOG’s communications with the Railroad Commission in its application for a drilling permit.” But the court concluded “that CNH’s failure-to-protect claim is not ‘based on’ or ‘in response to’ EOG’s application for a drilling permit or request for an exception made to the Railroad Commission in connection with the Gary 2H Well.” In short, the court held that the claim is not subject to dismissal under the TCPA and the case will proceed “to address the underlying claims and defenses.” [Read more](#).

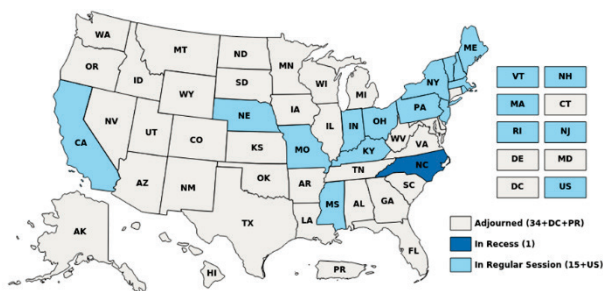
INDUSTRY NEWS FLASH

► **Exploration and production executives weigh in on AI impact.** As reported by *Rigzone* on January 7, executives from 45 exploration and production companies weighed in on how much they expect artificial intelligence to lower their firm's break-even price for new wells in dollars per barrel over the next five years, as part of the latest Dallas Fed Energy Survey. "The majority of executives at large E&P firms expect artificial intelligence to provide some reduction to their firms' break-even prices for new wells over the next five years," according to the survey. [Read more.](#)

► **OPEC+ nations agree to continue oil production cuts into the new year.** On January 4, OPEC+ nations reaffirmed their November 2025 decision to "pause planned production increases in February and March 2026, citing seasonal demand patterns." As reported by the *Oil & Gas Journal*, "The eight countries reiterated that the combined 1.65 million b/d of voluntary production cuts could be returned to the market either partially or in full, depending on evolving market conditions, and in a gradual manner." [Read more.](#)

LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

States in Session



Session Notes: California, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont are currently in regular session. The U.S. Congress is also in session.

The following states are scheduled to convene for the 2026 legislative session on the dates provided: **Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas** and **Washington** (January 12); **Alabama, Delaware, Florida, New Jersey, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee** and **Wisconsin** (January 13); **Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Virginia** and **West Virginia** (January 14); and **Alaska, New Mexico** and **Utah** (January 20).

The following states are currently holding 2026 interim committee hearings and posting interim studies: [Alabama](#), [Arizona](#), [Arkansas](#), [Colorado](#), [Connecticut](#), [Delaware](#), [Florida House](#) and [Senate](#), [Georgia](#), [Hawaii](#), [Idaho](#), [Iowa](#), [Kansas](#), [Maryland](#), [Minnesota](#), [Montana](#), [Nevada](#), [New Mexico](#), [New York Assembly](#) and [Senate](#), [North Dakota](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Oregon](#), [South Carolina](#), [South Dakota](#), [Tennessee](#), [Utah](#), [Virginia](#), [Washington](#), [West Virginia](#) and [Wyoming](#).

The following states are currently posting pre-files or bill drafts for the 2026 legislative session: [Alabama](#), [Arizona](#), [Florida](#), [Iowa](#), [Kansas House](#) and [Senate](#), [Oklahoma](#), [South Carolina](#), [South Dakota](#), [Tennessee](#), [Utah](#), [Virginia](#), [Washington](#) and [Wyoming](#). ■

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