

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT

FEDERAL – Legislative

H.R. 2301 – Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act. On April 18, official bill text was made available for [H.R. 2301](#), known as the Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act. Sponsored by Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA), the bill “would encourage domestic energy independence by supporting the responsible development of wind, solar, and geothermal energy on public lands.” According to Rep. Levin, “The bill will support clean energy development through a streamlined permitting process and revenue sharing for localities and states for projects on public lands. The bill contains key provisions to balance clean energy development in priority areas with conservation of our natural environment.” As noted by Rep. Levin, “This bill would encourage the development of renewable energy projects while protecting and conserving our public lands. Ultimately, this bill will make it easier and faster to build clean energy projects by creating a smoother and more efficient permitting process while providing confidence to developers and ensuring the impacts to wildlife, habitat, and cultural resources are avoided or minimized.” [Read more.](#) A similar bill with the same name, [H.R. 1994](#), was introduced by Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ) in March.

H.R. 3061 – Bringing Reliable Investment into Domestic Gulf Energy Production (BRIDGE) Act of 2025. On April 29, [H.R. 3061](#), known as the Bringing Reliable Investment into Domestic Gulf Energy Production (BRIDGE) Act of 2025, was introduced by Rep. Mike Ezell (R-MS). The bill would “require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain offshore oil and gas lease sales in the Gulf of America.” According to Rep. Ezell, “The Biden regime’s war on energy is officially over. Reliable, affordable energy starts with ensuring regulatory predictability in lease sales. The BRIDGE Act ensures and maintains vital

lease sales, giving American energy producers the certainty they need. Energy independence is a national security issue, an economic issue, and a family budget issue—and it starts right here at home.” [Read more.](#)

House Energy and Commerce Committee Hearing on Assuring Abundant, Reliable American Energy to Power Innovation. On April 30, the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce’s Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing titled, *Assuring Abundant, Reliable American Energy to Power Innovation*. The hearing focused on discussing “legislation that would help our nation create affordable and reliable energy in order to maintain our grid and power new technologies.” To access a full video recording of the hearing and witness testimony, [Read more.](#)

FEDERAL – Regulatory

Presidential Memorandum Updating Permitting Technology. On April 15, President Trump issued a presidential memorandum, “Updating Permitting Technology for the 21st Century,” providing that the “Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), in consultation with the National Energy Dominance Council and relevant permitting agencies, shall issue a Permitting Technology Action Plan for modernizing the technology used for Federal permitting and environmental review processes for infrastructure projects.” [Read the presidential memorandum here.](#) According to the Pillsbury law firm, the directive will “modernize federal permitting under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for critical infrastructure projects subject to federal approval, including power plants, mines, factories, roads and bridges. The Memorandum aims to expand the use of technology in order to achieve numerous efficiencies, such as elimination of paper-based processes and increased interagency coordination, in order to

expedite the NEPA approval process.” The “CEQ must develop a centralized action plan supported by digital infrastructure by May 30, 2025, with agencies implementing updated standards by August 28, 2025.” [Read more.](#)

Presidential Memorandum Directing the Repeal of Unlawful Regulations. On April 9, President Trump issued a presidential memorandum, “Directing the Repeal of Unlawful Regulations,” which states, “Promoting economic growth and American innovation are top priorities of this Administration. Unlawful, unnecessary, and onerous regulations impede these objectives and impose massive costs on American consumers and American businesses. In recent years, the Supreme Court has issued a series of decisions that recognize appropriate constitutional boundaries on the power of unelected bureaucrats and that restore checks on unlawful agency actions. Yet, despite these critical course corrections, unlawful regulations — often promulgated in reliance on now-superseded Supreme Court decisions — remain on the books.” The memorandum builds upon an earlier executive order directing federal agencies “to identify certain categories of unlawful and potentially unlawful regulations within 60 days and begin plans to repeal them. This review-and-repeal effort shall prioritize, in particular, evaluating each existing regulation’s lawfulness under the following United States Supreme Court decisions.” [Read the presidential memorandum here.](#) According to the Pillsbury law firm, “Most notably, the memorandum encourages agencies to invoke the ‘good cause’ exception under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) to bypass notice-and-comment rulemaking, stating that public participation is ‘unnecessary’ or ‘contrary to the public interest’ where repeal is compelled by the cited Supreme Court precedent.” As reported, “The APA generally requires agencies to follow notice-and-comment procedures for substantive regulatory changes, including repeals.” However, the “APA permits agencies to bypass these procedures when the ‘good cause’ exception applies, i.e., when public input is ‘impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.’” In short, “On its face, it opens the door for sweeping agency actions aimed at

deregulation” but if “agencies implement the memo’s direction and repeal regulations without public input, litigation is virtually assured. Advocacy groups have already announced plans to challenge the approach.” [Read more.](#)

BLM Oil and Gas Lease Sale – Nevada. On April 24, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada State Office “announced an oil and gas lease sale scheduled for June 24, 2025, to offer five oil and gas parcels totaling 6,800 acres in Nevada.” According to the BLM, “These parcels did not sell during the July 2023 and June 2024 lease sales. A new 30-day public protest period to receive additional input opened today and will close May 26, 2025.” [Read more.](#)

BLM Oil and Gas Lease Sale – New Mexico; Oklahoma. On April 21, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) New Mexico State Office “opened a 30-day public comment period to receive public input on plans to include 21 oil and gas leases, totaling 8843 acres” for a November BLM oil and gas lease sale in New Mexico and Oklahoma. The comment period will be open through May 21, 2025. [Read more.](#)

BLM Wayne National Forest Oil and Gas Leasing – Ohio. On April 18, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced it “is taking an important step toward future oil and gas leasing and development within the Marietta Unit of Wayne National Forest in southeastern Ohio. A supplemental environmental assessment recently released supports the restart of development on 65 existing leases and new competitive oil and gas leasing of parcels within 40,000 acres of federal mineral estate underlying National Forest System lands in Monroe, Noble, and Washington counties.” The BLM said, “With the analysis completed and decision record signed, operators may submit applications to drill on 36 existing oil and gas leases that were challenged in court, as well as 29 leases issued following subsequent lease sales that relied on the 2016 environmental assessment, but that were not part of the litigation.” [Read more.](#)

Interior Department Policy Change to Increase Offshore Oil Output. On April 24, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced “a critical policy advancement that will boost offshore oil output in the Gulf of America.” According to the announcement, “Following President Donald J. Trump’s Executive Order, Unleashing American Energy, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement implemented new parameters for Downhole Commingling in the Paleogene (Wilcox) reservoirs, expanding the allowable pressure differential from 200 psi to 1500 psi. This change, the result of extensive technical consultation with offshore industry leaders, could increase production output by roughly 10%.” [Read the Interior Department announcement here](#). As reported by the *Oil & Gas Journal*, “Under the updated rules, companies drilling offshore U.S. will be able to drill from multiple reservoirs at higher pressure levels. The change is the result of ‘extensive technical consultation with offshore industry leaders.’” The increase in production “would translate into over 100,000 barrels per day production increase over the next 10 years.” [Read more](#).

Interior Department Expedited Energy Project Approvals. On April 23, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced the Trump administration “has shortened the approval procedure for new oil and gas projects to just 28 days—at most—from several years under the national energy emergency that the White House declared earlier this year.” According to the announcement, *Department of the Interior Implements Emergency Permitting Procedures to Strengthen Domestic Energy Supply*, the Interior Department “will implement emergency permitting procedures to accelerate the development of domestic energy resources and critical minerals. These measures are designed to expedite the review and approval, if appropriate, of projects related to the identification, leasing, siting, production, transportation, refining, or generation of energy within the United States.” [Read the Interior Department announcement here](#). The announcement further provides, that the “declaration of a National Energy Emergency recognizes that current delays in energy project approvals pose significant risks to the nation’s economic stability,

national security, and foreign policy interests. In response, the Department will utilize emergency authorities under existing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.” [Read more](#). This announcement also builds upon President Trump’s April 15 presidential memorandum, *Updating Permitting Technology for the 21st Century*, directing federal agencies to “make maximum use of technology in environmental review and permitting processes for infrastructure projects of all kinds, such as roads, bridges, mines, factories, power plants, and others.” [Read more](#).

Interior Department Announces Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Plan. On April 30, the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) published a *Request for Information and Comments on the Preparation of the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program MAA104000* ([90 Fed. Reg. 17972](#)). According to the BOEM, the announcement initiates “the first step in a robust engagement process to develop the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program).” [Read more](#). And on April 29, the BOEM announced it “made modifications to the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) planning areas used for managing the oil and gas program, increasing the total number of planning areas from 26 to 27. This change includes the establishment of a new High Arctic Planning Area and updates to other planning areas, reflecting recent changes in U.S. OCS jurisdictional limits.” [Read more](#). As reported, the input being sought will be used to prepare the OCS Program “that would govern oil and gas leasing in federal waters off the American coastline, including off the California coast, starting in 2029.” [Read more](#). The public comment period is open through June 16, 2025. For background, on April 18, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum announced he had “directed the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to initiate the first step in a robust public engagement process to develop a new schedule for offshore oil and gas lease sales on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.” [Read the announcement here](#). With these actions, the Interior Department and BOEM are inviting

“stakeholders to provide insight and recommendations for leasing opportunities, raise concerns and identify other existing uses that may be affected by offshore leasing.” [Read more.](#)

Interior Department to Revise Offshore Oil and Gas Bonding Requirements. On May 2, the Interior Department announced “its intent to revise the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s 2024 [Risk Management and Financial Assurance for OCS Lease and Grant Obligations Rule](#) and proceed with development of a new rule that is consistent with the Trump administration’s 2020 proposed regulatory framework. The revised measure leveraging the 2020 proposed rule will massively cut costs and red tape related to the current Biden process and free up billions of dollars for American producers to use to lease, explore, drill, and produce oil and gas in the Gulf of America while protecting American taxpayers against high-risk decommission liabilities.” According to Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, “This revision will enable our nation’s energy producers to redirect their capital toward future leasing, exploration, and production all while financially protecting the American taxpayer. Cutting red tape will level the playing field and allow American companies to make investments that strengthen domestic energy security and benefit the Gulf of America states and their communities.” [Read more.](#)

FEDERAL – Judicial

Colorado Air Quality Plan – Tenth Circuit. On April 28, in *Center for Biological Diversity v. United States Environmental Protection Agency* (Case No. 23-9503), the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit addressed the issue of how states “must adopt implementation plans to meet national standards for ambient air quality.” These plans, which are subject to approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), were at issue in this appeal as they applied to Colorado. For background, “Colorado adopted an implementation plan and revised it in 1997. In 2019, Colorado revised the plan again, changing the wording of a permit requirement for new emission sources and adding to the definition of a key threshold to evaluate

compliance.” The EPA had approved these revisions and an environmental group challenged that approval. Specifically, the litigants argued that “the revision to the permit requirement prevents regulators from blocking construction when a new source would generate excessive emissions and the additional language in the definition allows regulators to disregard emissions during drilling, fracking, and well completion.” Here, the court rejected the first argument concluding the litigants had “not shown an effect from the revised wording in the permit requirement” but agreed with the second claim by “concluding that the EPA acted arbitrarily and capriciously by failing to address the potential emissions during drilling, fracking, and well completion.” In short, the Colorado plan “changed the definition of ‘Commencement of Operation’ to disregard ‘emissions from drilling, fracking and well completion,’ the court wrote. And the EPA “improperly assumed that the revision wasn’t substantive.” Because, as noted by *Bloomberg Law*, “The EPA didn’t independently evaluate whether that revised definition created environmental problems” the court ordered “the agency to ‘assess the applicability of the prior definition to oil-and-gas wells and determine whether the revision creates a substantive change.’” [Read more.](#)

Climate Change Lawsuits – Hawaii; Michigan; New York; Vermont. On April 30 and May 1, the Trump administration’s Justice Department sued Hawaii, Michigan, New York, and Vermont in separate federal lawsuits “to prevent them from enforcing ‘burdensome and ideologically motivated’ laws and pursuing lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry over the harms caused by climate change.” [Read a Justice Department press release here.](#) In the Hawaii (*United States v. Hawaii*, [Case No. 1:25-cv-00179](#)) and Michigan (*United States v. Michigan*, [Case No. 1:25-cv-00496](#)) cases, the Justice Department is “seeking to stop Hawaii and Michigan from filing planned lawsuits against major oil companies over climate change, cases the administration said would imperil domestic energy production.” In the cases in New York (*United States of America v. New York*, [Case No. 1:25-cv-03656](#)) and Vermont (*United States*

of *America v. Vermont*, [Case No. 2:25-cv-00463](#)), the lawsuits challenge recent laws in those states “requiring oil companies to contribute billions of dollars into funds to pay for damage caused by climate change.” [Read more](#). For more detail about the cases, [Read more here](#) and [here](#).

STATE – Legislative

For the more than 800 bills AAPL is currently monitoring and tracking for members, please see the continuously updated member-exclusive AAPL Governmental Affairs Bill Tracking Summary spreadsheet, available through the AAPLConnect LANDNEWS and Governmental Affairs Network member forums [here](#) or on the AAPL website [here](#).

STATE – Regulatory

Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission Oil and Gas Development Proposal Hearing. The Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission has announced it will be “asking local residents to weigh in May 13 on the latest proposal for the A Civitas Lowry Ranch oil and gas development project southeast of Aurora. The evening hearing will focus on the State Harvard/Yale and State Wetterhorn/Handies Oil and Gas Development Plan, the latest proposal tied to the previously approved Civitas Lowry Ranch Comprehensive Area Plan. The oil and gas development plan application recently passed the Energy and Carbon Management Commission’s ‘completeness phase’ and is now open for community input.” [Read more](#).

New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board Operating Permits. On April 21, the New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Environmental Improvement Board announced it “will hold a public hearing beginning on July 18, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. to consider EIB 25-10 (R) – In the Matter of Proposed Repeal and Replacement of [20.2.70 NMAC](#) – Operating Permits and Title V Program Revision. The Board may make a decision on the proposed repeal

and replacement and Title V revision at the conclusion of the hearing, or the Board may convene a meeting after the hearing to consider action on the proposal.” According to the NMED, “The purpose of the hearing is for the Board to consider and take possible action on a petition by NMED requesting the Board to adopt New Mexico’s proposed repeal and replacement of 20.2.70 NMAC, Operating Permits, to address a mandate by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (‘EPA’) directing the removal of certain affirmative defense provisions in New Mexico’s Title V Operating Permit Program at 20.2.70.304 NMAC, Emergency Provision. In addition, EPA provided a comment to the Department, indicating that one of the ‘Applicable Requirements’ cited at 40 CFR 70.2.(7) is missing from the definition of ‘Applicable Requirement’, at Subsection E of 20.2.70.7 NMAC. To address this deficiency, new text is proposed at Paragraph (7) of Subsection E of 20.2.70.7 NMAC. The Department has also identified an incongruity between the federal rule at 40 CFR 70.2 Applicable Requirement, and the current NM Title V operating permit regulation at Paragraphs (11) and (12) of Subsection E of 20.2.70.7 NMAC. There is also an outdated reference to ‘total suspended particulate matter’ at Paragraph (1) of Subsection AC of 20.2.70.7 NMAC. Specifically, the limits for maximum allowable concentrations of total suspended particulate (‘TSP’) in the ambient air previously stipulated by [20.2.3 NMAC](#), Ambient Air Quality Standards, at 20.2.3.109 NMAC, Total Suspended Particulates, were repealed, effective November 30, 2018. The Department must also update the regulation to meet current New Mexico Administrative Code requirements at Subsection C of [1.24.11.9 NMAC](#), which requires that ‘When an agency amends a part that was not filed in the current style and format, it shall reformat the entire part (or use the reformatting done by the records center) and officially adopt the current style and formatting requirements in conjunction with the amendment’. The Department will address these changes at the same time as the affirmative defense provisions are removed. The replacement rule, if adopted, will be submitted to the EPA as a revision to New Mexico’s Title V program.” To attend the hearing and for further details, [Read more](#).

Well Setbacks – Pennsylvania. On April 8, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s Environmental Quality Board (EQB) voted 16-3 to table a petition by environmentalists asking the EQB “to increase setbacks from homes and businesses from 500 feet to 3,281 feet, pointing to public health concerns related to people who live close to fracking.” The EQB said it “needed additional time to review comments submitted at the last minute” after the EQB “received a barrage of last-minute pleas from the industry to reject the petition.” The [petition](#) was filed by the Clean Air Council and Environmental Integrity Project last fall. [Read more.](#)

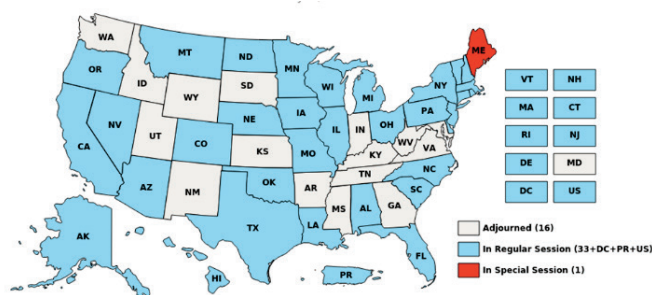
Texas Railroad Commission Oil & Gas Waste Management Forms. On April 29, the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) announced they are “accepting public comment on seven proposed new forms required to implement the newly adopted rules in 16 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 4, Subchapter A, relating to Oil & Gas Waste Management. In addition, RRC is accepting public comment on the Amended Waste Hauler Forms WH-1, WH-2 and WH-3.” These proposed new and revised RRC forms will be available for public comment through May 30, 2025. The forms and comment submission options are available on the [RRC website here](#) under “Oil & Gas Forms.” According to the RRC, “Oil & Gas Division staff will review the comments and make any necessary changes. Staff will then present the forms to the RRC Commissioners and request adoption.” [Read more.](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS FLASH

► **Permian Basin leads domestic oil production growth.** On April 26, the *Midland Reporter-Telegram* reported that the Permian Basin led domestic oil production in 2024. Citing the U.S. Energy Information Administration’s Petroleum Supply Monthly report, “the U.S. produced an average of 13.2 million barrels per day last year, up 270,000 barrels per day from 2023 levels. Almost all of that growth came from the Permian Basin.” [Read more.](#)

LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

States in Session



Session Notes: Thirty-three states are currently in regular session. The **U.S. Congress** is also in session.

The following states adjourned their 2025 legislative sessions on the dates provided: **Tennessee** (April 22), **Indiana** (April 24) and **Washington** (April 27).

The following states are scheduled to adjourn their 2025 legislative sessions on the dates provided: **Florida** and **Iowa** (May 2), **Montana** (May 5), **Colorado** (May 7), **South Carolina** (May 8) and **Arizona** and **North Dakota** (May 9).

Governor Signing Deadlines (by date): **Indiana** Republican Gov. Mike Braun has until May 8 to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Georgia** Republican Gov. Brian Kemp has until May 14 to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Maryland** Democratic Gov. Wes Moore has until May 27 to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Arkansas** Republican Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders has 20 days from presentment, Sundays excluded, to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Kansas** Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly has 10 days from presentment to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Michigan** Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has 14 days from presentment to act on legislation or it is pocket vetoed. **Tennessee** Republican Gov. Bill Lee has 10 days from presentment, Sundays excluded, to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature.

The following states are currently holding 2025 interim committee hearings and posting interim studies:

[Arkansas](#), [Kansas](#), [Kentucky](#), [South Dakota](#), [Utah](#), [Virginia](#) and [Wyoming](#). ■

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