



**Texas
Independent
Producers and
Royalty Owners
Association**

released May 1st by the Texans for Natural Gas organization. The group says in its latest economic analysis that LNG exports from the Gulf Coast of Texas will provide substantial economic benefits, generating more than \$20 billion alone in state tax revenue for the Lone Star State.

“Texas energy production has helped make the United States the world’s largest natural gas producer, providing affordable energy here at home and creating opportunities to supply energy to our allies,” said Steve Everley, spokesman for Texans for Natural Gas. “From job creation and increased tax revenue to strengthened national security, the benefits of these LNG facilities will be significant and far reaching – once again proving the profound impact Texas natural gas has in our local communities and around the world.”

The report breaks down economic contributions expected from seven different LNG projects in Texas, including: the Texas LNG project, Golden Pass LNG, Rio Grande LNG, Freeport LNG, Port Arthur LNG, Annova LNG, and the Corpus Christi LNG project. The full report can be downloaded via the following link: <http://bit.ly/2oQCvio>.

In conjunction with the group’s new report, Texans for Natural Gas also has launched a petition in support of LNG exports from the Port of Brownsville, where three projects have been proposed. The online petition describes how environmental activists from California have targeted the Texas LNG project, bringing their misinformation campaign to Texas to try to block the facility. To add your signature to this petition and share your support of the Texas LNG project, visit: <http://bit.ly/2qt9Gbf>.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY APPROVES LNG EXPORTS FROM TEXAS FACILITY

The U.S. Department of Energy announced on April 25th that it has issued authorization to Golden Pass Products, LLC, to export domestically produced liquefied natural gas (LNG) abroad, enabling Golden Pass Products to export LNG from its terminal near Sabine Pass, in Jefferson County, Texas, to the market worldwide.



Photo courtesy of Golden Pass Products

“This announcement is another example of President Trump’s leadership in making the United States an energy dominant force. This is not only good for our economy and American jobs but also assists other countries with their energy security,” stated U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry.

The U.S. Department of Energy has authorized a total of 19.2 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) of natural gas exports to non-Free Trade Agreement (NFTA) nations from planned facilities in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, and Maryland. These projects, if built, would position the United States to be the dominant LNG exporter in the world.

NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS POWERFUL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TEXAS’ LNG PROJECTS

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities in Texas could create more than 136,000 jobs nationwide and have an economic impact of more than \$145 billion, according to a new report



The construction of this LNG facility will provide 45,000 direct and indirect jobs over five years, Golden Pass estimates, and will support 3,800 direct and indirect permanent jobs over the next 25 years of operational activity. Golden Pass also projects that the cumulative impact of construction of the facility combined with 25 years of operation will provide up to \$2.4 billion in federal tax revenues and \$1.2 billion in state tax revenues.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TIPRO Members,

With less than 30 days remaining in Texas' 85th Regular Legislative Session, our organization has been hard at work advocating for Texas lawmakers to approve sound public policy measures that will protect, promote and advance our industry, a commitment TIPRO has held since our association was formed in 1946. Throughout the 2017 session, TIPRO's policy team and active members of the association have helped to advance our priorities at the state capitol, meeting directly with legislators and their staff to express our association's positions on key bills that are under consideration by the legislature this year. On behalf of TIPRO's membership, I've also had the opportunity to meet with elected officials and provide testimony before House and Senate legislative committees on the top issues of concern for our members, including passage of the Railroad Commission sunset bill (House Bill 1818), the continuation of the state's TexNet seismic monitoring program (House Bill 2819) and the legislature's approval of severance tax relief for Texas operators (House Bill 3201), to name a few examples.

Whether at the Texas legislature, through our regular interaction with various agencies, or other functions being held across the state, TIPRO remains dedicated to our core mission of fighting to preserve the ability for independents to explore for and produce oil and natural gas. Outside of our association's work at the capitol, in recent months I've also taken advantage of distinct opportunities offered through TIPRO events and industry forums to speak to hundreds of Texans about TIPRO's ongoing advocacy and education efforts. As an example, I was pleased to recently attend a private reception with Texas Governor Greg Abbott and NASDAQ, where the governor expressed his strong commitment to energy and innovation in our state to a select group of attendees. The governor and I also had the chance to visit about TIPRO and the current state of our industry.

TIPRO continues to serve as a resource to help educate Texans on the oil and gas industry, a service we are proud to offer to help others understand the critical importance our industry serves. As referenced in our previous newsletter, last week TIPRO exhibited at the Earth Day Texas event, which as you can imagine was a unique, yet valuable experience. TIPRO staff were able to interface with many attendees to talk about contributions from oil and gas and continued efforts pursued by the industry to protect our environment. Oil and gas regulators on the federal and state level also participated in the Earth Day gathering this year, including EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Energy Secretary Rick Perry and Texas Railroad Commissioner Ryan Sitton.

TIPRO appreciates the opportunity to spread the message on the significance of oil and gas. We also appreciate the support we continuously receive from our loyal members. Our work and many substantive contributions over the past seven decades would not be possible without it.

Our association has continued to evolve and increase our resources over the years through our member support, while maintaining our commitment to our core mission. I wanted to take a moment to recognize some of the individuals that have been engaged with, and supportive of, our organization in excess of 50 years:

- R. H. Pickens with the Pickens Company, Inc.: TIPRO member since 1946
- E. L. "Terry" Smith with Ozark Exploration, Inc./Smith Oil Co., Inc.: TIPRO member since 1946
- Currie Smith with Texilvania, LTD: TIPRO member since 1946
- Patrick Swearingen: TIPRO member since 1946
- Mike Waltrip with Petrohill Resources, LLC: TIPRO member since 1946
- W.C. Bahan with Bahan Resources Partners, LP: TIPRO member since 1947
- Phil Kendrick with Kendrick Oil and Gas Company: TIPRO member since 1947
- Joseph O'Neill with O'Neill Properties, Ltd.: TIPRO member since 1949
- Billy Doornbos with C. Doornbos Minerals, LP: TIPRO member since 1950
- Barron Kidd with Kidd Family Partnership, Ltd.: TIPRO member since 1953
- Chester Bengue with Big "6" Drilling Co.: TIPRO member since 1953
- Stephen Bell with Cimarex Energy Co.: TIPRO member since 1956
- A. Jones with Van Operating, Ltd: TIPRO member since 1956
- Stephen Pearce with TIW Corp.: TIPRO member since 1956
- Robert Zinn with Zinn Petroleum Company: TIPRO member since 1957
- Joseph Canon with Tejon Exploration Co.: TIPRO member since 1958
- David Crockett with Stonetex Oil Corp.: TIPRO member since 1958
- Peter O'Donnell, independent: TIPRO member since 1959
- Cary Maguire with Maguire Oil Co.: TIPRO member since 1960
- H. Whitworth with Scott, Douglass & McConnico, LLP: TIPRO member since 1960
- Joseph Abel with M.D. Abel Co.: TIPRO member since 1961
- Rolla Long, independent: TIPRO member since 1962
- Clayton Williams with Clayton Williams Energy, Inc.: TIPRO member since 1964

We cherish these relationships and are honored to represent thousands of individuals that have helped shape this incredible industry.

Thank you,

Ed Longanecker



Ed Longanecker

CATCH UP ON LATEST LEGISLATIVE UPDATES AS SESSION ENTERS FINAL MONTH

There are approximately three weeks left until Sine Die of Texas' 85th Regular Legislative Session. At this point in the legislative process, it is important to stay vigilant. As the clock runs out, the legislative pace moves quickly and before you know it, a dead bill has been resurrected or a bill flying through the process may suddenly come to a halt. Many of TIPRO's priorities this session are moving steadily - below is a brief synopsis of key legislation for TIPRO and their respective status.

- House Bill 1818 by Representative Larry Gonzales, Senator Craig Estes and Senator Van Taylor, known as the Railroad Commission Sunset Bill, was passed out of the Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development Committee on May 2, 2017, with a vote of 9 ayes and 2 nays. The bill will be taken up by the full Senate in the coming days.
- House Bill 2377 by Representative Lyle Larson, relating to the development of brackish groundwater, is being heard on the House floor this week. If favorably voted out of the House, it will be sent to the Senate for review.
- House Bill 2715 by Representative Drew Darby, relating to the composition and use of the oil and gas regulatory and cleanup fund, has been passed by the House, and will now be sent to the Senate chamber for consideration.
- House Bill 2819 by Representative Drew Darby, relating to the TexNet Seismic Program, has been passed by the House, and will now be sent to the Senate chamber for consideration.
- House Bill 3201 by Representative Drew Darby, relating to severance tax incentives for inactive wells, has been voted out of the House Ways and Means Committee and will now be sent to the House Calendars Committee.
- Senate Bill 26 by Senator Craig Estes, relating to the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) program, has passed the Senate and is currently under review by the House Committee on Environmental Regulation.
- Senate Bill 740 by Senator Lois Kolkhorst, relating to the acquisition of property using eminent domain authority, has passed the Senate and may now be considered by the House.
- Senate Bill 1305 by Senator Robert Nichols, relating to the repeal of the County Energy Transportation Reinvestment Zones (CETRZ) program, has passed the Senate and is currently in the House Calendars Committee, awaiting to be set for consideration by the full House.

Another priority for our organization this session is the budget appropriations that will be approved by the legislature for the 2018-2019 biennium for the Texas Railroad Commission, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and funding for the TexNet Seismic Research program. Funding of the Railroad Commission and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality falls under the jurisdiction of Article VI of the state budget bill, Senate Bill 1. The budget items are currently being reviewed by a conference committee comprised of House and Senate appointees. The conference committee is tasked with working through the discrepancies between the two budgets as passed from either chamber. As budget negotiations continue at the capitol, TIPRO will continue to actively work to lobby for adequate appropriations to be made to these regulatory entities to ensure a stable regulatory environment in the state of Texas, and promote the need for the state to continue to provide funding of the TexNet program.

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD PUBLISHES ANALYSIS ON BUDGET DIFFERENCES

This week, the Texas Legislative Budget Board (LBB) published an article with an overview on where the House and Senate budget proposals differentiate for the 2018-2019 biennium. The report provides that for all funds the Senate has proposed a total budget of \$217.7 billion and General Revenue Funds of \$106.3 billion. Meanwhile, the House has proposed \$218.1 billion in all funds and \$104.4 billion in General Revenue Funds. The article with the greatest difference is Article III, with a difference of \$822 million. With regard to natural resources funding under Article VI, the Senate has proposed \$823.9 million, while the House budget allocates \$757.4 million.

RAINY DAY FUND INVESTMENT BILL TENTATIVELY APPROVED BY HOUSE

House Bill 855, authored by state Representative Giovanni Capriglione, would transfer money from the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) to a Texas Legacy Fund to be invested in conservative financial instruments to earn enough interest to keep pace with inflation. The bill as passed on second reading in the House of Representatives this week sets a sufficient balance threshold for the ESF, also known as the Rainy Day Fund, which for the next biennium would stand at \$7.5 billion. Currently the ESF balance is \$10.2 billion. Advocates for House Bill 855 argue that this funding often gets buried in treasury notes which earn less than .5 percent interest.

APPROACHING DEADLINES FOR THE 85TH REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

As the legislature winds through the final weeks of the 2017 legislative session, below are key dates of interest and noteworthy legislative deadlines:

- Last day for House committees to report House bills: May 8, 2017
- Last day for House to consider House bills on second reading: May 11, 2017
- Last day for House to consider House bills on third reading: May 12, 2017
- Last day for House committees to report Senate bills: May 20, 2017
- Adjournment Sine Die: May 29, 2017
- Deadline for Texas Governor to sign or veto legislation: June 18, 2017

RAILROAD COMMISSION SUNSET LEGISLATION ENTERS FINAL STAGES OF APPROVAL

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development favorably voted on Tuesday, May 2nd to pass House Bill 1818, legislation that will continue the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) for the next 12 years. TIPRO's President Ed Longanecker testified before the legislative panel Tuesday, expressing the association's support of the bill and encouraging lawmakers to approve the legislation. During the committee hearing, eight amendments to House Bill 1818 were laid out by Senator Judith Zaffirini on behalf of Senator José Rodriguez, all of which were pulled down. The amendments included:

- Allowing the RRC or TCEQ to authorize a city to inspect facilities used in oil and gas operations for violations.
- Limiting certain political contributions to RRC commissioners.
- Allowing cities to enforce regulations on subsurface safety valves during hurricanes or other catastrophic events.
- Renaming the RRC to the Texas Energy Resources Commission.
- Raises the minimum amount of enforcement penalties.
- Requiring RRC to develop a review on unpermitted discharges of oil and gas waste.
- Removing the e-verify provision in the bill.
- Requiring RRC to develop a searchable database with enforcement information.

House Bill 1818 still must be voted on by the entire Senate, which is expected to occur next week. If passed by the legislature, the Railroad Commission Sunset bill will then be sent to Governor Greg Abbott for final approval.

EPA ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT EMPHASIZES AGENCY NOW "IS PUTTING AMERICAN WORKERS FIRST"

At the start of May, Scott Pruitt, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), penned a special editorial for *The Washington Times* affirming the agency's commitment to putting a stop to the regulatory assault on American workers. "We should not have to choose between supporting jobs and supporting the environment," reasons the chief regulator of the EPA. "President Trump made it clear that we should put America first. We are not going to allow EPA to pick winners and losers through regulation. EPA should work within the framework that Congress has established. And we should provide regulatory certainty and write rules that make sense for the states and the businesses they affect," vows Pruitt.

In his new op-ed, Pruitt also reiterated a common tagline of President Trump, proclaiming that the war against coal and fossil fuels is now over.

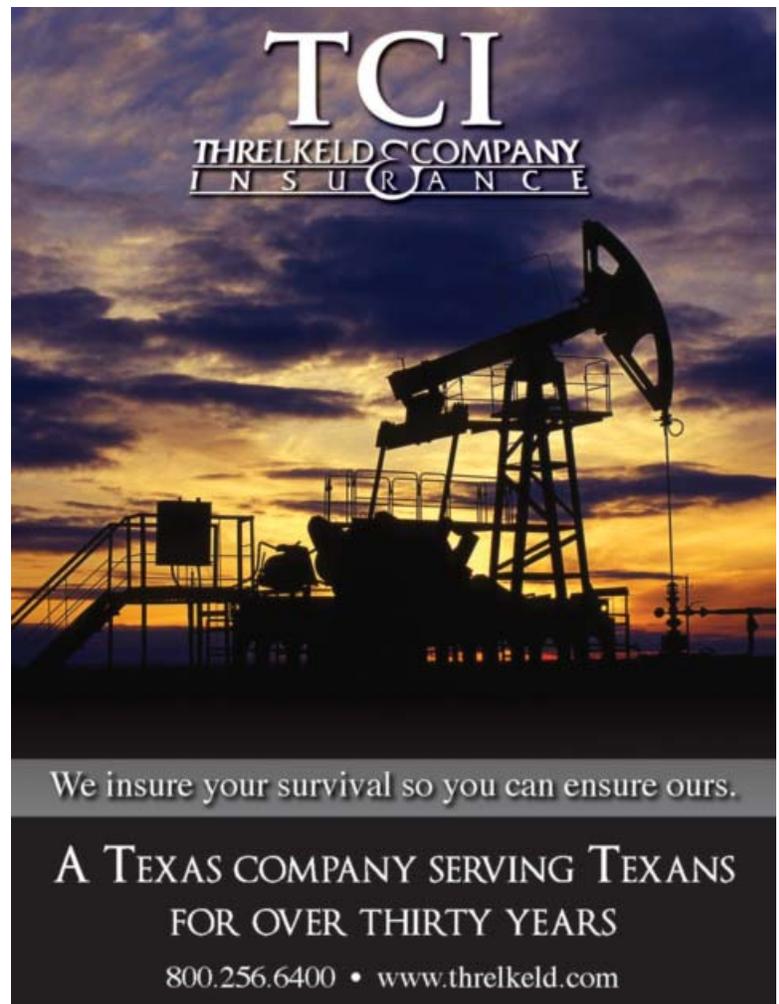
D.C. COURT FREEZES REVIEW OF EPA'S CLEAN POWER PLAN

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia announced on Friday, April 28, 2017, that the court will hold in abeyance for 60 days its consideration of litigation relating to the Clean Power Plan (CPP), as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) works to review the air regulation issued in 2015. In accordance with an executive order issued by President Donald Trump in March that directed the EPA to unwind the plan, following the agency's review of the regulation, if appropriate, the EPA will initiate proceedings to suspend, revise or rescind the CPP. As such, EPA officials had asked the court to suspend its current review of CPP litigation to allow the agency sufficient time to reconsider the Obama-era plan.

The CPP established strict guidelines under the Clean Air Act restricting carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired power plants. Due to concerns over the onerous regulation, 27 states, including the state of Texas, legally challenged the EPA's CPP. Handing the coalition of states fighting the CPP a victory, in 2016, the Supreme Court issued a stay against implementation of the CPP pending judicial review. Since then, the CPP case has been left pending in the D.C. Circuit.

Calling the court's recent decision "gratifying," Texas Attorney General Paxton said last week that action to dismantle the Clean Power Plan "will help prevent higher electricity costs and avert weakening the nation's power grid."

"We look forward to restoring balance and cooperation between the states and the EPA," added Paxton.



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REMINDER: EPA STILL COLLECTING PUBLIC INPUT ON REGULATORY REFORM

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is still soliciting public feedback on federal regulations that may be appropriate for repeal, replacement, or modification. In accordance with President Trump's Executive Order 13777, "Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda," signed in February, the agency is seeking public input on existing EPA regulations, particularly those rules which may be overly burdensome, inhibit job creation or be considered as outdated, unnecessary, or ineffective. Public comments may be submitted online through the [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) website, under Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OA-2017-0190. Comments must be received on or before May 15, 2017.

EPA offices are also simultaneously conducting additional outreach to garner input on existing environmental and energy policies that should be reevaluated. Through mid-May, agency personnel are hosting public meetings, virtual listening sessions and webinars to engage in a dialogue with the American public on what regulatory measures the EPA should rollback or eliminate.

To learn more details on regulatory reform efforts underway at the EPA, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2o7SdjB>.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LOOKS AT EASING REGULATIONS FOR OFFSHORE OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT

President Donald Trump, joined by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and members of Congress from coastal states, signed a new executive order on Friday, April 28th aimed at reigniting offshore oil and gas development. The America First Offshore Energy Executive Order instructs leadership of the U.S. Department of Interior and U.S. Department of Commerce to take action on regulatory restrictions for the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) by reviewing areas closed off under the federal government's current five-year [2017-2022] plan for sale of offshore oil and gas leases, without disrupting any scheduled lease sales. The president also has ordered the secretary of the Interior to evaluate four specific rules and regulations put in place last year that could unnecessarily restrict exploration and development of energy resources in the OCS. The regulations that are to be reviewed include:

- Notice to Lessees and Operators of Federal Oil and Gas, and Sulfur Leases, and Holders of Pipeline Right-of-Way and Right-of-Use and Easement Grants in the Outer Continental Shelf;
- Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf-Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control;
- Air Quality Control, Reporting, and Compliance; and,
- Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf—Requirements for Exploratory Drilling on the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf.

Further, under the new executive order, the president has also tasked the secretary of the Interior with implementing a streamlined permitting approach for privately funded seismic data collection to determine additional offshore energy resource potential for the United States.

"I am going to lift the restrictions on American energy, and allow this wealth to pour into our communities," President Trump declared as he signed the new offshore energy executive order.

Approximately 94 percent of the U.S. OCS's 1.7 billion acres are either off-limits to or not considered for oil and gas exploration and development under the current (2017-2022) leasing program, according to the White House, although the OCS is believed to contain up to 90 billion barrels of undiscovered technically recoverable oil and 327 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered technically recoverable natural gas. Moreover, the Trump Administration reports that revenue to the federal government from leasing the OCS has fallen by over 80 percent in the last eight years, dropping from \$18 billion in 2008 to \$2.8 billion in 2016.

Now, President Trump's directive seeks to unravel restrictions on the OCS that have locked away America's energy potential.

Secretary Zinke hailed the president's new executive order, saying, "This order will cement our nation's position as a global energy leader and foster energy security for the benefit of the American people, while ensuring that any such activity is safe and environmentally responsible."

Days after the president unveiled the new offshore executive order, Secretary Zinke took action to implement the administration's America-First Offshore Energy Strategy, signing two secretarial orders on May 1st on the floor of the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC). Zinke was a featured speaker at this year's OTC, where he highlighted the Interior's focus on opening more federal lands to oil and gas development. Flanked by men and women who work on offshore oil and gas platforms, at OTC, Secretary Zinke officially directed the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to develop a new five-year plan for oil and gas exploration in offshore waters, with full consideration to be given to leasing the OCS offshore Alaska, mid- and south-Atlantic, and the Gulf of Mexico. The BOEM also is to reconsider a number of regulations governing offshore activities. "We're going to look at everything and make sure the policies are appropriate for each local community, rather than force a Washington-driven one-size-fits-all plan," remarked Zinke. "There's no predetermined map of development, but if there are areas that are acceptable, that have resources, and states and local communities support offshore development, we could include those area in the next five-year program," he commented.

The second order signed Monday by Secretary Zinke establishes a new position – counselor to the secretary for energy policy – to coordinate the Interior Department's vast energy portfolio that spans across nine of the department's ten bureaus. Zinke announced that Vincent DeVito has been appointed to serve under the new role. DeVito will advise the secretary, deputy secretary, chief of staff and assistant secretaries on all aspects of energy policy and ensure policy coordination among the Interior's different bureaus, and will work to advance the Trump Administration's goal of American energy independence.

Zinke expressed his commitment to guiding efforts at the Interior Department in working with the offshore oil and gas industry as well as coastal communities to allow for responsible, safe energy development.

PENTAGON PRESSES CONGRESS TO KEEP MORATORIUM ON OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE GULF

Although at the end of April President Trump issued an executive order looking to expand offshore energy development, the Department of Defense has asked members of Congress to maintain the current moratorium on oil and gas activities for the Gulf of Mexico, particularly the eastern edge of the Gulf where military testing and training exercises are conducted. Currently there is a no-drilling zone in the eastern Gulf that extends 125 miles off much of Florida's Gulf Coast to protect vital military training areas. This drilling moratorium is scheduled to last through June 30, 2022, though recent efforts by the Trump administration to resume offshore development could conflict with military readiness activities in the area.

While leaders of the Department of Defense express full support of the development of our nation's domestic energy resources, the Pentagon "cannot overstate the vital importance of maintaining this moratorium," wrote Anthony M. Kurta, the acting Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, in a letter sent April 26th to U.S. Representative Matt Gaetz (R-Florida). Kurta requests intervention by Congressional leaders to clarify intentions regarding the moratorium prohibiting geological and geophysical activities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR TO REVIEW DESIGNATIONS OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS

President Donald Trump has called on the U.S. Department of Interior to conduct a review of at least 50 national monuments to determine whether existing boundaries are "well beyond the areas in need of protection" and to recommend potential changes. The Antiquities Act Executive Order, signed by the president last Wednesday, April 26, tasks the secretary of the Interior with consulting local governments and tribes in order to review national monuments created by the Antiquities Act since January 1, 1996, that are greater than 100,000 acres in footprint and report back to the president on suggested legislative or executive action, if applicable, within 120 days.

If changes to national monuments are deemed appropriate, it could open more opportunities in the future for additional drilling activity to be permitted on federal lands.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION STARTS PROCESS TO FORMALLY WITHDRAW 'WOTUS' REGULATIONS



At the beginning of May, federal regulators initiated the process to officially rescind the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, finalized in 2015 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Earlier this year, President Donald Trump ordered that the administrator of the EPA and the assistant secretary of the Army for Civil Works review the Clean Water Rule, and publish for notice and comment a proposed rule rescinding or revising the rule, as appropriate and consistent with law. This week, the EPA delivered to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a draft rule to withdraw the WOTUS rule.

"The overreaching WOTUS rule would put prairie potholes and puddles under Washington's control," said U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, in a statement on the start of the process to withdraw the federal water regulations. "Now, the Trump administration is taking the important first steps to remove this punishing regulation and start over. We can protect America's waterways without hurting our farmers, ranchers, and landowners."

The OMB will have up to 90 days to review the proposal to roll back WOTUS regulations. After that step is completed, then the EPA's proposal will be made available in the *Federal Register* for public comment.

EPA UPDATES OFFICIAL WEBSITE CONTENT TO REFLECT "ADMINISTRATION'S NEW PRIORITIES"

Visitors to the official website of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may notice changes being made to the content posted online at EPA.gov. The EPA reports that it has kicked off efforts to update material offered via its website in order to reflect the agency's new direction under President Donald Trump and Administrator Scott Pruitt. In doing so, the EPA says it will ensure that the public can use the website to accurately understand the agency's current efforts and priorities.

"As EPA renews its commitment to human health and clean air, land, and water, our website needs to reflect the views of the leadership of the agency," commented J.P. Freire, associate administrator for public affairs at the EPA. "We want to eliminate confusion by removing outdated language first and making room to discuss how we're protecting the environment and human health by partnering with states and working within the law."

The first webpage to be modified under the EPA website relates to President Trump's Executive Order on Energy Independence -- to see the updated webpage, visit: www.epa.gov/energy-independence. Other planned changes in the works to the EPA website include the revision of content discussing climate change and regulation.

The EPA notes that it will properly archive past material on environmental issues from the prior administration, including a screenshot of the last administration's website that will remain available from the main page of the EPA website.

EPA AWARDS TCEQ \$8.3 MILLION GRANT FOR WATER QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

This week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it has awarded the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) a performance partnership grant of \$8,354,808 for administering water quality and environmental programs. The grant will be used to support TCEQ programs that prevent, reduce and eliminate water pollution by setting quality standards, monitoring water quality, granting permits, and assuring compliance with regulations. The EPA says that funds will also help administer TCEQ’s environmental management programs, which monitor, abate and control hazardous waste, solid waste, air pollution, and pesticides.

“Complex environmental problems require innovation and teamwork across different environmental programs,” said Acting EPA Regional Administrator Sam Coleman. “Performance partnership grants allow EPA’s state partners like TCEQ to have greater flexibility in how they approach their goals.”

For more about EPA’s work in Texas and other related updates, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/tx>.

EPA ADMINISTRATOR, CONGRESSMAN MIKE CONAWAY DISCUSS ISSUES IMPORTANT TO TEXAS

Texas Congressman Mike Conaway (TX-11) met with Scott Pruitt, leader of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on Wednesday, May 3rd in Washington, D.C. to discuss chief environmental and economic issues important to the people of the state of Texas, as well as the nation at large.

“Today’s meeting with Administrator Pruitt was a great step toward establishing an open dialogue with the EPA. There are many issues that still need to be addressed to help relieve rural America from burdensome regulations, but I am excited Administrator Pruitt is committed to addressing the concerns of America’s farmers and ranchers. I look forward to working with him on these issues,” said Congressman Conaway.

“I appreciated the opportunity to meet with Congressman Conaway today and discuss the issues important to our nation and to the people of Texas,” said Administrator Pruitt. “The people of Texas and their elected representatives deserve an EPA that is focused on the basics of protecting the environment, engaging with state and local partners, and ensuring sensible regulations for economic growth.”

EPA Administrator Pruitt also met this week on Capitol Hill with representatives from Illinois, North Carolina, and Oregon to assess wide-ranging environmental issues facing other states across the nation.



Pictured: EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and Congressman Mike Conaway (TX-11) meet on Capitol Hill. Source: EPA.

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER RYAN SITTON LAUNCHES VIRTUAL TOUR OF EAGLE FORD RIG

Without leaving your computer desk, Texans now can join Railroad Commissioner Ryan Sitton on a rig tour at an Eagle Ford Shale well site. Commissioner Sitton launched the new virtual reality rig tour in late April, providing Texans with the opportunity to experience firsthand the initial steps in the oil production process and learn how the Railroad Commission ensures that drilling operations are conducted safely and responsibly. Viewers start the four-minute tour at the entrance of the rig site and are taken step by step through the main components of the rig.

“This is a fantastic opportunity, where Texans can hear the sounds of a drilling operations and almost reach out and touch the drilling pipe. It’s as close as you can get without actually setting foot on a rig,” Commissioner Sitton said.

“One of my goals as Railroad Commissioner is to educate Texans about where their energy comes from and virtual reality tours are a great way to give adults and children an opportunity they wouldn’t otherwise have to learn about the oil and gas industry,” added the commissioner.

The virtual rig tour is available on the Railroad Commission’s YouTube channel -- TIPRO members interested in watching the tour may visit the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mzaw8_MwBME.

TIPRO Calendar of Events

<p>MAY 10, 2017 HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.</p>	<p>JUNE 14, 2017 HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.</p>	<p>JULY 12, 2017 HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.</p>	<p>AUGUST 9, 2017 HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.</p>
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Argus North American Natural Gas Markets

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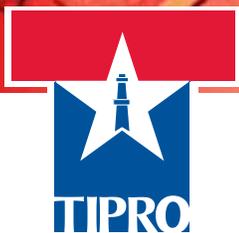
Guest speaker:



Bill Richardson,
Governor of New Mexico (2003-2010), Former U.S. Energy Secretary, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and Member of the U.S. House of Representatives

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