



**Texas
Independent
Producers and
Royalty Owners
Association**

HOUSE ENERGY RESOURCES COMMITTEE HOSTS LEGISLATIVE HEARING IN MIDLAND

Members of the state House Energy Resources Committee hosted a special public hearing this week in Midland to take up several interim charges relating to oil and gas development in the state of Texas. During the December 12th meeting, legislators discussed ways in which the state can address and improve road quality in areas experiencing increased traffic from drilling activity. The committee also looked at how Texas can help to support workforce needs for the industry, and better capture the full economic potential presented from development of the prolific Permian Basin.

As production grows within the area, primarily within the Delaware Basin, and as commodity prices continue to increase, it is imperative that oil and gas operators have adequately skilled and trained personnel to respond to their operational needs. In an effort to provide legislators with an understanding of what is being done relevant to workforce development at the collegiate level in the Permian and to learn more specifically what their needs are, the committee heard invited testimony from Dr. Steve Thomas, president of Midland College, Dr. Gregory Williams, president of Odessa College, Dr. Sandra Woodley, president of The University of Texas of the Permian Basin, and Paul Treadwell, senior vice president of Parsley Energy. Testimony from these individuals focused on workforce readiness; creating relevant degrees that allow for real world scenario training programs; transfer programs offered for students in geology and engineering; and creating stackable skills programs to help students in career and technical education. Additionally, a collective request was made from the panel for appropriate funding for primary and secondary education within areas of increased oil and gas operations.



TIPRO State Issues Committee Member Jimmy Carlile, with Fasken Oil and Ranch, also testified at Tuesday's field hearing on the interim charge tied to monitoring the Railroad Commission. In his testimony, he commended the agency for their response to technology changes and for adopting appropriate and fair regulations. "The Railroad Commission has done a phenomenal job recognizing the rapid technology that is this industry and making appropriate changes so they can stay current and regulate appropriately," emphasized Carlile. "All the while, the agency has stayed true to their mission of protecting the public, the environment and the correlative rights of all Texans." Carlile also touched on the needs of the agency, specifically IT upgrades that have been critical to bringing the commission up to par with today's industry standards.

Following the hearing, TIPRO hosted a reception and dinner in Midland with members of the association, legislators and staff, along with allied trades. TIPRO President Ed Longanecker addressed those lawmakers in attendance by thanking them for their continued leadership and representation at the legislature. "It is our pleasure as an industry to have the opportunity to show you one of the most prolific places within our great state. The industry's contributions to the state and local economies of Texas are of unprecedented significance and we cannot thank you enough for your continued support from a policy and regulatory perspective," Longanecker said.

CHRIS WALLACE FROM 'FOX NEWS' TO HEADLINE TIPRO'S ANNUAL CONVENTION NEXT MARCH



Mark your calendar for TIPRO's 72nd Annual Convention, set to take place March 26-27, 2018, at the Westin Memorial City Hotel in Houston. TIPRO is pleased to announce that at the meeting Mr. Chris Wallace, political commentator and television anchor of 'Fox News Sunday,' will provide the keynote address to TIPRO members, sharing his perspective from Washington on federal action from the Trump administration. Other guest presenters at TIPRO's 2018 Convention will include industry executives, legislative leaders, energy regulators and oil and natural gas experts.

Sponsorship opportunities are now available for TIPRO's next conference - please consider signing up today to support TIPRO's Annual Convention. Click here to see more information: <http://bit.ly/2CfB7cb>.

Watch for additional details on the TIPRO Convention to be announced soon!

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

TIPRO members,

Christ you know it ain't easy. You know hard it can be. The way things are going, they're going to crucify me. – Ballad of John and Yoko.

MIT released a report on December 1st that got a lot of coverage by the press, including the *Houston Chronicle*, a periodical that clearly has issues with our industry. In its report, MIT -- a school that curiously does not offer petroleum engineering as a degree option -- freely opines that its top down analysis of the Bakken Shale shows the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) prognosis for U.S. unconventional production is "massively overstated" because the EIA called on technological advancements to add 10 percent improvement per year, while MIT calculates that technology improvement is actually only contributing 6.5 percent growth per year, with the remainder of the improvement due to targeting sweet spots. MIT then further extrapolated that since this was true of the Bakken, and that since the sweet spots of the Bakken were nearly completely drilled out, this must be true of un conventionals in general, and therefore, that the "end was near"!

The problem with this report is that the increase in frac effort has been focused on a much smaller rock volume. In fact, the amount of rock being stimulated today is around a quarter of that being stimulated just a couple of years ago. In essence, think of a well as a straw in a can. Not only are we recovering 15 percent more per can, we are REDUCING the size of the cans. Today, they are a quarter the size as before! That means, even if we had flat production, we are expanding recoverable resources by four. A lot more cans to be harvested. Whoops.

The other Cassandra to un conventionals put forth lately is the "bubble point." In essence, the argument is that once an unconventional reservoir reaches bubble point, the oil production decreases radically while the gas production increases radically, thus the decline parameters have a catastrophic step change. What we really see is a steady progression of oil/gas ratio in a lot of cases. We also are just starting to see reinjection of natural gas or ethane as a "flood" and pressure maintenance reinjection to good effect. Not a Cassandra, but an opportunity!

One of my favorite radio shows is "A Florida Man," where they synopsise the crazy news of the week that starts with "A Florida (man, woman, or organization)." I nominate the fellow in the *St. Petersburg Times* who had a rousing editorial on the time is NOW to ban frac'ing. Now that we live in a world in which we are offended by all sorts of things, like wearing an American flag patch on a ball cap, how do sonorous nitwits blathering about destroying both our property rights and destroying our economy escape the label of "offensive"? Sorry, maybe I need my safe space.

Francisco Madura, that symbol of socialist hope that illustrates that neither being born to privilege, hard work, or being moderately intelligent is a requirement for success in life, particularly in the political arena, and even more particularly in the Latin American socialist political arena, is proposing a new currency! The "petro," backed by the "oil reserves" that Venezuela is rapidly losing the ability to produce, and delivered as a "digital cryptocurrency." In any case, it combines the benefits of Bitcoin while addressing Bitcoin's one structural weakness... control by an incompetent socialist government. Call it a "Kleptocurrency."

In closing, isn't it ironic that a line from a song that captures very well how I feel about the myriad challenges we have in creating a better life for our fellow citizens of the planet was written by the better half of one the loudest voices calling for us to freeze in the dark?

Regards,
Allen Gilmer



Allen Gilmer

TIPRO'S LINDSEY MILLER JOINS BOARD OF TEXAS NATURAL GAS FOUNDATION

Lindsey Miller, director of government and regulatory affairs for the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO), recently was appointed to serve on the board of the Texas Natural Gas Foundation. The foundation provides scholarly research, education and public awareness about Texas natural gas, and its vital role in energy security, economic growth and benefits to the environment. Amongst other initiatives, the group is currently spearheading the Texas Energy Education project, designed to improve the curriculum studied by middle school and high school students in Texas about the benefits provided from energy development.

TIPRO Calendar of Events

JANUARY 10, 2018	FEBRUARY 7-9, 2018	FEBRUARY 14, 2018	MARCH 14, 2018
HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.	HOUSTON — 2018 NAPE Summit, George R. Brown Convention Center For info, call: (817) 847-7700.	HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.	HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.

RRC ISSUES NOTICE TO OIL AND GAS OPERATORS ON CEMENT CASING REQUIREMENTS

In a notice to oil and gas operators, the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) says it has modified methods to calculate the top of cement (TOC) for cemented casing strings, also referred to as calculation for a washout factor. According to the agency, the recommendation to provide guidance on this issue was initially incorporated in Chairman Christi Craddick's Texas Oilfield Relief Initiative.

Issues with the TOC and washout factors did not surface until amendments to Statewide Rule (SWR) 13 were implemented and the Railroad Commission database was set up with predetermined washout factors (by county) to calculate top of cement calculation and audit against SWR 13 requirements, particularly the new requirement to cement across disposal zones, production zones, potential flow zones, and corrosive zones. To date, Railroad Commission personnel have used an Underground Injection Control diagram to determine which counties should have the 30 percent washout. If a washout is used that is less than the standard built into the system, then that completion report is flagged for a review process as "inadequate" giving the appearance that wells were not cemented in accordance with SWR 13. The concern with the issues also originates from guidance policy that was established in a different era where most wells were drilled vertically with water based mud. Industry experience has shown that new mud programs, particularly drilling with oil based mud in shale plays results in significantly less washout, often well below 10 percent.

Included with the notice to Texas operators, the Railroad Commission noted that they have completed a review of the baseline washout factors used in all RRC calculations. As finalized, the agency has modified the equation used to calculate the TOC and the washout factor to be consistent with the industry practice for calculating excess borehole volume. The improved accuracy of the commission's calculations will save both the agency and the operators' time previously involved in resolving discrepancies between the RRC-calculated and the operator-reported TOC calculations for washout factors.

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER WAYNE CHRISTIAN HOSTS ENERGY WORKFORCE SUMMIT

In early December, Texas Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian brought together stakeholders for a workshop to continue conversations on strategies to support student education and workforce development for the oil and gas industry. The meeting followed action taken earlier this year from the commissioner, who in August launched an initiative seeking to address future workforce needs for Texas oil and gas companies, particularly as the Texas energy sector continues to expand.

At Commissioner Christian's December 12th meeting in Austin, participants -- which included TIPRO, along with members of industry, academia and government -- considered ways to match existing industry job opportunities to both high school and college curriculum provided to Texas students. Stakeholders also discussed how to encourage other important lifestyle characteristics that can often get lost in technical skills training, such as establishing a culture of safety, avoiding drug/alcohol abuse, personal health, initiative and work ethic. At the forum, Dr. Ken Morgan from the Texas Christian University (TCU) also presented on the 2018 statewide Teacher Energy Education project, being led by the Texas Natural Gas Foundation, which seeks to deploy new curriculum to better educate students in public schools about the economic benefits generated from energy development.

WITH TEXAS' PRIMARY ELECTION THREE MONTHS AWAY, CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE PASSES

Monday, December 11, 2017, marked the deadline for political candidates to file declaration of intent to appear on the ballot for the state's 2018 primary election. Every major statewide official in Texas will be up for re-election next year.

Though there were little surprises with the filing window closing, some of the updates making headlines this week: former Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson has announced he will challenge current Commissioner George P. Bush in the Republican Primary to lead the agency. San Antonio businessman Weston Martinez also revealed he will run against Railroad Commission Chairman Christi Craddick in the race for the Republican nomination for Railroad Commissioner. In addition, as many as ten candidates announced they will seek the Democratic party nomination for governor of Texas in the primary election, hoping to challenge Republican Governor Greg Abbott in next year's general election.

TWDB CHAIRMAN BECH BRUUN RESIGNS, ANNOUNCES BID FOR CONGRESS

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Chairman Bech Bruun announced his resignation on Thursday, December 7, stepping down from the agency to run for Congress as U.S. Representative of Texas' 27th Congressional District. Currently Blake Farenthold represents the 27th District for Texas. Farenthold has announced following completion of his current term, he will not seek re-election.

A native to Corpus Christi, Bruun cited recent events such as the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey on the coastal bend region as part of his decision to focus on public service closer to home. "Across District 27, people are suffering from the after-effects of Hurricane Harvey," Bruun remarked. "We need a strong conservative in Congress who remembers he works for the people back home and who can work with other members of Congress and with state officials to help rebuild the hard hit areas of this district." Bruun added, "We've got to cut federal regulations and simplify the tax code so that business can create more jobs. And, we have to help provide the necessary infrastructure so that the ports in our district can continue to grow our economy."

Bruun had served as chairman of the TWDB since 2015, after joining the state's water development board two years prior in 2013. Prior to his time at TWDB, he was a senior staff member of former Texas Governor Rick Perry, and previously served as chief of staff for State Representative Todd Hunter of Corpus Christi.

APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS FOR 2018 SWIFT FUNDING CYCLE

Applications are now being accepted for the 2018 funding cycle of the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT), the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) announced in early December. SWIFT - approved by the legislature and voters in 2013 - helps communities develop and optimize water supplies at cost-effective rates by providing low-interest loans, extended repayment terms, deferral of loan repayments, and incremental repurchase terms for projects with state ownership aspects. To be eligible to receive financial assistance through SWIFT, projects must be recommended in the 2017 State Water Plan.

“The state water plan is the starting point for developing the water projects Texas will need in the future. Savings from the SWIFT program are so substantial—\$400 million in just 3 years—that communities are incentivized to participate in the planning process and implement projects sooner rather than later,” said Peter Lake, TWDB board member.

TWDB Board member Kathleen Jackson added, “Texas communities of all sizes with many different needs have received SWIFT funding for a variety of projects. In this cycle, we expect other communities to follow their lead by submitting projects that again demonstrate Texas’ ongoing commitment to innovative water supply solutions.”

SWIFT applications will be due to the TWDB by February 2, 2018. For more details on how to apply for the SWIFT program, please visit the TWDB website at www.twdb.texas.gov.

OFFICIALS CONVENE IN CORPUS CHRISTI TO REVIEW TRADE OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS THE BORDER

Last Wednesday, December 6, 2017, Texas Secretary of State Rolando Pablos hosted a third meeting of the Border Trade Advisory Committee (BTAC) in Corpus Christi to review infrastructure needs that support energy trade at Texas’ land and maritime ports of entry. At the BTAC’s December meeting, stakeholders participated in several panel discussions focused specifically on energy and manufacturing investment opportunities for the Corpus Christi economy, multi-modal movement of energy, and challenges and opportunities relating to Mexico’s midstream energy sector. Joining Secretary Pablos at the committee meeting was Texas Transportation Commissioner Laura Ryan, Mexico’s Consul General in San Antonio Ambassador Reyna Torres Mendivil, and Port of Corpus Christi Commission Chairman Charles Zahn.

“We have witnessed incredible progress this year in advancing Texas’ goals for cross-border collaboration,” Secretary Pablos said. “From energy to manufacturing and from land to maritime trade, Texas is the driving force behind the global strength of the North American economy. I look forward to continuing our work with regional stakeholders on both sides of the border to identify new and innovative ways to further strengthen Texas’ role as the leading state for international trade.”

TEXAS’ RAINY DAY, HIGHWAY FUNDS GET SIZABLE INFUSIONS, THANKS TO OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT

Texas’ Economic Stabilization Fund - commonly known as the Rainy Day Fund - and the State Highway Fund each recently received a substantial transfer of funding, thanks to tax revenue collected from the oil and gas sector. The state comptroller’s office reported at the end of November that both funds have received transfers of more than \$734 million, for a combined total of \$1.47 billion in funding that will be used to support two of the state’s most important public funds.

With this latest transfer, the new balance of the Rainy Day Fund stands at \$10.98 billion.

GLO’S ANNE IDSAL NAMED NEW ADMINISTRATOR OF EPA REGION 6

Scott Pruitt, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has selected Anne Idsal from the Texas General Land Office to become the next head of the EPA’s Region 6 (South Central) office, which serves the state of Texas. Pruitt announced Idsal’s appointment on Monday, December 11, praising Idsal for being “an accomplished lawyer and civil servant who will make an immediate impact in providing positive environmental and health outcomes as a regional administrator.” With extensive career experience working to shape environmental and land policy for the Lone Star State, Idsal is “exceptionally qualified” to lead Region 6, added Pruitt.

Since 2015, Idsal has served as chief clerk and deputy land commissioner for the Texas General Land Office (GLO). She previously was the general counsel to the GLO where she provided substantive and procedural legal counsel to the commissioner and led an office of attorneys on issues relating to oil and gas, coastal lands, public lands, financial transactions, and general law. Prior to her time at the GLO, Idsal was general counsel at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), where she provided legal counsel to the commissioners and oversaw the offices of the chief clerk, public interest counsel, and chief auditor. She also formerly served as a special advisor to the commissioner, providing counsel on policy development and implementation.

On Idsal’s appointment to become EPA Region 6 administrator, Texas Governor Greg Abbott commented, “Anne has been a tremendous asset for the people of Texas in her current role at the General Land Office, and she will continue to be invaluable to Texas in her new role at the EPA. I thank Anne for her service to the state of Texas, especially for her dedication to her fellow Texans following Hurricane Harvey, and look forward to her continued success at the EPA.”

“With Anne as Region 6 regional administrator, I know that the cooperative relationship between the states and the EPA will continue to improve,” said TCEQ Chairman Bryan Shaw. “She is smart, motivated, and knows how to get things done. To this point, Anne has dedicated her professional career to state service, and I know that her regulatory experience will serve her well in this new role. I wholeheartedly support Anne for regional administrator, and I look forward to continuing to work with her and Region 6.”

LAND COMMISSIONER GEORGE P. BUSH ANNOUNCES GLO STAFF CHANGE

Following the appointment of Anne Idsal, chief clerk of the Texas General Land Office (GLO), to head the Region 6 office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this week, Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced current GLO General Counsel Mark Havens will become the GLO's 30th chief clerk. Havens has served as an attorney for the GLO for more than a decade, rising up through the General Counsel office from the role of staff attorney to director of oil, gas & energy before being appointed by as the agency's general counsel. Prior to his time at the GLO, Havens was in private practice in the oil and gas sector in Longview, Texas. Havens received his undergraduate degree and Master's in Public Policy and Administration from Baylor University prior to receiving his law degree from South Texas College of Law in Houston. "Mark's extensive experience in energy law has proved invaluable to the agency, but his ability to examine and advise on the complex issues and policies involved in the operation of the General Land Office makes him an ideal candidate to serve in this critical role," said Commissioner Bush.

According to the GLO, the position of chief clerk is a historically significant role in Texas state government. The position was originally called for under the 1836 Republic of Texas law, which established the GLO and created the leadership role of land commissioner. The law at that time also required that the commissioner appoint a chief clerk to assist in performing all duties required in his official capacity and to act as commissioner in his absence. After Texas became a state and the Land Office evolved into a state agency, the position of chief clerk remained.

Today, under this constitutionally mandated position, the chief clerk acts as the chief executive officer for the Land Office and manages the daily activities of the agency and its personnel.

TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION RECOGNIZED BY EPA FOR REGULATORY EXCELLENCE

As part of a review conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) has been commended for its work in protecting underground sources of drinking water. The recognition comes from the EPA's Fiscal Year 2016 End-of-Year evaluation of the commission's Underground Injection Control Program, which protects the state's drinking water. The RRC was praised for "more than adequate inspection and monitoring" of Class II injection wells (wells used in oil and gas activities) in Texas. The EPA's evaluation also shows the RRC maintains "an outstanding enforcement monitoring program" for these wells. The evaluation also concludes the RRC's testing and surveillance program for Class II injection wells "exceeds the minimum performance measure."

The state agency was also praised by the EPA for its actions to address seismicity in Texas, "including implementation of changes in permitting and operation requirements" through amendments to commission Rules 9 and 46. On seismicity, the EPA evaluation concludes, "These regulatory changes solidify RRC authority regarding seismicity related to Class II disposal, include new reporting and operational requirements for operators, and establish new permit application information to address seismic risk."



EPA'S SCOTT PRUITT APPOINTED CHAIR OF GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION COUNCIL

President Donald Trump has appointed Scott Pruitt, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as the new chairperson to lead the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council. The council, of which Texas is a member, is responsible for helping to restore the ecosystems and economies of the Gulf Coast region from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Following his appointment, Administrator Pruitt selected Kenneth Wagner, senior advisor to the administrator for regional and state affairs, to serve as his designee on the council. "Administrator Pruitt's commitment to cooperative federalism and streamlining processes to ensure positive environmental outcomes makes him a perfect choice for this important role," said Wagner. "I look forward to working with the states and Administrator Pruitt on continued restoration of the Gulf region."

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Commissioner Toby Baker reacted to the appointment by commenting, "I am excited to have a chairperson of the council that understands the importance of state-federal agencies working together toward a common goal of restoring the Gulf of Mexico."

PETITION HELPING DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR PORT OF CORPUS CHRISTI EXPANSION PROJECT

A petition from the Texans for Natural Gas organization is helping to build support for expanding the Port of Corpus Christi. The port, which is increasingly providing Texas producers with greater access to world markets, is looking to deepen and widen its ship channel.

Port Corpus Christi is already the number one exporter of crude oil in the nation. "The Corpus Christi Ship Channel Improvement Project is of critical importance for the Texas energy sector and for the nation's move toward energy independence," said Charles W. Zahn, chairman of the Port Corpus Christi Commission.

The expansion project would allow large carriers with a capacity of upward of 2 million barrels to enter and exit the port. By enlarging the channel size, it will also provide greater opportunity for exporting Texas oil and gas abroad.

To add your name to the petition and show your support for the Corpus Christi Port Expansion, visit: <http://actnow.io/voDXrC>.

BLM ANNOUNCES SUSPENSION OF FEDERAL VENTING AND FLARING REGULATION UNTIL 2019

The Trump Administration is suspending portions of a 2016 federal regulation that had limited venting and flaring activities, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced on December 7, 2017. The agency has delayed certain requirements contained in the “Waste Prevention Rule” until January 17, 2019, citing concerns over statutory authority, cost, complexity, feasibility, and other implications of the rule. BLM officials indicate the delay will not substantively change provisions of the rule, but rather, postpones the implementation dates of certain compliance requirements for one year. The extra time will provide for sufficient re-examination of the rule, which is necessary the BLM explains as the department is not confident that all provisions of the 2016 final rule would survive judicial review. Additional review is also warranted to allow the BLM to reassess the rule’s estimated costs and benefits. “As we strengthen America’s energy independence, we need to make sure that regulations do not unnecessarily encumber energy production, constrain economic growth, or prevent job creation,” said Brian Steed, deputy director for policy and programs for the BLM. “By holding off on certain requirements, the BLM now has sufficient time to review the 2016 final rule while avoiding any compliance costs on industry that may not be needed after the review.”

The BLM’s rule was originally developed to reduce waste of natural gas from venting, flaring, and leaks during oil and natural gas production activities on onshore Federal and Indian leases; clarify when produced gas lost through venting, flaring, or leaks is subject to royalties; and clarify when oil and gas production may be used royalty free on-site. Many of the 2016 final rule's provisions are to be phased in over time, and were due to become operative on January 17, 2018. However, for now, the BLM has determined that immediately implementing some parts of the 2016 final rule could unnecessarily burden industry. As such, the agency decided that certain requirements in the regulation that have yet to be implemented will see implementation dates postponed until January 17, 2019. For other requirements in the 2016 final rule that are currently in effect, the rule temporarily suspends their effectiveness, also until January 17, 2019.

FERC GRANTED ADDITIONAL TIME TO CONSIDER DEBATED GRID PLANS

At the request of the new chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Kevin McIntyre, FERC has been given extra time to finalize a decision over a proposed plan seeking to strengthen the nation’s power grid.

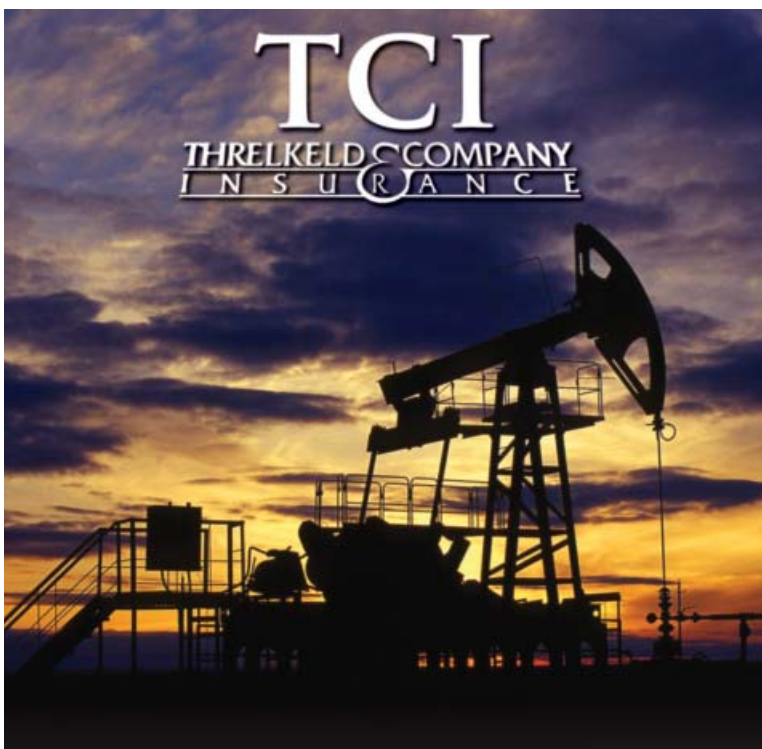
In September, U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry called on FERC to act swiftly to implement new policies that address threats to U.S. electrical grid resiliency. “A reliable and resilient electrical grid is critical not only to our national and economic security, but also to the everyday lives of American families,” said Secretary Perry. “A diverse mix of power generation resources, including those with on-site reserves, is essential to the reliable delivery of electricity—particularly in times of supply stress such as recent natural disasters. My proposal will strengthen American energy security by ensuring adequate reserve resource supply and I look forward to the commission acting swiftly on it.”

The secretary had directed FERC commissioners to consider and complete final action within 60 days from the date of publication in the Federal Register - leaving the commission until mid-December to take action. As such, Chairman McIntyre recently asked Secretary Perry for a 30-day extension to continue consideration of the proposed rulemaking entitled “Grid Resiliency Pricing Rule,” citing high volumes of comments received from the public on the proposed measure, as well as the addition of two new commissioners to FERC’s leadership board. “The proposed extension is critical to afford adequate time for the new commissioners to consider the voluminous record and engage fully in deliberations,” advised McIntyre in his letter to Secretary Perry. Secretary Perry has since approved the deadline extension.

FERC will have until January 10th to issue a decision on the proposed rule.

JANUARY WORKSHOP TO REVIEW THERMAL & GEOTHERMAL WELL DESIGN AND INTEGRITY

TIPRO members are invited to register for a special one-day workshop on January 12th at the SMU Campus in Dallas that will provide an overview of thermal and geothermal well design and integrity including casing, tubulars, liners, wellheads, and wellbore integrity. Now through December 20, members of TIPRO are eligible to receive a 10 percent discount off the registration fees using the discount code SMU1. To register, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2BIGqZV>.



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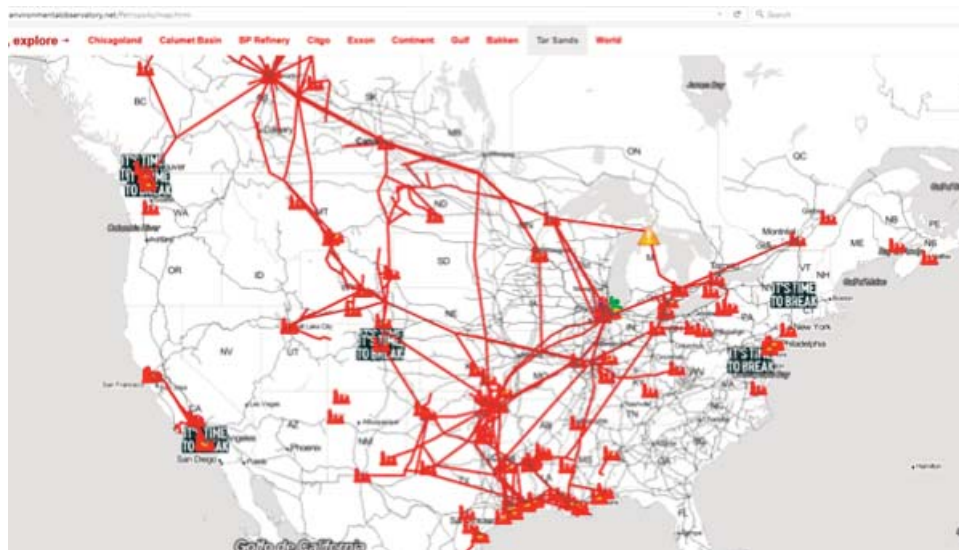
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Executive Summary

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- Campaigners to attend hearing on ExxonMobil in Gregory, Texas on December 11
- Texas activists encourage supporters to ‘visit’ ETP compressor station
- Meeting to raise awareness of Seneca Resources’ injection wells in Brookfield, Ohio
- 350.org celebrates UN Secretary General’s warning on fossil fuel investments
- Bayou Bridge Pipeline opponents demand internal company communications
- FERC campaigners to build on ‘growing momentum’ of 2017
- ‘Community meeting’ to raise awareness of fracking in New Mexico on December 9
- Activists sabotage Union Pacific rail line in Nebraska
- Nexus Pipeline opponents encourage landowners to obtain well water tests
- Campaigners oppose Trump administration’s ‘illegal assault’ on national monuments
- 350.Org promotes ‘Fossil Free campaign’ to pressure political action on climate change

Activists launch ‘Warrior Up’ to identify ‘techniques for sabotaging capitalist infrastructure’

Warrior Up is a newly-launched “research project open to any anonymous input, turning an eye towards the infrastructures and extractive industries that the capitalist economy depends upon – how they function, and how they are vulnerable to direct action.”



Those responsible for setting up the project explained: “This project is inspired by the infrastructural sabotage carried out by indigenous warriors in the territory dominated by the Canadian state during land and water defense in the last decades. We want to be a resource for anarchists and other rebels carrying out actions against the economy of death – how can we make these actions more effective, safe, creative, and reproducible?”

“We need the help of all the brilliant troublemakers in the international anarchist space to make this resource more relevant and comprehensive. Please email us texts that have appeared in guides or communiques (or more obscure sources, like industry literature or counter-insurgency manuals) that can help us to better contribute to taking down the mega-machine. Translation of material that isn’t yet in English would be very appreciated – we can translate from French or Spanish if you direct us towards the texts.”

Info@welund.com

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The 'Infrastructure' page lists actions and research categorized by target (road, pipeline, electricity, rail, fiber-optic and communication infrastructures). The 'Arson and Sabotage' page lists techniques, and is also categorized by target (cars, buildings, heavy machinery). The 'Guides' page collects publications on arson, sabotage, blockades, security, and warrior fieldcraft. The 'Maps' page lists infrastructure and extractive industry mapping projects.

"Once the project is more comprehensive, we will release a zine containing the most relevant content", it explained.

Forecast: This is not the first time that extremist groups have published online guides but this project goes one step further and encourages activists to submit their own ideas about how to carry out attacks on 'capitalist infrastructure'. It remains to be seen whether the project attracts an interest and activists submit ideas and reports on what they have done but should it attract the attention of experience as a global level it runs the risk of becoming a repository for extreme tactics which might be used against companies in the future.

Campaigners attend hearing on ExxonMobil in Gregory, Texas on December 11

On December 11, 2017, Portland Citizens United (PCU) attended a hearing by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in Gregory, Texas to express its opposition to a permit application by ExxonMobil and Saudi Arabia Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) to "discharge industrial wastewater and stormwater."

Outreach for the event encouraged supporters to attend where "citizens can direct questions to Exxon/SABIC and TCEQ staff. After the discussion period, citizens can make formal comments for the record."

PCU noted: "Exxon cannot build the facility unless they 1) receive an air quality permit, and 2) obtain a permit to discharge the industrial wastewater into the bays. Please share notice of this meeting with all who have an interest in the water quality of our bays and estuaries."

It claimed that Exxon will "require 20 Million gallons of water per day to operate, or 7.3 Billion gallons each year." 9 million gallons will be discharged into the Corpus Christi Bay and Copano Bay/Port Bay/Mission Bay.

Founded in fall 2016, Portland Citizens United, based in Portland, Texas, is dedicated to opposing ExxonMobil and SABIC's.

Texas activists encourage supporters to 'visit' ETP compressor station

Big Bend Conservation Alliance (BBCA) has encouraged supporters to "visit" Energy Transfer Partners' (ETP) "Waha Hub, Header, and Compressor Station, the origin of the Comanche Trail, and Trans-Pecos Pipeline systems" in Coyoanosa, Texas.

BBCA included photos of the facility, noting: "You can visit the site yourself, by taking the drive up to Coyoanosa, Texas, north along FM 1776, and making a left onto El Paso Road, just north of what remains of Coyoanosa, a once vibrant agricultural community, now the 'benefactor' of four decades or so of oil & gas activity."

The group criticized ETP for asserting that the Hub, and the related systems, were "urgently needed" – going into operation in March 2017 – but sat idle on 3 December 2017.

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It noted that “The site is quiet - not a single compressor of the ten gas-electric hybrid units is in operation. Other than security, no staff are present on site, as part of the claimed ‘hundreds of jobs’ that would be created by this project. Not a single cubic foot of gas has flowed through the system to Mexico.”

It added that three auctions for capacity on the system had “failed - without a single bidder. The fourth auction has been indefinitely delayed. Yet the residents of the Trans-Pecos, and Big Bend region continue to live with the scars of this activity - 39 landowner’s who had their property taken by eminent domain condemnation, for the pipeline.” The group criticized ETP for destroying “untold cultural sites, and the environment, to make way for... [the] ‘urgently needed’ system.”

Meeting to raise awareness of Seneca Resources’ injection wells in Brookfield, Ohio

Campaigners opposed to fracking have held a meeting in Brookfield, Ohio to raise awareness of Highland Field Services’ - a subsidiary of Seneca Resources - “five proposed fracking waste injection wells.”

The proposed wells were criticized for being located “in the community of Brookfield way too near family homes, businesses, and government buildings - in a highly populated area too close to known epicenters of man-made earthquake activity.”

Although construction of a well had begun on 13 November 2017, it was “not a done deal” because “additional Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) permits are required for the company to fully operate and inject fracking waste – much of it to come from out-of-state if the wells are eventually approved.”

Outreach for the event described the meeting as a “town hall-style, panel discussion” that will “include information about local and regional injection well and fracking-linked, man-made earthquakes, risks to water and air, and other related issues and possible solutions. Confirmed panelists are Teresa Mills, Executive Director of the Buckeye Environmental Network; Dr. Ray Beiersdorfer, Ph.D., Youngstown State University Distinguished Professor of Geology; Ted Auch, Ph.D. of The FracTracker Alliance; and Michele Garman who lives right next door to an operating injection well.”

The meeting is organized by: Protect Youngstown; Frackfree America National Coalition; #occupyyoungstown; Occupy Warren; Stop Fracking Ohio; Prohibit Injection Wells - Coalition to Support Ohio Senate Bill 50; and Center for Health, Environment & Justice.

350.org celebrates UN Secretary General’s warning on fossil fuel investments

Yossi Cadan, 350.org’s Global Divestment Senior Campaigner, has celebrated United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres for stating that continued investments in the fossil fuel industry will lead to “an unsustainable future.” Cadan stated that Guterres’ warning “should make it crystal clear to investors and financial institutions around the world: if you’re still funding fossil fuels, you’re part of the problem.” He asserted that “momentum” was on the side of the divestment movement and that the UN must now “walk the talk and divest its pension fund from fossil fuels. If Secretary General Guterres doesn’t want to retire on a dead planet, he should tell his pension fund managers to follow his own advice.”

Cadan added that an upcoming “climate summit” hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron in December 2017 will be an opportunity to “call on him, and all would-be climate leaders, to commit to not put one penny more into fossil fuels.”

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Bayou Bridge Pipeline opponents demand internal company communications

Louisiana Bucket Brigade, Bold Louisiana and Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, represented by the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), has "invoked public records laws to force" Bayou Bridge LLC to publicize internal company communications.

The request stated that because "Bayou Bridge LLC is claiming state authority to expropriate property, the company is subject to public records laws."

Recently, these groups, along with 350 Louisiana, also filed requests for information from "Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Natural Resources for the release of their communications with companies involved in the proposed Bayou Bridge Pipeline, including Energy Transfer Partners (ETP), and Phillips 66, among others."

Louisiana Bucket Brigade claimed the request "dovetails with the groups' ongoing call for an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed pipeline. Together, the efforts aim to ensure that Louisianans can transparently evaluate the companies' operations and protect the interests of people and the environment."

"The Bayou Bridge Pipeline is a bad project for Louisiana that will enrich a few people at the expense of our clean water, our Atchafalaya and people's health," said Anne Rolfes, Director of Louisiana Bucket Brigade. "The company is seizing people's land against their will. The people of Louisiana deserve to know the whole truth about this shady process, and these records will provide clarity."

"Louisianans have a right to know about the relationships between their state agencies and private pipeline companies and determine whose interests are being protected in matters that that can profoundly impact their well-being and livelihood," said CCR Senior Staff Attorney Pamela Spees, who grew up in Lake Charles, Louisiana, one of the communities that would be affected by the pipeline."

FERC campaigners to build on 'growing momentum' of 2017

Beyond Extreme Energy (BXE) has promised that its 2018 campaigns will build on the "growing momentum" it established in 2017. The group highlighted its role contributing to the "period of fossil fuel delays" of "all pending gas infrastructure proposals" with its protest against the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

BXE also cited a number of "significant victories" from 2017:

- Pipeline proposals were rejected by state regulatory agencies in New York and delayed in West Virginia and North Carolina.
- A DC-based US Court of Appeals rejected a FERC pipeline approval on the grounds that it had not seriously examined the project's greenhouse gas emissions.
- Over the last month other U.S Courts of Appeal sitting in New York City and Cincinnati have made positive decisions for groups challenging pipelines.
- In Maryland the state legislature and governor enacted a permanent ban on fracking and it looks virtually certain that the Delaware River Basin Commission is going to enact a ban on fracking early next year.
- And there have been major delays of all pending gas infrastructure proposals because FERC had no quorum to decide upon them for seven months.

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Activist Ted Glick, who has participated in a number of protests against FERC, stated that the group will “strengthen and expand our direct support to local frontline struggles. This includes traveling by our field organizer and direct financial support through our Frontline Communities Support Fund. We will continue to work in a coordinated way with many of the 200 groups that were part of last year’s FERC Vacancies Campaign. We will be putting together a series of videos on FERC and the fight against it and distribute them widely.”

In addition, Glick noted BXE is “developing a user-friendly, continually updated, national map of encampments, action campaigns, upcoming major actions and groups fighting the good fight. And we will keep taking action in creative ways to shine a spotlight on FERC, now ‘Trump’s FERC.’”

'Community meeting' to raise awareness of fracking in New Mexico on December 9

On December 9, 2017, Dine-Pueblo Solidarity will hold a "community meeting" in Santo Domingo Pueblo, New Mexico to raise awareness of the threat posed by hydraulic fracking.

Fracking was condemned for the "bad effects" on Pueblo land and the "harm it will bring to the animals and drinking water."

The group stated that it was "very appreciative of the ongoing community youth leadership."

The event will take place at the Santo Domingo Community Cafeteria from 10:00am-12:00 noon.

Dine-Pueblo Solidarity is dedicated to protecting "Greater Chaco, our resources, and future generations" by empowering "the voices of our Pueblo and Dine communities."

Activists sabotage Union Pacific rail line in Nebraska

Activists have claimed to have disrupted a Union Pacific rail line in Nebraska to show solidarity with the dismantled Olympia rail blockade in Washington state and Indigenous land defense struggles across North America.

The activists stated:

“During this week we attached wire and jumper cables to the main Union Pacific rail line running through the state of Nebraska to disrupt rail signals and delay trains that mainly carry coal from the mountainous west to population centers in the east.

“Inspiration for us came from the blockade in Olympia, Unist’ot’en camp in unceded Wet’suwet’en territory, and other actions large and small across turtle island.

“Until the complete destruction of time itself, love and rage from the middle of nowhere”

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Nexus Pipeline opponents encourage landowners to obtain well water tests

No Nexus Pipeline in Michigan and Ohio has encouraged landowners along the route of the Nexus Pipeline to obtain baseline well water studies prior to the construction of the project.

The group stated: "If you will live within 1,000 feet of the Nexus Natural Gas Pipeline and have a well for water - experts suggest that you consider having a baseline well water study done before the pipeline is installed."

This was considered necessary should "well problems arise after the Nexus is installed" and may "help you prove that the damage was caused by Nexus."

It asked those interested in more information to "contact us privately."

Campaigners oppose Trump administration's 'illegal assault' on national monuments

Oil Change International (OCI) has condemned the Trump administration's plans to reduce the size of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments as an "illegal assault" on public lands.

OCI expected "stiff resistance, not least from the five First Nations tribes — the Hopi, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni and the Ute Indian Tribe — which make up the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, that called for the monument in the first place. According to all five tribes, the area is covered with burial grounds and cultural sites."

Randi Spivak, public lands program director at the Center for Biological Diversity, stated: "This illegal action will cement Trump's legacy as one of the worst presidents in modern history. Trump has no clue how much people love these sacred and irreplaceable landscapes, but he's about to find out. He's shown his blatant disregard for public lands, Native Americans and the law. We look forward to seeing him in court."

Jennifer Rokala, Executive director of the Center for Western Priorities, commented: "The president is capping his celebration of Native American Heritage Month by opening the door to new drilling and mining on land considered sacred by tribal nations. After his appalling remarks at the White House on Monday, President Trump's assault on tribal interests continues at a staggering pace."

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance promised to "send a clear and visible message that we intend to 'Honor Tribes' and defend the priceless scientific, cultural, and ecological legacy these monuments represent."

350.Org promotes 'Fossil Free campaign' to pressure political action on climate change

Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org (pictured), has promoted the network's "Fossil Free campaign" as a way to pressure US politicians to act on climate change and oppose the policies of "predatory delay" by the fossil fuel industry and utilities. He contended that the "best chance of forcing the future, of course, lies with movements – with people gathering in large enough numbers to concentrate the minds of CEOs and presidential candidates." 350.org's "Fossil Free campaign" was a key part of this. By joining with "organizations like the Sierra Club" the campaigner will "pressure governments to sign up for 100 percent renewable energy, blocking new pipelines and frack wells as fast as the industry can propose them, and calling out the banks and hedge funds that underwrite the past."

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McKibben urgently called for action: “If we don't win very quickly on climate change, then we will never win. That's the core truth about global warming. It's what makes it different from every other problem our political systems have faced.”

The oil and gas industry was guilty of “predatory delay” for actively opposing climate science. “That strategy, we now know, began in the late 1970s. The oil giants, led by Exxon, knew about climate change before almost anyone else.” The industry used “uncertainty” to hinder the development of climate policies.

McKibben also condemned US utilities for “engaging in the same kind of behavior” opposing roof-top solar and wind as they “began to understand that solar and wind power could undercut their traditional business”. He cited a New York Times article that claimed “the booming U.S. market for new residential solar has come to ‘a shuddering stop’ after ‘a concerted and well-funded lobbying campaign by traditional utilities, which have been working in state capitals across the country to reverse incentives for homeowners to install solar panels.’”

Instead of compromise, McKibben advocated for immediate action. Stating: “climate change, sadly, isn't a classic contest between two groups of people. It's a negotiation between people on the one hand and physics on the other. And physics doesn't do compromise. Precisely because we've waited so long to take any significant action, physics now demands we move much faster than we want to.”

Media of note: <https://www.texasobserver.org/big-spring-vs-big-oil/>

Imminent Protests and Meetings next 7 days:

Protest against TigerSwan in Baton Rouge, LA on December 14

Vigil to End Gun Violence in New York, on December 14

March against Sanctuary Cities in San Francisco, CA, on December 16

Counter protest against March Against Sanctuary Cities in San Francisco, CA on December 16

Protest against Trump tax policies in Boston, MA, on December 18

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you and your family
happy holidays and
a prosperous new year!*



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