



**Texas
Independent
Producers and
Royalty Owners
Association**

White House asks OPEC+ to increase oil production, while stifling opportunities for America's oil producers to expand domestic output in the U.S.

Citing economic implications of rising gasoline costs for Americans and risks to broader global recovery from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the White House in August made a stunning request to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies, asking the oil cartel, known as OPEC+, to produce more oil. "We are engaging with relevant OPEC+ members on the importance of competitive markets in setting prices. Competitive energy markets will ensure reliable and stable energy supplies, and OPEC+ must do more to support the recovery," said National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan last Wednesday, August 11.

Administration officials said they have reached out to OPEC+ oil producers in hopes of boosting oil supplies so as to alleviate rising gas prices, which has consumers feeling the pain at the pump. Just last month OPEC+ ministers reached a compromise to increase oil output by 400,000 barrels a day on a monthly basis, beginning in August, to eventually phase out all of the remaining production limits that had been put in place in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and oil market crash. The deal to gradually boost OPEC supply is expected to ultimately phase out 5.8 million barrels per day of oil production cuts by September 2022.

Still, the Biden Administration contends that the most recent OPEC+ production agreement will not fully offset previous production cuts imposed by OPEC+ during the pandemic until well into next year. "At a critical moment in the global recovery, this is simply not enough," Sullivan stated.

Despite pressures from the U.S. government, analysts signal OPEC+ as unlikely to agree to boost oil output over the short-term given looming pressures to energy demand while the coronavirus Delta variant spreads rampantly across the United States and other parts of the world.

Meanwhile, as the president and members of his cabinet approach foreign producers including Saudi Arabia and Russia about growing oil production, the administration simultaneously continues to develop policies that seemingly punish the fossil fuel industry and block U.S. energy producers from drilling in America's oil and natural gas basins. Despite a ruling by a federal judge in June against the administration's "pause" on new oil and gas leasing, the U.S. Department of Interior still has yet to resume its oil and gas leasing programs for federal offshore and onshore lands and waters. Other federal regulatory bodies under control of the Biden Administration also are actively working on policies that effectively discourage American production.

In a statement, U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas), said last week, "It's pretty simple: if the president is suddenly worried about rising gas prices, he needs to stop killing our own energy production here on American soil. Begging the Saudis to increase production while the White House ties one hand behind the backs of American energy companies is pathetic and embarrassing."

**"We are pleased that the Biden Administration recognizes the critical role that oil plays in the American economy, but we are puzzled that the president would beg OPEC for more production, while he presides over an illegal leasing ban here in the United States. We should be focused instead on enhancing American energy security by further leveraging our abundant domestic oil supplies, which will mean more high-paying Texas jobs and more revenues for our schools and first responders."
— TIPRO President Ed Longanecker**

TIPRO submits comments on Oil & Natural Gas Sector NSPS as Small Entity Representative

The Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) was selected earlier this year to serve as a Small Entity Representative (SER) in the Small Business Advocacy Review Panel Process (SBAR Process) for the Biden Administration's anticipated rulemaking, "Oil and Natural Gas Sector New Source Performance Standards (NSPS)." The focus of TIPRO's involvement in this rulemaking process is to reduce the economic impact of the regulatory revisions, with an emphasis on small producers.

TIPRO recently has participated in numerous meetings with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Small Business Administration (SBA), and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to provide input. In mid-August, TIPRO, joined by the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) and the Gas and Oil Association of West Virginia (GOWV), submitted joint SER comments on the NSPS to EPA. As part of the comments offered to federal regulators, the three energy associations explained in detail the following key points:

- EPA continues to lack emissions data on low production wells to support regulatory decisions – but more data is close at hand.
- Exploring subcategorization of sources is warranted, if not obligated, and perhaps represents the most appropriate means to protect the environment while permitting and supporting small business which support rural communities and our country's energy independence.
- Don't "fix" what is not broken/don't let "perfection" be the enemy of the good: EPA and the oil and gas industry have worked together for at least a decade on NSPS focused on volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and/or methane emissions from the industry and progress has been made.

To read the associations' complete SER NSPS comments, please visit <https://bit.ly/2W0hweo>.

President's message

Dear members,

Last week, the Biden Administration made a public plea for OPEC to pump more oil, adding to a litany of consequential actions for the U.S. oil and natural gas industry. After eight months of new executive orders and policy changes that have catered almost exclusively to environmentalists, the Biden Administration is apparently only now recognizing that high energy prices hurt American families. Taking actions that will ultimately increase our country's reliance on foreign producers like Saudi Arabia and Russia should concern everyone, when those same natural resources could be produced here in the United States, if the federal government would only take its foot off the neck of U.S. oil and gas drillers.

Oil and gas are responsible for nearly 350,000 Texas jobs alone, while supporting millions of additional indirect and spinoff jobs. The industry also generates billions of dollars into our schools, infrastructure and other public services every year, and of course, is essential to keeping energy prices affordable for everyday Americans.

Despite such truths, every pipeline that regulators cancel here in the United States is another opportunity taken away from working families who need to put food on the table. Every time our leaders in Washington endorse oil and gas projects overseas instead of expanding our domestic industry, it's only encouraging our businesses to relocate where they actually can produce energy. Every barrel that we beg OPEC to produce is a barrel we could have gotten from here in North America.

Nearly 20 years ago, experts warned that the United States was running out of natural gas and would need to invest billions of dollars on new import infrastructure while chemical manufacturers relocated overseas. Oil prices were also on the rise, and we were increasingly at the whim of foreign countries.

Texas innovators stepped up to meet the challenge and helped usher in the shale revolution. Within a few years, the United States had become the world's largest producer of oil and natural gas. We're not building gas import infrastructure, but rather a number of multi-billion dollar natural gas export facilities along the Texas and Louisiana coasts. Texas ports like Corpus Christi and Houston are booming with increased exports of Texas energy, helping developing countries lift their citizens out of poverty. Instead of sending our dollars overseas for oil and gas, our trading partners are lining up to buy our abundant supplies.

Texas innovation has also enabled our country to break oil and gas product records while significantly lowering greenhouse gas emissions intensity. A report from Texans For Natural Gas, a TIPRO education campaign, found that from 2011-2019, methane emissions intensity fell 77 percent in the Lone Star state's Permian Basin, while production increased by over 300 percent. In fact, if the Permian Basin – one of the most prolific production basins in the world – were its own country, it would rank far below other major oil producers such as Algeria, Russia and Iran, even as oil and gas operators in the Permian reported record production.

Texas has shown that if there's any energy crisis, we'll step up and lead our country out of it. We just need the president and his administration to realize that we should be strengthening our status as an energy powerhouse, not trying to surrender it to Russia and OPEC.

Thank you,
Ed Longanecker



Ed Longanecker

TIPRO reminds members to register for association's upcoming Summer Conference

The 2021 TIPRO Summer Conference is less than two weeks away! Members who have not yet registered for this important association meeting are encouraged to sign up today to participate.

During the TIPRO event, being held September 1-2 at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort in San Antonio, hear from leaders of the Texas oil and natural gas industry. TIPRO looks forward to remarks from industry keynote speaker John J. Christmann IV, chief executive officer and president of Apache Corporation. U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar (D-Laredo) will also join U.S. Congressman August Pfluger (R-Midland) on the TIPRO stage to share with members of the association important energy policy updates from Washington, D.C. Oil and gas expert Marshall Adkins, managing director and head of energy for Raymond James, is also confirmed to present at TIPRO's Summer Conference, and will give an assessment of energy markets as well as offer an outlook for the industry heading into the next year.

Members also won't want to miss TIPRO's final panel discussion of the conference, featuring eight past chairmen of TIPRO. Together, the former association leaders will reflect on past memories of TIPRO's work and review current priorities facing Texas oil and natural gas producers.

Find additional information on the 2021 TIPRO Conference on the following pages of *The TIPRO Target* newsletter, and on the TIPRO website at <http://bit.ly/3hWArYw>.

TIPRO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p>SEPTEMBER 1-2, 2021 SAN ANTONIO — TIPRO's Summer Conference. For information, please email info@tipro.org.</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 16, 2021 HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO/HPF Leaders in Industry Luncheon. For information, please email adoremus@ipaa.org.</p>	<p>JANUARY 12, 2022 HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon. For information, please email adoremus@ipaa.org.</p>
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LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR TIPRO'S SUMMER CONFERENCE

HYATT HILL COUNTRY RESORT
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 1-2, 2021



INDUSTRY KEYNOTE SPEAKER



JOHN J. CHRISTMANN IV,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND
PRESIDENT OF APACHE CORPORATION

OTHER DISTINGUISHED PRESENTERS INCLUDE:

- U.S. CONGRESSMAN HENRY CUELLAR
- U.S. CONGRESSMAN AUGUST PFLUGER
- MARSHALL ADKINS, MARKET ANALYST FOR RAYMOND JAMES
- EIGHT PAST CHAIRMEN OF TIPRO
- JOHN HARPOLE, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF MERCATOR ENERGY
- AND MORE!

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

- 1:30 p.m. Audit Committee Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. TIPRO Board Meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Welcome Reception

Thursday, September 2, 2021

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast & Networking Hour
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome & Sponsor Recognition
TIPRO 75th Anniversary House Resolution 1311
- 9:30 a.m. Industry Keynote Speaker
- 10:15 a.m. Oil & Gas Market Outlook
- 11:00 a.m. Review of Natural Gas Supply Chain Issues
- Noon Networking Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. TIPRO Excellence in Advocacy Award
- 1:30 p.m. Federal Energy Policy Update
- 2:00 p.m. TIPRO Past Chairmen Panel
- 6:30 p.m. Reception & Chairman's Dinner
Mr. TIPRO Award

During this year's TIPRO Summer Conference, the association looks forward to celebrating its 75th anniversary and reflecting on its many years of service to the Texas oil and natural gas industry. The TIPRO Conference, an annual affair, offers a special time for the members of TIPRO to reconnect, network and learn about the latest policy and regulatory changes impacting the Texas oil and natural gas industry.

CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY:



FIND MORE INFORMATION ON TIPRO'S 2021 SUMMER CONFERENCE ONLINE AT [HTTP://BIT.LY/3HWARYW](http://bit.ly/3HWARYW).

2021 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION FEES:

MEMBER FEES:

(Includes all conference sessions and meals)

- ☐ Member: \$450
- ☐ Spouse: \$275
- ☐ Dinner-Only Ticket: \$150

CHILDREN:

- ☐ 13-17 Years Old: \$100
- ☐ 12 Years Old - Under: Free

NON-MEMBER FEES:

(Includes all conference sessions and meals)

- ☐ Non-Member*: \$650
*Registration also includes 1 year regular TIPRO membership
- ☐ Non-Member Spouse: \$325
- ☐ Dinner-Only Ticket: \$250

CHILDREN:

- ☐ 13-17 Years Old: \$100
- ☐ 12 Years Old - Under: Free

**DON'T FORGET TO
ALSO BOOK YOUR
HOTEL RESERVATION
FOR THE CONFERENCE!**

**To reserve your hotel
room at Hyatt Hill
Country Resort,
please call
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ATTENDEE INFORMATION:

Attendee Name: _____ Registered Spouse: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Children's Names: _____

In order to help us plan our conference, below please confirm which events all registered guests will be attending by checking the corresponding box:

	Member/Non-member	Spouse	Child	Child	Child
Welcome Reception	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Breakfast	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Networking Luncheon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chairman's Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PAYMENT:

Total: \$ _____

Method of payment (please check desired option):

- ☐ Check # _____, made payable to TIPRO
- ☐ Charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX



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other considerations?
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at (512) 477-4452.

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Phone Number _____ Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Billing Address _____ Security Code _____ Signature _____

Mail form to TIPRO at: 919 Congress Avenue, Suite 1000, Austin, Texas 78701 or fax to (512) 476-8070.

Forms must be accompanied by payment. In order to receive a refund, TIPRO must be notified of your cancellation no later than August 20, 2021.

TIPRO membership meeting notice

In accordance with Article IV, Section 1, of the TIPRO Bylaws, Chairman Brent Hopkins hereby calls a membership meeting for all TIPRO members in conjunction with the 75th Annual TIPRO Summer Conference. The 2021 annual membership meeting will be held on Thursday, September 2nd at 1:00 p.m. in the Hill Country Ballroom of the Hyatt Hill Country Resort in San Antonio, Texas.

The Board has approved the following candidates nominated by the TIPRO Nominations Committee and hereby presents the slate of recommended candidates for TIPRO to vote on during its annual meeting. Director and officer nominees, if approved by TIPRO membership, would begin their respective terms on September 3, 2021.

In accordance with Article V, Section 2, of the TIPRO Bylaws, the following candidate is presented for consideration by the membership:

- Mr. Curt McClymond, PETEX - Region 4 Class A Director, First Term

Members will vote to confirm nominated candidates at the next membership meeting. TIPRO thanks candidates for graciously accepting their nominations and agreeing to serve on TIPRO's Board of Directors.

Maguire Oil founder and longtime member of TIPRO, Cary Maguire, passes away at 93

Cary McIlwaine Maguire Sr., a renowned businessman in the Texas oil industry and founder of the Maguire Oil Company, passed away peacefully in his Dallas home on August 10, 2021, at age 93. Maguire was an executive member of the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) since 1960, and over the years held various positions of leadership with TIPRO, as well as the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA). He also served on the National Petroleum Council (NPC) and was a member of the All American Wildcatters.

In addition to Maguire's leadership with his own company, throughout his life, Maguire became known for his work as a pioneer in oil and gas education and advocacy. In 1974, Maguire's generous support and donations allowed for the establishment of the Maguire Energy Institute at the Southern Methodist University (SMU) Cox School of Business, which was named in honor of Maguire. For nearly 50 years, the Institute has been at the forefront of energy education and research. Maguire also in 1995 gifted SMU \$2 million to establish the Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility that offers university-wide ethics-related education and activities to students and faculty. Matthew B. Myers, dean of the SMU Business School, described Maguire as "an iconic oil industry entrepreneur who helped guide the trajectory of the Cox School and the career success of countless SMU Cox graduates."

Governor Abbott sets August 31st special election for House District 10

In a proclamation issued the first week of August, Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced Tuesday, August 31, 2021, as the special election date to fill the Texas State House of Representatives District 10 seat recently vacated by Representative Jake Ellzey. Ellzey was elected to Congress in July after winning the special election runoff for Texas' 6th Congressional District to finish the term of Ron Wright, who passed away after contracting the coronavirus (COVID-19) amid a long fight against lung cancer.

Ellzey's North Texas seat in the House chamber represents largely rural areas south and southeast of Dallas. Ahead of the August 12th filing deadline set by the governor, eight candidates filed applications with the Secretary of State to have their names placed on the special election ballot, including five Republicans, one Democrat, an Independent and a Libertarian. Of note, Republican John Wray, the former House District-10 representative who decided not to seek re-election in 2020, has entered the political race, as well as Republican Brian Harrison, a former Trump administration official who ran in this summer's special election against Ellzey for the 6th Congressional District.

Early voting for the special election for House District 10 will begin on Monday, August 23, 2021.

State Representative Leo Pacheco expected to step down from Texas House to teach

Texas State Representative Leo Pacheco (D-San Antonio) reportedly will resign his post in the Texas House of Representatives to teach public administration at San Antonio College, according to the *San Antonio Express-News*. A lifelong resident of San Antonio, Pacheco was first elected to state office in 2018 to represent constituents in southeastern Bexar county. During the 2021 Legislative Session, he helped lead the House Committee on Higher Education as vice chairman, and also served as a member of the House Committees on Licensing & Administrative Procedures and General Investigating.

In addition to his time spent in Austin representing House District 118, Pacheco more recently had worked as a human resource specialist at Palo Alto College and an adjunct professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio and San Antonio College, instructing students in public administration, management, and labor relations.

After Pacheco submits his formal resignation from office to Governor Greg Abbott, rumored to happen in the next few weeks, the governor will then call a special election to fill the vacant seat in the state House of Representatives.

Texas oil and gas regulator advocates for incentives to build more energy infrastructure

Texas Railroad Commissioner Jim Wright in a new op-ed made a case explaining why the state and federal government should extend tax incentives to support development of energy infrastructure in the Lone Star State, suggesting the natural gas sector receive tax credits similar to renewable energy. As the nation's largest energy producer, the Lone Star State has access to abundant supplies of natural resources, though has faced challenges in guaranteeing energy can be delivered to residents in crisis situations, such as this past February when Winter Storm Uri crippled the state's energy grid. "Proper preparation for a crisis event like another Winter Storm Uri is essential to mitigating its devastating impacts. And although Texas has all the resources and tools it needs, that abundance won't do us much good if we don't put in place the incentives and policies necessary to grow the infrastructure that ensures energy is delivered to customers when they need it most," asserted Commissioner Wright in his recent editorial. Read more by visiting <https://bit.ly/38ceO8t>.

RRC commissioner tells president to unleash America's oil industry to grow energy supplies

After the Biden Administration this month approached leaders of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) requesting higher output of oil production, Texas energy regulator and Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian called out plans from the president that would make America more dependent on foreign oil when those natural resources instead could be produced in the United States. "Mr. President, I implore you to reverse course on your policy decisions and rhetoric regarding American oil and natural gas," wrote Commissioner Christian in a letter penned to President Biden on August 11, 2021. "America has proven we do not need to rely on OPEC+ or any other nation for our energy needs. We can produce the natural resources we need right here at home. History has shown us time and time again that oil and natural gas production and a clean environment are not mutually exclusive. America has proven that through technological innovation we can maintain a clean environment AND achieve energy independence."

The commissioner also in his letter to the president emphasized America's position as the world's top producer of oil and natural gas, which in recent years has helped the nation secure its energy independence. That status, however, stands in jeopardy from regulatory uncertainty poised by the federal government, the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and other challenges, including hostile attacks on the American oil and gas industry, cautioned Commissioner Christian.

Moreover, as acknowledged by the Texas regulator, to continue to achieve progress on environmental stewardship, America should not cut its own domestic production only to see demands met by dirtier producers elsewhere in the world. "Here's the truth: The environment in the United States is getting cleaner, not dirtier. Over the last 50 years, the six major pollutants regulated by the EPA have fallen by 77 percent while the U.S. economy grew 285 percent and its population by 60 percent. While natural gas production increased more than 50 percent between 1990 and 2017, methane emissions from natural gas decreased by more than 14 percent. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, between 2005 and 2019, total U.S. electricity generation increased by almost 2 percent while related CO2 emissions fell by 33 percent," explained the commissioner. "Meanwhile, China — already the largest carbon emitter on Earth — commissioned more coal-fired electric generation capacity last year than the rest of the world retired. More than 50 percent of the raw materials required to make solar panels and wind turbines are now mined in China by power generated from fossil fuels. This means wind and solar generated electricity in the United States isn't reducing global carbon emissions, it is just outsourcing them to China."

To view the commissioner's full letter, please see <https://bit.ly/3ACtbii>.

U.S. Interior Department appeals court order that blocked oil and gas leasing moratorium

The U.S. Department of Interior in mid-August confirmed it is seeking to overturn an earlier court ruling that blocked the Biden Administration's oil and gas leasing ban. Judge Terry Doughty of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana this summer in the case *Louisiana v. Biden* sided with a coalition of 13 states, including Texas, fighting President Joe Biden's Executive Order 14008 which declared a moratorium on future oil and gas leasing and drilling permits on federal lands. The judge agreed with the states that the delay of new oil and gas leasing cost states revenue from rents and royalties and issued a nationwide preliminary injunction which enjoined the Interior from implementing the pause in new federal oil and gas leasing.

The Interior Department maintains that reform of federal oil and gas programs is necessary before leasing on public lands and waters should resume, and said that it will appeal Judge Doughty's preliminary injunction, though noted federal onshore and offshore oil and gas leasing will continue as required by the district court while the government's appeal is pending.

"Interior will proceed with leasing consistent with the district court's injunction during the appeal. In complying with the district court's mandate, Interior will continue to exercise the authority and discretion provided under the law to conduct leasing in a manner that takes into account the program's many deficiencies. Separately, Interior continues to review the programs' noted shortcomings, including completing a report. The Department also will undertake a programmatic analysis to address what changes in the Department's programs may be necessary to meet the president's targets of cutting greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 and achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050," department officials said.

Energy trade associations launch lawsuit challenging indefinite federal leasing pause

Twelve energy industry trade groups announced earlier this month they have jointly filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana challenging the U.S. Department of the Interior's indefinite pause on oil and natural gas leasing on federal lands and waters. In June, federal Judge Terry Doughty, also with the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, ruled against the administration's suspension of new oil and gas leasing for drilling on federal lands and waters. Despite the court order, the Interior Department months later has yet to resume auctions for oil and gas leasing, prompting the coalition of industry groups to sue the administration to force the reinstatement of oil and gas lease sales.

Organizations joining the legal challenge include: the American Petroleum Institute, the American Exploration & Production Council, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, the International Association of Drilling Contractors, the International Association of Geophysical Contractors, the National Ocean Industries Association, the Montana Petroleum Association, the North Dakota Petroleum Council, the Petroleum Alliance of Oklahoma, the Southeast Oil and Gas Association, the Utah Petroleum Association and the Western States Petroleum Association.

In the lawsuit, the trade groups contend the administration is in violation of several federal laws, including the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), which prohibit an indefinite pause on lease sales onshore and offshore. Under the Administrative Procedure Act, the trades also argue an executive agency is required to provide a record of support and explanation for a change in policy. An agency must also provide an opportunity for public comment when it implements new rules. The Department of Interior has neglected to meet these requirements, maintain the trades.

EPA announces new public engagement opportunities as government works to revise WOTUS

Later this month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of the Army will host public meetings via web conference to collect perspectives from stakeholders on efforts by the Biden Administration to revise the definition of "waters of the United States," commonly referred to as "WOTUS." In June, the agencies announced their intent to establish a new definition of WOTUS based on Supreme Court precedent and reflecting on lessons learned from the current and previous forms of the regulation. The WOTUS policy is used to establish the geographic scope of federal jurisdiction over bodies of water under the Clean Water Act; it is not defined by the Clean Water Act but rather has been defined by EPA and the Army in regulations since the 1970s and jointly implemented in the agencies' respective programmatic activities.

"We are committed to crafting an enduring definition of WOTUS by listening to all sides so that we can build on an inclusive foundation," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "I look forward to engaging all parties as we move forward to provide the certainty that's needed to protect our precious natural water resources."

Altogether, five virtual public meetings on WOTUS have been announced, the first of which took place on Wednesday, August 18. Other WOTUS meetings have been scheduled for August 23, August 25, August 26, and August 31, with one additional date reserved on September 2, 2021, if needed, in the event all speaking slots are filled in earlier WOTUS meetings. The agencies note that each of the meetings will be recorded and will be available for later review.

"Our nation's water resources are critical to support all of our communities," said Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jaime A. Pinkham. "Like the EPA, the Department of the Army recognizes the importance of this effort and we are committed to meaningful engagement with Tribes, states, local governments, and stakeholders to ensure that a revised definition of WOTUS reflects the experiences of, and input received, from all communities."

To view more information on the WOTUS meeting schedule and register for the public meetings, visit <https://bit.ly/3iNHTNk>.

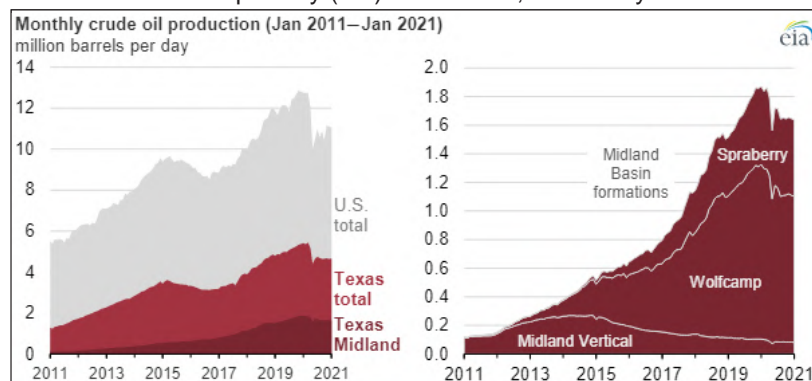
The agencies said that additional opportunities for engagement concerning the rewrite of WOTUS are also currently being planned. This will include 10 geographically-focused roundtables that will provide for broad, transparent, regionally focused discussions among a full spectrum of stakeholders.

TIPRO members also are reminded that the EPA and U.S. Army at this time are accepting written recommendations for the planned WOTUS rulemaking. Written comments identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2021-0328 may be uploaded to [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). The docket will close on Friday, September 3, 2021.

To review other information on regulatory actions for WOTUS, please see <https://www.epa.gov/wotus>.

EIA: Texas' Midland Basin accounted for 15 percent of U.S. crude oil production in 2020

The Midland Basin in Texas last year pumped roughly 15 percent of total crude oil produced in the United States, equivalent to 1.68 million barrels per day (b/d) of crude oil, new analysis from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) confirms. Citing data

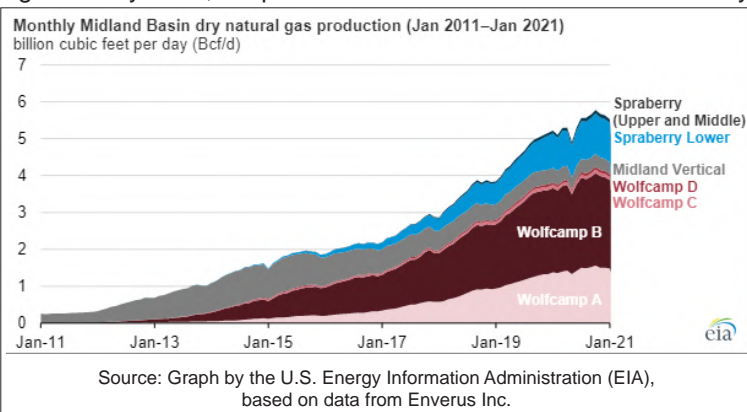


Source: Graph by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), based on EIA's *Petroleum Supply Monthly* (U.S. and Texas) and data from Enverus Inc. (Midland Basin and its formations)

generated by Enverus Inc., a member of the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO), the EIA earlier this month also reported that approximately 6 percent, or 5.4 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d), of dry natural gas produced in 2020 in the United States came from the Midland Basin.

The Midland Basin, located in Texas in the eastern region of the larger Permian Basin, has seen development over the last decade heavily driven by technological advances in horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, which have allowed oil and gas producers to tap into the organic-rich, lower permeability units within the Wolfcamp and Spraberry formations, explained the EIA. "In 2020, as economic conditions and other factors related to the COVID-19 pandemic caused domestic crude oil prices to fall to their lowest levels in years, operators in the Midland Basin used financial, operational, and technological mechanisms to maintain production under challenging market conditions," said EIA analysts. "Midland Basin production reached a low of 1.5 million b/d of crude oil and 4.9 Bcf/d of dry natural gas in May 2020, but production has since increased. In January 2021, the Midland Basin generated 1.6 million b/d of crude oil, which was 5 percent more than its May 2020 low but 10 percent less than its monthly peak reached in February 2020. By comparison, Midland natural gas production peaked in late 2020 and reached an all-time high of 5.8 Bcf/d in October 2020, when new pipeline takeaway capacity out of the Permian Basin entered service."

As of the end of July, companies active in the Midland Basin had 107 drilling rigs in operation, representing 44 percent of all rigs deployed in the Permian Basin and 22 percent of all rigs operating across the United States. Including output from the Midland Basin, production for the full Permian Basin region is expected to support collective growth of U.S. shale production levels in the months to come.



Source: Graph by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), based on data from Enverus Inc.

OIL & GAS INDUSTRY

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Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association

With nearly 3,000 members, TIPRO is the nation's largest statewide association representing both independent producers and royalty owners. Our members include small family-owned companies, the largest publicly traded independents and large and small mineral estates and trusts.

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