



EPA to hold virtual public hearing on its oil and natural gas interim final rule

Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association

package.

The hearing day will consist of 4 sessions, notes the EPA:

- Session 1: 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM (Eastern Time)
- Session 2: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Eastern Time)
- Session 3: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (Eastern Time)
- Session 4: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM (Eastern Time)

This hearing will be held on a virtual platform. For more details, please go to the EPA's website [here](#). If you have questions about the hearing, please send an email to: ONG-IFR-Public-Hearing@rti.org.

In addition to the public hearing, the EPA also recently announced it is extending the comment period for this interim final rule from September 2nd to October 2, 2025. EPA considers all comments equally, whether given orally at a public hearing or submitted in writing to the docket. To submit comments on the EPA's oil and gas rule, go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov and follow the online instructions for submitting comments for Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0162.

As a reminder, the EPA's interim rule announced on July 28th pushes out the deadlines for certain provisions related to control devices, equipment leaks, storage vessels, process controllers, and covers/closed vent systems in "Subpart OOOOb—Standards of Performance for Crude Oil and Natural Gas Facilities for Which Construction, Modification or Reconstruction Commenced After December 6, 2022" (NSPS OOOOb). The EPA also is extending the date for future implementation of the SuperEmitter Program. Finally, the EPA is extending the state plan submittal deadline in "Subpart OOOOc—Emissions Guidelines (EG) for Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Existing Crude Oil and Natural Gas Facilities" (EG OOOOc). To read the interim final rule and review other fact sheets, visit the EPA's website [here](#).



Congressman Tony Gonzales reintroduces bill aimed at protecting producers from oilfield theft

U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales, who represents the 23rd congressional district of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives, has reintroduced his Protect the Permian Act to expand federal resources to help address and combat problems of oilfield theft. The congressman originally filed the legislation in September of last year, with strong support from the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) and other industry trade partners. Under the congressman's bill, criminal penalties for stealing, transporting, or selling stolen oil and oilfield-related equipment would be expanded. The legislation also would formally establish and support an FBI-led task force to combat oilfield theft and expand federal resources to law enforcement agencies that assist with combating oilfield crime.

"The Permian Basin is a global powerhouse for energy production. Yet, across West Texas and the Permian Basin, oil producers continue to face widespread oilfield theft, which undermines their operations, output, and overall safety. My bill, the Protect the Permian Act, increases criminal penalties for oilfield-related crime and expands federal resources to support local law enforcement and the FBI's Permian Basin Oil Theft Task Force," said Congressman Tony Gonzales. "Texas enacted similar legislation at the state level, and it's time for Congress to do the same at the federal level. I look forward to working with our local, state, and federal law enforcement partners and the Trump Administration to get the Protect the Permian Act across the finish line so we can truly unleash American energy."

"The theft of crude oil, equipment and materials has increased exponentially in recent years. This criminal activity is being conducted in a well-coordinated, and sophisticated manner, often in rural areas of the state, making it difficult to identify, respond to and prosecute these crimes, especially given limited resources for law enforcement. This issue is not only a threat from a financial and national security perspective, but also a significant safety concern to workers and communities," commented TIPRO President Ed Longanecker. "On behalf of our members, TIPRO has engaged with stakeholders to identify solutions to eradicate this growing criminal enterprise. We applaud Congressman Gonzales for his consistent leadership on this critical issue and for taking decisive action to provide additional resources, a higher degree of coordination with law enforcement and steeper penalties to deter and prosecute this illicit activity. The Protect the Permian Act will have a meaningful and lasting impact, and we encourage the full Texas Congressional delegation to prioritize this important policy."

To read the bill's text, [click here](#).

President's message

TIPRO members,

Successful and effective advocacy for the Texas oil and natural gas industry is a core part of the TIPRO mission and has been since our association's inception in 1946. This not only drives our legislative and regulatory work, but also supports other efforts by TIPRO as we strive to address energy policies that are important to TIPRO's membership, including the preservation of long-standing tax provisions for oil and natural gas producers.

While speaking at the joint TIPRO-HPF-IPAA monthly luncheon in Houston last week, I detailed efforts by TIPRO in recent months to protect key tax policies for our industry while members of Congress this summer deliberated over key items to include in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025. During negotiations for the One Big Beautiful Bill, there were discussions about reducing or eliminating intangible drilling costs (IDCs) and percentage depletion to offset the cost of the tax cut extensions, but due to the consistent efforts over the past 20 years to educate lawmakers and advocate for those provisions, our industry was able to quickly get them removed from consideration before they gained any traction.

However, there was another tax provision considered for inclusion, specifically the tax treatment of carried interest. President Trump has long held the view that carried interest should be taxed as regular income, and he was urging Congress to include this in the reconciliation bill. So, we had an uphill battle to convince Republicans to be on the opposite side of this issue from the President, no small task, as you can imagine.

TIPRO, IPAA, and LOGA stepped forward to lead a targeted campaign to protect carried interest, which is utilized by private equity firms that back oil and gas producers as part of their business model. This included letters and direct outreach to Republicans, in both the House and Senate, that serve on key committees of jurisdiction and in leadership. Following the launch of the campaign, industry partners at the North Dakota Petroleum Council, Gas & Oil Association of West Virginia, and the Energy Workforce & Technology Council also joined the outreach, as well as individual companies and private equity firms, including NGP and EnCap. The campaign was ultimately successful, and no changes were made to the tax treatment of carried interest. This effort was a great reflection of how effective we can be when we work together as an industry with a unified message.

While this chapter is closed, the Speaker of the House has indicated that he expects there will be at least one more reconciliation bill during this Congress, possibly as soon as November. If that materializes, we anticipate that carried interest and other tax provisions that benefit the oil and gas industry will be brought up again in those discussions, which TIPRO will actively engage in on behalf of its members and industry.

Our team is currently tracking several important bills at the federal level, and is actively engaged in numerous state policy initiatives, including closely monitoring the 2nd special session, rulemakings resulting from legislation that passed during the regular 89th session, and a meeting held this week with the Railroad Commission (RRC) to discuss changes to proposed Chapter 4 Forms EP-1, EP-2, EP-5, EP-9, and EP-10. The changes are based in part on comments received since the forms were published on April 29, 2025, including comments submitted by TIPRO. We expect the Forms to be adopted during the RRC's conference on September 30. We will share the updated Forms as soon as we receive them for review and feedback. Please continue to communicate with our team on issues that need to be prioritized at the state and federal level.

As we approach TIPRO's 80th anniversary next year, it's fascinating to reflect on the history of our organization and industry, including members that have been actively engaged for decades. This includes member companies that have retained their TIPRO membership since our inception, including The Pickens Company, Inc., Newman Brothers Drilling Company, SSS-ODS Oil & Gas, ACS-ODS Oil & Gas, Ozark Exploration Inc./Smith Oil Company Inc., Robinson Interests I, Ltd., Halliburton, SLB, and Kendrick Oil and Gas, to name a few. As a member of more than 32 years expressed to me just this week, it has and always will be an honor to stand up and speak on behalf of our industry. We wholeheartedly agree. TIPRO has retained its important mission for 80 consecutive years, and we will continue to emphasize and prioritize the people that have made our industry such a success, past, present, and future. We are incredibly proud to have represented tens of thousands of companies, their employees, and families since 1946 and will continue to do so for decades to come.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement,
Ed Longanecker



Ed Longanecker

CEO of one of North America's largest oil & gas hedging advisory firms to speak at joint luncheon

Zach Lee, co-founder and chief executive officer of ARM Energy, will be the featured presenter at the next joint 'Leaders in Industry' luncheon, hosted monthly by the Houston Producers Forum, Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association and Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA). The luncheon will take place on Tuesday, September 16, at the Petroleum Club in Houston.

Lee co-founded ARM in 2004 with the primary focus on providing financial hedging advisory services to producer clients. Under his leadership, ARM's hedging advisory business grew from just one client to one of the largest hedging advisory businesses in North America, serving over 130 clients. Lee then leveraged his industry knowledge and trading background to form a commodity risk advisory group that acts as an in-house risk management team for clients and develops and implements risk management strategies for producers. He recognized early on the opportunities created by the shale revolution, and next formed a physical oil and gas marketing division that today markets crude oil/condensate, natural gas and natural gas liquids in every major North American oil and gas basin. Prior to founding ARM, Lee worked for Duke Energy Trading & Marketing. He began his career as a trading analyst at Entergy-Koch Trading.

To sign up to attend the September 'Leaders in Industry' luncheon, please [click here](#).

TIPRO CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
<p>SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org.</p>	<p>OCTOBER 21, 2025 HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org.</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 18, 2025 HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org.</p>

TIPRO members asked to provide feedback for Railroad Commission DOGE Task Force

Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian this summer [launched](#) a Delivering Oil and Gas Efficiently (DOGE) Task Force, an internal agency initiative focused on improving Railroad Commission efficiency, streamlining operations and delivering better service to both the public and the regulated community. As TIPRO earlier reported, the DOGE Task Force will work collaboratively with staff at the agency and industry partners to modernize how the Railroad Commission operates — not by cutting personnel, but by cutting outdated processes, delays, and confusion.

As part of the DOGE Task Force's mission to improve efficiency and responsiveness at the commission, Commissioner Christian is seeking input from TIPRO members on how the agency can better operate. Please engage with your company's technical and regulatory experts to identify pain points or potential solutions to issues in order to help shape practical reforms that can streamline processes, eliminate unnecessary delays, and improve Texas' regulatory environment. Your expertise is critical to ensuring the Railroad Commission continues to support energy development in Texas.

Key areas of focus include, but are not limited to:

- Regulatory Streamlining: Auditing outdated or duplicative rules and removing steps that add time without adding value.
- Public Input Expansion: Creating more meaningful opportunities for feedback beyond current formats — part of a broader conversation about improving public access to the regulatory process.
- Hearing Reforms: Exploring commonsense updates to hearing procedures, especially for routine or non-complex cases, to reduce burdens on operators and landowners alike.

Please provide TIPRO with your recommendations for the Railroad Commission DOGE Task Force by close of business Friday, August 29. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact TIPRO.

Railroad Commission hosting webinar on changes to its Summary of Texas Natural Gas Report

After collecting stakeholder input this summer on the Monthly Summary of Texas Natural Gas report that's compiled by the Railroad Commission of Texas, commission leaders have announced a webinar will be held in the coming weeks to discuss findings provided from public comments and to assess the future of the report.

The Monthly Summary of Texas Natural Gas is on the Railroad Commission's website at <https://tinyurl.com/29v9pbz2>. This report contains 13 tables of data on natural gas production, disposition, natural gas liquids production, gas storage and other information in statewide and district summaries. Much of the information used to compile the Monthly Summary of Texas Natural Gas comes from more than 2,000 Form R-3's, Monthly Report for Gas Processing Plants, that are filed each month. The commission is currently developing a new system to process Form R-3, and this is an ideal time to consider potential changes to the Monthly Summary of Texas Natural Gas, including modifications to the report's content, structure and format.

Users of the Monthly Summary of Texas Natural Gas are invited to participate in this webinar held by the Railroad Commission on Thursday, September 4, 2025, from 9 – 10:30 a.m. Register for the webinar [here](#).

For more information, please [click here](#).

Oil & gas regulators urge heightened caution amid concerns for increasing wildfire danger

In a new notice, the Railroad Commission of Texas is advising all oil and gas and pipeline operators in the state to exercise greater caution and regularly monitor wildfire conditions with fire danger risk going up in Texas. The notice from the Railroad Commission comes after Governor Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration for 191 Texas counties on August 12, 2025, acknowledging fire weather conditions in Texas have grown and risk an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property in communities that could be affected by wildfires. Warm temperatures, dry vegetation, and increased winds are creating conditions that are contributing to an increased risk for wildfire activity in multiple regions of the state, said the governor, prompting him to make the disaster declaration to be able to provide all necessary state emergency response resources to support local wildfire response operations. A copy of the governor's declaration can be found at [this link](#).

As such, the Railroad Commission is asking all operators under the commission's jurisdiction to take the following actions:

- Monitor local, state and national weather reports for updates on potential fire weather impacts;
- Heed all watches, warnings, and orders issued by local emergency officials;
- Secure all personnel, equipment, and facilities to prevent injury or damage; and
- Monitor and prepare operations for potential impacts, as safety permits.

In its notice, the Railroad Commission also reminds operators of its 24-hour, toll-free emergency line, 844-773-0305, that can be used to report emergencies, including leaks or spills and damage to gas pipelines.

TIPRO members can view the full notice from the Railroad Commission [here](#).

Comptroller gives new glimpse at what fossil fuel production means to the Texas economy

A recent update from the Texas Comptroller of Public Account's Fiscal Notes publication offers a snapshot of oil and gas industry trends the past decade, from Fiscal Year 2014 through Fiscal Year 2024, and how changes to fossil fuel production have had an impact on Texas employment, the state's oil and gas tax collections and other aspects of the Texas economy. From Fiscal Year 2014 through 2024, Texas oil and gas tax collections rose by 46 percent, according to the comptroller's office. Meanwhile, as drilling processes have become more efficient and resulted in fewer rigs in operation, employment and purchases of taxable equipment and other goods related to well development have been affected, the comptroller's office also explained. Texas employment in natural resources and mining fell 30 percent from 2014 to 2024. Meanwhile, sales taxes from the mining sector grew more than 17 percent from 2014 to 2024, but they make up a smaller share of overall sales tax collections, falling from 6.3 percent to 4.2 percent.

Learn more [here](#).

Texas files motion to intervene in a federal lawsuit against California's car emission standards

The state of Texas has joined America First Legal (AFL) in filing a motion to intervene in ongoing litigation fighting against policies imposed in California that would effectively outlaw the sale of new gas- and diesel-powered vehicles by 2035. Because manufacturers typically do not produce different vehicle lineups for different states, California's mandate would dictate the requirements for all cars sold throughout the entire United States. That means fewer choices for families, skyrocketing costs, and an America remade in California's image.

Earlier this year, President Donald Trump [signed a law](#) nullifying California's previously granted waiver under the Clean Air Act that had allowed the state to set its own vehicle emission regulations. California sued the Trump Administration in an attempt to force its unscientific, radical "green" emission standards on the nation, which would have unduly impacted car manufacturers nationwide.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced on Friday, August 22nd that the state of Texas has now intervened in the litigation in support of President Trump's law and to protect Texans' ability to get the type of cars they want, not whatever California dictates. Further, explained Attorney General Paxton, California's egregious regulations would harm the economic interests of Texas and its citizens, as well as impact the production of oil and natural gas. "I am standing with President Trump in his effort to stop Gavin Newsom and California from shoving its insane so-called 'green energy' vehicle standards down the Nation's throat," commented Attorney General Paxton. "Texas will not look the other way while the failed state of California undermines our sovereignty, attacks America's energy independence, and intentionally adopts destructive policies that would harm the other States."

"Our motion to intervene stands as a line in the sand for everyday Texans and all Americans who refuse to be ruled by California's extreme agenda. This is about defending common sense, protecting our jobs, fighting inflation, and upholding the freedoms that built this country. California bureaucrats should not get to dictate how the rest of the country lives, works, and drives. America First Legal and the State of Texas are fighting for the basic rights of families and workers who just want affordable, reliable choices—not government mandates. We're taking a stand for freedom, and we'll never back down," said James Rogers, senior counsel at America First Legal.

Read the filing [here](#).

State leaders approve \$101 billion 10-year transportation plan to improve Texas roadways

The Texas Transportation Commission voted Thursday, August 21st to approve the state's 2026 [Unified Transportation Plan \(UTP\)](#), a "roadmap" that is used to define, prioritize and assign available funding to thousands of Texas transportation projects over a continuous 10-year period. The recently [updated UTP](#) includes \$101.6 billion for projects over the next 10 years to improve safety, connect communities and encourage a robust economy. It is the third consecutive year the plan exceeds \$100 billion. The transportation plan also includes nearly \$45 billion for development and routine maintenance.

"Built with our transportation partners and public feedback from across the state, the UTP will enhance safety, improve mobility, and support our growth over the next 10 years," Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Executive Director Marc Williams said. "Whether you live in a rural area or a big city, this plan benefits everyone as we continue to work to move people and goods safely and efficiently, fulfilling our mission of connecting you with Texas."

Governor Greg Abbott said the state's massive investment in transportation infrastructure would help Texas meet critical needs as more people and businesses move here. "We must strengthen our roadways and improve congestion and safety to keep our economy booming and keep Texans moving. By investing billions of dollars in our transportation network today, we will build the future of Texas for generations to come," proclaimed the governor.

Importantly, the 2026 UTP will allocate billions of dollars in funding for transportation projects near the state's energy-producing regions, like the Permian Basin. This will help pay for infrastructure updates to support the energy sector's needs, accommodate increasing demand on area roads and highways and also address maintenance issues created by higher traffic volumes on roadway systems.



Texas legislature proceeds forward with second special session after return of House Democrats

After the adjournment of the first called special session of the 89th Legislature sine die on August 15, Texas state lawmakers immediately took up legislative work for a second session called by Governor Greg Abbott, with an agenda largely identical to the first-called session. TIPRO members can view the governor's proclamation for the second special session, identifying the full list of agenda items to be addressed by the Texas legislature, at <https://tinyurl.com/wyad3c8>. The governor has since [expanded](#) the Special Session #2 agenda to include legislation imposing penalties or punishments for legislators who willfully absent themselves during a session and impact lawmaking by fleeing the state. Lawmakers are also being directed by the governor to ensure appropriate studies are conducted to protect the health of East Texas aquifers and increase access to Ivermectin, a prescription anti-parasitic medication used to treat certain infections. TIPRO will continue to monitor the Texas Legislature during the special session and update members with the latest developments.

New congressional district map sent to Governor Abbott's desk, where it will soon be signed

After a two-week Democrat quorum break and other delays in the first called special legislative session of the 89th Texas Legislature, [House Bill 4](#), the congressional redistricting map that adds five Republican majority districts in Texas, was passed by state lawmakers over the weekend. The legislature's work to redraw Texas' congressional districts sparked a national debate over mid-decade redistricting and has led other states, such as California, to also consider plans to reset their own congressional district maps.

House Bill 4 now sits on Governor Abbott's desk. Governor Abbott has promised he will "act swiftly" to sign the new map into law.

Legislation by Reps. Crenshaw and Pfluger seeks to speed up state approvals for carbon storage wells

A new bill filed on Capitol Hill would set firm deadlines for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review state applications seeking primary enforcement responsibility, known as primacy, to regulate Class VI injection wells. Under the Primacy Certainty Act of 2025 (H.R. 4880) introduced this month by Texas Congressmen Dan Crenshaw (TX-02) and August Pfluger (TX-11), the Safe Drinking Water Act would be amended to require the EPA to rule on state applications to regulate Class VI injection wells within 180 days—otherwise the application automatically takes effect after 210 days if a state already enforces a similar program. The measure also directs the EPA to appoint a dedicated liaison for state coordination, tap Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds for permit processing, and report annually to Congress on staffing and resource needs.

"Giving states the authority to regulate Class VI wells will cut down on lengthy review times and redundant bureaucratic red tape," explained Rep. Crenshaw. "Class VI wells, used to store captured carbon, are a net benefit to the economy and the environment – a win for everyone. I'm proud to lead this legislation with Congressman Pfluger to ensure energy companies have a timely approval process for building out these wells, and to help states act quickly to review these vital projects."

"Far too often, bureaucratic red tape gets in the way of those who know the energy industry best, stifling production and disincentivizing innovation," added Rep. Pfluger. "Texans lead the way in efficient energy production across the country. That's why I am proud to join my fellow Texan, Congressman Crenshaw, in introducing this legislation to put an end to the Biden-era EPA's painfully slow Class VI well permitting approval process. This bill puts power back into the hands of state regulators who know their geology, and how to support it, best."

TIPRO members can read the full text of the legislation [here](#). The bill has been referred for consideration to the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Both congressmen have been vocal on this issue in the past, and earlier in the year published a [letter](#) urging EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin to expedite the review of the Railroad Commission's application for primacy of Class VI underground injection control wells in the state of Texas. The Railroad Commission of Texas has been waiting over two years for EPA approval of its application to regulate Class VI injection wells. In June, the EPA [announced](#) its proposal to issue a final rule approving Texas' application to obtain primacy on Class VI well permitting under the UIC program. The EPA is still in the process of reviewing this proposal before taking final action. If Texas is granted authority to oversee Class VI well permitting, it is expected to substantially streamline and expedite carbon capture and sequestration project development in the state.

Texas congressmen ask FERC to give final authorization to Rio Grande LNG project

Four congressmen part of the Texas delegation sent a letter in mid-August to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) urging the swift regulatory approval of Rio Grande LNG's permits for Trains 1-5. The Rio Grande LNG project, which has faced numerous permitting challenges, regulatory setbacks and delays caused by litigation, represents a great opportunity to advance American energy, explained Republican members Wesley Hunt (TX-38), August Pfluger (TX-11), Randy Weber (TX-14) and Dan Crenshaw (TX-02) in the recent letter to FERC commissioners.

"Rio Grande LNG has already created thousands of jobs in Texas, brought billions of dollars of investment to our state, and is on track to become one of the biggest LNG export facilities in the world. This project will continue to strengthen economic and national security as the world looks to American energy to meet our growing energy demands," wrote the lawmakers. "We sincerely appreciate the commission's efforts to date and now look forward to the swift issuance of a Final Order for Trains 1-5 of Rio Grande LNG so that this important project may proceed without further delay."

TIPRO members can read the full letter [here](#).

In July, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) also sent a letter to FERC commissioners expressing strong support for the Rio Grande LNG project. Like his colleagues in the House, Senator Cruz in his outreach to federal regulators this summer outlined the importance of the project. "I trust the Commission will act quickly to reissue its order and allow this critical infrastructure project to move forward," said the senator. [Click here](#) to see more.

Federal judge vacates ESA listing of the lesser prairie chicken

The United States District Court for the Western District of Texas this month issued a ruling reversing the listing of the lesser prairie chicken on the endangered and threatened species list under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). U.S. District Judge David Counts, writing for the court on August 12, cited "serious, foundational defects" in the rule extending ESA protections for the lesser prairie chicken. Finding serious error at the very foundation of the USFWS rule, he said, "mere remand [sending the rule back to USFWS] would not cure this error."

Several congressmen, including Texas Congressman August Pfluger (TX-11), praised the court's action to change the ESA status of the lesser prairie chicken. "The Biden Administration's USFWS weaponized the ESA to target American energy production in the Permian Basin, using species like the lesser prairie chicken as one of their tools. These listings were completely misguided, ignoring the vigilant conservation efforts already underway in West Texas. This week, a district court confirmed what we've been saying all along and rightfully struck down the listing, ruling that a 'foundational error' was made," stated Congressman Pfluger. "I applaud the court's decision as a major step forward in ending the years-long attack on farmers, ranchers, and energy producers across Texas. We can—and must—protect important species without sacrificing the livelihoods of our local and rural communities that power our nation."

Congressman Pfluger has been one of the most vocal critics fighting on Capitol Hill to reverse the lesser prairie chicken's listing. In April, he joined U.S. Representative Tracey Mann (KS-01) in sending a [letter](#) to Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum urging the secretary to reverse the listing of the lesser prairie chicken as well as of the dunes sagebrush lizard from the threatened and endangered species list. In their letter to Secretary Burgum, Pfluger and Mann asked the secretary to correct misguided policies from the Biden Administration and direct the USFWS to delist both the lesser prairie chicken and the dunes sagebrush lizard to restore balance by allowing local stakeholders to continue their successful conservation work while safeguarding American energy production, protecting jobs and supporting rural economies.

Updated oil and gas commingling rule will strengthen energy production and safety

On August 20, the Department of the Interior announced updates to the government's oil and gas commingling rules to align with the [One Big Beautiful Bill Act](#). Commingling is the practice of combining oil or gas production from two or more sources into a single stream for measurement and processing.

The updates to commingling requirements and rules are being led by the Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and will provide clear standards that support safe operations, improve efficiency and maximize recovery of America's energy resources.

BSEE has finalized a [rule](#) to clarify expectations for offshore commingling, ensuring production methods protect well integrity, safety and ultimate recovery. At the same time, the BLM has issued [interim guidance](#), effective immediately, to broaden commingling authority on public and tribal lands until its updated regulations are complete. Field offices for the BLM have been directed to process applications quickly and consistently under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act's expanded provisions.

"From day one, the Trump Administration has worked to cut red tape, strengthen America's Energy Dominance and ensure responsible resource development," said Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum. "We're delivering on that by aligning our regulations with the law, streamlining approval processes and giving operators a clear framework rooted in sound science and engineering. These updates make it easier to produce American energy without unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles, while at the same time protecting taxpayers, tribes and our shared energy future by ensuring production is safe, efficient and maximizes the long-term value of our resources."

In July, Secretary Burgum first [announced](#) the Interior Department was working on updates to commingling rules that could result in as much as \$1.8 billion in industry savings annually. Saying earlier commingling rules were "written for a different era," the secretary explained updates to rules on commingling would make it easier for U.S. operators to combine production from multiple leases, unlock energy potential that is currently tied up in regulatory red tape and help regulators manage public resources more efficiently while supporting responsible energy production.

Interior Department releases new long-term offshore oil and gas leasing schedule

As mandated by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act passed over the summer, the U.S. Department of Interior in mid-August said in an update that it is working on rolling out a long-term schedule for offshore oil and gas lease sales in the Gulf of America and Alaska's Cook Inlet through the year 2040. The leasing schedule set by the Interior will include at least 30 lease sales in the Gulf of America, with the first sale under the new law scheduled to take place on December 10, 2025.



"The One Big Beautiful Bill Act is a landmark step toward unleashing America's energy potential," highlighted Interior Secretary Doug Burgum. "Under President Trump's leadership, we're putting in place a bold, long-term program that strengthens American Energy Dominance, creates good-paying jobs and ensures we continue to responsibly develop our offshore resources."

For years, the energy industry faced roadblocks to offshore oil and gas development that hampered energy investment in the Gulf of America. The federal government's new offshore leasing schedule will offer the oil and gas sector much-needed clarity and stability and help to encourage greater investment in deepwater infrastructure, which is foundational to national energy resilience and keeping the United States a global energy leader. The Gulf supports hundreds of thousands of jobs, contributes tens of billions to GDP annually and generates substantial federal and state revenues. The economic and energy-security gains from these lease sales are both immediate and long-lasting.

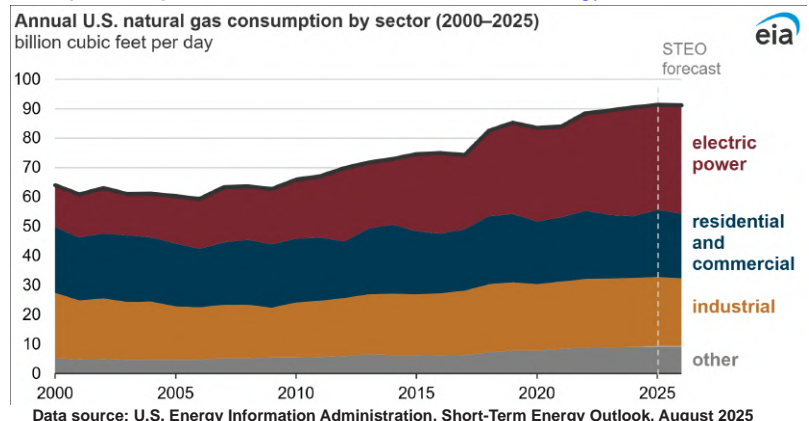
To see more about the Department of Interior's new Offshore Lease Sale Schedule for the Gulf of America, [click here](#).

EIA: U.S. natural gas consumption will hit record high in 2025

A new outlook from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) shows natural gas consumption in the U.S. will increase 1 percent to hit a record of 91.4 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) in 2025. EIA experts explained in the latest [Short-Term Energy Outlook](#) released by the agency that natural gas consumption is forecasted to increase across all sectors except for electric power, which had been the source of most natural gas consumption growth in the previous decade.

"Natural gas consumption was high in the beginning of the year, driving our forecast," said analysts from the EIA. "In January, U.S. natural gas consumption was a record 126.8 Bcf/d, 5 percent more than the previous record set in January 2024, according to data in our [Natural Gas Monthly](#). In February 2025, U.S. natural gas consumption was 115.9 Bcf/d, also 5 percent more than the previous February consumption record set in 2021. Natural gas consumption in these winter months was driven in part by colder weather, including a [polar vortex event](#) in mid-January." Following the winter months, when U.S. natural gas consumption [typically peaks](#) as that is when demand for space heating in the residential and commercial sectors is greatest, natural gas consumption in the U.S. then actually decreased over this past spring and summer.

Texas producers are at the forefront of meeting rising energy consumption and demand -- in 2024, Texas set new production records for both crude oil and natural gas.



EPA relaunches portal for important guidance documents

In August, federal regulators at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the revival of the agency's Guidance Portal, a streamlined website database providing access to important EPA guidance documents related to air quality, water protection, hazardous waste management, and more. As many members of TIPRO are familiar, guidance documents are agency statements of general applicability, intended to have future effects on the behavior of regulated parties, that set forth a policy on a statutory, regulatory, or technical issue, or an interpretation of a statute or regulation, with some exceptions. Guidance documents inform the public how a federal agency interprets an underlying statute and its regulations, and take the form of memoranda, policy statements, handbooks, manuals, and other documents formally titled as guidance. By definition, guidance documents generally do not have the force and effect of law. Still, guidance documents can serve an influential and valuable function.

The EPA first launched its Guidance Portal in 2020 during the first Trump Administration to provide public access to agency guidance documents through a searchable database. The initiative spearheaded by President Trump through [Executive Order 13891](#), "Promoting the Rule of Law Through Improved Agency Guidance Documents," aimed to give the American public better access to all of an agency's regulatory guidance documents. It was later taken down by the Biden Administration in 2021 after President Biden issued [Executive Order 13992](#), "Revocation of Certain Executive Orders Concerning Federal Regulation," which revoked President Trump's Executive Order 13891.

According to the EPA, its Guidance Document website is designed to be a "one-stop shop to help users and small businesses easily and quickly locate and follow EPA's active guidance documents on topics of interest."

"This guidance portal will ensure that we reduce bureaucratic hurdles and increase transparency for everyone seeking information about EPA's programs by providing centralized access to guidance documents," said Deputy Administrator David Fotouhi. "This will bring much-needed clarity to small business owners, farmers, and everyday Americans, and it reinforces our commitment to following the law and upholding fundamental fairness. The days of EPA relying on obscure and non-public guidance documents are over."

TIPRO members can access the EPA's Guidance Portal by [clicking here](#).

Blackstone announces acquisition of energy data firm Enverus

Earlier this month, alternative asset manager Blackstone announced plans to acquire Enverus from private equity investors Hellman & Friedman and Genstar Capital. Enverus, a member of TIPRO, is a comprehensive data analytics platform and the largest and fastest-growing SaaS company and analytics provider dedicated to the energy market.

"This is more than a transaction – it's a launchpad," said Manuj Nikhanj, CEO of Enverus. "Blackstone shares our conviction that the future of energy will be defined by AI, real-time intelligence, and bold execution. Their global reach and deep expertise across energy, infrastructure, and data-rich industries will accelerate our momentum – helping us scale faster, build smarter, and deliver transformational outcomes for our customers. It is thanks to a strong partnership with H&F that Enverus is the company we are today. I am incredibly proud of what our team has built – especially our breakthrough work in power markets – and more excited than ever for what comes next."

Eli Nagler and Bilal Khan, senior managing directors at Blackstone, also said: "As the leading energy-dedicated SaaS platform, Enverus' advanced analytics and technology solutions are critical for its customers as they navigate unprecedented AI-driven electricity demand growth and the broader energy transition. We believe Blackstone's energy market expertise and network can further enhance the company's growth trajectory, and look forward to partnering with Manuj and the Enverus team."

Comment period extended for EPA's reconsideration of 2009 Endangerment Finding

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is providing more time for comments to be submitted on its [proposed reconsideration](#) of the 2009 Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding. Comments are now due by September 22, 2025.

As TIPRO previously reported to members, the EPA is looking at rescinding the 2009 Endangerment Finding, which provides the regulatory predicate authorizing the agency to establish emission standards for new motor vehicles and engines. If the Endangerment Finding is withdrawn, it will have major regulatory implications.

Comments, identified by Docket ID EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0194, may be submitted online to the Federal e-rulemaking portal accessible at www.regulations.gov.



**API HOUSTON
GENERAL MEETING**

**In Collaboration with the
Houston Strategy Forum**

Jay Graham
Chairman & CEO
Spur Energy Partners

September 9, 2025
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Petroleum Club of Houston | 35th fl

www.APIHouston.org

TOPIC:
**Inside the Northwest Shelf: A Strategic
Outlook on the Permian**

Join API Houston and the Houston Strategy Forum for an executive luncheon featuring Jay Graham, Chairman & CEO of Spur Energy Partners. In this exclusive keynote, Jay will share Spur's insights on disciplined growth and strategic execution in the Permian Basin's Northwest Shelf.

Spur Energy has emerged as one of the largest privately held operators in the basin, managing over 2,000 wells with a forward-looking strategy rooted in operational excellence, legacy asset innovation, and capital efficiency.

This is a must-attend event for executives, engineers, and investors seeking a grounded perspective on private energy leadership and the long-term outlook of North American production. www.APIHouston.org

REGISTRATION OPEN

DUG PERMIAN

CONFERENCE & EXPO

October 15-16

Midland County Horseshoe
Midland, TX



REGISTER NOW

at HartEnergyEvents.com/DUGPermian2025

Use code: HEPE25-TIPRO at checkout
for 20% off a conference pass



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.

919 Congress Avenue, Suite 810
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: (512) 477-4452
Fax: (512) 476-8070
www.tipro.org
