



## Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association

## Texas upstream oil and gas employment increases in August, reports TIPRO

Citing the latest Current Employment Statistics (CES) report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) this week highlighted new employment figures showing an increase in upstream employment in Texas in the month of August. According to TIPRO's analysis, direct Texas upstream employment for August totaled 205,100, an increase of 200 industry positions from July employment numbers. This represented a decrease of 200 jobs in oil and gas extraction and the addition of 400 jobs in the services sector.

TIPRO's new workforce data indicated strong job postings for the Texas oil and natural gas industry. According to the association, there were 10,154 active unique jobs postings for the Texas oil and natural gas industry last month, compared to 8,853 postings in July, and 3,806 new postings, compared to 3,840 in the previous month. In comparison, the state of Pennsylvania had 2,981 unique job postings in August, followed by California (2,563), Ohio (2,322), and Illinois (2,014). TIPRO reported a total of 59,724 unique job postings nationwide last month within the oil and natural gas sector, including 20,165 new postings.

Among the 19 specific industry sectors TIPRO uses to define the Texas oil and natural gas industry, Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations led in the ranking for unique job listings in August with 2,212 postings, followed by Gasoline Stations with Convenience Stores (1,896), Petroleum Refineries (1,166), and Pipeline Transportation of Natural Gas (867). The leading four cities by total unique oil and natural gas job postings were Houston (2,497), Midland (682), Dallas (410) and Odessa (357), said TIPRO.

The top four companies ranked by unique job postings in August were Love's (752), Murphy USA (395), Energy Transfer (354), and Primoris Service Corporation (244), according to the association. Of the top ten companies listed by unique job postings last month, five companies were in the services sector, two midstream companies, two in the gasoline stations with convenience stores category, and one fully integrated oil and natural gas company. Top posted industry occupations for August included cashiers (440), maintenance and repair workers general (363), and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (300). The top posted job titles for August included cashiers (327), maintenance technicians (133), and team members (119).

Top qualifications for unique job postings in August included valid driver's license (1,880), commercial driver's license (CDL) (255), and transportation worker identification credential (TWIC) (205). TIPRO reports that 37 percent of unique job postings had no education requirement listed, 35 percent required a bachelor's degree and 29 percent required a high school diploma or GED. There were 2,316 advertised salary observations (23 percent of the 10,154 matching postings) with a median salary of \$53,400. The highest percentage of advertised salaries (31 percent) were in the \$85,000 to \$500,000 range.

Additional TIPRO workforce trends data:

- A list of unique job postings by state in August can be viewed [here](#).
- A sample of industry job postings in Texas for August can be viewed [here](#).
- The top three posting sources in August included [indeed.com](#) (3,388), [simplyhired.com](#) (2,788) and [dejobs.org](#) (1,822).

Oil and natural gas tax contributions also remained high last month, notes TIPRO. According to recent data from the Texas comptroller's office, in August, Texas energy producers paid \$445 million in oil production taxes, a six-month high. Further, producers last month also paid \$194 million to the state in natural gas production taxes, up 143 percent from August 2024. Revenue that is provided from oil and gas production taxes offers essential funding used to support public services and state programs including Texas' public schools and universities, roads, first responders and other services.

Moreover, TIPRO spotlights additional data confirming record high crude oil and natural gas production this summer. U.S. crude oil production in June jumped 133,000 barrels per day (bpd), totaling 13.58 million bpd, according to figures released by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). This compares with production a year ago of 13.25 million bpd. Of note, the EIA's data also showed crude production in top-producing state Texas increased 11,000 bpd in June to 5.72 million bpd. Gross natural gas production in the U.S. lower 48 states hit a record 120.7 billion cubic feet per day (bcf/d) in June, up from 120.2 bcf/d in May, the EIA also reported. In Texas, monthly natural gas output in June rose by 0.7 percent to 36.8 bcf/d.

"The Texas oil and natural gas industry remains vital for job creation, innovation and energy security, with 2025 employment trends driven by a variety of dynamic factors," said Ed Longanecker, president of TIPRO. "Federal policies, including faster permitting and expanded LNG export approvals, along with transformative investment in AI-driven data centers, will support increased export activity, creating high paying jobs in midstream, gas-fired generation and export infrastructure in the coming years," concluded Longanecker.



## A Message from TIPRO's President

TIPRO members,

In the dynamic and ever-evolving landscape of the energy sector, the strength of our industry is not limited just to the resources we produce or economic contributions we make, but also in the power of our people. As the leader of TIPRO for more than 12 years now, I've seen firsthand that one of the greatest assets for our industry is the robust, interconnected network of professionals who together drive innovation, overcome challenges, and continuously propel our field forward. It is this community of committed individuals who are bound by a shared purpose and ambition that makes us so resilient. With this in mind, I want to take a moment to shine light on some upcoming networking opportunities and TIPRO events available to all of you, and to extend an invitation for you to engage and meet with some of the other exceptional professionals and leaders that are part of our industry and association.

Our popular 'Leaders in Industry' luncheon is an informative series held monthly in Houston by TIPRO and our partners, the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) and the Houston Producers Forum (HPF). Each month, we look forward to hearing from the industry's top executives and visionary leaders who share valuable perspectives on the opportunities, challenges and trends for oil and gas. At the luncheon, attendees also get to hear from TIPRO, IPAA and HPF about important regulatory and policy updates coming out of the state's capitol and Washington, D.C. Our [next luncheon](#), taking place October 21<sup>st</sup>, is a can't miss event, with our featured guest, the former chairman and president of BP America, David Lawler, a 30-year veteran of the energy industry. Lawler today is the head of the recently formed Caturus, an integrated natural gas and LNG company committed to delivering responsibly sourced, low-emission fuel to domestic and international markets. I also want to mention that at our [final luncheon for the year](#), on November 18, Howard Energy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mike Howard will present. Mike is passionate about delivering positive energy and a fierce advocate for global energy development -- his commentary, which is always insightful and inspiring, is also one not to miss.

At the end of October, TIPRO is also excited to host an exclusive energy networking event in the heart of Fort Worth. Our platinum sponsor of the event, U.S. Energy Development Corp., will host guests at their corporate headquarters, the recently renovated and historic Armour & Co. meatpacking plant located in the Fort Worth Stockyards. The gathering will bring together members of TIPRO, industry leaders and colleagues in a vibrant setting designed to foster meaningful networking and collaboration. Registration is complimentary for individuals and companies connected to the Texas oil and natural gas industry. If you have not already registered, please sign up [here](#) and encourage your coworkers and industry peers to also participate in the TIPRO networking event.

Finally, our team is actively planning for TIPRO's 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention next year. We will be announcing more details soon and I sincerely hope that you will join us for this special anniversary event to celebrate the history of our organization and the future of Texas oil and natural gas.

Networking within our industry is so much more than a simple exchange of business cards. It is about forging genuine relationships, building partnerships, and creating a supportive ecosystem between workers. Our association's events, from TIPRO's flagship conferences to more intimate, regional forums, are specifically designed to help give our members opportunities to develop lasting connections. They provide a unique platform for you to meet with executives, technical experts, policymakers, and peers, fostering an environment of mutual benefit and collective growth.

I look forward to seeing you at the next TIPRO gathering! Regards,  
Ed Longanecker



Ed Longanecker

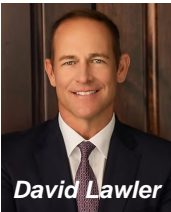
## Former bpx executive and new Caturus CEO to speak at the next TIPRO-HPF-IPAA luncheon

Join the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO), Houston Producers Forum (HPF) and Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) for an insightful discussion with [Caturus](#) Chief Executive Officer David Lawler at the next 'Leaders in Industry' luncheon on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Houston Petroleum Club!

With over 34 years in the energy sector, Lawler previously served as the CEO of Kimmeridge Texas Gas and director of Commonwealth LNG beginning in 2024. Prior to joining Kimmeridge Texas Gas, Lawler was the chairman and president of BP America from 2020 to 2023. As the chief representative in the United States, Lawler led the collective efforts of bp's businesses, representing 30,000 employees and capital deployed of \$150+ billion since 2005. In addition to his role as chairman and president of BP America, Lawler also served as CEO of bpx energy, bp's onshore unconventional and midstream business from 2014 to 2023. In 2018, Lawler led the \$10.5 billion acquisition of BHP's onshore assets, the largest acquisition for bp in more than 20 years.

Lawler joined bpx in 2014 from SandRidge Energy, a US-based oil and gas independent, where he served as executive vice president and chief operating officer for three years. For four years prior to SandRidge, Lawler was CEO and president of PostRock Energy Corporation and its predecessor entities. Prior to PostRock, he worked for Shell E&P Company for 10 years in leadership and technical assignments within the deepwater and gulf coast business units and provided business planning and support to the CEO of Shell Americas. Lawler began his career as a production engineer with Conoco and as a drilling engineer with Burlington Resources.

To sign up to hear from Lawler at the October TIPRO-HPF-IPAA luncheon, [click here](#).



David Lawler

TIPRO CALENDAR OF EVENTS		
<b>OCTOBER 21, 2025</b> HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email <a href="mailto:info@houstonproducersforum.org">info@houstonproducersforum.org</a> .	<b>OCTOBER 30, 2025</b> FORT WORTH — TIPRO Energy Networking Reception. For information, email <a href="mailto:info@tipro.org">info@tipro.org</a> .	<b>NOVEMBER 18, 2025</b> HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email <a href="mailto:info@houstonproducersforum.org">info@houstonproducersforum.org</a> .



## Governor Greg Abbott appoints head director of the new Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office

Governor Greg Abbott announced in mid-September his appointment of the first director of the Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office (TREO), a new state-level agency created by the state legislature during this year's legislative session under [Senate Bill 14](#) to find and eliminate unnecessary regulations in state agencies and implement best practices for the Texas government to reduce regulatory strains on Texans. Governor Abbott said he has tapped Jerome Greener to lead the TREO, which was inspired by the federal government's Department of Government Efficiency, nicknamed "DOGE," that was formed to streamline the government regulatory process, make regulations more effective and reduce taxpayer costs.

"Texans deserve a government that protects individual liberty and fosters economic opportunity," reflected Governor Abbott. "Through the Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office, we will cut red tape, streamline regulations, and put a check on the growth of the administrative state to keep Texas the best place to live, work, and raise a family. With a proven record of championing limited government and commonsense public policy, Jerome is an exceptional choice to lead TREO as it works to ease burdens on Texans and make government leaner, faster, and more accountable."

Greener has been serving as the executive vice president of the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF). Before joining the foundation in November 2020, Greener served as the state director for Americans for Prosperity and was senior advisor for Americans for Prosperity Action.

## Reminder: Texas voter registration deadline approaching on October 6<sup>th</sup>

The deadline to register to vote in the November 4<sup>th</sup> General Election is coming up on Monday, October 6, 2025. Texas law requires eligible voters to register by the 30<sup>th</sup> day before Election Day. TIPRO members can confirm your voter registration status by visiting the Texas Secretary of State's ["Am I Registered?" web portal](#), which allows voters to look up their voter registration record in the statewide voter registration database.

Texans who have recently changed their name or moved can easily update their voter registration online through [Texas.gov](#). [Click here](#) to update your voter registration information online. Otherwise, to start a new voter registration application, please [click here](#).

For other important voter information, please visit [www.votetexas.gov](#).

In the upcoming November 4<sup>th</sup> election, 17 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution will appear on the election ballot. This marks the most state constitutional amendments to be presented to Texas voters on a single election date since 2003.

This summer, Texas Secretary of State Jane Nelson drew the ballot order for the 17 proposed amendments, assigning proposition numbers to each of the constitutional amendments that the state legislature passed during the 2025 Legislative Session. These amendments cover a wide range of policy areas, including property tax exemptions, citizenship voting requirements, tax prohibitions, and judicial reforms. Of note, Proposition 4 ([HJR 7](#)) is the constitutional amendment dedicating a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and provides for the allocation and use of that revenue. See the full list of propositions that will appear on this year's ballot [here](#).

Early voting in person in Texas will be October 20-31, 2025.

## Senators Cornyn and Cruz submit amicus brief in support of Texas' new congressional map

After Texas lawmakers last month passed a newly-drawn congressional district map and Governor Abbott signed it into law, U.S. Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Ted Cruz (R-TX) announced on September 18<sup>th</sup> they have filed an amicus brief defending the new congressional map for Texas, saying the state - not federal courts - have the authority to draw congressional district maps as granted by the Constitution. In the case of the League of United Latin American Citizens v. Texas, Texas' new redistricting map is being challenged for allegedly being racially discriminatory and in violation of the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. State leaders from Texas have dismissed the allegations made in the legal case, and have defended the new redistricting map, maintaining that the map better reflects the actual votes of Texans.

"Drawing lines for congressional districts is one of the most significant acts a state can perform to ensure citizen participation in republican self-governance. Debating and enacting a congressional districting plan in any state, much less a state as big and as diverse as Texas, involves countless individual decisions, many (or even most) of which are political or partisan. It should come as no surprise, then, that the Founders left that often-divisive responsibility to the political branches of government, rather than to either the federal judiciary or state courts," wrote Senators Cornyn and Cruz in their amicus brief submitted to the court.

"Supreme Court redistricting jurisprudence has developed several principles that are consistent with the understanding that the political branches generally provide the proper forum for addressing concerns regarding districting decisions," they continued. "These principles, in addition to the high standard that plaintiffs generally must meet in order to enjoin the implementation of a state statute, should govern the Court's analysis in these consolidated cases," they concluded.

A full copy of the brief filed by Senators Cornyn and Cruz can be found [here](#).

## BLM proposes rolling back the Biden Administration's 2024 Public Lands Rule

The U.S. Department of the Interior earlier this month said it is proposing to rescind the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Public Lands Rule, finalized last year by the former Biden Administration. The move to repeal the rule will, amongst other benefits, eliminate uncertainty for industry stakeholders concerning potential litigation risks and permitting delays, officials said. "The previous administration's Public Lands Rule had the potential to block access to hundreds of thousands of acres of multiple-use land – preventing energy and mineral production, timber management, grazing and recreation across the West," explained Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum. "The most effective caretakers of our federal lands are those whose livelihoods rely on its well-being. Overturning this rule protects our American way of life and gives our communities a voice in the land that they depend on." A 60-day comment period has been opened on the proposed rule rescission -- see more details here: <https://tinyurl.com/4fkrfysw>.

## EPA proposes scrapping the federal Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a formal proposal on September 12<sup>th</sup> to end its [Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program \(GHGRP\)](#), arguing mandatory collection of greenhouse gas emissions data is costly and unnecessary bureaucratic red tape. The agency said it can fulfill its statutory duties under the Clean Air Act (CAA) without the data from the GHGRP and estimated that ending the program would save U.S. businesses up to \$2.4 billion in regulatory costs. The portion of the annual cost savings associated with the petroleum and natural gas industry (subpart W) is \$256 million per year, the EPA noted.

Unlike other mandatory information collections under the CAA, the GHGRP is not directly related to a potential regulation and has no material impact on improving human health and the environment, explained EPA leaders. If finalized, the proposal would remove emission reporting obligations for most large facilities, all fuel and industrial gas suppliers, and CO2 injection sites.

"Alongside President Trump, EPA continues to live up to the promise of unleashing energy dominance that powers the American Dream. The Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program is nothing more than bureaucratic red tape that does nothing to improve air quality," commented EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin. "Instead, it costs American businesses and manufacturing billions of dollars, driving up the cost of living, jeopardizing our nation's prosperity and hurting American communities. With this proposal, we show once again that fulfilling EPA's statutory obligations and Powering the Great American Comeback is not a binary choice."

According to the EPA, the GHGRP requires 47 source categories, covering over 8,000 facilities and suppliers in the U.S., to calculate and submit their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting annually. Following a careful review, EPA is proposing that there is no requirement under CAA section 114(a) to collect GHG emission information from businesses nor is continuing the ongoing costly data collection useful to fulfill any of the agency's statutory obligations. Therefore, the EPA says that it wants to remove all GHG reporting requirements, except for those subject to the Waste Emissions Charge (WEC).

CAA section 136 only requires data collection for segments of subpart W (petroleum and natural gas systems) subject to the WEC. On July 4, 2025, President Trump signed into law the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which amended CAA section 136(g), so that the WEC now applies to emissions reported for calendar year 2034 and for each year thereafter. In accordance with the law, EPA will not be collecting subpart W data until 2034.

TIPRO members can find more information on the EPA's proposed rule [here](#).

EPA will be accepting comments until November 3<sup>rd</sup> on its proposed regulatory action for the GHGRP. Comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0186, may be submitted electronically by visiting the federal eRulemaking portal at [www.regulations.gov/](http://www.regulations.gov/) and following the online instructions for submitting a comment.

On Wednesday, October 1, the EPA will also hold a public hearing on its proposal to reconsider the GHGRP. The hearing will take place from 8:00AM – 6:00 P.M. Eastern. The EPA will provide further information about the hearing on its website at: [www.epa.gov/ghgreporting](http://www.epa.gov/ghgreporting).



## Congressional lawmakers again look at making critical reforms to federal permitting process

With renewed momentum, policymakers on Capitol Hill are once again hoping to push comprehensive reforms that improve the nation's environmental review and permitting processes. Since the summer, members of Congress have engaged in new conversations about how to make real progress on permitting and update government regulatory processes to be more efficient, predictable, and transparent.

One piece of legislation that is getting attention more recently from federal lawmakers is the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act, spearheaded by House Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman (AR-04) and Congressman Jared Golden (ME-02), that would modernize the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to streamline the permitting process, reduce red tape and return the law to its intended purpose as a procedural statute for assessing the environmental impact of federal actions. More specifically, the bill would:

- ensure environmental reviews focus on direct, significant impacts rather than hypothetical or tenuously connected effects;
- create reasonable timelines for agency decision-making while protecting public comment and thorough environmental review;
- streamline judicial review to create more certainty for those working to build and to reduce opportunities for frivolous litigation; and
- improve efficiency and ease burden on agencies, including by clarifying when NEPA is triggered by refining the definition of "Major Federal Action" — a category that has grown so broad that nearly any federal action or funding can trigger a lengthy, complex review.

"As we work in Congress to unleash domestic energy and mineral production and build the critical infrastructure America needs to maintain its global leadership position, one thing has become exceedingly clear: our permitting process is broken. Unfortunately, federal permitting has turned into a blunt tool used by radical litigants to block projects," Chairman Westerman said. "Through commonsense reforms, we can strategically cut red tape and make it possible to build in the United States again. With the bipartisan SPEED Act, we can ensure America meets its growing energy needs, revitalizes its crumbling infrastructure, wins the AI race and keeps its citizens safe and secure while upholding the world's highest environmental standards and responsibly managing our natural resources."

"Our country needs modern infrastructure to keep our people and our economy moving. We need robust power production and transmission to achieve energy dominance and lower costs... But NEPA has been warped over time to become a law that allows endless lawsuits and bureaucracy that make it harder to build the things we need at the pace we need them," added Congressman Golden. "By reforming NEPA while standing firm in our commitments through the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, we can be good stewards of our environment while ending a permitting status quo that is onerous, overly complex and ripe for litigation abuse."

TIPRO members can see an independent review of this legislation from the Bipartisan Policy Center [here](#).

Oil and gas trades, including TIPRO and the association's partners, have rallied in support of the SPEED Act and called the legislative package a win for American energy and infrastructure. The bill addresses many of the most pressing issues surrounding NEPA delays and will provide durable solutions to help expedite much-needed energy infrastructure projects across the country, industry representatives say.



# TIPRO Energy Networking Reception

**JOIN US**

Join TIPRO for an exclusive networking event in the heart of Fort Worth! Our platinum sponsor, U.S. Energy Development Corp., will host guests at their corporate headquarters, the recently renovated and historic Armour & Co. meatpacking plant located in the Fort Worth Stock yards.



**OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>**

**5:00 - 7:00 P.M.**

**601 E. Exchange Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76164**

## **EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:**

- EXCLUSIVE NETWORKING
- OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH ENERGY LEADERS, TIPRO MEMBERS AND INDUSTRY COLLEAGUES
- COMPLIMENTARY REGISTRATION FOR INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES CONNECTED TO THE TEXAS OIL AND NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY

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## U.S. House passes bill streamlining cross-border energy projects

Members of the U.S. House in mid-September passed [H.R. 3062](#), the Promoting Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure Act, legislation that aims to streamline the permitting process for oil, gas, and electricity projects that connect U.S. energy resources with international markets. The bill passed the House with a vote of 224-203 and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

Key aspects of the bill include:

- **Certificate of Crossing:** Presidential permitting has been politicized and arbitrarily applied, as evidenced by the Biden administration's mistreatment of the Keystone XL pipeline. Under this bill, anyone constructing, connecting, operating, or maintaining a border-crossing facility for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity between the U.S. and Canada or Mexico would be able to obtain a streamlined Certificate of Crossing through either FERC or DOE, rather than through the State Department and President.
- **Agency Oversight:** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will oversee applications for oil and natural gas pipelines, while the Department of Energy (DOE) will manage applications for electric transmission facilities.
- **Deadline Compliance:** FERC and DOE are required to meet specific deadlines for issuing certificates and approving applications for oil, natural gas, and electricity importation or exportation.
- **Congressional Approval Requirement:** Requires the President to receive Congressional approval before revoking any previously issued permits under executive orders related to the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines, electric transmission facilities, or any other border-crossing energy infrastructure.

"By passing my legislation, the House has taken a critical step to end years of regulatory uncertainty and partisan games that have delayed energy infrastructure projects, crushed good-paying jobs, and undermined America's energy security," said North Dakota Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak, who authored the bill.

The Promoting Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure Act has been publicly supported by U.S. oil and gas organizations. TIPRO members can learn more about the legislation [here](#).

## David Rosner appointed chairman of FERC by President Trump



President Donald Trump last month named David Rosner as the new interim chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), following the departure of former FERC Chairman Mark Christie's on August 8. Rosner, a Democrat, said in a statement he was honored to take the lead of FERC as chairman and is excited to continue working with colleagues on the commission and FERC's extraordinary staff to enable reliable, affordable and abundant energy for all Americans. "Energy lights our homes, powers our businesses, and we need it more than ever to grow the innovative industries of the future," Rosner added. At the commission's open meeting last week on September 18, Rosner also laid out his priorities, which include addressing grid reliability and enabling economic growth through "abundant and affordable energy."

Rosner was nominated to serve on FERC by President Joe Biden and confirmed as a commissioner last year. He has nearly two decades of experience across energy technologies, market design and energy policy issues, both in and outside of government. Prior to his service as a FERC commissioner, he was an energy industry analyst for FERC and spent two years on detail to the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff. Rosner also was previously a senior policy advisor for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Policy and Systems Analysis and an associate director at the Bipartisan Policy Center's energy project.

Former FERC Chairman Christie left the commission in August. Christie, a Republican, began his term at FERC on January 4, 2021, after having been nominated by President Trump in July 2020 and confirmed by the U.S. Senate that November. Though Trump selected Christie to become chairman of FERC in January of this year, he apparently decided against tapping him for a second five-year term. After just over six months at the helm of FERC, Christie left his post. The energy commission has since been left with a 2-1 Democratic majority. President Trump has nominated Laura Swett, an energy attorney, and White House adviser David LaCerte to become members of FERC, though their nominations are still pending before the U.S. Senate. In a party-line vote, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee advanced the nominations of Swett and LaCerte on Thursday, September 11, though both are still awaiting final approval from the full Senate to join the commission.

## FERC commissioner calls for a more streamlined process to advance U.S. LNG infrastructure

At an open meeting last week of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Commissioner Lindsey See pushed the commission to consider permitting reform for liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities and look at other solutions to expedite reviews for a subset of LNG-related projects and provide regulatory certainty to the energy industry. See, the lone Republican currently serving on FERC's leadership panel, spoke at the September 18<sup>th</sup> FERC meeting of the Trump White House's drive for energy dominance, saying that she was encouraged by the administration's focus on energy as a top bill priority and for looking for ways to move faster and to keep innovative ideas on the table. In her remarks, the commissioner also talked about the need for FERC to modernize its review process for LNG terminal modifications under Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA) in order to reduce red tape and keep critical energy projects moving. Section 3 of the NGA provides for federal jurisdiction over the siting, construction, and operation of facilities used to import or export natural gas. Currently, almost all changes to an operating LNG terminal—in some cases even routine adjustments like relocating a section of pipe—require a case-specific authorization under section 3 of the NGA, explained Commissioner See. This case-by-case approach slows projects that do not raise new safety or environmental concerns and creates unnecessary uncertainty.

"FERC should create a streamlined, predictable pathway for routine LNG terminal changes so projects can move forward without delay and without compromising oversight," Commissioner See said. "Developing an expedited and statutorily sound program for LNG terminals, similar to the blanket certificate program for pipelines, is one of my top priorities to keep America's energy leadership strong."

TIPRO members can watch more of Commissioner See's remarks by [clicking here](#).



## U.S. energy secretary asks the National Petroleum Council to study boosting oil & gas development

U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright has asked members of the National Petroleum Council (NPC) to undertake a broad and comprehensive study that takes a deep look into how America's vast oil and natural gas resources can be harnessed to strengthen national security, support economic growth, and provide ample energy for American families. The energy secretary presented his request to the NPC this summer, saying that the priority topics to be explored in the study are crucial to advancing the priorities outlined in President Trump's energy agenda and require prompt and focused attention.

The study, which the energy secretary is naming the Future Energy Systems study, will initially consist of two subcomponents:

- **Oil and Natural Gas Infrastructure Permitting**

NPC will update and expand its recommendations from the 2019 Dynamic Delivery report. The work will focus on revising permitting policies to reflect current legislation and regulations. The goal? Practical fixes to cut through red tape and speed up the approval process for critical energy infrastructure projects.

- **Gas-Electric Coordination**

Growing reliance on natural gas for power generation, coupled with increasing demand for electricity, is straining pipelines in several U.S. regions. The NPC will study these challenges, evaluate their impacts, and recommend meaningful solutions to better align the gas and electric industries.

In addition to the main categories described above, more broadly, Secretary Wright said that the NPC should also consider other additional subcomponents for its study that deliver high-value, actionable, and timely advice. Topics that may meet these criteria include energy security, infrastructure security, and analyses supporting U.S. energy trade and competitiveness globally, noted the energy secretary.

According to the Energy Department, the Future Energy Systems study is expected to be presented at the 135<sup>th</sup> NPC Meeting, which will be held at the end of the year in December in Washington, D.C.

TIPRO members interested in learning more can read the full Study Request Letter sent to the NPC from Secretary Wright at <https://tinyurl.com/nhdsyx7k>.

## Conservation groups file appeal against court ruling ending Lesser Prairie Chicken protections

A recent ruling vacating endangered species protections for the Lesser Prairie Chicken is being appealed by the Center for Biological Diversity and the Texas Campaign for the Environment. The groups said they were challenging the court's decision on the Lesser Prairie Chicken that TIPRO earlier reported on in the [August 28<sup>th</sup> TIPRO Target newsletter](#). U.S. District Judge David Counts ruled the listing for the chicken was based on "foundational error" as the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) acknowledged its mistake in applying its Distinct Population Segment policy in 2022 to designate the smaller southern population of the Lesser Prairie Chicken species in New Mexico and the Texas panhandle as "endangered," and the northern population across Kansas, Oklahoma, northern Texas and Eastern Colorado as "threatened."

On September 8, the two conservation groups filed legal paperwork seeking to overturn the judge's decision that removes federal protections for the chicken, disputing the basis for the ESA listing reversal. In spite of the efforts by activists to counter the recent court order vacating ESA protections for the Lesser Prairie Chicken, state leaders and representatives of the energy industry maintain that industries and regional stakeholders continue their successful conservation work to protect species like the Lesser Prairie Chicken while safeguarding

American energy production, protecting jobs and supporting rural economies. They also point out that the USFWS during the Biden Administration weaponized the ESA to target American energy production in the Permian Basin, using species like the Lesser Prairie Chicken as one of their tools to go after the oil and gas industry.

"Oil and gas operators in the Lone Star State have delivered on their promise to be good stewards of the land as shown in the LPC's population growth since 2014," says Ed Longanecker, president of Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association. "The LPC's listing on the endangered species list would have done little in the way of conservation, while adding costly and burdensome regulations to energy production and jeopardizing American jobs and energy security."

"The energy industry remains committed to protecting the flora, fauna, and native species that make up the landscape and heritage of our great state," Longanecker continued. "Producers and operators have successfully met the challenge of producing more, emitting less, being responsible stewards of Texas' natural resources, and ensuring Americans have access to affordable and reliable energy."

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