



TIPRO President Ed Longanecker selected to join new critical task force on petroleum theft

Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association

The group will be led by Railroad Commission Chairman Jim Wright, who will serve as chairman of the STOPTHEFT task force.

As directed by the state legislature, the task force's duties include, but are not limited to:

- Reviewing product theft laws and regulations in other U.S. jurisdictions as well as international laws;
- Analyzing the impact of theft on state tax collections and long-term economic impacts;
- Making recommendations on law enforcement training to combat petroleum product theft; and
- Preparing a report to submit to the governor and the state legislature.

"According to the Dallas Federal Reserve, more than 40 percent of oil and gas operators indicated that theft has impacted their operations in the past year," said Chairman Wright. "Petroleum theft not only impacts oil and gas producers, it also impacts our state coffers – and it must STOP. I look forward to working with the STOPTHEFT members to identify and recommend improvements to the legislature that will protect our natural resources and Texas taxpayers from further harm."

"Oilfield theft has become increasingly organized and sophisticated, costing Texans millions and threatening the integrity of our state's energy sector," Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick added. "The STOPTHEFT Task Force brings together law enforcement, industry leaders, and local officials to coordinate a comprehensive strategy to stop these crimes before they happen. Protecting Texas energy means protecting Texas jobs, communities and taxpayers – and this task force is a critical step in that effort."

"Petroleum theft isn't petty crime — it's organized, often tied to border security failures, and it threatens Texas' economic security and America's reliable energy supply," Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian also noted. "I stand with the STOPTHEFT task force to send a clear message: Texas will protect its producers, defend taxpayers, and bring criminals to justice."

The STOPTHEFT task force is expected to have its first meeting later this month.



TIPRO President Ed Longanecker pictured with Railroad Commission Chairman Jim Wright at the 2025 TIPRO Summer Conference, where both leaders discussed issues impacting Texas producers, including oilfield theft.

U.S. oil production reaches another new record high this summer

U.S. crude oil production in July increased to 13.6 million barrels per day (b/d), new [data](#) released this week by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) shows. U.S. oil output has steadily grown throughout the year, with much of the production growth coming from the Permian Basin region.

In its new Short-Term Energy Outlook, the EIA said on Tuesday that record production in July has prompted analysts at the agency to raise the crude oil production outlook for the rest of the year. The EIA is now forecasting U.S. crude oil production will average 13.5 million b/d in 2025 and 2026, both slightly higher than the EIA's forecast that was put out last month. The EIA has also raised its forecasts for production from the offshore U.S. Gulf region, noting that some offshore projects are ramping up faster than it expected.

Also in the Short-Term Energy Outlook, the EIA noted higher U.S. production and rising global oil supply will lead to significant growth in global oil inventories, causing crude oil prices to fall in the coming months. As such, the EIA forecasts that oil prices will fall to an average of \$62/barrel in the fourth quarter of 2025 (4Q25) and \$52/b in the first half of 2026 (1H26). The EIA, however, cautions that several factors have contributed significant uncertainty in the pricing forecast, including geopolitical developments related to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict and other market concerns that could impact the flow of oil and natural gas exports. "In addition, ongoing trade negotiations and legal challenges related to tariffs between the United States and its trading partners could affect economic and oil demand growth, with implications for oil prices," said the EIA. "Lastly, given the expectations of significant oversupply beginning later this year, OPEC+ could revisit its plans for increased production, easing downward pressure on oil prices."

A Message from TIPRO's Chairman

TIPRO Members,

As chairman of TIPRO, I am pleased to share that our association's president, Ed Longanecker, has been selected to serve on the Texas Railroad Commission's new State Task Force on Petroleum Theft. This appointment to the statewide task force, that is being called "STOPTHEFT" by the commission, recognizes Ed's leadership and TIPRO's unwavering commitment to tackling the critical issue of oilfield theft, which has affected thousands of oil and natural gas companies in Texas.

On behalf of our members, TIPRO has helped to spearhead efforts to address this growing problem and identify solutions that will eradicate this kind of criminal activity plaguing the Texas energy industry. Through extensive collaboration and communication, including meetings with the FBI, local law enforcement, members of the Texas Congressional Delegation, the Railroad Commission, Texas State House and Senate members and key stakeholders from industry, TIPRO developed and recommended a series of solutions in the interim legislative session to combat oilfield theft. Several of these recommendations directly influenced legislation introduced and passed during the 89th Texas Legislative Session, including [Senate Bill 494](#) by Senator Kevin Sparks which created in statute the new State Task Force on Petroleum Theft that will study and make recommendations on preventing the theft of petroleum products in the state. TIPRO also launched a survey to track and quantify this illicit activity, and some of the data collected from the association's survey was shared during the seven separate occurrences where Ed provided public testimony in support of oilfield theft legislation during session.

We are relieved our state officials and energy leaders have been able to come together to work on solutions to put a stop to oilfield theft and protect the energy industry - the lifeblood of our state economy. None of this would have been possible without the input from our members, TIPRO's dedicated policy team, and the leadership of several state legislators that championed oilfield theft legislation this year, including Senator Sparks, Chairman Brooks Landgraf, Chairman Drew Darby, Dean Tom Craddick, and Senator César Blanco, to name a few. We are incredibly fortunate to have elected leaders like these serving in the state legislature that understand the importance of our industry from an economic and energy security perspective, and we also greatly appreciate the full support of Texas' energy regulators who also have vowed to work with us and collaborate with state, federal and local law enforcement to crack down on oilfield theft.

Ed's appointment to the newly-formed State Task Force on Petroleum Theft is a testament to TIPRO's dedication and expertise in safeguarding Texas' oil and gas sector. We are confident that his leadership, along with critical input from our members, will help shape effective strategies to identify and mitigate this criminal activity in the future, protecting the economic vitality of our industry and the livelihoods of our members and fellow Texans.

On behalf of TIPRO, I congratulate Ed on this well-deserved honor and look forward to the impactful contributions he will make on the Petroleum Theft Task Force. Members of TIPRO interested in learning more about the new State Task Force on Petroleum Theft can visit the Railroad Commission's website [here](#). If you or your company are still being impacted by instances of oilfield theft, please contact TIPRO to share the type of theft you have experienced so our team can continue to track this problem, as well as relay more insights to the STOPTHEFT Task Force about the issue. All information will be kept confidential.

Thank you,
T. Grant Johnson



T. Grant Johnson

Limited seats remain for the upcoming TIPRO-HPF-IPAA luncheon in Houston!

On Tuesday, October 21, 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 during the next 'Leaders in Industry' luncheon 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		
OCTOBER 21, 2025 HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org .	OCTOBER 30, 2025 FORT WORTH — TIPRO Energy Networking Reception. For information, email info@tipro.org .	NOVEMBER 18, 2025 HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org .

New state office inspired by President Trump's 'DOGE' is launched by Governor Abbott

The Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office (TREO), a new state office established this year by the 89th Texas Legislature, formally opened by Governor Greg Abbott at the beginning of October. The governor also announced the launch of the [TREO website](#) and [Regulation Evaluation Portal](#).

The TREO, which follows the model of the Trump Administration's [Department of Government Efficiency](#) - commonly referred to as "DOGE" - was created to help state agencies identify and repeal unnecessary or ineffective rules, determine the regulatory costs placed on the public, and issue best-practice guidelines for how agencies adopt new rules and perform required analyses such as cost and employment impact statements. State leaders say that the new office will empower the Texas government to be more efficient and less intrusive in the daily lives of Texans.

"The State of Texas operates at the speed of business, and this new Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office will ensure we continue to foster economic opportunity and protect individual liberty," explained Governor Abbott. "By cutting red tape and rooting out unnecessary regulations, we will make state government more responsive and more efficient to serve the people and job creators of Texas."

As TIPRO earlier reported, Jerome Greener has been appointed as director of the Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office. Before taking lead of the TREO office, Greener was executive vice president at Texas Public Policy Foundation.

The TREO website, which will grow and expand over time said the governor, will serve as a one-stop shop for updates on the critical work that TREO is doing to reduce regulatory burdens, eliminate unnecessary rules, and promote economic growth by making Texas more business-friendly. On the website, Texans also can find a new [portal](#) to submit feedback and make recommendations on potential government overregulation that TREO needs to take a look at. TIPRO members can learn more by visiting <https://gov.texas.gov/organization/treo>.

Early voting for Texas' Constitutional Amendment Election starts October 20th

In the upcoming November 4th election, Texans will get an opportunity to vote on 17 proposed amendments to the state constitution, along with a variety of local and special elections depending on where they live. Early voting for the election will begin Monday, October 20th and runs through Friday, October 31.



"Texas voters have the opportunity to make their voices heard on important issues this fall, and I encourage eligible Texans to plan ahead for the upcoming election," Secretary of State Jane Nelson said.

One of the key measures appearing on the election ballot this year includes Proposition 4 - House Joint Resolution 7, which would increase water infrastructure funding in the state of Texas. The proposition reads: "The constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue." Governor Abbott earlier this year directed the state legislature to make the largest investment in water in Texas history during the 89th Regular Legislative Session. Achieving the governor's request to allocate significant state funding for water infrastructure, Texas lawmakers passed House Joint Resolution 7 and Senate Bill 7 that dedicates billions of dollars for the state's water infrastructure. "Water is a critical need for all Texas," Governor Abbott said this summer at his bill signing ceremony for both pieces of legislation. "In my State of the State Address, I called on the Texas legislature to make the largest investment in water in Texas history. This law written

by Chairman Perry and Chairman Harris does just that, providing a \$20 billion generational investment for both new water supply and for the repairing of existing infrastructure. With this law, we will secure Texas water future for generations to come." If approved by voters, House Joint Resolution 7 will dedicate a portion (\$1 billion annually) of the state's sales and use taxes to the Texas Water Fund and allows the allocation and use of the revenue. Senate Bill 7, meanwhile, assigns the Texas Water Development Board with the responsibility to coordinate water supply conveyance, expands the uses of the New Water Supply for Texas Fund, and dedicates funding in House Joint Resolution 7 to finance water supply and infrastructure projects.

TIPRO members can see complete explanatory statements for Proposition 4, mentioned above, and the other proposed constitutional amendments that will be on the ballot in this year's election by visiting tlc.texas.gov/publications.

For additional election information, including resources to look up your closest polling location, visit VoteTexas.gov.

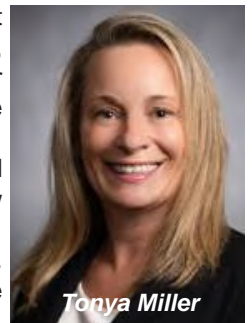
Former TWDB Director Tonya Miller named new commissioner of TCEQ

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) member Tonya Miller has been appointed by Governor Greg Abbott as commissioner of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a term set to expire on August 31, 2031, the governor's office announced last week. Miller joins TCEQ Chairwoman Brooke Paup and TCEQ Commissioner Catarina Gonzales. She replaces former TCEQ Commissioner Robert "Bobby" Janecka at the state agency, whose term at the commission expired at the end of August.

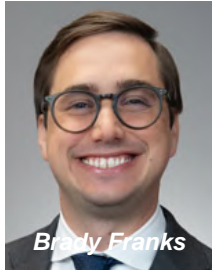
"I would like to thank Governor Abbott on appointing Commissioner Miller to help lead TCEQ," commented Chairwoman Paup, who the governor selected to lead the TCEQ in January. "Working with her at the TWDB, I know first-hand the depth of knowledge she has in environmental policy will be a great benefit to the TCEQ."

"Congratulations to Commissioner Miller on her appointment by Governor Abbott," added Commissioner Gonzales. "She brings a breadth of experience that will play a pivotal role for continuing TCEQ's mission and I am pleased she is joining the commission."

Miller has more than 20 years of experience in Texas state government focused on energy and environmental issues. She previously served as the chief executive officer and public utility counsel of the Office of Public Utility Counsel, director of the Office of Air at the TCEQ, attorney and assistant director for the TCEQ Radioactive Materials Division, and attorney for the Public Utility Commission. She also served as vice president of wholesale power strategic projects and optimization at the Lower Colorado River Authority.



Texas Governor appoints new state leaders to serve at TWDB and Texas Workforce Commission



Brady Franks

In recent days, Governor Greg Abbott has announced several new appointments for Texas agencies, including leaders of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and Texas Workforce Commission. On October 3, Governor Abbott said he has appointed Ashley Morgan to the TWDB for a term set to expire on February 1, 2027. Morgan is an attorney at Erben & Yarbrough. She previously worked for the office of the governor, the office of the attorney general, the Railroad Commission of Texas and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). She is a member of the State Bar of Texas and the UT System Chancellor's Council Executive Committee, a docent with the Docents of the Governor's Mansion, and an active member of the Stephen F. Austin Alumni Association.

Governor Abbott also recently shared that he has selected Brady Franks to join the TWDB for a term that will expire on February 1, 2031. Franks is the state budget director in the office of the governor. Previously, he worked as the co-founder and chief executive of MF Advisors, director of government relations at the University of Texas at Austin, and in various positions in the Texas House of Representatives for a decade, including senior budget and policy advisor to the speaker of the House.

Finally, the governor has selected Brent Connett to join the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) as the Commissioner Representing the Public, for a term set to expire on February 1, 2031. Prior to his appointment to TWC, Connett served as deputy director of appointments in the Office of the Governor. His professional experience also includes senior staff-level roles in the Texas Senate and over a decade in leadership positions for a legislative caucus and a public policy research foundation. In 2021, he was appointed to the State Employee Charitable Campaign Policy Committee, where he currently serves as chairman. Governor Abbott also said he has named Joe Esparza, who represents employers for the Texas Workforce Commission, as chair of the agency. In August, former TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel announced he was leaving the Texas Workforce Commission for a new role to serve as the president of the [NYSE Texas](#). "I look forward to leading the Workforce Commission and working with Commissioners Connett and Treviño to ensure Texas continues to attract employers on a global scale with our dynamic business climate, skilled workforce, and strong community partnerships," said Chairman Esparza.



Brent Connett

Acting Texas comptroller releases new economic study on the Port of Corpus Christi



A new economic study prepared by the office of Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock highlights the Port of Corpus Christi's significant contributions to the Texas economy. The economic analysis, which was released by the comptroller in late September on a stop for Hancock's Good for Texas Tour: Ports Edition, showed the port last year contributed \$113 billion to gross domestic product and supported about 864,000 direct and indirect jobs.

"Texas ports are more than points on a map; they're economic engines for our state," Hancock said. "The Port of Corpus Christi is a prime example of how innovation and infrastructure come together to strengthen our economy, support thousands of good jobs and keep Texas competitive on the global stage."

According to the comptroller's study, of Texas' total international trade, 40.4 percent, or \$429.4 billion in goods, traveled through the state's seaports, with the Port of Corpus Christi accounting for 21 percent of seaport trade, or \$88.6 billion. The top export commodities by value from the Port of Corpus Christi in 2024 were mineral fuels (\$80 billion), including crude oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipped through the port.

In the first half of 2025, crude oil shipments from the Port of Corpus Christi totaled 65.2 million tons, up more than 3.8 percent over the same period last year, while LNG volumes at the port grew nearly 10.8 percent to 8.5 million tons. Port of Corpus Christi Chief Executive Officer Kent Britton spoke to TIPRO at the association's Annual Convention this year about the role of the port and how it has earned its title as the "Energy Port of the Americas." See Britton's presentation to TIPRO [here](#).

To view the comptroller's analysis and learn more about the Port of Corpus Christi, visit <https://tinyurl.com/2svt2ma6>.

Third Texas Energy Fund loan given out to boost power supply from natural gas in Texas

Governor Greg Abbott recently announced a third Texas Energy Fund (TEF) loan has been approved for a 721 megawatt (MW) natural gas power plant located in Southeast Texas near Baytown. NRG Energy, Inc. (NRG) has signed the \$562 million TEF agreement with the state to build the natural gas plant, said the governor. The facility is estimated to begin generating power by summer 2028 and will serve the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) power region.

"Texas continues to grow as more people choose to raise their families and build their businesses in the energy capital of the world," commented Governor Abbott. "This 721 MW investment in the Texas grid will ensure the state continues to meet and provide for this incredible growth with a robust, reliable supply of energy to power Texas homes and businesses."

"The TEF is bringing reliable, affordable power to ERCOT's fastest growing regions," Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) Chairman Thomas Gleeson said. "With the 721 MW this new facility will add, the TEF In-ERCOT Loan Program is already bringing 1,299 new MWs to the ERCOT grid – enough electricity to power hundreds of thousands of Texas homes and businesses, with more on the way."

The natural gas generation facility is under construction at NRG's existing Cedar Bayou Generating Station in Chambers County. The project will interconnect in the ERCOT Houston Load Zone, one of the largest electricity demand centers in Texas, which includes Houston, Pasadena, and Sugar Land, and is the fifth largest metropolitan area in the United States.

This is the second TEF loan agreement the state has reached with NRG this year. In August, Governor Abbott announced a TEF grant to NRG for a 456 MW natural gas power plant in Houston that is currently slated to begin operations by Summer 2026. The first TEF loan agreement, meanwhile, was announced in July with the Kerrville Public Utility Board to build a new 122 MW natural gas power plant in Colorado County, Texas.

In addition to the three loan agreements already approved, state officials say there are currently 14 applications to the TEF In-ERCOT Generation Loan Program moving through a due diligence review process. Together, the projects represent an additional 7,671 MW of proposed, new dispatchable generation for the ERCOT grid.

TIPRO Energy Networking Reception

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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 Stockyards.



OCTOBER 30TH

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New leader sworn-in to oversee the U.S. Energy Information Administration

On September 25, 2025, Tristan Abbey was sworn in as the 11th administrator of the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), responsible for directing the U.S. government's energy statistical and analytical agency. The EIA is a nonpartisan, independent branch of the U.S. Department of Energy that collects, analyzes and disseminates energy information to promote sound policymaking, efficient markets and public understanding of energy and its interaction with the economy and the environment.

"EIA's role to provide objective energy data and analysis is critically important at a time of dynamic domestic and global markets," Abbey said in a statement. "I'm thrilled to be joining the team, and I'm committed to ensuring the agency continues to provide independent and objective energy information for the American people and policymakers."

"I am grateful to President Trump and Secretary Wright for trusting me as a leader of this team and as a steward of EIA," Abbey added. Abbey is an expert in energy systems analysis with an extensive background in energy research, policy, and strategy. He served for nearly a decade in senior roles at the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and at the White House. Abbey also served on the National Security Council staff as director for energy and environment and as director for strategic planning.

Abbey received confirmation from the U.S. Senate to become EIA administrator on September 18, after waiting months to get his nomination to move forward. The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources had voted on May 8th to advance Abbey's nomination to be administrator of the EIA, but the nomination, as well as others from President Trump, had been dragged out by Democrats in Congress who have stalled votes on presidential nominees for the executive branch.

Senate confirms over 100 Trump cabinet nominees

The U.S. Senate on Tuesday voted to confirm more than 100 nominees to serve in the Trump Administration, largely clearing the backlog of the president's picks who have been awaiting a floor vote. The vote on the block of Trump cabinet nominations came after Senate Republicans evoked the so-called "nuclear" rule change option surrounding confirmations to advance presidential nominees as groups, rather than individually, with only a simple majority vote. "Before Senate Democrats shut down the federal government, they shut down the Senate floor – freezing the confirmation process. For months, their blockade created a growing backlog of qualified, bipartisan nominees. Tonight, Senate Republicans confirmed 107 of those qualified nominees and ended the Democrats' confirmation blockade," Senate Majority Whip John Barrasso (R-Wyoming) said in a statement.

The slate of confirmed nominees included a wave of senior administration officials, such as Laura Swett and David LaCerte who will fill vacant seats at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and give the agency a 3-2 Republican majority. LaCerte's term at FERC will last until June 30, 2026, and Swett's term continues until June 30, 2030.

U.S. government enters shutdown after short-term Continuing Resolution fails to pass in Congress

Federal officials on Capitol Hill were unable to avert a government shutdown, after failing to pass a proposed continuing resolution before the end of September that would have kept funding flowing for U.S. government offices and operations at current levels through November 21. Both Democrats and Republicans have placed blame for the federal shutdown on the opposing political party, with leaders on both sides continuing to point fingers as the economic pain from the shutdown appears more likely to spread.

"It's shameful that they're playing politics with all the services that the American people demand and deserve. They're going to be stopped," House Speaker Mike Johnson said at the start of the shutdown.

At a press conference on Monday, Democratic House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries promised to stand firm in his party's position, his party was "going to do what's necessary to deliver a spending agreement that actually meets the needs of the American people, as opposed to hurting the American people."

Leaders from Texas' Congressional Delegation have also weighed in on the situation. "Senate Democrats' rejection of the House-passed, clean Continuing Resolution proves they'd rather shut the government down than work across the aisle for the benefit of the American people," U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas) commented.

"Instead of coming together with Democrats to enact legislation that will keep vital services running and lowers costs, Republicans - who control the House, the Senate, and the White House - have chosen to let funding lapse and critical programs shutter," U.S. Congressman Vicente Gonzalez (TX-34) countered. "The consequences of this inaction will be deeply felt by working families, seniors and veterans who rely on essential healthcare services. This is a disgrace."

While the shutdown continues, federal agencies and executive offices are following shutdown contingency plans. Certain EPA approvals related to intergovernmental agreements, permits, and for pending state requests (i.e., authorized/delegated state-issued EPA permits, State Implementation Plans, Total Maximum Daily Loads, Water Quality Standards) will cease during the government shutdown, for example. The U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM), meanwhile, will continue permitting activities during the shutdown, but energy project permitting at other government offices may be impacted.

TIPRO calls on the U.S. Senate to pass clean Continuing Resolution

The Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) was contacted last week by the special assistant to the president, deputy director of the office of public liaison, for a comment on passing a clean Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act extending government funding at current levels through November 21, 2025. TIPRO's President Ed Longanecker, provided the following:

"President Trump's emergency order will insulate the energy industry from some impacts in the short-term, but even with that, a prolonged government shutdown risks undermining the broader energy ecosystem critical to our nation's energy security. That's why the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association is urgently calling on the U.S. Senate to pass a clean Continuing Resolution today to reopen the government and ensure we can continue to provide affordable, reliable energy."

White House releases updated NEPA guidance

The White House’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) at the end of September released an updated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementation guidance document and associated agency implementing procedures template. The new NEPA guidance is consistent with President Trump’s Unleashing American Energy Executive Order, said officials, and provides clarity to federal agencies establishing or revising their agency-specific NEPA implementing procedures in order to expedite and simplify the permitting process.

“There’s been a consensus across all three branches of government that we need permitting reform. Now, at the direction of President Trump, federal agencies have a clear and consistent roadmap to get us there,” said Katherine Scarlett, the new chairwoman of the CEQ. “I am proud of the work that has been accomplished in this administration to streamline the federal environmental review and permitting process. We have seen tremendous progress across federal agencies, and this guidance will continue this administration’s momentum toward the greatest permitting reform ever to take place in the 55-year history of NEPA.”

According to the CEQ, the recent NEPA guidance updates and replaces guidance issued in February and builds upon 2023 and 2025 amendments to NEPA passed by the United States Congress, while also accounting for the United States Supreme Court’s recent landmark decision in Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County. The CEQ said it is continuing to work with other federal agencies for consistency as they establish or revise their respective NEPA implementing procedures. This historic effort to restore commonsense to NEPA will unleash American energy dominance and strengthen American leadership across critical sectors.

To learn more about the latest NEPA guidance provided from the Trump White House, [click here](#).

Judge rules Biden offshore oil and gas drilling ban was illegal

In a new court ruling issued on October 2, a federal judge determined former President Joe Biden acted beyond his powers and exceeded his executive authority when he withdrew millions of acres of offshore waters from future offshore oil and gas development. Though the memorandums by President Biden were quickly rescinded by President Trump in January after the start of his second term in office, the ruling on this case from Judge James Cain of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana is nevertheless significant. Upon consideration of the legal challenge to Biden’s offshore drilling ban, Judge Cain found that the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act did not give the president the power to indefinitely bar offshore development in federal waters. The recent ruling places key limitations on the act’s authorizations, namely that any withdrawals undertaken must have the ability to be reversed. By ensuring withdrawals cannot be permanent, the ruling ensures offshore leasing and subsequent domestic energy production are less vulnerable to political whims.

The court’s decision has been welcomed by the oil and gas industry, which had fought against the politically motivated offshore drilling ban put in place by the former president. Industry leaders said that the ruling from Judge Cain marks another important step in advancing a strong new five-year offshore leasing program and ensuring the U.S. can meet rising energy demand.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, U.S. offshore production accounts for 14 percent of total U.S. oil production, or nearly 2 million barrels of oil per day. Robust offshore oil and gas development could generate over \$8 billion in additional government revenue by 2040. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management data also shows that during 2024, oil and gas development in the OCS alone supported 250,000 jobs and contributed \$59.5 billion in economic output.



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Jim Wright
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Hallman



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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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