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TIPRO

Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association

State agency approves key permits for two 765-kilovolt statewide transmission lines

The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) voted unanimously on Friday, August 28, to authorize construction of two 765-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines that will send more electricity to the oil-and gas-dominant western region of the state. The two 765-kV lines are the first proposals to be approved under the Permian Basin Reliability Plan, passed by lawmakers in 2023 through House Bill 5066 to meet increasing power demand and bolster grid reliability statewide.

"We recognize the importance of the decision before us, and we don't take it lightly. We have to constitutionally weigh certain factors in making our decisions, and that's what we're doing," said PUC Commissioner Courtney Hjaltman.

On the day of the PUC vote, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a legal brief urging a pause on further action regarding the plan and the 765-kV transmission line buildout. Attorney General Paxton noted that House Bill 5066 contains no explicit mention or statutory directive authorizing 765-kV lines. As such, he is asking the PUC to defer any further action on the Permian Basin Reliability Plan until the 90th Legislature can have the opportunity to review its scope, costs, and impact on private landowners and provide clear policy guidance. Click here to read the attorney general's full brief.

While the high-voltage transmission lines face heightened political scrutiny, Texas energy leaders warn that delaying infrastructure approvals under the Permian Basin Reliability Plan poses significant risks to E&P operations in the Permian and increases the threat of rolling power outages across West Texas. Learn more by visiting powerwesttexas.com.

Senate Natural Resources chairman urges more legislative review before further 765-kV decisions

Midland Senator Kevin Sparks, chairman of the Texas Senate Natural Resources Committee, on September 2nd issued his response to the Public Commission of Texas' (PUC) recent approval of the first 765-kV transmission lines in Texas. While the senator expressed support for localized transmission buildouts that connect reliable, energy-dense generation to growing industrial loads in West Texas, he urged regulators to defer additional pending 765-kV project approvals until after the legislature can conduct full oversight. Chairman Sparks emphasized the need for lawmakers to thoroughly evaluate project costs to ratepayers, impacts on private property rights and potential alternatives, such as incentivizing local dispatchable generation.

"The proposed 765-kV transmission projects represent a significant long-term investment that will impact Texas ratepayers and private property owners across the state," said Chairman Sparks. "These lines do not address the primary issue of power generation. Unprecedented electricity demand gives Texas an extraordinary opportunity to rebalance the generation portfolio toward more reliable energy, but only if the legislature takes the political steps necessary to fix the ERCOT market. We need to focus on that work before rushing an expensive cross-state transmission project."

TIPRO members can see Chairman Sparks' full statement and response here.

David Lindley named as new director of the Railroad Commission's Oil and Gas Division

The Railroad Commission of Texas last week announced David Lindley will serve as the new director of the commission's Oil and Gas Division, which oversees oil and natural gas exploration and production activities across the state and enforces compliance with commission rules. As director, Lindley will oversee a division responsible for meeting oil and gas permitting and reporting requirements, conducting field inspections, testing programs, monitoring industry activities in the field and administering programs to remediate abandoned wells and sites, funded by fees and taxes paid by industry.


*David Lindley
Photo provided by the Railroad Commission of Texas*

In his role as division director, Lindley also will guide the division's strategic direction and work closely with staff to strengthen operations, support employees and advance the agency's mission.

Lindley most recently has been the assistant director of field operations within the Oil and Gas Division, giving him a deep understanding of the commission's operations and programs, as well as the vital work agency employees perform each day. He brings nearly three decades of experience in oil and gas production, operations and engineering, with expertise across major U.S. oil and gas fields. Lindley also holds a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering. "Lindley's knowledge of the division, combined with his extensive background in regulatory compliance, leading field operations and overseeing complex projects, will be invaluable to the commission in the new role," said the Railroad Commission in a press statement.

Lindley's selection as oil and gas division director follows other recent leadership changes at the Railroad Commission, with Commissioner Christi Craddick elected at the commission's last Open Meeting to become chairman of the state agency.

A message from TIPRO's President

Domestic oil and natural gas producers enter the back half of 2026 against a market moving sharply on renewed conflict in the Middle East. WTI crude was trading near $95 to $96 per barrel on September 9, up from roughly $85 to $87 just over a week earlier, after the U.S. military struck five Iranian oil tankers overnight in response to attempted Iranian strikes on a U.S. Navy vessel. Brent crude traded above $100 per barrel for the first time in about two months on the same news. The U.S. rig count held at 588 for the week ended September 4. Texas added a rig to reach 283, now 40 rigs above where the state stood a year ago. The Dallas Fed's second quarter survey, conducted in June as the U.S. and Iran were negotiating a ceasefire, found business activity among Eleventh District energy firms at its strongest level since 2022, with executives raising their year-end WTI forecast to $81 per barrel and roughly 45 percent of operators still citing natural gas takeaway capacity as a significant constraint on drilling over the next year. Today's renewed escalation adds another layer of uncertainty on top of conditions that were already difficult to forecast even before this week's events.

Natural gas takeaway capacity out of the Permian Basin has been one of the defining stories of the year. Waha Hub gas prices spent the first half of 2026 deeply negative, hitting an all-time record low of negative $9.52 per million British thermal units on April 16, surpassing the previous record set the prior October. New pipeline capacity, including the Blackcomb Pipeline and the compression expansion on the Gulf Coast Express system, began easing that constraint through the summer, and Waha prices have held positive since June 16, the first sustained stretch above zero in more than four months. More than 44 billion cubic feet per day of new natural gas pipeline capacity is expected to enter service nationally in 2026 and 2027, with more than 66 percent of it originating in Texas. That is a direct, measurable return on infrastructure investment.

Producers still expect some degree of takeaway constraint to persist into 2027, and a new bottleneck is emerging even as long-haul capacity expands. Most new gas processing capacity is concentrated in the northern Delaware Basin, while nearly all long-haul pipelines originate from the Waha hub further south, and the pipeline capacity connecting the two remains far more limited than the long-haul capacity itself. A Double E Pipeline compression expansion aimed at that specific gap recently reached a final investment decision, though it is not expected to enter service until late 2028. Gas can reach the Gulf Coast once it gets to Waha. Getting it to Waha in the first place is becoming the harder problem, and it requires sustained investment and permitting support now.

Gulf Coast refinery utilization reached 97.8 percent in late July, and nationwide utilization stood at 97.2 percent in mid-August, both well above long-term averages, as refiners run close to the physical limits of existing capacity. No company has built a full-scale new refinery in the United States since 1977, a reflection of permitting timelines, capital costs and demand uncertainty that have made new construction difficult to justify even during periods of strong margins. The America First Refining project near Brownsville broke ground this year and stands as evidence that new capacity can move forward when the right permitting environment and long-term offtake commitments align. That single project will not resolve the industry's broader refining constraints, but it demonstrates what is possible when the barriers to construction are addressed directly.

Texas' role extends well beyond its own borders. The state remains the anchor of domestic crude production, which the Energy Information Administration projects will average a record 13.8 million barrels per day for full-year 2026, and the center of the largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) export buildout in American history, positioning the U.S. to supply roughly a third of the world's LNG by the end of the decade. Today's price spike is a direct reminder of the importance of Texas energy dominance. Renewed conflict in the Middle East has already cut off Saudi and Iraqi crude that previously supplied more than 12 percent of Gulf Coast imports, and disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz move global oil prices regardless of how much any single country imports from the region. Domestic production and export capacity do not insulate Texas or the country from that price effect, but they determine how much of the resulting demand the United States itself can supply rather than relying on foreign barrels at a moment when global supply is already strained.

The pattern across crude pricing, gas takeaway, refining capacity, and export growth is consistent. Texas producers have delivered record output and supplied the country and much of the world with reliable energy. Every part of that system depends on infrastructure keeping pace with production. Where infrastructure investment has kept up, as with Permian gas pipelines this year, the results show directly in improved pricing and reduced flaring. Where it has not, as with refining capacity and now intra-basin gas connectivity, the constraints show up directly in cost, reliability, and the industry's ability to meet growing domestic and global demand. Continued investment in that infrastructure, supported by permitting processes that do not take years longer than the projects themselves, is the deciding factor in whether that record output continues to grow.

Regards,
Ed Longanecker

Registration is still open for TIPRO's next joint Houston luncheon, happening Sept. 15

Join TIPRO, the Houston Producers Forum and the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) next Tuesday, September 15, for our joint monthly luncheon at the Houston Petroleum Club. The event will feature commentary from Francisco Leon, president and chief executive officer of California Resources Corporation, California's largest oil producer.

Click here to register for the September luncheon.

TIPRO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 15, 2026	SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 1, 2026	OCTOBER 20, 2026
HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org.	BOSSIER CITY, LA — TIPRO-LOGA Haynesville Policy and Technical Seminar. For information, email info@tipro.org.	HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org.

SB 1150: Four Dates Worth Putting on the Calendar

Most of the Senate Bill 1150 conversation centers on September 1, 2027 — the day a routine plugging extension is no longer available for a well inactive more than 15 years **and** completed more than 25 years before the request. Both tests must be true; they are routinely conflated. But 2027 is the last of four dates that matter, and one obligation is already law.

September 1, 2025 — this one is already law. The bill added a requirement most operators have not heard about: every year, for every inactive well past a certain age, you owe the Commission a report showing a successful fluid level or pressure test. If you already run H-15 tests to hold your extensions, the test itself is familiar. Two things are not. The report is annual, and the clock starts 15 years after your completion report was *filed* with the Commission — with no inactivity requirement at all. That reaches wells nowhere near the 2027 deadline. No form exists yet and no rules are written, but the statute has been in effect since 2025. Knowing which of your wells are already in scope is the practical first step.

December 1, 2026. The Commission owes the Legislature the first of its annual inactive well reports — including the age and length of inactivity of every inactive well, wells plugged in the prior year split between operator- and state-funded, and P-5 compliance status by operator. It will be the first authoritative public sizing of the problem.

December 31, 2026. The statutory deadline for the Commission to adopt implementing rules. As of mid-August 2026, no SB 1150 proposal has been published in the *Texas Register* or noticed on an open conference agenda. Those rules will decide what “full cost calculation” means for an individual bond, how the annual test is administered, what a compliance plan must contain, and the size of a penalty the statute leaves uncapped. If members want to be heard, the window is now. And if the deadline slips, the amendments still take effect in 2027 with no rules behind them — worse for operators, not better.

September 1, 2027. For a captured well there are five ways forward:

1. Plug it or return it to production, injection or other service;
2. Obtain a Commission order based on a demonstrated history of returning inactive wells to operation;
3. Obtain a hardship extension supported by a sworn financial statement certified by a CPA;
4. Get a compliance plan approved committing to resolve the well by September 1, 2042; or
5. Post an individual performance bond of not less than the full cost calculation, running with the well for its life regardless of a change in operator.

The first two are non-transferable — a diligence point on any legacy wellbore trade, which now also requires both parties to jointly affirm compliance in writing.

Two low-cost levers exist today. The statute directs the Commission to consider whether an operator filed a plan of action for its inactive wells with its P-5 organization report; few do, because until now there was no reason to. And the ratio of inactive to total wells appears in the factor lists for *both* the hardship extension and the compliance plan. Both are influenceable before 2027. Neither is influenceable after.

The real difficulty is scale. Today a single blanket instrument covers the whole inactive inventory. From 2027 each captured wellbore carries its own economic case — bond cost against plugging cost against whatever remaining utility the well has. That is not one decision. For a portfolio of any size it is hundreds, all due at once.

ABOUT TAQ ENERGY

TAQ Energy is a boutique engineering and environmental consulting firm specializing in asset retirement — marginal well management, plugging and abandonment, and complete asset management. We are offering TIPRO members a complimentary top-line snapshot: how many of your wellbores are captured by each SB 1150 threshold, and the liability range that goes with them.

Michael Goodman, P.G. is South Regional Director for TAQ Energy. Reach him at michael@taqenergy.com.

TAQ ENERGY

Inactive Well Compliance Texas SB 1150

Starting September 1, 2027, the routine plugging extension you renew every year stops being available for your oldest inactive wells. We tell you which wells, what it costs, and the cheapest way through — before your renewal, not after.

What Changed

Today an inactive well can stay inactive indefinitely. You file at each P-5 renewal, meet one of eight options, and the Railroad Commission grants the extension administratively.

From September 1, 2027, that route closes for any well inactive more than 15 years that was also completed more than 25 years ago. Those wells need a Commission order, an approved compliance plan running to 2042, or a per-well bond with no cap — decided one well at a time, on your renewal date.

Statewide, more than 26,000 wells are affected, representing over $3 billion at the Commission's own cost calculation.

Why Choose Us

The Statewide Picture, Already Built
We have modeled all 120,040 inactive wells and 3,624 operators on the Commission's records against the new tests. We can show you your position in days, not months.

Well-by-Well, Not Portfolio Wide
The statute gives five ways through, and the cheapest one is different for almost every well. As engineers, we triage depth, condition, reservoir, and cost, then document the choice.

Reactivation First
Four of the five paths just cost money. One earns the extension by returning wells to production. We look there first, because that is the only path that pays for itself.

Our Services

- **SB 1150 exposure screening**
- **Well-by-well path selection**
- **Reactivation & return-to-production review**
- **Compliance plan preparation through 2042**
- **Bond & financial assurance sizing**
- **Hardship petition support**
- **P-5 renewal calendar management**
- **Plugging program design & oversight**
- **Divestiture & acquisition due diligence**

Send us your P-5 number(s).

We'll tell you where you stand.

www.taqenergy.com 720-617-6266 michael@taqenergy.com

Texas regulators add satellite monitoring of Permian underground injection operations

Through a new partnership with B3 Insight and SatSense, state regulators at the Railroad Commission of Texas will gain visibility of surface movement in support of its Underground Injection Control (UIC) program. Basin-wide, high-resolution ground-motion measurements, updated as each new satellite acquisition is processed, will be accessible to the commission, alongside OilfieldH2O's water injection, pressure, infrastructure and regulatory datasets, according to a company press release. Rather than reconciling separate sources after the fact, operators and regulators can see directly how surface deformation corresponds to injection activity and geologic conditions.

"InSAR data represent an essential input to understanding injection impacts and future risk. This partnership ensures regulators have access to the highest quality data already leveraged by large Permian operations, integrated into key datasets and workflow tools to support their work," said SatSense CEO Dr. Matthew Bray.

"This is a critical time to ensure that all stakeholders have the tools they need to advance their understanding of injection risk. We are incredibly proud to work with our partners at SatSense to support the Railroad Commission's efforts to expand the data available to its UIC program," said B3 Insight CEO Kelly Bennett.

TIPRO members can learn more here.

TCEQ's executive director leaving to become CEO of the Texas Association of Business

The Texas Association of Business (TAB) has selected Kelly Keel to lead the organization as president and CEO, the group announced the first week of September. Keel has been the executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) since 2023, managing the agency's day-to-day operations, including approximately 3,200 employees, 16 regional offices, and an annual budget of roughly $665 million. Keel, who has worked for the TCEQ since 2001, brings a quarter century of Texas state government and regulatory leadership to her new position with TAB, which starts effective October 2.


TCEQ Executive Director Kelly Keel

"There is no better time to be leading the most dynamic and important business community in the country," commented Keel. "Texas employers are the driving force behind the world's 8th largest economy, and deserve a strong, unified voice at the capitol that can navigate the complex legislative and regulatory challenges our businesses face as Texas continues our unprecedented population and economic growth. I am honored to take on this role and look forward to working on behalf of Texas business to ensure our state remains a global leader and the national model for cultivating a pro-business environment."

Following Keel's departure from the TCEQ, an interim executive director for the TCEQ has not yet been announced by TCEQ commissioners.

TCEQ's Marginal Conventional Well Plugging Program now accepting applications

Owners and operators of marginal conventional wells in Texas may be eligible for state-funded grants to use towards voluntarily plugging wells. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) this week opened applications for its Texas Voluntary Marginal Conventional Well Plugging Program (TxMCW), offering more than $100 million in funding provided by the Inflation Reduction Act's Methane Emissions Reduction Program.

Applications for the TxMCW will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. CST on November 9, 2026. Wells will be selected for participation on a competitive basis.

The TxMCW is hosting an informational webinar on Sept. 21, 2026, from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. covering everything that you need to know about participating in the TxMCW program. This webinar is free and open to the public. To sign up for the webinar, click here.

TIPRO members may otherwise learn more about TxMCW well eligibility guidelines, submission requirements and application instructions on the TxMCW webpage.

TxDOT's updated 10-year statewide transportation plan given the green light by state leaders

Texas transportation commissioners voted at the end of August to approve the final 2027 Unified Transportation Program (UTP), the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) 10-year plan for guiding transportation project development across the state from fiscal years 2027 through 2036. Updated each year, the UTP "road map" helps to identify the state's highest priority transportation and highway projects. The UTP is not a budget or guarantee that projects will or can be built.

The 2027 UTP includes approximately $95 billion in transportation investments over the next 10 years, with an additional $43 billion allocated towards development and routine maintenance, for a total investment of nearly $138 billion.

"Texas' booming economy and growing population demand a transportation system that keeps people and products moving safely and efficiently," remarked Texas Governor Greg Abbott. "This $138 billion investment will strengthen our roadways, reduce congestion, improve safety, and support growing communities across Texas. By investing in critical infrastructure today, we are building a bigger, better Texas for generations to come."

"This 10-year plan reflects the scale and complexity of meeting Texas' transportation needs in one of the fastest-growing states in the nation," added TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. "It is focused on practical outcomes—improving safety, preserving the system we have, and supporting reliable movement for people and goods. With continued attention to project delivery, stewardship and long-term performance, these investments help position TxDOT to meet today's demands while planning responsibly for the future."

Members of TIPRO can see more about the 2027 UTP here.

RRC Commissioner Wayne Christian defends agency's updated Public Engagement Policy

Amid heightened scrutiny and so-called misinformation being circulated about the Railroad Commission's newly adopted Public Engagement and Participation Policy, Texas Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian recently issued a statement explaining the policy changes and setting the record straight. "Public input at the Railroad Commission has not been canceled, banned, restricted or censored," said Commissioner Christian, who proposed the changes to the public participation policy at the August 18th Commission Open Meeting. "This change is about expanding meaningful access to our agency for the people of Texas while giving the commission greater flexibility to conduct its meetings. As a former legislator, I've long believed we could enhance accessibility by modeling our approach more closely on how public testimony works in the Texas House and Senate."

Texas Railroad Commissioners pictured at the agency's last Open Meeting, held August 18, 2026.

The commissioner emphasized that the commission's updated policy, which TIPRO discussed in further detail in the association's August 27th TIPRO Target, broadens public access to the agency, builds upon the success of the Railroad Commission's Office of Public Engagement and modernizes an internal policy that had not been updated in more than two decades.

"Under the old system, many Texans had to drive hundreds of miles to Austin for three minutes at a microphone during a meeting where commissioners may be legally limited in how much we can respond," Commissioner Christian said. "The new system allows Texans a way to participate from anywhere in the state, engage in more meaningful conversations with the agency and connect directly with the staff who can help resolve their concerns."

Commissioner Christian has been asked to testify on the record about this new Public Engagement and Participation Policy before the Texas House Energy Resources Committee when it meets on Tuesday, September 15. The previously-scheduled public hearing of the House Energy Resources Committee will also that day be covering its legislative oversight and monitoring of the Railroad Commission.

In a letter to Railroad Commissioner Christian, Committee Chairman Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) expressed his concerns over the agency's revised participation policy, pointing out the 'Listening Sessions' held by the commission limited opportunities for the public to engage with state regulators. "...They are not a substitute for a guaranteed chance to be heard directly by the commissioners who actually cast the votes. Staff can listen. Only the commissioners can vote, and that is who Texans need to be heard by," he said, adding that the new process did not have enough discretion for the new process or input from the public before it was voted on. "(The Railroad Commission) revoked a 21-year standing guarantee and replaced it with discretion that offers no guarantee at all," Chairman Darby added. "Discretion built into a process from the start is not the same as a sitting majority taking away a commitment the public has relied on for two decades."

TWDB accepting public comment on proposed amendment to the 2027 State Water Plan

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is seeking public comment on a proposed amendment to the new 2027 State Water Plan. The initial Phase I 2027 State Water Plan document, adopted by the TWDB in July, was developed on an accelerated timeline to support 2026 State Water Plan Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) financial assistance commitments. Since the summer, the TWDB has proposed an amendment to the Phase I State Water Plan document, being called "Phase II" of the State Water Plan, offering more robust content in line with previously adopted state water plans.

Comments may be submitted using the TWDB's online form available here. The deadline for comment is Friday, Sept. 25, at 5:00 p.m.

The TWDB also will receive relevant comments concerning the proposed amendment to the State Water Plan at an upcoming public hearing scheduled for at 1:00 p.m. on September 24, 2026, in room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. The hearing will also be virtual via Teams Meeting (Meeting ID: 265 414 473 397 78; Passcode: c5Nf9pc9. Audio access only: 512-298-6360; phone conference ID: 635 380 055#). Visitors who wish to provide public comment at the hearing should complete the visitor registration form and either attend the meeting in person or arrange to provide comment via video conference.

- For those attending via video conference and wishing to provide comment, please submit a completed registration form via email to SWPPublicComment@twdb.texas.gov no later than 12:00 P.M. on September 23, 2026. Please provide a phone number and email address where you may be reached. The TWDB support staff will contact you to test the video conference functionality before the hearing begins.
- For those attending in person who wish to provide comment, please submit a completed registration form via email to SWPPublicComment@twdb.texas.gov no later than 8:00 A.M. on September 24, 2026, or in person at the registration desk.

After consideration of comments submitted and making any other necessary minor corrections, the TWDB will consider adopting the proposed amendment to the State Water Plan at a regular Board meeting tentatively scheduled to be held in December 2026.

TIPRO members can visit the TWDB website for more details.

3 weeks to go until the inaugural TIPRO-LOGA Haynesville Policy & Technical Seminar

Oil and natural gas industry representatives operating in the Haynesville Shale will not want to miss the exclusive chance to hear from state leaders and technical experts at the inaugural Haynesville Policy & Technical Seminar, hosted by the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) and the Louisiana Oil & Gas Association (LOGA). The seminar, scheduled to take place Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at the Live! Casino & Hotel in Bossier City, Louisiana, will give energy professionals direct access to the agencies and leaders who regulate their operations, allowing attendees to receive clear, authoritative answers to the regulatory, political, and technical questions facing Haynesville producers today.

Space for the event is limited. Registration is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and will close once capacity is reached. Email info@tipro.org for more information.

New Texas-led bill seeks study on modernization of the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve

A new bipartisan bill filed by Texas Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX-07) and Congressman August Pfluger (R-TX-11) calls for a comprehensive public report to be prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy, working with the National Petroleum Council, evaluating strategies to improve and modernize America's emergency oil reserves held in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to respond to supply shocks, like the 2026 closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Key focus areas for the report would include looking at how to expand the SPR's geographic distribution and storage capacity, ways to add more storage for refined petroleum products, such as gasoline and diesel, as well as crude oil, and recommendations to eliminate congressionally mandated sales that draw down the reserve outside of emergencies, along with other related issues tied to the SPR.

“Energy security is essential to national security, and the SPR is one of the most important tools we have to ensure it,” said Congresswoman Fletcher. “Having a reserve is critical to ensuring our energy independence and to helping protect American families when conflicts overseas disrupt global oil supply, as we have seen following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and now the war in Iran. We have relied on the SPR, and it has delivered for American families. But the reserve is stretched thinner than it has been in 40 years, and we cannot take that capability for granted. The 21st Century SPR Act is a common-sense first step toward making sure the SPR is capable of meeting our needs in the future in every way, and I’m glad to work with Congressman Pfluger on this important effort.”

"The SPR was built to protect America from energy supply disruptions and national security threats, but nearly 50 years later, we're still operating without a concrete plan for its future. We can't afford to ignore this issue as our adversaries are quietly building up their energy reserves. This legislation is a straightforward step to get the answers we need and start modernizing the SPR for the challenges of today, not decades ago," said Congressman Pfluger (TX-11). TIPRO members can view the full text of the bill by clicking here.

U.S. senator asks Interior Secretary to use emergency authorities to speed oil and gas development to drive down energy prices

United States Senator for Arkansas Tom Cotton sent a letter at the start of the month to the head of the U.S. Department of Interior, Doug Burgum, asking the secretary of the Interior, who also chairman of the National Energy Dominance Council, to lead an administration-wide effort accelerating domestic oil and natural gas development in order to stabilize and lower energy prices and protect American consumers from foreign energy market volatility. “Ongoing disruptions to global energy markets and transportation routes due to the Iranian terrorist regime’s aggression have demonstrated the danger of allowing American consumers to remain exposed to geopolitical supply shocks,” wrote Senator Cotton. “Luckily, the United States possesses abundant oil and natural gas resources. At a time of heightened international instability, federal policy should be focused on bringing additional domestic supply to market as quickly as reasonably possible.” TIPRO members can view the full letter here.

The senator's message comes as oil prices this week jumped to over $100 per barrel for the first time since July, as continued tensions between Iran and the United States add to uncertainty over future supply.

WOTUS sees more changes under EPA's supplemental proposed rule

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Army on September 4th announced the signing of a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to further shape the Trump Administration's earlier regulatory proposal, published on Nov. 20, 2025, revising the regulations known as "Waters of the United States" or "WOTUS," which define the scope of waters federally covered under the Clean Water Act in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 decision in *Sackett v. EPA*.

"The EPA's goal is a durable WOTUS definition that follows the law and ends burdensome regulatory uncertainty," said EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin. "Today's action reflects our continued commitment to transparency and public input, ensuring we have fully considered a wide range of potential policy options. We look forward to public feedback on this supplemental notice, which will help strengthen the real-world expertise behind the final rule."

The EPA and Army are accepting public comments for 30 days, through October 9, on the supplemental proposed rulemaking for WOTUS. To send comments, visit the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. All submissions should cite the Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OW-2025-0322.

Agency leaders say they will closely consider all stakeholder perspectives on the WOTUS rulemakings without foreclosing any options from the initial proposal or predetermining the outcome of the final rule.

Additional information on Waters of the United States rule can be found at www.epa.gov/wotus.

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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