

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT



Please Note: Governmental Affairs reports are not published during the holidays and will resume with the January 8, 2024 issue. Wishing you a safe, merry, and joyous holiday season and a very happy new year!



FEDERAL – Legislative

S. 3445 – Supporting Made in America Energy Act.

On Dec. 7, [S. 3445](#), known as the Supporting Made in American Energy Act, was introduced by Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT). According to Sen. Daines, the purpose of the bill is to “ensure that the United States maintains and grows its energy independence by supporting Made in America energy.” Specifically, the “bill bolsters energy independence by requiring the Department of the Interior (DOI) to hold four onshore oil and gas lease sales in the top oil and gas producing states as well as requiring two offshore oil and gas lease sales in each available area in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska.” The states listed include Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah, and Wyoming, “and all other eligible states.” The bill also requires the DOI Secretary “to disclose all communications, documents and comments from the public related to the Department’s oil and gas leasing review.” [Read more.](#)

H.R. 6481 – BLM Expressions of Interest Refunds.

On Nov. 28, [H.R. 6481](#) was introduced by Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-WY). The bill would “amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to reimburse the fee for an expression of interest if the expression of interest becomes inactive.” According to Rep. Hageman, the bill “seeks to incentivize the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to resume its duty of issuing leases to oil and gas companies. This bill

makes Expression of Interest (EOI) fees paid by companies to the BLM refundable. Companies must pay these fees to be considered for BLM leases. Under current law, however, they are unable to recover these fees if they are not awarded a lease or the EOI becomes inactive. My bill will refund these fees to those companies who do not receive a lease, and will require these fees to be considered active for 5 years, as opposed to the current 3-year term.” [Read more.](#)

Congressional Letter to Treasury Secretary Regarding Hydrogen Production Tax Credits.

On Dec. 7, Congressional Democrats delivered a letter to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen regarding hydrogen production tax credits under the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. The letter states that “In order to limit future warming and avoid irreversible ecological damage, we must make rapid and deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The IRA’s incentives for clean hydrogen and other emerging technologies offer great promise in reducing emissions in difficult-to-decarbonize sectors. As the administration finalizes rules for the IRA’s 45V Clean Hydrogen Production Tax Credit, we strongly urge you to ensure that the guidance results in a net decrease in greenhouse gas emissions.” [Read the letter here.](#)

Congressional Letter to EPA Administrator Regarding Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule. On Dec. 13, Congressional Republicans delivered a letter to EPA Administrator Michael Regan expressing their concerns with the reporting requirement under the Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP) included in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. The letter states, that the “revisions blatantly disregard and overstep even the partisan mandates of the statute as enacted and will excessively increase the tax burden on American energy under the new MERP. The

proposal would not only radically expand the scope of emissions required to be reported by each facility under the GHGRP, but also unduly expand the number of facilities that are covered by subpart W and thus liable for the methane tax. If finalized as proposed, it is likely that the revisions would artificially overestimate US methane emissions.” The letter writers request that the “EPA should immediately reconsider this proposal if it is going to finalize a rule that will provide regulatory certainty and reduce the significant economic burden that the agency and Administration are imposing on American families and energy consumer.” [Read the letter here.](#)

Congress in Holiday Recess. As of Dec. 18, the U.S. Congress is in holiday recess, however, the U.S. Senate may remain in session during that week to hammer out a supplemental spending package as the next government funding deadline looms in early 2024. Otherwise, the Senate and U.S. House of Representatives will be back in regular session during the week of Jan. 8, 2024. [Read more.](#)

FEDERAL – Regulatory

Inflation Reduction Act Energy Credits. On Nov. 22, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) released a notice of proposed rulemaking “that modifies the regulations applicable to the Energy Credit under Section 48 of the Internal Revenue Code.” This proposed rule “also withdraws and repurposes portions of an August proposal on the rules governing the increased credit amount available for taxpayers satisfying prevailing wage and registered apprenticeship requirements established by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).” The rulemaking, *Definition of Energy Property and Rules Applicable to the Energy Credit (88 Fed. Reg. 82188)*, “would impact taxpayers who invest in energy property eligible for the energy credit.” [Read more.](#) Specifically, the proposal adds “new definitions to clarify the scope of recently added qualifying property, including qualified biogas property, energy storage facilities and geothermal energy property.” The public comment period is open through Jan. 22, 2024. The Treasury Department/IRS will also be holding a public hearing in February. [Read more.](#)

EPA Methane Emissions Final Rule. To follow up our comprehensive reporting and advocacy over the past two years, on Dec. 2, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finally released their final emissions rule, *Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review*. [Read more.](#) With this 1,690-page regulation ([available here](#)), the EPA is “finalizing multiple actions to reduce air pollution emissions from the Crude Oil and Natural Gas source category. First, the EPA is finalizing revisions to the new source performance standards (NSPS) regulating greenhouse gases (GHGs) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emissions for the Crude Oil and Natural Gas source category pursuant to the Clean Air Act (CAA). Second, the EPA is finalizing emission guidelines (EG) under the CAA for states to follow in developing, submitting, and implementing state plans to establish performance standards to limit GHG emissions from existing sources (designated facilities) in the Crude Oil and Natural Gas source category. Third, the EPA is finalizing several related actions stemming from the joint resolution of Congress, adopted on June 30, 2021, under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), disapproving the EPA’s final rule titled, ‘Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Review,’ September 14, 2020 (‘2020 Policy Rule’). Fourth, the EPA is finalizing a protocol under the general provisions for optical gas imaging (OGI).” [Access a complete EPA Fact Sheet here.](#) According to the EPA, the final rule “will sharply reduce emissions of methane and other harmful air pollution from oil and natural gas operations — including, for the first time, from existing sources nationwide. The final action includes New Source Performance Standards to reduce methane and smog-forming volatile organic compounds from new, modified and reconstructed sources. It also includes Emissions Guidelines, which set procedures for states to follow as they develop plans to limit methane from existing sources.” According to an EPA press release, “Among other things, the final rule will phase in a requirement to eliminate routine flaring of natural gas that is produced by new oil wells; require comprehensive monitoring for leaks of methane from well sites and compressor stations, while giving oil and gas companies flexibility

to use low-cost and innovative methane monitoring technologies; and establish standards that require reductions in emissions from high-emitting equipment like controllers, pumps, and storage tanks.” The final rule also includes a “Super Emitter Program” that empowers “third-party experts” to detect methane releases from oil and gas wells. [Read more](#). For background, the EPA initially released a proposed rule in 2021 followed by a supplemental proposal in November 2022 “with much stress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting human health.” Throughout 2023, industry groups, including AAPL, as well as state regulators submitted formal comments to the EPA to warn of impractical, unworkable, or cost prohibitive provisions, as well as possible legal challenges for EPA overreach. [Read more](#). As reported by the *Oil & Gas Journal*, “Several changes in the final rule are intended to address the practical issues raised by industry, such as time needed to meet the new standards and to make repairs when needed.” The effective date for compliance at new, modified, and reconstructed operations was amended to allow for a phase-in period. “For new oil wells, the provisions to minimize flaring of associated gas will be phased in over a 2-year period. For process controllers — formerly called pneumatic controllers — the standard will be zero emissions, but there will be a 1-year phase-in period. For existing wells — constructed prior to Dec. 6, 2022 — there will be a longer transition. First, states will be given 2 years to submit state implementation plans for existing oil and gas operations, and states generally will be obligated to require compliance no later than 3 years after submission of the plan, which means a transition of as much as 5 years. Routine flaring will be phased out for most operations while allowances are made for temporary flaring or venting for various reasons, such as safety during emergency work. In recognition of the more difficult cost-benefit balance of small operations, routine flaring will be allowed for a subcategory of wells emitting no more than 40 tons/year of methane.” Finally, for the “super emitter” program for large leaks, “which will require operators notified of a leak detection to investigate and make repairs to meet EPA standards” [...] Third parties will be allowed to report large leaks to EPA. To maintain quality control, EPA will have to certify third parties for that kind of work and will evaluate the data that third parties

provide — an oversight role to keep the federal agency in control of enforcing federal standards.” [Read more](#). Following the rule release, the API and IPAA issued statements that generally support methane reduction and acknowledge the work the oil and gas industry has already done and continues to do to reduce emissions yet also raised concerns about how the rule might affect domestic energy production. However, numerous oil and gas producers have come out in support of methane emissions reductions, ending routine flaring except in necessary situations, and an overall commitment to achieve net zero goals in the industry. During the recent COP28 international climate change summit — where the EPA final rule was announced — the Global Decarbonization Accelerator (GDA) was launched, which counts among it 50 companies, “representing over 40 percent of global oil production” who signed on to the GDA’s Oil and Gas Decarbonization Charter, “committing to zero methane emissions and ending routine flaring by 2030, and to total net-zero operations by 2050 at the latest.” Some of those companies include oil and gas majors ExxonMobil, BP, Equinor, EQT, and Occidental Petroleum, among others. [Read more](#). To learn more about the final rule, the EPA has provided resources on their regulatory website as well as advanced announcement of 2024 training sessions to provide an overview of the final rule for various stakeholders, accessible here: [Read more](#).

EPA Oil and Gas Industry Pollutants Proposed Rule.

On Dec. 1, the EPA published a proposed rule, *Removal of Affirmative Defense Provisions From the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for the Oil and Natural Gas Production Facility and Natural Gas Transmission and Storage Facility Source Categories* ([88 Fed. Reg. 83889](#)), that “is proposing amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for the oil and gas industry issued under the Clean Air Act. Specifically, the EPA is proposing to remove the affirmative defense provisions of the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for both the Oil and Natural Gas Production source category and the Natural Gas Transmission and Storage source category.” The EPA provides in the rulemaking that the “removal of the provisions does not

have a material impact on the obligation for sources to comply with current existing standards, or the ability of Federal or State agencies to enforce standards [...] The removal of the affirmative defense provisions does not affect that burden because sources will still be required to report malfunctions that could have resulted in a failure to meet the standards. Since the option to invoke an affirmative defense was voluntary, there may be a negligible cost savings for reporting malfunctions by removing these provisions.” The public comment period is open through Jan. 16, 2024. [Read more.](#)

BLM Information Collection. On Dec. 11, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) published a notice of information collection, *Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Oil Shale Management* ([88 Fed. Reg. 85908](#)). According to the BLM, the information they seek from the public “applies to the exploration, development, and utilization of oil shale resources on the BLM-managed public lands.” The public comment period is open through Jan. 10, 2024. [Read more.](#)

BLM Oil and Gas Lease Sale – Wyoming. On Dec. 13, the BLM Wyoming State Office announced “an oil and gas lease sale scheduled for March 5, 2024, to offer 30 oil and gas parcels totaling 13,417 acres in Wyoming. The BLM completed scoping on these parcels in July 2023 and a public comment period in October 2023 on the parcels, potential deferrals, and the related environmental analysis. A 30-day public protest period to receive additional public input opened today and will close January 12, 2024.” [Read more.](#)

BLM Land Withdrawal – Utah. On Dec. 14, the BLM published a *Notice of Proposed Withdrawal Extension, Public Meetings and Correction for Segments of the Colorado, Dolores, and Green River Corridors; Utah* ([88 Fed. Reg. 86673](#)). The notice provides that at the request of the BLM, “the Secretary of the Interior proposes to extend Public Land Order (PLO) No. 7618, which withdrew public lands from location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, to protect the recreational, scenic, cultural, riparian, and fish and wildlife values of the

Colorado, Dolores, and Green River Corridors, for an additional 20-year term. Lands included in PLO No. 7618 have been surveyed or resurveyed and corrected. Their official land description has been changed, requiring that the land descriptions be modified and corrected to include lands that were inadvertently not listed in the original PLO. The acreage has been changed from 111,895 acres to 109,287 acres to reflect the updated land description. The land would remain closed to location and entry under the U.S. mining laws. This notice provides a 90-day public comment period and announces that the BLM will host one in-person public meeting in Moab and one virtual meeting regarding this proposal.” The public comment deadline is March 13, 2024. The meetings will be held on Jan. 16 and Jan. 18, 2024. [Read more.](#)

USFS/BLM Lands Withdrawal – Colorado. On Dec. 8, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and BLM announced that they are “requesting the Secretary of the Interior withdraw approximately 224,713 acres of lands and interests administered by the USFS and BLM from all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws; location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights.” [Read more.](#) According to the notice, “If the Secretary of the Interior were to grant the withdrawal, federal lands and interests in the withdrawal application area would be closed to sale or exchange, and no new mining claims or mineral or geothermal leases would be authorized for a term up to 20 years. Non-federal lands and interests would not be subject to the withdrawal unless they are subsequently acquired by the federal government. The purpose of the requested withdrawal is to protect and preserve cultural, agricultural, ranching, wildlife, air quality, recreational, ecological, and scenic values in the Thompson Divide area of Colorado from potential impacts that may arise from mineral exploration and development. Additionally, closing federal lands in the withdrawal application area to sale and exchange would retain a contiguous landscape resulting in more efficient and effective management of USFS and BLM administered lands. The withdrawal application area includes portions of the White River National Forest, Grand Mesa,

Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest, and BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office, BLM Gunnison Field Office, and BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, in Pitkin, Gunnison, and Garfield Counties, Colorado.” The public comment period is open through Jan. 8, 2024. [Read more](#). You may access the [public comment portal webform here](#). The USFS and BLM also announced a virtual public meeting for Dec. 18. [Read more](#).

FEDERAL – Judicial

Petition to Phase out Oil and Gas Extraction on Public Lands – District of Columbia. On Dec. 1, in *In re Ursa Operating Co.* (Case No. 22-1729), the U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit, on appeal from the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware, addressed a case arising from the bankruptcy of Ursa Operating Company, LLC and its affiliates, “an extractor and seller of oil and gas in the western United States.” Ursa operated wells on leased property owned by the plaintiffs who alleged “that Ursa wrongfully retained mineral royalties due under the leases. They contend those funds are their property and therefore not part of Ursa’s bankruptcy estate.” Here, the court found the plaintiffs were “correct that under Colorado law they have a real property interest in unpaid royalties. And Colorado’s constructive trust doctrine supports imposition of a constructive trust if a factfinder concludes that Ursa was unjustly enriched at the [plaintiffs’] expense.” The lower court and Bankruptcy Court had concluded that “underpayment claims should be classified as unsecured non-priority claims because the underpaid royalties retained by Ursa are property of its estate.” But here, the court held that a constructive trust was an available remedy “Because Ursa would be unjustly enriched if it were permitted to retain the benefit of the property that belongs to the Royalty Claimants.” Accordingly, the court vacated the lower court order and sent the case back to the Bankruptcy Court for further proceedings but also identified the case as “not precedential,” so although instructive to similar litigants, the holding is fact-specific and not meant to be relied upon in future unrelated cases. [Read more](#).

STATE – Legislative

Carbon Capture and Sequestration – Ohio. On Dec. 6, Rep. Monica Robb Blasdel (R) introduced HB 358. The bill provides that the “General Assembly declares its intent to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework to ensure the safe and secure deployment of carbon capture and storage technologies in the state, which encompass point-source carbon dioxide capture from large emissions sources and direct air capture, and the geologic sequestration for long-term carbon dioxide storage into reservoirs of geologic formations.” Senate companion bill, [SB 200](#), was introduced by Sen. Tim Schaffer (R). No other details or provisions are provided in the bills. [Read more](#).

STATE – Regulatory

Renewable Energy Strategic Water Supply – New Mexico. On Dec. 5, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) announced “a first-of-its-kind strategic water supply to increase drought resilience and advance clean energy production and storage. The strategic water supply will support the nation’s transition to renewable energy by providing resources for water-intensive processes around creating green hydrogen, storing energy produced by wind and solar, and manufacturing electric vehicles, microchips, solar panels, and wind turbines, for example.” [Read more](#). Making the announcement at the this year’s COP28 international climate change summit, Gov. Lujan Grisham said, “Through a \$500 million investment, New Mexico will purchase treated brackish and treated produced water to build the strategic water supply. In early 2024, the New Mexico Environment Department will issue guidance and seek proposals from companies interested in pursuing a contract.” [Read more](#).

Public Lands Commissioner Extends Ban on Oil and Gas Leasing and Drilling on State Lands Near Chaco – New Mexico. On Dec. 14, New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands Stephanie Garcia Richard announced, “that she is extending her ban on new oil, gas and mineral leasing on 72,776 acres of state lands near Chaco Culture National Historical Park through December 31, 2043.” [Read more](#). “In one of her

first acts as Land Commissioner in 2019, Commissioner Garcia Richard placed a moratorium on oil, gas and mineral leasing on state lands near Chaco, which was originally set to expire at the end of this year. That order also established the Chaco Canyon Working Group to advise the agency on appropriate uses of state lands in the Greater Chaco region. U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland issued a similar leasing 20-year ban on federal lands surrounding Chaco in June of this year.” [Read more.](#)

NMED Regulatory Amendments – New Mexico.

As a follow up to our prior reporting, on Dec. 7, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) announced an update to the Nov. 17, 2023 Environmental Improvement Board public hearing ([accessible here](#)) to consider the NMED proposal to amend 20.2.77 NMAC, New Source Performance Standards; 20.2.78 NMAC, Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; and 20.2.82 NMAC, Maximum Achievable Control Technology Standards for Source Categories of Hazardous Air Pollutants. The amendments changed the through-date to June 28, 2023, as indicated in the rulemaking amendments. [Read more.](#) According to the NMED, the board “deliberated on the hearing record and unanimously adopted the Department’s proposal.” [Access the NMED Rulemaking website here for more information.](#) The NMED provided that the effective date of these amendments is Dec. 19, 2023. [Read more.](#)

Comptroller of Public Accounts Amendment to Definition of Petroleum Products for Property Tax Valuation – Texas. On Dec. 8, the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts published a regulatory amendment to [Rule §9.4201](#) of the Administrative Code under Chapter 9 (Property Tax Administration), Subchapter I (Valuation Procedures). The Comptroller proposes [new §9.4038](#), “concerning definition of petroleum products. The new section replaces existing §9.4201, concerning definition of petroleum products, which the Comptroller is proposing for repeal to improve the clarity and organization of Subchapter I. The section is also updated to better reflect the list of products that fall under this definition.” As noted in the regulatory preamble, “The Comptroller provides the definition of

petroleum products to assist appraisal districts in the administration and implementation of Tax Code, [§11.251](#) (Tangible Personal Property Exempt). The products defined by this section are not exempt under the ‘freeport’ exemption provided by Tax Code, §11.251 and [Texas Constitution, Article VIII, Section 1-j](#). The public comment period is open through Jan. 7, 2024. To learn more about the amendment and how to submit a public comment, [Read more.](#)

Texas Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian Blasts Biden Administration’s New EPA Emissions Rule.

Related to the item above regarding the new EPA emissions regulations, on Dec. 5, Texas Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian issued a statement critical of these “onerous methane rules.” Christian said, “While costs for hard-working Americans are up nearly \$11,000 this year everywhere from the gas pump to the grocery store, President Biden’s solution to inflation is to increase regulations that will make American oil and gas more expensive. Petroleum helps make more than 96% of everyday consumer items like plastics, food, medicine, and more. These new rules on U.S. oil and natural gas producers will certainly drive those prices up. These new rules are likely to have a disproportionate impact on smaller producers, which make up more than 83% of U.S. production. At a time when producers are facing financial drought from Wall Street and political headwinds from Washington Democrats, that last thing the industry needs is more bureaucratic red tape stifling business. It’s hypocritical to kill clean fossil fuel jobs here in America claiming it ensures a clean environment, and then beg our foreign adversaries to produce more using much less environment-friendly methods. Americans are struggling with high prices and the answer to that strife is simple—more U.S. oil and gas production.” [Read more.](#)

STATE – Judicial

Permitting and Regulation of Oil and Gas Operations – West Virginia.

On Nov. 1, the Intermediate Court of Appeals of West Virginia ruled “that only the state has authority over the permitting and regulation of oil and gas operations in the state, reversing a local circuit court decision concerning a proposed natural gas well in Weirton.” In [SWN Production Company, LLC v. City](#)

[of Weirton](#) (Case No. 22-ICA-830), a lower court order held that the city of Weirton’s “municipal zoning ordinances were not preempted by either the West Virginia Oil and Gas Act or the Natural Gas Horizontal Well Control Act (‘Horizontal Well Act’).” On appeal, SWN argued that the court “erred by failing to recognize that the Horizontal Well Act delegates ‘sole and exclusive authority’ over all aspects of the permitting and location of oil and gas exploration and production activities to the Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (‘WVDEP’).” In reversing the trial court order, in favor of SWN, the appellate court wrote that “Once the WVDEP issued a permit, the City cannot hinder SWN’s ability to begin drilling. The City’s approval scheme is in direct conflict with the Horizontal Well Act which vests WVDEP with ‘sole and exclusive authority’ to regulate the ‘permitting’ and ‘location’ of horizontal gas wells.” The court further explained that this “language cannot be reconciled with the City’s position that a municipality retains the authority to require zoning approval for an oil or gas well that has already been approved under the state’s permitting program.” [Read more.](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS FLASH

► **Texas Extends Growth in Upstream Oil and Gas Industry Employment.** On Dec. 6, “Newly-released data from the Texas Workforce Commission indicates that upstream oil and natural gas employment grew by an additional 2,200 jobs in October. These new numbers extend the strength of 2023’s job growth to date, with 16,500 jobs added so far this year.” According to Todd Staples, President of the Texas Oil & Gas Association, “In spite of turbulent economic times and increasing geopolitical tensions, Texas’ oil and natural gas industry continues to grow. Industry remains committed to continuing to produce affordable reliable energy to provide energy security for our nation and our allies around the world.” [Read more.](#)

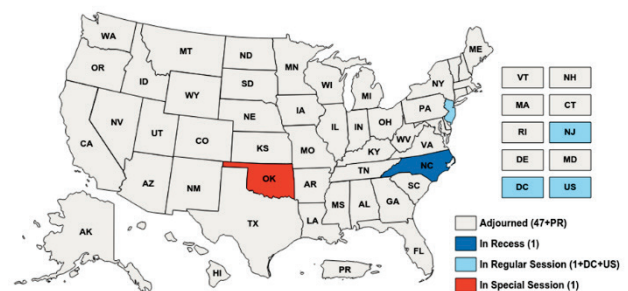
► **United Nations COP28 Climate Summit Agreement on Transition from Fossil Fuels.** Last week, nearly 200 countries “agreed to a deal that calls for a transition away from fossil fuels.” As reported by

Rigzone, “The agreement calls for countries to quickly shift energy systems away from fossil fuels in a just and orderly fashion, qualifications that helped convince the skeptics. Under the deal, countries also are called to contribute to a global transition effort — rather than being outright compelled to make that shift on their own.” However, the deal – which includes the United States – only provides broad contours and does not bind any nation with specific enforcement authority. [Read more.](#)

► **Occidental to Acquire CrownRock LP in \$12 Billion Deal.** On Dec. 11, Occidental Petroleum Corp. announced a “deal to pay \$12.0 billion for CrownRock LP, Midland, Tex., a privately held operator with more than 94,000 acres in the Permian basin. If completed, the acquisition will grow Occidental’s Permian basin production by nearly 30%. Occidental said the cash-and-stock agreement, which is scheduled to close in first-quarter 2024, will add an estimated 170,000 boe/d to its 2024 production estimates.” [Read more.](#)

LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

States in Session



Session Notes: Ohio and Pennsylvania adjourned their 2023 legislative sessions on December 13. The following states are expected to convene for the 2024 legislative session on the dates provided: **Kentucky, Mississippi, and Pennsylvania** (January 2), **California, Missouri, Nebraska, and New York** (January 3), **Arizona, Idaho, and Kansas** (January 8).

Bill Signing Deadlines: Michigan Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has 14 days from presentation to act

on legislation or it is pocket vetoed. **Ohio** Republican Gov. Mike DeWine has 10 days to act on legislation or it becomes law. **Pennsylvania** Democratic Gov. Josh Shapiro has 30 days from adjournment to act on legislation or it becomes law. **Wisconsin** Democratic Gov. Tony Evers has six days from presentment, Sundays excluded, to act on legislation or it becomes law.

The following states are currently holding interim committee hearings or studies: [Alabama](#), [Alaska](#), [Arizona](#), [Arkansas](#), [California Assembly](#) and [Senate](#), [Colorado](#), [Connecticut](#), [Delaware](#), [Florida House](#) and [Senate](#), [Georgia](#), [Hawaii](#), [Idaho](#), [Illinois House](#) and [Senate](#), [Indiana](#), [Iowa](#), [Kansas](#), [Kentucky](#), [Louisiana](#), [Maine](#), [Maryland](#), [Minnesota](#), [Mississippi House](#) and [Senate](#), [Missouri House](#) and [Senate](#), [Montana](#), [Nebraska](#), [Nevada](#), [New Hampshire House](#) and [Senate](#), [New Mexico](#), [New York Assembly](#) and [Senate](#), [North Dakota](#), [Oklahoma House](#) and [Senate](#), [Oregon](#), [Rhode Island](#), [South Carolina House](#) and [Senate](#), [South Dakota](#), [Tennessee](#), [Texas House](#), [Utah](#), [Vermont](#), [Virginia House](#), [Washington](#), [West Virginia](#) and [Wyoming](#).

The following states are currently posting 2024 bill drafts and pre-files: [Alabama](#), [Arizona](#), [Delaware](#), [Florida](#), [Georgia](#), [Illinois House](#) and [Senate](#), [Indiana](#), [Iowa](#), [Kansas](#), [Maine](#), [Maryland](#), [Missouri House](#) and [Senate](#), [Nebraska](#), [Nevada](#), [New Hampshire](#), [New Jersey](#), [New York](#), [North Carolina](#), [Oklahoma House](#) and [Senate](#), [South Carolina](#), [Tennessee](#), [Utah](#), [Virginia](#), [Washington](#) and [Wyoming](#). ■

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