

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT

FEDERAL – Legislative

H.R. 6285 - Alaska's Right to Produce Act of 2023.

On Nov. 28, official bill text was made available for [H.R. 6285](#), known as the Alaska's Right to Produce Act of 2023. Sponsored by Rep. Pete Stauber (R-MN), the bill would reverse the Biden Administration's decision to prohibit oil and gas development on 13 million acres within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). It would also reinstate the "lawfully awarded leases" that the Biden administration "cancelled within the non-wilderness Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)." Of the bill, Rep. Stauber said, "Alaska has been blessed with vast deposits of oil and natural gas that can unleash economic prosperity, which is why the responsible development of these resources is widely supported by inhabitants of the state, Alaska Native communities, and their entire Congressional delegation. Biden's decision to take these resources offline not only ignores the needs of Alaskans, particularly the Alaska Natives that live and work on the North Slope, it also ignores our nation's energy and security needs [...] so I am proud to lead the introduction of this legislation to help restore oil and gas leasing and production on the North Slope." [Read more.](#)

Senate Hearing on Decarbonization. On Nov. 15, the Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works held a hearing, "Opportunities in Industrial Decarbonization: Delivering Benefits for the Economy and the Climate," that included industry witnesses discussing the challenges and benefits of reducing greenhouse gas and industrial emissions. To access a full video recording of the hearing and witness testimony, [Read more.](#)

House Energy Hearing. On Nov. 14, the House Environment, Manufacturing, & Critical Materials

Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing, "Clean Power Plan 2.0: EPA's Effort to Jeopardize Reliable and Affordable Energy for States." The hearing examined "State perspectives concerning the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) proposed greenhouse gas emissions standards for the power sector and the reliable delivery of electricity." The committee hearing memo describes how proposed rulemaking "presents myriad issues for states, which would have to implement the standards, particularly on existing fossil generation sources." Witnesses included government officials from Maryland, North Dakota, Tennessee, and Utah. To access a full video recording of the hearing and witness testimony, [Read more.](#)

FEDERAL – Regulatory

BLM Resource Advisory Council – Montana.

On Nov. 27, the BLM announced the next meeting of the Western Montana District Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will be held on Dec. 11, 2023. RAC meetings are open to the public and there is an option to attend virtually online. The RAC "offers advice on the implementation of the comprehensive, long-range plan for management, use, development, and protection of the public lands within the District." [Read more.](#)

BLM NPR-A Reduced Leasing Acreage Proposed Rulemaking – Alaska. (Update to 10/30/23 Report)

On Nov. 17, the BLM once again extended the public comment period for its National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) reduced acreage rulemaking. The comment period is now open through Dec. 7, 2023. [Read more.](#) This is the second time the comment period has been extended. On Oct. 17, the BLM had extended the comment period to Nov. 17, 2023. Although the BLM did not provide an explanation for the extensions, many stakeholders had criticized the proposed rulemaking

and asked for extensions on numerous occasions. For background, on Sept. 6, President Biden announced plans to protect about 13 million acres in the NPR-A. (See [Management and Protection of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; 88 Fed. Reg. 62025](#)). The proposal “would prohibit any new leasing in 10.6 million acres, which is more than 40 percent of the reserve,” said Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. [Read more](#). In response, Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY), ranking member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, said, “President Biden’s war on American energy continues. With the stroke of a pen, his administration is placing more than 40 percent of the National Petroleum Reserve off limits for petroleum production. He is ignoring the law and making us more dependent on foreign oil. Not only is this bad energy policy, it’s bad foreign policy. Today’s decision rewards our adversaries and hurts American families.” [Read more](#). For further information, access the [BLM NPR-A rulemaking website here](#), which includes numerous planning documents and a proposed rule fact sheet.

BLM Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Amendments – Colorado. On Nov. 29, the BLM announced that the “Colorado State Office is seeking public input on a Resource Management Plan Amendment and Draft Environmental Impact Statement to consider an amendment to oil and gas decisions in existing BLM Colorado resource management plans to promote conservation of big game High Priority Habitat.” This follows the BLM’s Notice of Availability published on Nov. 9, 2023, that began a 90-day public scoping period. The BLM also announced it “will hold two virtual meetings and three in-person meetings in Colorado to provide information and answer questions regarding this amendment. The public meetings will help attendees learn about the plan amendment and formulate written submissions for the BLM before the comment period ends on February 6, 2024.” [Read more](#).

BLM Oil & Gas Lease Sale – Kansas; New Mexico. On Nov. 20, the BLM “opened a 30-day public comment period to receive public input on 26 oil and gas parcels totaling 6,162 acres that may be included in an upcoming lease sale in New Mexico and Kansas.

The comment period ends Dec. 20, 2023. The BLM completed scoping on these parcels in Sept. 2023 and is now seeking public comment on the parcels, potential deferrals, and the related environmental analysis. BLM will use input from the public to help complete its review of each parcel and determine if leasing of these parcels conforms with all applicable laws, policies, and land use plans.” [Read more](#).

BLM Oil & Gas Lease Sale – Mississippi. On Nov. 29, the BLM Eastern States State Office “opened a 30-day public comment period to receive public input on three oil and gas parcels totaling 91 acres that may be included in an upcoming lease sale in Mississippi. The comment period ends Dec. 29, 2023. The BLM completed scoping on these parcels in November 2023 and is now seeking public comment on the parcels, potential deferrals, and the related environmental analysis. BLM will use input from the public to help complete its review of each parcel and determine if leasing of these parcels conforms with all applicable laws, policies, and land use plans.” [Read more](#).

BLM Oil & Gas Lease Sale – Nevada. On Nov. 27, the BLM “opened a 30-day public scoping period to receive public input on two oil and gas parcels totaling 2320 acres that may be included in a June 2024 lease sale in Nevada.” The public comment period ends Dec. 27, 2023. [Read more](#).

BLM Oil & Gas Lease Sale – North Dakota. On Nov. 16, the BLM “opened a 30-day public comment period to receive public input on 31 oil and gas parcels totaling 6,510 acres that may be included in an upcoming lease sale in North Dakota. The comment period ends Dec. 18, 2023. The BLM completed scoping on these parcels in October 2023 and is now seeking public comment on the parcels, potential deferrals, and the related environmental analysis. BLM will use input from the public to help complete its review of each parcel and determine if leasing of these parcels conforms with all applicable laws, policies, and land use plans.” [Read more](#).

ONRR Information Collection. On Dec. 1, the Interior Department’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue

(ONRR) published a notice of information collection, *Agency Information Collection Activities; Collection of Monies Due the Federal Government; and Processing Refund Requests Related to Overpayments Made to ONRR* ([88 Fed. Reg. 83962](#)). According to the notice, “ONRR is proposing to revise an information collection. Through this Information Collection Request (ICR), ONRR seeks renewed authority to collect information necessary to cover cross-lease netting in the calculation of late-payment interest; a lessee’s designation of designee for payment obligations; tribal permission for recoupment on Indian oil and gas leases; and refund requests for overpayments made to ONRR.” The public comment period closes Jan. 30, 2024. [Read more.](#)

ONRR Federal Oil and Gas Marginal Properties.

On Nov. 22, the Interior Department’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) published a notice, *States’ Decisions on Participating in Accounting and Auditing Relief for Federal Oil and Gas Marginal Properties* ([88 Fed. Reg. 81432](#)), stating that “In accordance with Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) regulations, ONRR provides two types of accounting and auditing relief for Federal oil and gas production from marginal properties: the cumulative royalty reports and payments relief option, which allows a lessee or designee to submit one royalty report and payment for the calendar year’s production; and other requested relief, which allows a lessee or designee to request any type of accounting and auditing relief that is appropriate for production from the marginal property and meets certain requirements. By October 1 of each calendar year, ONRR provides a list of qualifying marginal Federal oil and gas properties to the States receiving a portion of Federal royalties from those properties. Each State then decides whether to participate in neither, one, or both relief options. This Notice provides the public [with] each State’s decision on whether to participate in marginal property relief.” [Read more.](#)

Inflation Reduction Act Methane Emission Reduction Program IPAA Webinar. On Dec. 6, the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) will be hosting a webinar titled, [“Walks Like a Tax, Talks Like a Tax: Examining the EPA’s New Methane Tax”](#) covering the Inflation Reduction Act’s Methane

Emission Reduction Program (MERP) that “included a tax on oil and gas operations emissions that currently will be applicable for emissions in the 2024 calendar year and onward. This webinar will provide a lay of the land; background on the tax; factors that will determine the tax’s scope and breadth including calculations and compliance; and related and conjunctural regulations. You will also be able to hear a practitioner’s perspective, including lessons learned and best practices. Speakers include IPAA’s Lee Fuller, Pickering Energy Partners’ Dan Romito, and EnerVest Operating’s Jim McKinney.” [Register here.](#)

FEDERAL – Judicial

Petition to Phase out Oil and Gas Extraction on Public Lands – District of Columbia. On Nov. 28, an environmental group filed a complaint against the Interior Department alleging the agency violated the Freedom of Information Act for failing to release public records about its decision to reject the group’s petition to phase out oil and gas extraction on federal lands. In [Center for Biological Diversity v. U.S. Dept. of the Interior](#) (Case No. 1:23-cv-03544), the complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia states that requested records regarding a 2022 filed rulemaking petition that asked the Interior Department to phase out oil and gas production to near zero by 2035 have not been received. That petition was rejected in June 2023 by the Interior Department, prompting the Freedom of Information Act request for records related to that decision. The Interior Department has not yet responded to the complaint. [Read more.](#)

Federal Offshore Oil and Gas Lease Sale – Louisiana. (*Update to 10/2/23 Report*) In a victory for the oil and gas industry, on Nov. 14, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit dismissed a challenge by environmentalists to block a Gulf of Mexico lease sale. The court ordered that the postponed oil and gas lease be held within 37 days and has now been scheduled for Dec. 20. [Read more.](#) Environmental groups had filed court challenges to halt the sale which was originally ordered by a lower court to be held in November, but that ruling was stayed pending

the latest appeal. [Read more](#). For background, on Sept. 26, the appellate court [ruled against the Biden administration and environmental activists](#) by leaving a lower court order in place and specifically ordered that the offshore sale take place no later than Nov. 8, 2023. [Read more](#). In the case, [State of Louisiana v. Haaland](#) (Case No. 2:23-cv-01157-JDC-KK), plaintiffs who are the State of Louisiana, American Petroleum Institute, and Chevron USA Inc., and Shell Offshore Inc. sought to remove restrictions on acreage and ship movements that were added just a month before the planned Lease Sale 261 by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, as well as the withdrawal of six million acres from that sale. The Louisiana Attorney General said this “eleventh hour” move by the Interior Department pulling millions of acres off the auction block could cost the state as much as \$2.2 million in lost royalties. The court wrote, “The process followed here looks more like a weaponization of the Endangered Species Act than the collaborative, reasoned approach prescribed by the applicable laws and regulations. Even when an agency’s decision is based on political considerations, it is not excused from justifying the position—particularly when the decision is a pivot from a prior policy.” In response to the latest ruling, American Petroleum Institute General Counsel Ryan Meyers said, “The U.S. Gulf of Mexico plays a critical role in maintaining affordable, reliable American energy production, and today’s decision creates greater certainty for the essential energy workforce and the entire Gulf Coast economy.” [Read more](#).

STATE – Legislative

Extraordinary Legislative Session Bills – Colorado.

On Nov. 9, Gov. Jared Polis called for a special session of the Colorado legislature, known as an Extraordinary Session, to bring property tax relief to homeowners for the 2023 tax year, among other issues. [Read more](#). The session adjourned on Nov. 20 with the following relevant bills passing the legislature: **SB23B-001**, provides for residential property tax relief by reducing the valuation of multi-family residential real property and all other residential real property as provided, [Read more](#) (signed by Governor;

Multiple effective dates); **SB23B-003**, the Identical TABOR Refund bill, which refunds excess state revenues (TABOR refunds) if the state exceeds its fiscal year spending limit and after reimbursing local governments, a sales tax refund would be provided “for individual taxpayers, the amount of which is either based on 6 tiers of income or, if there is insufficient revenue for the tiered approach, is an identical refund amount,” [Read more](#) (signed by Governor; Effective through Dec. 31, 2028); **HB23B-1001**, creates the Emergency Rental Assistance Grant Program to provide grants to residential tenants who have an annual household income of 80% or less than the area median income and are at risk of eviction or displacement, [Read more](#); **HB23B-1002**, the Increased Earned Income Tax Credit bill, which provides a one-time TABOR refund mechanism for an increase in the earned income tax credit that a resident individual, including a resident individual who does not have a social security number valid for employment, may claim on the resident individual's income tax return, [Read more](#); **HB23B-1003**, creating a Property Tax Task Force “to study and develop a permanent and sustainable property tax structure for the state of Colorado,” [Read more](#). Unless noted above, some bills are still awaiting action by the governor as of this reporting. [Read more](#).

Zero-Carbon Energy Standards – Michigan. On Nov. 28, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D) signed [SB 271](#) into law as part of a zero-carbon energy bill package. The bill provides for Michigan's 100% clean energy target, that “directs state utilities to transition 60% of electricity generation to renewables. Energy sources such as nuclear power, hydrogen fuel and natural gas coupled with carbon capture are allowed to count toward the remaining 40%.” An earlier version of the bill “included a more aggressive timeline for achieving a 100% clean energy standard, proposing a 2035 deadline. The adjusted timeline requires hitting clean energy targets along the way to 2024 with an 80% clean energy standard by 2035, a renewable standard of 50% of 2030 and 60% by 2035.” The bill also mandates “that state utilities shift 100% of electricity sales to clean energy sources by 2040.” [Read more](#). The governor also signed into law related energy

package bills: [HB 5120](#) (amends the Clean and Renewable Energy and Energy Waste Reduction Act to provide the Michigan Public Service Commission with the authority to approve large scale renewable energy projects, including solar, wind and battery storage, and removing that exclusive control from local governments); [HB 5121](#) (amends the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act to provide that zoning ordinances are subject to the provisions of HB 5120); [SB 273](#) (amends the Clean and Renewable Energy and Energy Waste Reduction Act to add or amend provisions related to energy waste reduction plans, efficient electrification measures, low-income energy waste reduction programs, alternative compliance trainings, and workforce diversity); [SB 277](#) (allows farmers to rent out their land for solar energy generation while still participating in the state's farmland and open space preservation program); [SB 502](#) (Instructs the Michigan Public Service Commission, which regulates public utilities, to weigh factors like equity, environmental justice, affordability, public health and more when reviewing energy companies' operations plans); and [SB 519](#) (Creates the Community and Worker Economic Transition Office within the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity tasked with assisting workers to transition to new industries as the state's economy pivots to renewable energy generation). Bills take effect 90 days following the Nov. 14 special session adjournment. [Read more.](#)

STATE – Regulatory

CalGEM Draft Cost Estimate Regulation for Bonding – California. As an update to our prior reporting, on Nov. 27, the California Geological Energy Management Division (CalGEM) released draft *Cost Estimate Regulations for Oil and Gas Operations* regulations to update their prior draft release. [Read more.](#) According to the California Independent Petroleum Association (CIPA), the draft represents “the cost estimates that will be applied to financial assurance requirements surrounding plugging and abandoning oil wells and facilities.” According to CIPA, “If CalGEM overestimates remediation costs, it could have a negative impact on operators’ compliance

with [AB 1057](#) bonding and assurance requirements. Falsely high estimates could create a self-fulfilling prophecy and put some producers out of business, which is exactly what the state should want to avoid.” The public comment period is open through Dec. 12, 2023. To access the CalGEM rulemaking website and information for submitting public comments, [Read more.](#)

State Water Resources Board Oil and Gas Groundwater Monitoring – California.

On Nov. 14, the California Water Resources Board announced that on Dec. 11 the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) “will be presenting summaries of recently published studies for the State Water Board Oil and Gas Regional Groundwater Monitoring Program (RMP).” For background, “California Water Code section 10783 (Senate Bill 4, Pavley, statutes of 2013) requires the State Water Board to implement a regional groundwater monitoring program. The program goal is to evaluate potential impacts from oilfield operations and characterize the risk to groundwater resources, while prioritizing areas to be monitored. The U.S. Geological Survey is technical lead and will be presenting summaries on recently published studies.” According to the California Independent Petroleum Association, “An agreement between the State Water Resources Control Board and the USGS has resulted in several studies and dozens of papers being published to determine if oil and gas operations (wellbore stimulation treatments and Class II wells specifically) are causing any harm to regional groundwaters. To date there has not been any determination of adverse impacts resulting from oilfield operations.” Information on the Board’s Regional Groundwater Monitoring [can be accessed here](#). For information on attending the Dec. 11 virtual online meeting, [Read more here.](#)

Ohio Greenlights Oil and Gas Drilling in State Parks and Wildlife Areas.

As an update to our prior reporting, on Nov. 15, the Ohio Oil and Gas Land Management Commission unanimously voted in favor of accepting bids for oil and gas drilling “under Salt Fork State Park in Guernsey County, Valley Run Wildlife Area in Carroll County and Zepernick Wildlife Area in Columbiana County.” [Read more.](#) The

Commission will start accepting bids in Jan. 2024. For background, “Ohio legalized leasing its public lands for oil and gas exploration in 2011, but the law stalled until Republicans in the state legislature rewrote it in December 2022. Legislators said they wanted to kickstart a law that had been on the books for more than a decade. Ohio Oil and Gas Association President Rob Brundrett said he was ‘pleased to see the commission continue to advance nominated parcels to the bidding process laid out by the statute.’” [Read more.](#)

Bond Requirements Rulemaking – Oklahoma.

On Nov. 15, the Oklahoma Commissioners of the Land Office released proposed 2024 rulemaking for oil and gas operations related to bond requirements. Specifically, the proposal amends existing bond requirements regarding saltwater operation performance bonds. [Read the proposed rule here.](#) For further information, the Commissioners also provided a [Rule Impact Statement accessible here.](#) The Commissioners ask that “Business entities affected by these proposed rules are requested to provide the agency with information, in dollar amounts, if possible, about the increase in the level of direct costs, indirect costs, or other costs expected to be incurred by the business entity due to compliance with the proposed rules.” The public comment period is open through Dec. 15, 2023. In addition, a public hearing will be held on Dec. 19, 2023 “in the Large Conference Room, located at the offices of the Commissioners of the Land Office at 204 N. Robinson, Suite 900, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.” [Read more.](#) For general information about the Commissioners of the Land Office rules and regulations, [Read more.](#)

Texas RRC Commissioner Wayne Christian Opposes Anti-Oil & Gas Indoctrination in Texas Student Textbooks. (Update to 11/13/23 Report)

On Nov. 17, the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) announced that “the Texas State Board of Education voted on its [Proclamation 2024](#) which determines the types of textbooks and materials students will use in the 2024-2025 school year. Following the SBOE’s actions, Texas Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian applauded the outcome and said the

following: “Students need to learn about fossil fuels and *real-world* energy, where it comes from, how it works, and most importantly how it creates a better world. America’s future generations don’t need a leftist agenda brainwashing them in the classroom to hate oil and natural gas. Our economy needs STEM students that understand the difference between dispatchable, reliable power and intermittent, unreliable power. Fossil fuels help power 80% of global energy, make 96% of consumer items, finance our state and national economies, and feed billions of people all over the world. The Texas State Board of Education did the right thing by rejecting radical environmentalist propaganda on ‘net zero’ and ensuring our students learn the benefits of fossil fuels.” [Read more.](#) For background, on Nov. 1, the RRC announced that as a part of the public comment process for the types of textbooks and materials Texas students will use in the coming school year, Commissioner Christian “sent a letter to the SBOE with concerns that the materials would adopt a radical environmentalist agenda promoting ‘net zero’ lessons over teaching students realistic STEM skills needed for high-paying jobs in the energy industry.” [Read the letter here.](#) Christian wrote, “Texas students don’t need to be brainwashed in class that oil and gas is evil, when our schools should be preparing them for the real world. The Lone Star State needs a challenging, unbiased, and practical approach to educating our STEM students, preparing them for in-demand, high paying jobs in Texas’ oil and gas industry.” [Read more.](#)

STATE – Judicial

Lease Terms; Cessation of Production; Shut-in Royalties – Colorado. (Update to 6/14/21 Report)

On Nov. 20, the Colorado Supreme Court affirmed the judgment of the Court of Appeals in [Board of County Commissioners of Boulder County v. Crestone Peak Resources Operating LLC](#) (Case No. 2023 CO 58). In this case, the Supreme Court “addresses whether a temporary shut-in necessitated by a third party’s pipeline maintenance triggered the termination of two oil and gas leases under their cessation-of-production clauses. In accordance with Colorado’s well-established tradition of interpreting each oil and gas

ease on its own terms, the court declines to adopt a universal definition for ‘production’ in oil and gas leases. As such, the court vacates the court of appeals’ opinion to the extent it broadly adopts the commercial discovery rule to define ‘production’ in Colorado oil and gas leases as ‘capable of producing oil or gas in commercial quantities.’” The court further explained that “Looking at the terms of the two leases before it, the court determines that the cessation-of-production clauses are triggered only when there is a permanent cessation that could be resolved by reworking or drilling operations. Therefore, the court concludes that the temporary shut-in, which could not have been resolved by reworking or drilling operations, did not trigger termination under the cessation-of-production clauses.” For the case background, the Colorado Court of Appeals considered the meaning of “production” as that term is used in oil and gas leases in an appeal that “centers on one question: What constitutes ‘production’ under an oil and gas lease?” The Board of County Commissioners of Boulder County had sued Crestone regarding a temporary cessation in extraction, “alleging that wells subject to two of Crestone’s oil and gas leases had stopped producing, and therefore that the leases had terminated.” However, the district court disagreed and granted summary judgment in favor of Crestone. In affirming the lower court decision, the appellate court held “that production means capable of producing oil or gas in commercial quantities. Thus, the district court correctly concluded that Crestone’s wells never stopped producing and, consequently, the leases never lapsed.” [Read more.](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS FLASH

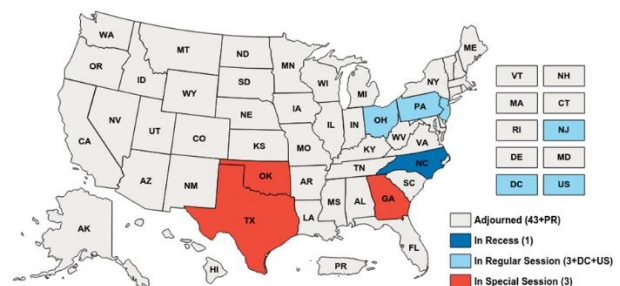
► **OPEC+ Agrees to Further Oil Production Cuts.** On Nov. 30, OPEC+ oil producers agreed to additional production cuts during a conference meeting. As reported by the *Oil & Gas Journal*, “Saudi Arabia agreed to extend its 1 million b/d cut through first-quarter 2024. Iraq agreed to cut 223,000 b/d, while the United Arab Emirates agreed to cut 163,000 b/d; Kuwait 135,000 b/d; Kazakhstan 82,000 b/d; Algeria 51,000 b/d; and Oman 42,000 b/d. The cuts begin Jan. 1, 2024, and run through the year’s first quarter.” [Read more.](#)

► **International Energy Agency Raises Global Oil Demand Forecast.** On Nov. 14, the *Oil & Gas Journal* reported that the International Energy Agency (IEA) “has raised its global oil demand forecasts for 2023 and 2024. IEA increased 2023’s demand growth forecast to 2.4 million b/d from last month’s 2.3 million b/d.” According to the IEA, “U.S. deliveries proved more resilient than indicated by preliminary data and Chinese oil demand in September set another all-time high above 17 million b/d, fueled by a booming petrochemical sector.” [Read more.](#)

► **Interior Department Data Shows New Mexico Received Highest Level of Federal Revenue from Oil and Gas Production.** As reported on Nov. 17 by the *Carlsbad Current Argus*, “More federal revenue generated by energy production came to New Mexico than any other state last year as drilling continued to surge in the state’s southeast corner. Recent data from the Department of the Interior (DOI) showed New Mexico earned \$2.93 billion in federal revenue from energy production, largely oil and gas.” [Read more.](#)

LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

States in Session



Session Notes: Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania are in regular session. The U.S. Congress is also in session.

Colorado ended its special session on Nov. 20 after sending several pieces of legislation to Democratic Gov. Jared Polis, who quickly signed them into law. The special session was called because of increasing housing and property costs. According to [CPR News](#), lawmakers passed a package of laws that will deliver

about \$430 million in tax cuts for homeowners and a larger share of tax refunds for low-income residents. State Republicans objected to the package, calling it socialism and objecting to higher-income residents paying for refunds to lower-income residents.

Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott [called](#) the legislature into another special session on Nov. 7, the fourth special session this year. This special session began immediately after the adjournment of the previous special session, which failed to pass the governor's legislation on school vouchers or border security. According to [The Texas Tribune](#), the school voucher issue has again stalled in the House, with lawmakers voting to remove the voucher program from a large education bill. It is unclear if Governor Abbott will continue to push the legislature to pass a school voucher law or call another special session once this session concludes on December 6.

Bill Signing Deadlines: **Michigan** Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has 14 days from presentation to act on legislation or it is pocket vetoed. **Wisconsin** Democratic Gov. Tony Evers has six days from presentation, 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](#), [Iowa](#),

[Kansas](#), [Maine](#), [Missouri House](#), [Nebraska](#), [Nevada](#), [New Hampshire](#), [New Jersey](#), [New York](#), [North Carolina](#), [Oklahoma House](#) and [Senate](#), [South Carolina](#), [Tennessee](#), [Utah](#), [Virginia](#) and [Wyoming](#). ■

THANK YOU TO OUR ALLIANCE PARTNERS

Your support allows us to spread awareness of the land profession; advocate for the entire energy industry; recruit young professionals; and create evolving, effective programs and services that aid energy professionals and help shape the future.



This report is provided exclusively for AAPL members. If you have received this report as a non-member, please contact AAPL member services to learn more about joining AAPL. For more information, email membership@landman.org or call us at: 817-847-7700.

CONTENT DISCLAIMER: Information and/or website sources provided in this report may be among the many resources available to you. This report does not endorse nor advocate for any particular attorney or law firm, nor other private entity, unless expressly stated. Any legal, financial, and/or tax information contained herein is provided solely for informational purposes and does not represent legal, financial, or tax advice on behalf of AAPL and/or its affiliates. Links to outside sources are provided for reference only and any cited outside source is derived solely from material published by its author for public use. Any copyrighted material remains the property of its respective owner and no use or distribution authorization is granted herein.

© 2023 AAPL