

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING ADEQUATE CAPACITY IN TEXAS DURING EXTREME CONDITIONS?

### THE SHORT ANSWER IS NO ONE.

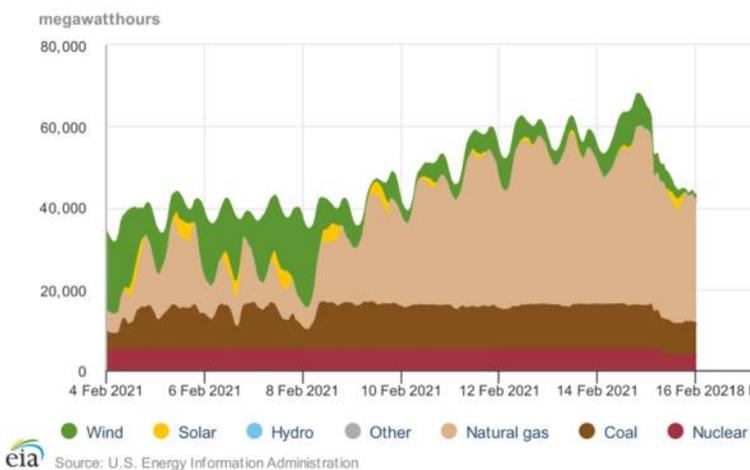
**T**he Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) looks at potential forecasted peak conditions and expected available generation, and if there is sufficient margin, they assume everything will be all right. But unlike utilities under traditional models, they don't ensure that the resources can deliver power under adverse conditions, they don't require that generators have secured firm fuel supplies, and they don't make sure the resources will be ready and available to operate.

Unlike all other US energy markets, Texas does not have a capacity market. By design, they rely solely upon the energy market. This means that entities profit only from the actual energy they sell into the system. They do not see any profit from having stand-by capacity ready to help out in emergencies. Traditional fossil fuel generation has (as does most hydro and nuclear) inherent capacity value. That means such resources generally can be operated with a high degree of reliability and dependability. With incentives, they can be operated so that they will likely be there when needed. Wind and solar are intermittent resources, working only under suitable condi-

tions for wind and sun. As such, they do not have capacity value unless they are paired with costly battery systems.

Texas has stacked the deck to make wind and solar

Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT) electricity generation by energy source 2/4/2021 – 2/17/2021, Central Time



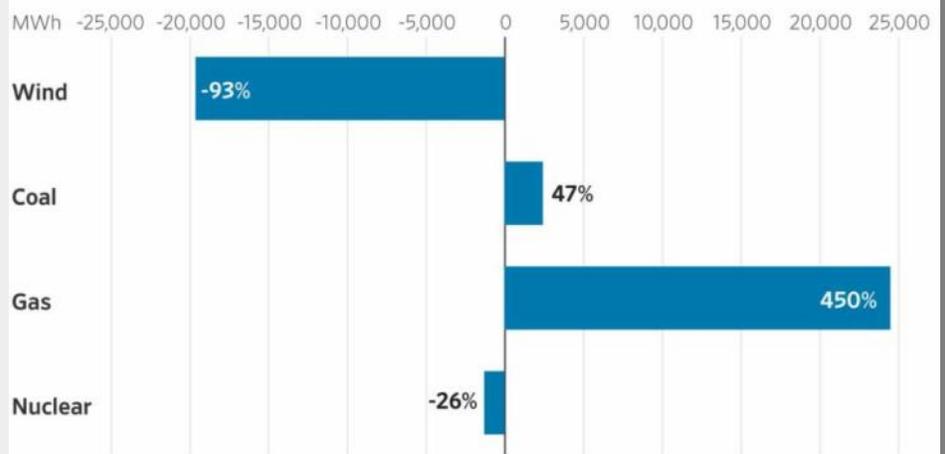
more competitive than they could be in a system that better recognizes the value of dependable resources which can supply capacity benefits. An energy-only market helps accomplish the goal of making wind and solar more competitive. Except, capacity value is a real value. More emergency peaking units would be a great thing to have on hand. Why would generators be inclined to do such a thing?

**The incentive for gas generation to do the right thing was taken away by Texas's deliberate energy-only market strategy. The purpose of which was to aid the profitability of intermittent wind and solar resources and increase their penetration levels.**

**THE STATEMENT:** February 16 during a press conference “It appears that a lot of the generation that has gone offline today has been primarily due to issues on the natural gas system,” -Electric Reliability Council of Texas senior director Dan Woodfin

**THE REALITY:** The wind industry, anti-fossil fuel advocates and confused Americans trying to follow along citing this statement as exoneration for wind’s place in this catastrophe. But please pay attention - he used the word “today.” Most wind power had already dropped offline the week before—see EIA charts

Change in Power Output February 8-16, 12 A.M.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration



**Alex Epstein** @AlexEpstein · 8h

We know with 100% certainty that gas, coal, and nuclear plants can easily run in far more adverse conditions than TX has now. And we know with 100% certainty that even if no wind turbines had frozen they would have been nearly useless during large portions of recent weather.

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR’S MEETING**  
**NOTE DATE CHANGE: THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2:00 PM CDT**



**EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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CHAIRMAN

**JERRY SIMMONS**  
PRESIDENT/CEO

**DON MONTGOMERY**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**BERRY MULLENNIX**  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

**DAN BOREN**  
**STEPHANIE CANALES**

**DIANA CHANCE**  
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**RON NESS**

**JOHN SCHMITZ**  
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**BROOK SIMMONS**  
**BILL STEVENS**  
**ROCK ZIERMAN**

**DEPA STAFF**

**PETER REGAN**  
CONGRESSIONAL AND  
ALLIANCE LIAISON

**DAVID CRANE**  
LOBBYIST

**CYNTHIA SIMONDS**  
MARKETING AND  
COMMUNICATIONS DIR.

**SARAH REECE**  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
MANAGER

*DEPA believes in seeking common ground, through common sense solutions, to the challenges facing our industry. Our bipartisan approach provides a uniquely powerful voice for our members at the state and national level.*

*Our work is critical.  
Your support is vital.*

**THE STATEMENT:** ERCOT reported in press briefings that it *counts* on wind to meet only 10% of its *winter capacity*.

**THE REALITY:** ERCOT’s disclosure was aptly described by the Wall Street Journal as “slippery”.

“Start with the term “capacity,” which means potential maximum output. This is different than actual power generation. Texas has a total winter capacity of about 83,000 megawatts (MW) including all power sources. Total power demand and generation, however, at their peak are usually only around 57,000 MW. Regulators build slack into the system.

**THE STATEMENT:** The blackouts were caused by large numbers of natural gas and coal plants failing or freezing.

**THE REALITY:** ERCOT didn’t expect demand began to exceed supply. Jason Issacs of Life; Powered summed it up well in his article *Texas’s Blackouts Are The Result Of Unreliable ‘Green’ Energy*

“Failure to institute a managed rolling blackout before the grid frequency fell to dangerously low levels meant some plants had to shut off to protect their equipment. This is likely why so many power plants went offline, not because they had failed to maintain operations in the cold weather.

Yet these operational errors overshadow the decades of policy blunders that made these blackouts inevitable. Thanks to market-distorting policies that favor and subsidize wind and solar energy, Texas has added more than 20,000 megawatts (MW) of those intermittent resources since 2015 while barely adding any natural gas and retiring significant coal generation.

We knew solar would not produce anything during the night, when demand was peaking. Intermittency is not a technical problem but a fundamental reality when trying to generate electricity from wind and solar. This is a known and predictable problem, but **Texas regulators fooled themselves into thinking that the risk of such low wind and solar production at the time it was needed most was not significant.**”

*“There's no possibility of getting rid of fossil fuels in 10 years. That's anti-reality as much as denying that there is such a thing as a climate crisis. I mean, just do the numbers. Are you going to stop making cement? Are you going to stop making steel?”*

*“To do this by 2050 would be a miracle. Now, miracles do happen. Personal computing, the internet, mobile phones — those are miracles. I have been allowed to participate in some parts of that...The coronavirus vaccine in less than a year. That's a miracle. But the climate requires a lot of miracles at a scale that none of those other problems come even close to.”*

-Bill Gates



**Alex Epstein** ✓ @AlexEpstein · 8h

TX is having an electricity crisis during bad winter weather because it did not focus enough on building reliable power plants and infrastructure--because it was obsessed with getting as much unreliable wind/solar electricity as possible. Let's all learn from this mistake.



# WHEN SOMEONE SHOWS YOU WHO THEY ARE, BELIEVE THEM.

- Poet Maya Angelou



Candidates Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were clear on the campaign trail about fossil fuels' future if they occupied the White House. While numerous speeches and videos that can be cited, the most concise is the now-famous reply to a woman at a rally in New Castle, New Hampshire, in 2019.

“Kiddo, I want you to just take a look. I want you to look into my eyes,” Biden began.

“I guarantee you, I guarantee you, we are going to end fossil fuel, and I am not going to cooperate with them...”

Oddly, by mid-January 2021, some of the strong domestic energy industry voices seemed to toss up a white flag. They welcomed the Biden administration while he initiated policy suspending oil and natural gas permits and announcing there would be no new leases on federal lands.

## DEPA leadership promises to be an organization of action.

- An thorough educator of the uninformed.
- A strong defender of energy reliability.
- A loud advocate for the benefits of fossil fuels
- A passionate champion for communities where low-cost energy is vital.
- An aggressive watchdog to protect energy independence.
- A compassionate preserver of the oil and gas industry jobs that support thousands of workers across the US.
- A dedicated preserver of the revenue that supports schools, community infrastructure, and essential programs.
- A steadfast proponent of commonsense methods of continuing to lower emissions and protect our environment.



# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## RON NESS



Ron Ness is President of the North Dakota Petroleum Council. He has held that position since 1999; his primary function is governmental relations in North Dakota. He serves as the industry spokesperson and manages the association which represents more than 500 companies involved in all aspects of North Dakota's oil and gas industry.

Ness was previously President of the North Dakota Retail and Petroleum Marketers Association. Prior to that he spent ten years with the State of North Dakota, most of which as the Deputy Commissioner of Labor.

Ness is a Tolna, North Dakota native, a graduate of North Dakota State University in Business and Economics, and received his masters in management from the University of Mary.

Ness was appointed by Governor's Schafer, Hoeven, Dalrymple and Burgum to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, the Oil and Gas Research Council, the Empower North Dakota Commission and the Governor's Revenue Advisory Committee.

Ness also serves as the Chairman of the Board for the Energy Environmental Research Center's Foundation. He is on the Board of Directors for the Mule Deer Foundation, Sanford Health Bismarck, the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance, the North Dakota Kids First Foundation, the Missouri River Advisory Council and the Board of Regents at the University of Mary. Ness is also a partner in Bismarck Partners a commercial real estate group.

Ness and his wife Becky have three children and are avid outdoorsmen, who enjoy golfing, fishing and hunting.


FIELD REPORT #106

### BLAZE™ couplings reduce peak polished rod load by 8% and create 29% increase in downhole pump travel

**BLAZE™** treated products address the common production challenges customers face during field operations: mechanical wear, corrosion and abrasion.



**Backdrop**  
A large global oil producer in the Williston Basin desired to extend run life of the well and reduce downtime while maximizing production. The customer partner historically faced mean time between failure (MTBF) of 6 months for hole-in-tubing ("HIT") failures resulting from sucker rod coupling wear on the inner diameter of the tubing. The customer's standard operating procedure was to replace both tubing and couplings in the worn sections of the well. The customer typically utilized spray metal type couplings in the region due to corrosion challenges. Maintaining production while reducing the frequency of need for workover service rigs was a primary goal for this global oil producer.

**Solution**  
The customer utilized BLAZE™ treated couplings to reduce coupling-on-tubing friction throughout the wellbore while making no other equipment alterations.

Customer Production Data		
	Downhole Stroke (in.)	Peak Load (lbs.)
Pre-BLAZE™ Install	62	31,467
Post-BLAZE™ Install	80	28,905
<b>Improvement:</b>	<b>18 in. Gain</b>	<b>2,562 Reduction</b>

**Results**  
By utilizing BLAZE™ treated equipment, the operator increased production, reduced friction in the sucker rod string and tubing, reduced the peak polished rod load, cut electricity costs and increased run life beyond the historical 6-month MTBF. The well continues to operate as of the publication date.

*Leading Edge Lift Technology for the Life of the Well*  
[www.endurancelift.com](http://www.endurancelift.com)
November 2019

# A CHAT WITH...



**ROCK ZIERMAN, CEO OF CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION**

**AVAILABLE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL FRIDAY, MARCH 5**

**THE DISCUSSION WILL TOUCH ON:**

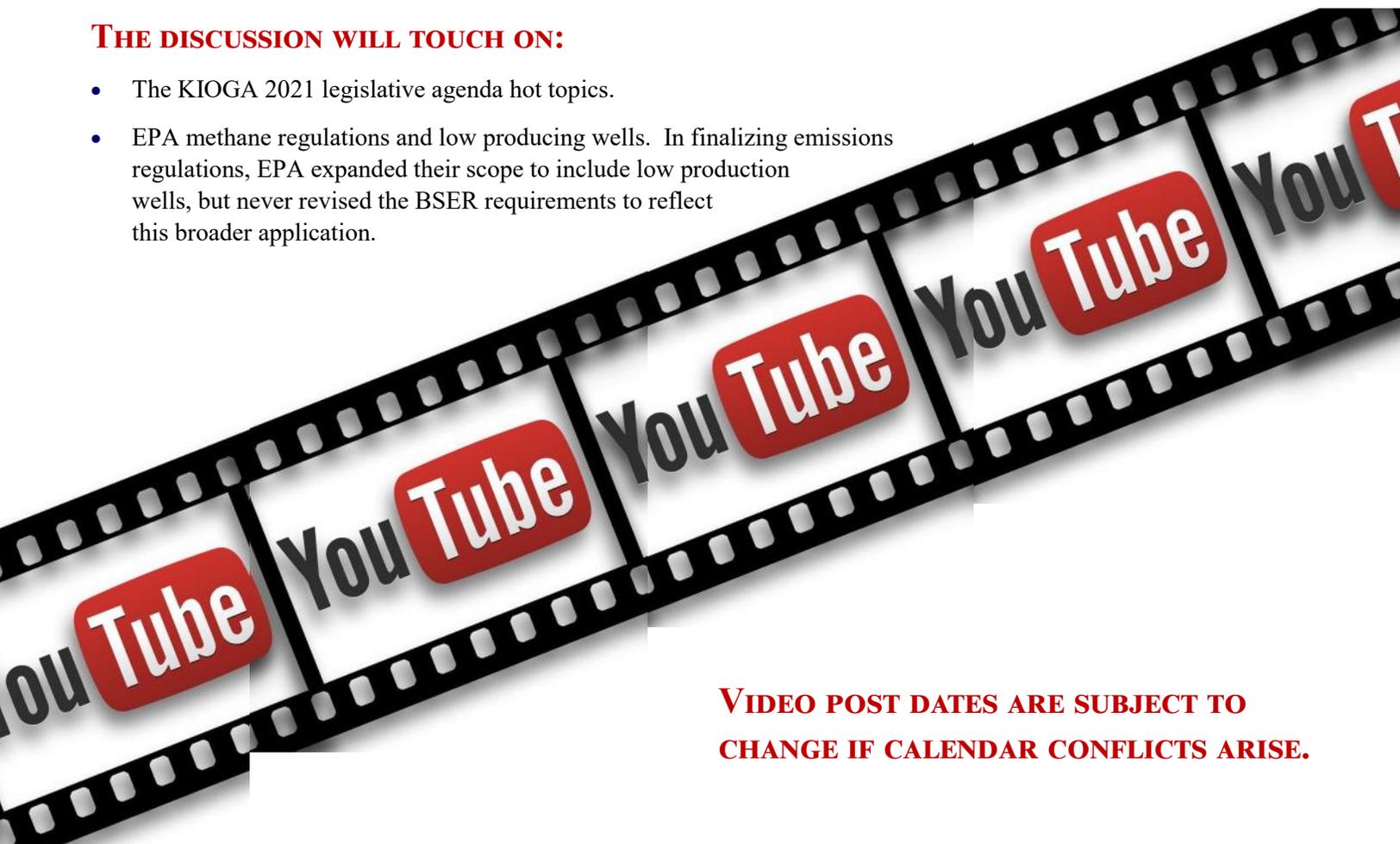
- SB 467 and its language which effectively would ban all California oil production by banning fracking. The announcement of a potential addition to include a 2,500 foot set back to the bill.
- Information about the recent meeting led by Congressman Kevin McCarthy, the California Republican Congressional Delegation and CIPA to hear directly from small and independent oil and natural gas producers about the impact of recent anti-oil and gas policies on them and their state.
- The oil and gas ordinance coming up for a vote next month in Kern County, and why it is critical.

**ED CROSS, PRESIDENT, KANSAS INDEPENDENT OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION**

**AVAILABLE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL THURSDAY, MARCH 11**

**THE DISCUSSION WILL TOUCH ON:**

- The KIOGA 2021 legislative agenda hot topics.
- EPA methane regulations and low producing wells. In finalizing emissions regulations, EPA expanded their scope to include low production wells, but never revised the BSER requirements to reflect this broader application.



**VIDEO POST DATES ARE SUBJECT TO  
CHANGE IF CALENDAR CONFLICTS ARISE.**

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videos from  
our website!**

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ORG/VIDEOS**

**RON NESS, PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH DAKOTA PETROLEUM COUNCIL  
AVAILABLE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17**

**THE DISCUSSION WILL TOUCH ON:**

- North Dakota looking at a being a hardest hit by Biden actions that impact federal leasing and fracking. The existence of even the smallest federal mineral interest requires our operators to seek federal permits and approvals. This gives the federal government a lot of control over oil and gas development in North Dakota, even in the absence of broad federal ownership.
- Gas prices in North Dakota are 27.9 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 23.0 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The future of oil and gas in ND and what it means to the communities there.

**STEPHANIE CANALES, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, COUGAR DRILLING SOLUTIONS  
AVAILABLE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL MONDAY, MARCH 22**

**THE DISCUSSION WILL TOUCH ON:**

- The new generation of oil and gas professionals; Where they would like to see the industry go on certain issues and what they think of current challenges and realities.

**You Tube**

**You Tube**

**You Tube**

**You Tube**

**You Tube**

**You**

# AGS HAS CLAIMED A PLACE ON THE WORLD WTI PRICING STAGE

*Written by Jeff Kralowetz  
VP Business Development, Argus Media*

The world is watching WTI as never before. US crude has become an important influence in markets from Rotterdam to Ningbo and from Singapore to Mumbai. Even as North Sea markets struggle to prop up the Dated Brent price benchmark, which faces declining production and spot trade, the US has unparalleled trade liquidity and transparency for WTI at the Gulf coast. WTI production and liquidity have been remarkably resilient in the face of COVID, and they look likely to bounce back quickly from the February 2021 freeze.

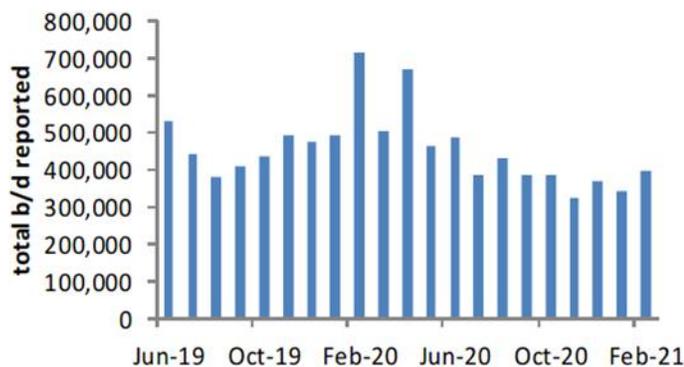
The transparency of coastal WTI trade was expanded



last summer when industry worked with Argus to create the American GulfCoast Select (AGS) crude price indexes for export-quality WTI at the Gulf coast. Even though AGS was launched at the depths of the COVID demand destruction, Argus AGS has never had a day since its launch in June 2020 when the price was not set by actual spot trade for export-quality WTI at coastal locations.

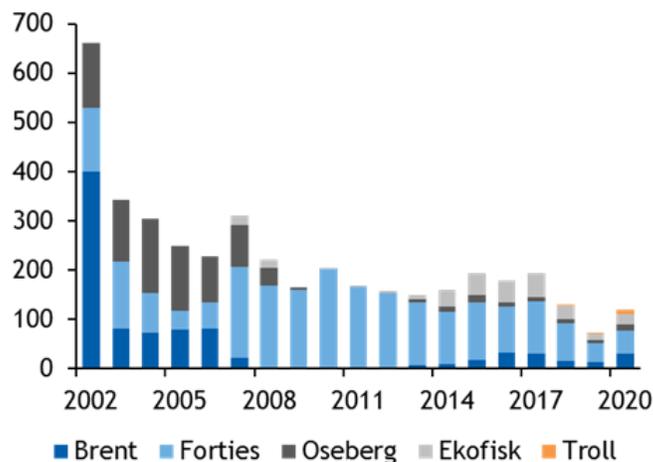
Argus publishes two AGS daily prices: AGS Marker and AGS Index. Both are set by the volume-weighted average of actual trades done for WTI at several Gulf coast terminals and docks. Argus AGS was designed

WTI Houston Physical Volume



*Daily spot trade for WTI at MEH alone is about 400,000 b/d, as compared with about 150,000 b/d for all of the Dated Brent grades combined*

Deals in North Sea Dated basket per year



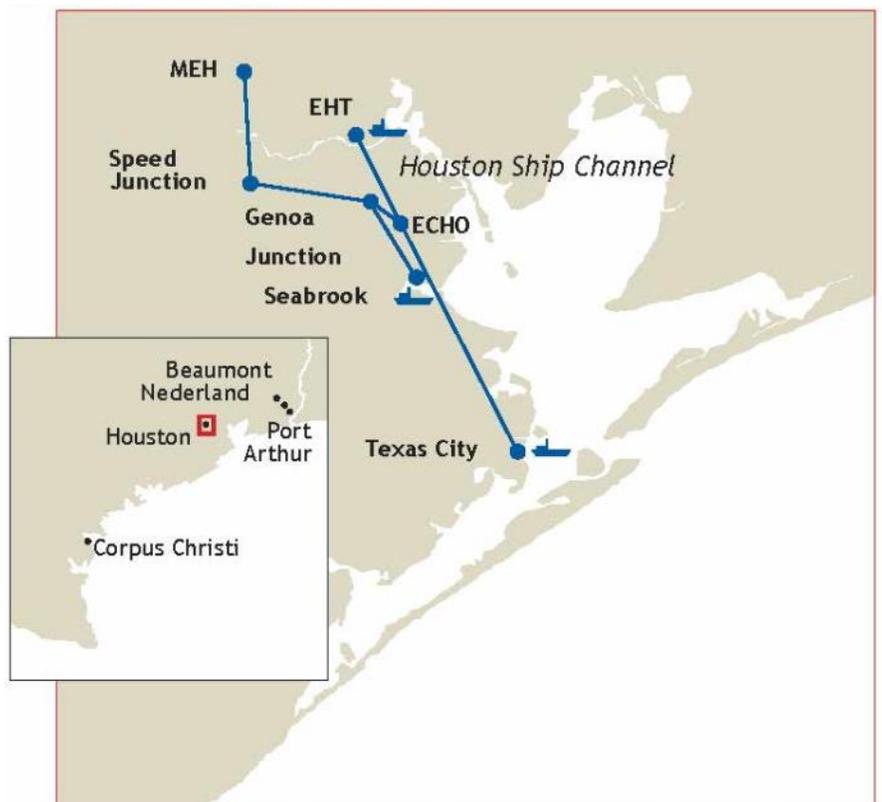
*The entire basket of grades used to create a price for Dated Brent has faced declining trade.*

to reflect WTI trades done from Corpus Christi to Houston to Nederland and Beaumont. The daily AGS Marker is calculated and stated as an outright, stand-alone price, not related to any other benchmark. The AGS index takes the same trades and calculates the volume-weighted average price as a differential to WTI at Cushing. The two versions of AGS give the market a choice of pricing tools for WTI that can fit into their marketing and risk management practices.

AGS provides a wide-angle lens view of the coastal market for WTI. But there is also a very precise, close-up view of the daily price of WTI at the coast, which is the Argus WTI Houston price, based exclusively on trades done at Magellan’s East Houston (MEH) terminal. The MEH WTI market alone has 30 times the number of monthly spot physical trades as the Dated Brent (BFOET) spot market in the North Sea. There are more than 25 active participants in the MEH WTI market, and both ICE and CME have active financial swaps settling on the month-average of Argus WTI Houston (MEH) daily published prices. The financial contracts make physical Argus WTI Houston (MEH) fully hedge-able, which explains why this price is widely used in cargo contracting to Europe and Asia, and why Mexico chose the Argus WTI Houston (MEH) price to be 65 percent of its revised Maya price formula.

It took six years for the Argus WTI Houston (MEH) price to reach its current level of liquidity, transparency and hedge-ability. Argus AGS will be just nine months old at the end of March. AGS may be the WTI price index for the next phase of market maturity, but it faces some near-term headwinds to its cargo element. First, WTI cargo trade at the Gulf coast has been dampened by COVID. US crude exports have clung doggedly to a level of about 3mn b/d. But it may take some time to advance beyond that, and there could be some erosion in the near term. Second, the WTI Gulf coast export cargo market is not nearly as transparent as the onshore pipeline terminal market for WTI. One reason for this is that unlike in the North Sea, in the US Gulf coast there is no standardization of dock fees and no standardized time or manner for releasing loading windows. Third, a lot of sellers of WTI cargoes prefer to sell them on a delivered price, reducing the number of fob spot prices that can be captured by a Gulf coast index. Finally, there is no established industry practice of reporting WTI cargo trades to Argus, as there is for onshore pipeline WTI batch trades.

None of these issues is insurmountable. And a key part of AGS’ resilience is that even on days when there are no

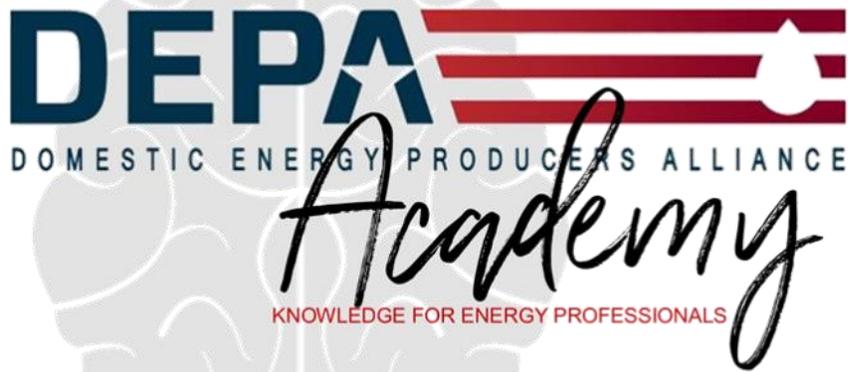


*AGS index pricing locations: pipelines and waterborne locations normalized to ECHO*

cargo trades reported, the AGS price is based on actual trade done at coastal pipeline terminals. In fact, the launch of AGS has promoted more widespread reporting at non-MEH locations such as the Enterprise ECHO terminal, Genoa Junction, Moore Road Station and others. The AGS launch also made it possible for Argus to create and publish location spreads based on observed trades. We look at recent trade activity and publish the price spread of each location to the Enterprise ECHO terminal in Houston. This has become a helpful bit of market transparency, directly tied to AGS.

Finally, even in its infancy, AGS has demonstrated its relevance on the world stage. Its daily spread to ICE Brent futures has provided a valuable view of fundamentals on either side of the Atlantic basin. And the AGS spread to Asian grades such as Murban has provided a view of the arbitrage to Asia. Since AGS typically runs at a discount to both ICE Brent and Murban, the question of capturing a margin is one of timing and shipping costs.

The potential for AGS on the world stage is bright. As WTI production resumes its growth from COVID and the February 2021 freeze – and as infrastructure and trading practices continue to mature – AGS will offer an important view of world price relationships for both US producers and their buyers around the world.



**FRIDAY, MARCH 19 11:00 AM CST**

**WILL PRESSON, DARON FREDRICKSON AND CAROLYN SHANTZ  
FROM MERIT ADVISORS WILL DISCUSS**

***Value Trapped in Oil & Gas Industry State & Local Taxes***

- Property Tax / Ad Valorem
- Significance on Operating Costs and impact to Cash Flow
- Understanding the Tax Code to maximize value reduction
- Avoiding Penalties & Interest
- Transaction Taxes / Well Servicing Tax / Sales Tax / Use Tax
- Increasing cash flow by recovering overpaid transaction taxes
- Maximizing exemptions to improve the bottom line
- Planning techniques to reduce your transaction tax costs
- State & Local Credits & Incentives Opportunities
- Rebates/Abatements
- Job Creation/Retention
- Environmental / ESG Exemptions
- Litigation Structure & Support
- The importance of the role the state legislatures and state agencies and their impact to the tax code,

*Registration is open.*

**[WWW.DEPAUSA.ORG/WEBINAR-EVENTS](http://WWW.DEPAUSA.ORG/WEBINAR-EVENTS)**

**THIS IS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBIC!**

# HISTORY OF INTANGIBLE DRILLING COSTS AND PERCENTAGE DEPLETION

*By Mike McDonald, DEPA Tax Committee Chairman & Immediate Past President*

Recently, President Biden announced his intention to seek the elimination of “so called” oil and gas industry subsidies, which is “Washington Speak” for the elimination of oil and gas tax provisions, two of which are the deductibility of IDC and Percentage Depletion, that have been in existence since 1916 and 1926 respectively.

For all practical purposes, the option to expense or capitalize intangible drilling and development expenditures has existed since the first income tax statute. Judicial recognition of the existence of the option for the year 1916 appears in the case of *Shaffer v Commissioner*.

Although there was no specific provision in the Code, prior to the 1954 Code, for the expensing of intangible drilling and development costs, the Treasury regulations granting an election were held valid by the courts.

In connection with the drilling of oil and gas wells, a taxpayer has the option to either expense or to capitalize intangible drilling and development expenditures. The option is available only to the owner of a working or operating interest and is limited to wells drilled in the United States.

The concept of discovery depletion was enacted in 1918 born out of the fact that the Bureau of Internal Revenue, now known as the IRS, was overwhelmed by the volume of work in the enforcement of discovery depletion and eventually initiated a search to find a solution to the problem. In one case, a partnership with four partners had different valuations on the same property.

The result was widely divergent units, depletion of 28.5, 33.7, 60.0 and 71.74 cents per barrel to be allowed to the respective partners. This was the “straw that broke the camel’s back”.

The code section on percentage depletion was passed on February 11, 1926.

Since 1954, all minerals are entitled to percentage depletion under the Internal Revenue Code. It is important to note that oil and gas is excluded from the basic statute. The provisions concerning oil and gas are in a subsequent statute, Section 613A, due to the fact that the percentage depletion of oil and gas has been greatly restricted relative to other minerals. Among the limitations are the fact that percentage depletion is limited to independent producers and royalty owners, a maximum of 1,000 barrels of average daily production of domestic crude oil equivalent per day; further limited to the net income computed on a property by property basis, and ultimately limited to 65 percent of the taxpayer’s taxable income for the year.

If these provisions are repealed, it is my opinion that drilling capital will be drastically reduced, which will result in additional job losses to the producing and service sectors of our industry. Not to mention the fact that we will no longer be energy independent, but will be dependent again on OPEC and other countries for our energy needs.

*Mike McDonald is co-owner of Triad Energy, Inc., an oil and natural gas exploration and production company based in Oklahoma City. A native of Mississippi, McDonald found his way to Oklahoma as a JAG officer, serving at Enid’s Vance Air Force Base.*

*McDonald received his bachelor’s and law degrees from the University of Mississippi and holds a Master of Laws (Taxation) degree from New York University.*



# nity

## MEET DEPA'S EXPANDED DC TEAM



**JIMMY KOCH**

Jimmy Koch is a public policy specialist in the Washington, D.C. office of Bose Public Affairs Group. Koch is a part of the federal relations team, where he supports firm clients from a variety of industries by researching issues and policy matters and developing strategies to advocate for client priorities.

Prior to joining the firm, Koch worked as a press intern for U.S. Senator Joe Manchin, where he compiled press clips, drafted press releases, authored op-eds and supported the communications team on other various tasks. He also served as a legislative intern for U.S. Congressman John Sarbanes, where he attended legislative briefings, researched policy issues and worked with constituents.

Prior to taking on roles on Capitol Hill, Koch also worked as a senior associate at Capitol Compliance Associates, where he managed the FEC compliance for several congressional and senate races as well as several PACs, Super PACs and 527 organizations. He also held positions at Next Level Partners and the Maryland Democratic Party.

Koch is a 2017 graduate of the Dickinson College with a Bachelor of Arts in political science.



**RUSSELL ARMSTRONG**

Russell Armstrong is an assistant vice president in the firm's Washington, D.C. office. He works with a variety of clients on issues ranging from child welfare and trauma treatment, child abuse and neglect prevention, equitable treatment of students with disabilities, K-12 accountability, juvenile justice reform and promoting STEM for women and minorities.

Russell brings a range of experiences from the local, state and federal levels, where he has worked on both sides of the aisle.

After starting his career as special education teacher and school administrator, Russell moved into policy and politics. He worked on labor, juvenile justice, early education, K-12 and higher education legislation and regulatory issues as a policy advisor to both the state superintendent and the governor of Louisiana. Before moving from the state to the federal level, Russell managed a statewide campaign for the elected school board and helped launch a startup dedicated to expanding personalized learning in local communities.

Prior to joining the firm, Russell also worked in the U.S. Senate for Senator Chris Murphy. In this role he managed education, child welfare and juvenile justice issues.

Russell holds a master of science degree in information systems management from Loyola University Chicago and a bachelor's degree in marketing and political science from the University of Pennsylvania.



**DAVID CRANE**

David Crane has been a long time part of Team DEPA in DC. However, if you are new to DEPA you may not have had the chance to meet him.

David Crane is a principal at Bose Public Affairs Group. His government relations practice focuses primarily on financial services, insurance, energy, artificial intelligence, intellectual property and tax issues. He is a legislative and public policy specialist with over 25 years of experience working at the highest levels in the United States Congress, national and state politics. He has extensive experience representing many of the largest financial services entities and trade associations on every aspect of financial services legislation and regulation both before Congress and regulators. The list of past and current clients includes: Bank of America, Royal Bank of Scotland, Citizens Financial Group, State Farm Insurance, Financial Services Roundtable, The Clearing House, Securities Industry and Fund Manager's Association, National Installment Lenders Association as well as numerous issue-based industry coalitions.

Crane has previously worked with Bose Public Affairs Group as a senior policy advisor and has served as senior domestic policy advisor to Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott. He also served as senior advisor to Senator John McCain, including as professional staff on the Senate Commerce Committee and as senior domestic policy advisor to Senator McCain's presidential campaigns in 2000 and 2008. He also served as legislative director for Senator Dan Coats of Indiana. Crane started his career in Washington working for the National Republican Senatorial Committee under then-Chairman Senator Phil Gramm (TX).

A native of Indiana, Crane worked on a number of statewide political campaigns in the Hoosier state and held private sector positions in commercial real estate and broadcasting before moving to Washington. He is the father of three sons and lives with his wife, Chris, in Alexandria, VA.

## *A Message from* *Jerry Simmons* DEPA CEO/PRESIDENT

DEPA has tried to be nonpartisan in our approach to issues facing the domestic oil and gas sector from its founding.

Early on, DEPA contracted with lobbying firms in DC that worked both Republican and Democratic Congress and Committee staff members. As politics and policies have changed over time, it has been necessary to engage one political party more than another. Given the outcome of the 2020 November elections, DEPA will continue our relationship with David Crane. The firm he is now associated with, Bose Public Affairs Group, also has staff specializing in working Democratic Members and staff. We have chosen to expand our relationship with Bose to include Russell and Jimmy.

So please help us welcome our new Team DEPA members!

We look forward to a productive and positive 2021 that helps DC leadership understand the critical place fossil fuels have now and in the future for healthy, forward-moving modern life not only in the US but around the world.

We hope to have a chance for our members to meet Jimmy and Russell in the fall at an in-person meeting.

# DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS



*February 2 Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) today announced Senate Democratic committee memberships for the 117 Congress. All memberships have been agreed upon by the Democratic Conference and are subject to ratification by the full Senate .*

## **BANKING HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS**

### **Senator Brown – Chair**

- Senator Reed
- Senator Menendez
- Senator Tester
- Senator Warner
- Senator Warren
- Senator Van Hollen
- Senator Cortez Masto
- Senator Smith
- Senator Sinema
- Senator Ossoff
- Senator Warnock

## **BUDGET**

### **Senator Sanders – Chair**

- Senator Murray
- Senator Wyden
- Senator Stabenow
- Senator Whitehouse
- Senator Warner
- Senator Merkley
- Senator Kaine
- Senator Van Hollen
- Senator Luján
- Senator Padilla

## **COMMERCE, SCIENCE & TRANSPORTATION**

### **Senator Cantwell – Chair**

- Senator Klobuchar
- Senator Blumenthal
- Senator Schatz
- Senator Markey
- Senator Peters
- Senator Baldwin
- Senator Duckworth
- Senator Tester
- Senator Sinema
- Senator Rosen
- Senator Luján
- Senator Hickenlooper
- Senator Warnock

## **ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **Senator Manchin – Chair**

- Senator Wyden
- Senator Cantwell
- Senator Sanders
- Senator Heinrich
- Senator Hirono
- Senator King
- Senator Cortez Masto
- Senator Kelly
- Senator Hickenlooper

# CAPITOL HILL FACTS

## ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC WORKS

### Senator Carper – Chair

- Senator Cardin
- Senator Sanders
- Senator Whitehouse
- Senator Merkley
- Senator Markey
- Senator Duckworth
- Senator Stabenow
- Senator Kelly
- Senator Padilla

## FINANCE

### Senator Wyden– Chair

- Senator Stabenow
- Senator Cantwell
- Senator Menendez
- Senator Carper
- Senator Cardin
- Senator Brown
- Senator Bennet
- Senator Casey
- Senator Warner
- Senator Whitehouse
- Senator Hassan
- Senator Cortez Masto
- Senator Warren

## SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

### Senator Cardin– Chair

- Senator Cantwell
- Senator Shaheen
- Senator Markey
- Senator Booker
- Senator Coons
- Senator Hirono
- Senator Duckworth
- Senator Rosen
- Senator Hickenlooper

According to the 2021 House of Representatives floor schedule released at the end of 2020, the House was scheduled to be in session for more days than in the previous two years. The House was scheduled to meet for 160 days, compared to the 113 days it was scheduled to meet in 2020 and the 130 days it was scheduled to meet in 2019.

The 117th Congress will conclude January 3, 2023

The Senate released its 2021 calendar at the end of 2020. The Senate was scheduled to be in session for more days than in 2020 (158 versus 145) but fewer days than in 2019 (158 versus 168).

From 2001 to 2018, the Senate spent an average of 165 days in session each year, and the House spent an average of 146 days in session.

The first Congress met in the capitol building November 17, 1800.

Construction of the capitol building began in 1793 and was finished in 1826. Twelve architects have contributed to the Capitol design. Dr. William Thornton was the original Capitol Building architect.

There are 100 statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection, two from each state. Nine of the statues are of women.

A tomb area was build under the capitol for the remains of George Washington, however he wished to be buried at his home in Mt. Vernon.

# PROTECTING OUR WEALTH OF ENERGY RESOURCES (POWER) ACT OF 2021

Senator Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) introduced the Protecting our Wealth of Energy Resources (POWER) Act of 2021. The POWER Act would prohibit the President or his secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture and Energy departments from blocking energy or mineral leasing and permitting on federal lands and waters without congressional approval.

A House of Representatives companion version of the bill has been sponsored by Rep. Yvette Herrell (R-NM), and cosponsored by House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA), and Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Bruce Westerman (R-AR), and others.

This legislation would not alter any existing statute relating to federal energy leasing. Rather, the POWER Act merely prohibits the President from unilaterally halting energy or mineral leasing on federal lands absent Congressional approval. In doing so, Sen. Lummis is seeking to address both the moratorium itself and the broader issue of Congress delegating crucial authorities to the executive branch.

Lummis said, “The Biden Ban would be nothing short of catastrophic for western states that are already reeling from the decline in energy usage brought on by the pandemic and continued volatility in energy markets. It’s a one-two punch that means disaster for energy jobs, families and communities. Through the POWER Act, Congress would reiterate that federal lands should serve not the whims of a radical progressive minority, but the needs of all Americans.”

Lankford said, “The ability to permit or lease federal land for extracting minerals or energy resources should not be subject to an Administration’s whim. Leasing on federal lands also provides revenue to help pay down our deficit, so this Executive decision both hurts our economy now and hurts our economic future. American industry needs certainty as they pursue the valuable American resources on federally owned land that are

The POWER Act would prohibit the President from unilaterally issuing new energy or mineral moratoria on federal lands and waters. This legislation is a direct response to President Biden’s Executive Order directing the Department of Interior to halt “new oil and natural gas leases on public lands or in offshore waters.”



SENATOR CYNTHIA LUMMIS (R-WY)

the backbone of our economy. Instead of providing certainty, the Biden Administration has unfortunately already made it clear with their early executive actions and directives that traditional energy is Public Enemy Number One and the Administration will impose policies that negatively impact the industry simply to pacify fringe environmentalists. To prevent the federal government from being the source of industry volatility, Congress should remain in the driver seat on how and when we utilize our federal lands, which this bills helps make crystal clear.”

Barrasso said, “President Biden’s ban on new oil, gas, and coal leases is illegal and it robs people in Wyoming of their livelihoods. I will fight it every step of the way. Energy production on public lands is a critical source of revenue for our public schools, roads and bridges, water projects, and other essential services. It creates good-paying jobs and is the economic lifeblood of Wy-

oming. Senator Lummis and I are introducing the POWER Act to protect our way of life in the West. Our legislation will keep energy workers in their jobs and stop the president from pursuing this divisive and disastrous policy.”

Crapo said, “Energy and mineral development on federal lands provides affordable electricity to homes across America, and any effort to curtail production

Hoeven said, “This legislation would protect our nation’s ability to utilize our abundant energy resources. By limiting the Biden administration’s efforts to impose a moratorium on federal energy or mineral leases, we are working to support good jobs, economic growth and energy security, while also maintaining an important source of revenue for federal, state and local government.”

“With the stroke of a pen, President Biden locked up millions of acres of federal lands and waters for oil and gas development. This means thousands of Americans will lose their jobs, OPEC could dominate our energy supply, and we’ll have no control over our imported energy’s environmental regulations. It’s unacceptable. I’m proud to introduce the POWER Act with my colleagues in both chambers of Congress, and I hope it serves as a wakeup call to the dangerous ripple effects of President Biden’s executive order. **Securing American energy dominance while simultaneously conserving our environment should not be a partisan issue.**” - Congressman Bruce Westerman, (R-AR)

**The federal government owns and manages approximately 640 million acres—about 28% of the US entire land mass.**

would threaten our nation’s energy independence and greatly reduce funding for federal conservation efforts. Idaho is home to vast mineral resources, including gold, silver, zinc, and phosphate, which provide high-paying, quality jobs across the state. Senator Lummis’ legislation ensures Idaho’s mineral resources can continue to be responsibly developed in accordance with federal law.”

Daines said, "President Biden is continuing his attack on American energy, this time by blocking all new oil and gas leases on federal lands. This is another blow to Made in America energy, jobs, and our Montana way of life. This action will kill nearly one million American jobs, increase our reliance on the Middle East for energy, and will result in Montana alone losing over \$40 million each year for services in rural communities. We can't let this happen."

Hyde-Smith said, “The American people want balanced national energy policies that promote growth and price stability. Setting the stage to halt development of our energy resources will harm growth and raise costs, ultimately harming low-income families and small businesses across the nation. Congress should assert itself on critical energy development policies, which is the intent behind this legislation.”

Kennedy said, “The Biden Ban on new oil and gas leasing will cost America tens of thousands of jobs, many of them in Louisiana. The energy industry is the lifeblood of our state, and we can’t afford to sacrifice jobs at a time when Louisianans are still recovering from the pandemic. Since the energy industry funds Louisiana’s conservation efforts, our storm-battered coasts can’t afford the Biden Ban either. We must

Cont’d Next Page

protect both our jobs and our coasts from Washington’s overreach, and that’s just what the POWER Act will do.”

Marshall said, “President Biden’s halt on energy leasing is another gut punch to hardworking Americans across the country. The move will kill thousands of jobs and set our country back to the Obama-era gas prices of \$4 per gallon. The Biden administration needs to support the US energy sector and help businesses put people back to work, not continue to tear apart our economy.”

Romney said, “The economic impacts of the suspension of oil and gas leasing on federal lands will be devastating to Utah’s rural communities, tribes, and small businesses. And they will be detrimental to Utah’s energy industry, which is struggling to stay afloat and keep Utahns employed during the pandemic. Long-term decisions or pauses to energy leases should be considered and approved by Congress, not by the stroke of a pen through executive order.”

Tuberville said, “The expansion of oil and gas production over the last decade -- and accelerated under the Trump Administration—has created hundreds of thousands of good paying jobs, decreased energy costs for everyday consumers, and made the US the preeminent energy nation in the world. President Biden’s executive decision to halt the progress made in America’s energy sector is not only political pandering to satisfy radical environmental activists; it has real-world consequences and could cost more than 20,000 hardworking Alabamians their jobs. I’m proud to stand with my colleagues and fight for our citizens and America’s energy independence.”

Lummis was joined by Senators Jim Inhofe (R-OK), John Barrasso (R-WY), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), John Boozman (R-AR), Shelley Moore

Capito (R-WV), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Tom Cotton (R-AR), John Cornyn (R-TX), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Ted Cruz (R-TX), Steve Daines (R-MT), John Hoeven (R-ND), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS), Ron Johnson (R-WI), John Kennedy (R-LA), James Lankford (R-OK), Mike Lee (R-UT), Roger Marshall (R-KS), James Risch (R-ID), Mitt Romney (R-UT), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Pat Toomey (R-PA), Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) and Roger Wicker (R-MS).

An official website of the U.S. government

U.S. Department of the Interior

## Natural Resources Revenue Data

Query data Download

Data type: Disbursements Period: Fiscal Year

Column 1: State + Add column 2020

New Mexico	\$706,963,499.45
Wyoming	\$457,474,033.57
Louisiana	\$159,088,552.37
Texas	\$99,356,657.43
North Dakota	\$66,717,834.30
Colorado	\$57,115,433.04
Utah	\$53,902,021.60
Mississippi	\$53,073,987.89
Alabama	\$50,290,253.62
California	\$36,917,951.96
Alaska	\$21,044,787.84
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,805,906,103.73</b>

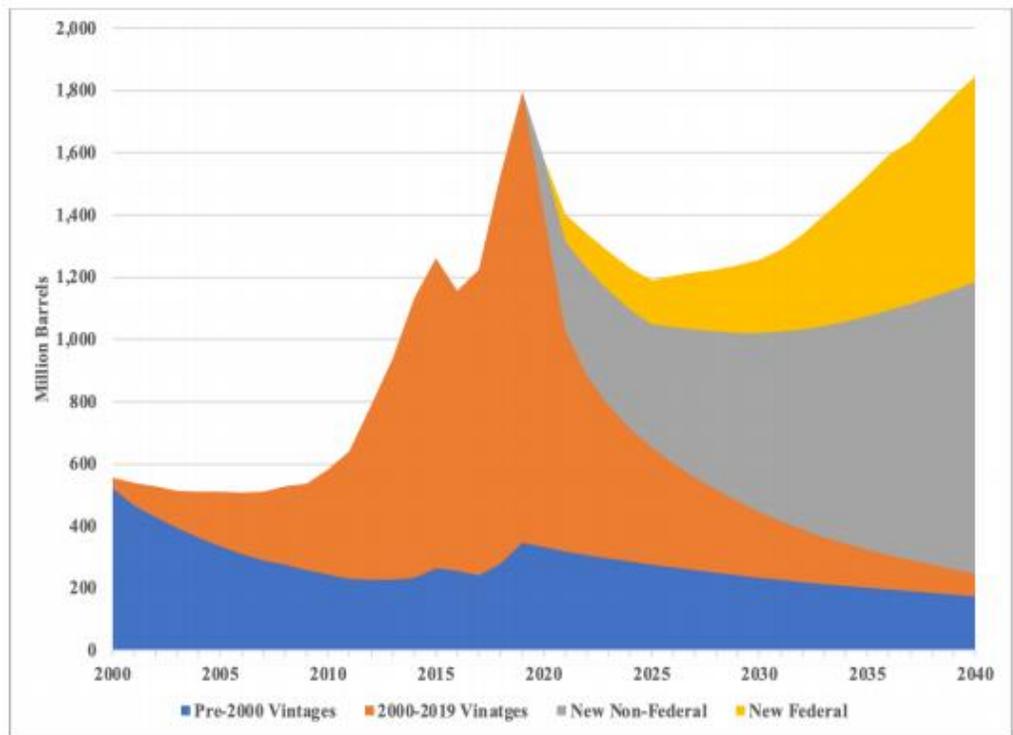


# *The Fiscal and Economic Impacts of Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Lease Moratorium and Drilling Ban Policies*

By Dr. Timothy J. Considine,  
 Profession of Energy Economics  
 School of Energy Resources  
 University of Wyoming

December 2020

Read the full report at  
[www.wyoenergy.org](http://www.wyoenergy.org)



**Fig. ES2 History and forecast of oil production in study region**

“This study estimates the investment and production losses from policies to restrict oil and gas development on federal lands. The first policy is a moratorium on all new federal leases. The second involves an outright drilling ban on all onshore federal lands. The scope of this inquiry includes a study region that includes eight states: Wyoming, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Montana, North Dakota, California, and Alaska. These lost opportunities are estimated by first projecting how drilling and production activity is likely to evolve from 2021 through 2040 and then identifying what portion would be affected by the two policies.

An illustration of this vintage production model appears in Figure ES2. This diagram plots oil production for the study

region, including history over the past two decades and projections from 2020 through 2040. There are four areas identified in the chart. The first two include production from wells drilled before the year 2000 and those after 2000 until 2019. Notice that the spike in production in 2019, which was 1,797.45 million barrels or 4.9 million barrels per day in the study region, was almost entirely supplied by wells drilled after 2000. The second two areas are projections based upon our drilling forecasts and production decline curve analysis. The first area in grey is new production from non-federal lands in the study region. The last area in yellow is projected production from federal lands, which is the amount of production that could be lost if policies to restrict oil and gas development were adopted. “

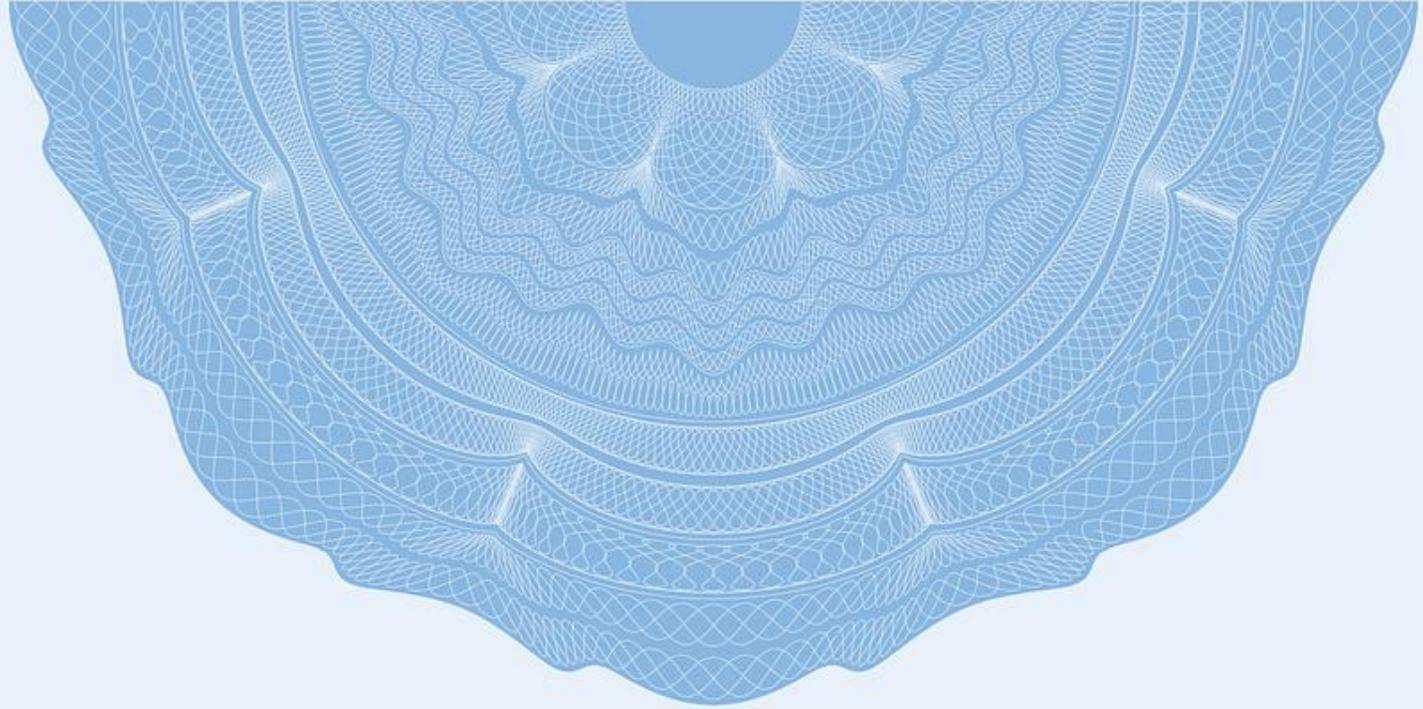


DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

## **2021 REGULATORY MEETING CALENDAR**

**MARCH 18, JUNE 17, SEPTEMBER 16, DECEMBER 16**

**2:00PM CENTRAL VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**



## A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR DEPA MEMBERS

**DEPA has partnered with the Energy Workforce & Technology Council (formerly PESA) to be able to provide DEPA members with access to the Council's ESG Certification Program at a member rate.**

The ESG Certification Program will present ESG best practices to educate members and cross-industry partners on evolving ESG criteria and reporting. Companies within the oil and gas industry are aware of society's expectations and the many opportunities and challenges that the future holds. The program demonstrates the need for robust reporting and communication going forward. The program will share practical guidelines on why, how, and what to report and thorough guidance on developing a reporting strategy and framework.

In addition to four half-day seminars, participants will engage in an ESG maturity assessment and individual ESG mentoring.

Members who complete each of the Council's three signature training programs will be recognized as an **Energy Workforce & Technology Council Certified Executive**.

The designation is designed to elevate professional standards, enhance individual performance, and build knowledge essential to the oil and gas industry.



# ESG CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

## TIMELINE

Attend four half-day interactive webcast seminars

- **March 10, 2021, 8 a.m. – Noon**
- **May 26, 2021, 8 a.m. – Noon**
- **September 29, 2021, 8 a.m. – Noon**
- **November 17, 2021, 8 a.m. – Noon**

## CURRICULUM

- ESG Assessment Framework
- Attend four half-day seminars
- Attend one group coaching introductory webinar and two one-on-one executive coaching sessions
- Attend two EWTC Meetings: There will be a variety of meetings and seminars throughout the year including leadership forums, townhalls and market outlooks designed to fulfill program requirements
- Participate in external leadership development through community or EWTC involvement: work with a non-profit or EWTC committee in 2020\*
- Accountability Partner Engagement
- Attend quarterly networking events\*
- Participate in facilitated cross company discussion \*Optional activities

## TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Cross-functional leaders with span of influence, demonstrated interest, internal credibility and strategic thinking skills.

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN

# [WWW.ENERGYWORKFORCE.ORG](http://WWW.ENERGYWORKFORCE.ORG)

## SESSION 1

### **Introduction**

- The History and evolution of ESG
- Why Is It Important?
- Integrating ESG into Your Business
- Benefits of Strong ESG-related Practices
- Why Do Investors Care About ESG?
- ESG Ratings & Why They Matter
- ESG Ratings Explained
- Global Frameworks & Reporting Standards
- Why report?
- Reporting Principles

### **The Reporting Process**

- Develop your plan
- Engage Stakeholders
- Select Your Material Issues
- Develop Report Narrative
- Develop Report Data
- Provide Assurance

### **Homework Exercises**

- Getting the basics right
- Materiality Assessment (Classify the Risk)
- Governance

## SESSION 2

### **Review Session One and Homework**

Why each topic is important, the scope of information to consider and homework that is made up of thought-provoking questions on what to report.

### **Governance and Business Ethics**

- The structure of your board of directors, how you nominate and appoint directors, how your board functions, how you address diversity and inclusion, how often the members meet and if there are specific members are associated with sustainability, or does it have independent advisers.
- Detail the methods used to inform your board on sustainability issues and the way it oversees the related risks and opportunities in connection with resilience, strategy, major expenditures, portfolio changes and important commitments.
- The structure of your organization as well as the roles of your senior executives in assessing and managing sustainability issues, such as engagement with stakeholders and how you incorporate sustainability considerations into your decision making.
- The status, implementation, and effectiveness of your management systems
- Alignment or adoption of established industry and / or national / international management system frameworks

- How you address ethics and transparency through governance, policies, and methods of internal control to promote strong standards of business conduct throughout the organization.
- Your position on corruption in relation to your operations, including suppliers, contractors, and any other business relationships.

### **Climate Change and Energy**

- Governance: responsibilities, accountabilities, processes, and assurance for managing climate.
- Strategy: positions and policies related to climate change, impacts, risks, opportunities, financial planning, and flexibility.
- Risk management: the processes used to manage transition and physical climate related risks.
- Metrics and targets: goals, measures, and performance to evaluate progress in addressing climate-related risks and opportunities
- Mitigation and energy transition: activities, initiatives, technologies, and regulatory programs that address climate change-related risks and opportunities.
- Engagement and collaboration: with stakeholders, including advocacy and lobbying.

## SESSION 3

### **Review Session Two and Homework**

Why each topic is important, the scope of information to consider and homework that is made up of thought-provoking questions on what to report.

### **Environment**

#### **Water**

- Your standpoint on your interaction with water and how that might affect other water users.
- Involvement in any global or corporate-level public commitments you have put in place to manage water resources responsibly.
- The types of operational activities where water management is significant.
- Identify the risks and opportunities for your actions connected to water, the effect of water shortages on operations, and how you assess and address them.
- Progress or outcomes from your stakeholder and regulatory engagements, risk assessments, resource efficiency plans, implementation activities, performance evaluations and management reviews.

#### **Biodiversity**

- How you incorporate biodiversity considerations into your governance and business.
- Any public commitments you have made to protect or enhance biodiversity, such as a commitment to avoid working in sensitive areas and the types of operational activities where water management is material.
- Qualitative or quantitative data to describe your biodiversity performance, and strategic decisions, including if the targets you set for continuous improvement and if you have an adaptive biodiversity management style.

- Detail your approaches to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as landscape wide conservation initiatives, across countries, regions, or communities.

### Air Emissions

- Your overall position on air quality, including risks and related impacts, as well as opportunities.
- Your approach to managing the impact your operations have on air quality.
- Air quality issues that relate to your value chain or supply chain. Spills to the Environment An overview of any significant spills of oil or hazardous chemicals into the environment and the corrective actions taken to address them.
- How you assess and address risks of spills at a corporate level.

### Materials Management

- The importance of materials management to your company, including any high-level positions, policies, or procedures in the areas of
  - sustainable consumption and production
  - application of circular economy regarding the elimination of waste and the continual use of resources.
  - your activities and the specific materials you produce or use that have potential impacts on the environment, such as lubricants, drilling fluids, plastics, and construction components.

### Decommissioning

Your overall approach to decommissioning for different types of assets, such as offshore and onshore upstream production facilities, refineries, chemical plants, pipelines, or terminals.

- Context on any risks and opportunities related to your facilities that are approaching the end of their productive life and that are due to be decommissioned, highlighting any significant planned or current projects.
- Your process to engage stakeholders and regulators when planning and executing decommissioning projects.
- The steps you take regarding decommissioning, including reduction of hazards, materials management during demolition, remediation to appropriate standards, and reclamation to restore the site for future use.

### Safety Health and Security

- Your overall approach to managing safety, health, and security risks, including planned initiatives and measures to reduce risk and improve performance.
- Management systems, auditing, and assurance – as well as efforts to enhance leadership regarding these issues within your organization.
- Any safety, health and security event that had a significant impact during the reporting period, such as fatalities or extensive environmental/socio-economic impact.
- Initiatives, and campaigns by your leadership to improve safety, health, and security performance.
- Systems to manage safety, health and security risks related to the supply chain of your products, such as fuels, lubricants, plastics, and other chemicals.
- Your capability procedures surrounding safety risks within your own operations, and how you may apply this to non-operated joint ventures and contracted assets.

## SESSION 4

### Review Session Three and Homework

Why each topic is important, the scope of information to consider and homework that is made up of thought-provoking questions on what to report.

### Social

#### Human Rights Management

- Outline policies and procedures that show your commitment to recognize internationally recognized human rights through your company's activities and your supply chain, referencing any human rights frameworks and guidance that your company has made a commitment to.
- How your company embeds and implements human rights commitments within its day-to-day responsibilities.
- Your human rights due diligence approach:
- Explain how you identify the company's most salient human rights risk areas in your own activities and business relationships based on severity, and how those risk areas are then managed.
- Explain how you manage human rights risk and your measures to address human rights impacts.
- Explain how you track your performance on preventing and mitigating impacts, covering how you engage with affected stakeholders in the process.
- Explain how you report back on your performance to affected stakeholders.
- At a regional, country or asset level, how specific types of human rights issues may arise in specific operations, projects or partnerships, as well as how you engage employees, contractors and business partners in decisions and actions, including specific local challenges, opportunities and lessons learned.

#### Community Engagement

- Your approach to identifying and addressing any impact your organization might have on the communities where you operate and your policy and procedures surrounding local community engagement.
- The range of the communities where you operate and address the distinct ways in which at risk or vulnerable groups, such as children and Indigenous Peoples, might be affected by your activities and relationships.
- References to international standards, guides, or practices that your company has adopted such as the IFC Performance Standards.
- Your methods to address and, where appropriate, remedy community grievances. Local Content
- Your approach to supporting local content. • Why these issues are important, and any business benefits your strategy offers.
- An overview of the scale, of spending on local procurement as a total and as a proportion of total procurement spend.
- How you work with local suppliers to help them avoid or minimize any adverse social and environmental impacts caused by their activities and promote benefits and good practice.
- Your policies and processes for monitoring, assessing, and managing risks throughout your local supply chain, as well as encouraging your local suppliers to follow the human rights principles your company has adopted.

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN**  
**WWW.ENERGYWORKFORCE.**  
**ORG/EVENTS/**

SAVE THE DATE

# MEMBER WEBINAR

APRIL 12, 2021  
2:00 PM CDT

Find out what DEPA Chairman Harold Hamm has to say about the current state of domestic energy.

Other guests will be announced soon.

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# Persistence

Per-sis-tence (noun) /per'sistəns/

Firm or obstinate continuance in a course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition.

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2021



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# DEPA COMMENTS

## **PETITION FOR A WAIVER OF THE 2019 & 2020 RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARDS**

SUBMITTED FEBRUARY 28, 2021  
TO THE US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The Domestic Energy Producers Alliance (DEPA) respectfully submits these comments as requested by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Under the Renewable Fuel Standards Program, several petitions for waiver of the 2019 and 2020 renewable fuel standards were requested by small refineries. As a result, the EPA seeks comment on several petitions for a waiver of the 2019 and 2020 Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) volume requirements from refineries and the governors of several states.

The first petition is from LeAnn M. Johnson Koch, with Perkins Coie in Washington DC. In her petition Ms. Koch states . . .” It is impossible for EPA to agree with the court’s conclusion that Congress intended for small refineries to be put out of business because the program’s structure competitively advantages large integrated refineries and non-refining blenders that control the downstream blending and distribution of gasoline and diesel over refineries that purchase RINs for compliance. EPA has affirmed the position, for years, that small refineries may petition for relief “at any time.” In addition, in RFS2 rulemaking EPA stated that RINs would be

cheap and available, and promised to reconsider the rule’s structure if it did not work as EPA intended—meaning that it ended up increasing costs for obligated parties.”

We completely agree with this assessment and that the purpose of waivers for small refiners was intended to provide relief from economic hardship that the RFS might cause.

The following three petitions are from Governor John Bel Edwards of Louisiana, Governor Tom Wolfe of Pennsylvania and Governors Greg Abbott of Texas, Gary Herbert of Utah, Kevin Stitt of Oklahoma, and Mark Gordon of Wyoming. All of the petitions from these State Governors discuss the EPA imposed ever increasing RFS volume requirements and dramatic increase in RINs prices. Additionally, they all point to the desperate need for waivers based on the severe economic hardship the small refining industry has experienced.

As we all know, the Covid pandemic, the Saudi/Russian oil dumping, and that last April West Texas Intermediate (WTI) closed the commodity trading day at a negative \$37/barrel, made 2020 an extraordi-



narily terrible year for the domestic oil production and refining business. We also know, that in just the last few months seven US refineries have closed which was about 4% of refining capacity and resulted in about 2500 lost jobs.

Therefore, for all of these reasons we completely agree with the four (4) petitions for wavier EPA requested comments on.

DEPA is a nationwide collaboration of 39 coalition associations – from California to West Virginia, Texas to Montana – representing individuals and companies engaged in domestic onshore oil and natural gas exploration, production, transportation, and refining. DEPA is a non-partisan association seeking common ground, and in common sense solutions to

## ETHANOL AND BIOMASS-BASED DIESEL RIN PRICES APPROACHING ALL-TIME HIGHS

*From the US Energy Information Administration*

The prices of renewable identification number (RIN) credits—the compliance mechanisms used for the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—have been steadily rising in recent months and are approaching their highest nominal levels in the history of the program (Figure 1).

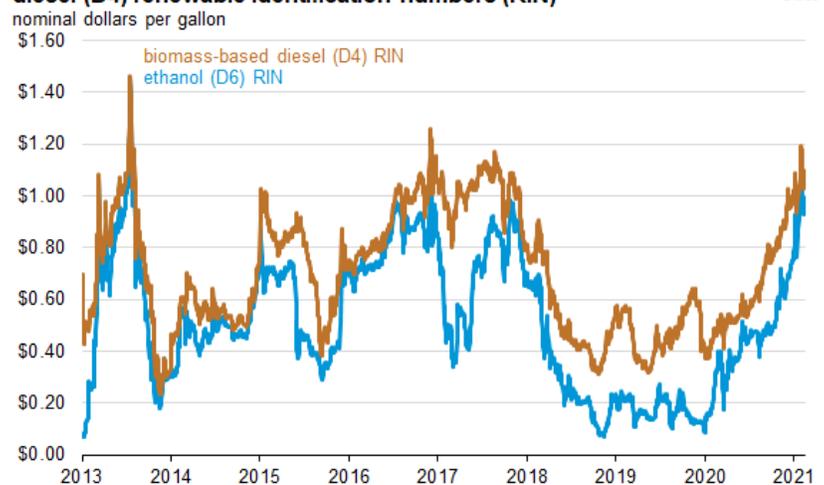
The corn ethanol (D6) RIN price reached more than \$1.00 per gallon (gal) in late January and early February 2021, the highest price since 2013 when the D6 RIN price reached an all-time high. Similarly, the biomass-based diesel (D4) RIN price, applied to volumes of both biodiesel and renewable diesel fuels, approached \$1.20/gal during the same period. Although the RFS Renewable Volume Obligations (RVO) for 2021 have yet to be released, RIN prices have been increasing because of limited fuel production as a result of lower fuel demand related to responses to COVID-19, fewer approved new Small Refinery Exemptions (SRE) since 2018, and uncertainty around future RFS levels.

The first situation best represents current RIN prices because responses to COVID-19 impacts on transportation demand have dramatically decreased fuel prices in 2020. The relationship between ethanol and gasoline, where wholesale gasoline prices fell much lower than wholesale ethanol prices in early 2020, caused ethanol D6 RIN prices to increase to where ethanol blenders would again find it economical to blend by way of capturing higher RIN values (Figure 2). Alt-

hough wholesale ethanol prices are partially determined by motor gasoline blending demand, they also are determined by ethanol market factors. Some of those factors included corn prices and ethanol production costs, which can lead to higher ethanol prices than wholesale gasoline prices, making blending uneconomical. When biofuel prices are no longer competitive with their petroleum counterparts, RFS obligations drive RIN prices to increase to help biofuel blending reach the RFS target levels despite significantly lower motor fuel demand.

Similarly, biomass-based diesel (both biodiesel and renewable diesel) has traditionally been more costly to produce

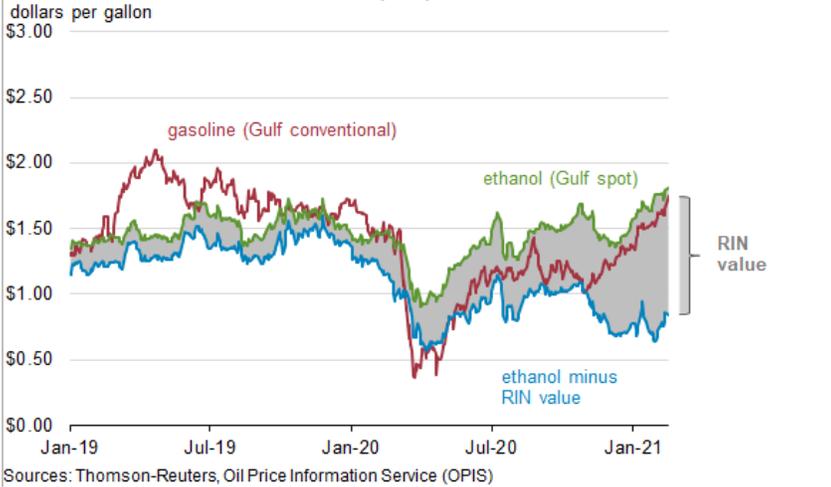
**Figure 1: Daily spot prices ethanol (D6) and biomass-based diesel (D4) renewable identification numbers (RIN)**



Source: Oil Price Information Service (OPIS)

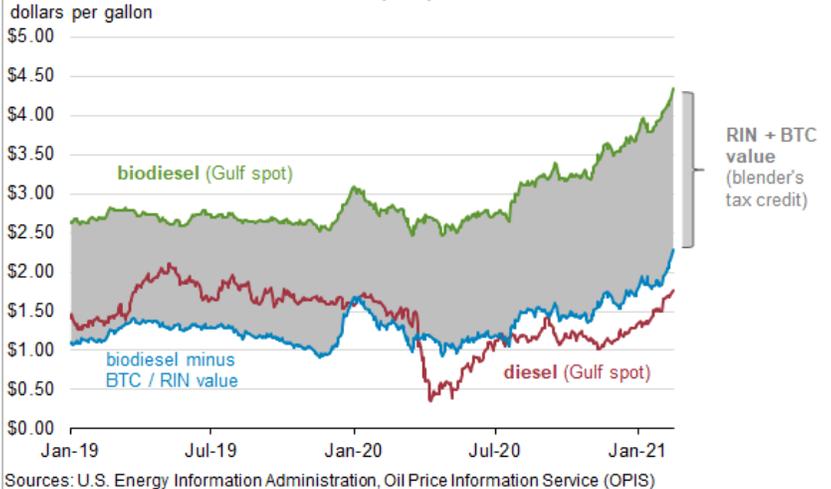


**Figure 2: Daily spot prices of wholesale gasoline, ethanol, and renewable identification numbers (RIN)**



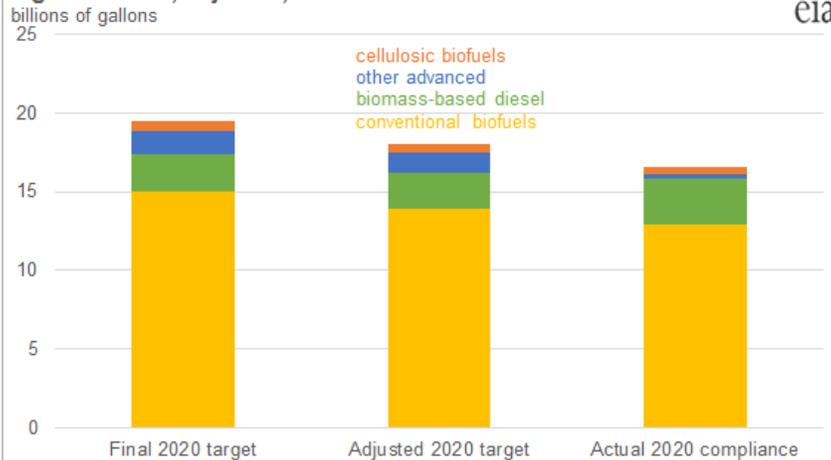
than petroleum diesel and has regularly required incentives, such as RIN values and the biomass-based diesel tax credit (BTC), to make biomass-based diesel fuels competitive with diesel fuel. Because of responses to COVID-19 in 2020, diesel fuel prices fell significantly lower than their renewable counterparts, driving biomass-based diesel D4 RIN prices higher to increase demand for the biofuels, such as with biodiesel (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Daily spot prices of wholesale diesel, biodiesel, and renewable identification numbers (RIN)**



In the second half of 2020, an already limited supply of available RINs was further tightened because market participants had started to react to news of administrative and legal Small Refinery Exemptions decisions. Some small refiners that had previously been exempt from the RFS and were net sellers of RINs had become buyers of RINs for their own compliance. This situation lent itself to tighter RFS compliance levels, the number of obligated parties increased and RFS driven volumes were higher. This situation increased demand for RINs, either traded on the open market or by increased demand and blending, for obligated parties to meet their 2020 Final RVO targets for RFS compliance (Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Final, adjusted, and actual 2020 RFS volumes**



In its latest *Short-Term Energy Outlook* (STEO), the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecasts that consumption of ethanol and biomass-based diesel will continue to grow during the next two years, primarily because of increasing RIN prices and expected higher RFS targets. EIA estimates that U.S. ethanol consumption, which averaged 949,000 barrels per day (b/d) in 2019, fell 13% to an average of 825,000 b/d in 2020. EIA forecasts that ethanol consumption will gradually return to pre-pandemic 2019 levels during the forecast period, largely following the recovery in domestic motor gasoline consumption. However, growth in higher blending levels of ethanol will be limited. EIA forecasts ethanol consumption will average 881,000 b/d in 2021 and 913,000 b/d in 2022. Biomass-based diesel consumption is forecast to average 153,000 b/d in 2021 and 176,000 b/d in 2022, compared with an average of 136,000 b/d in 2019 and 140,000 b/d in 2020.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
 Note: RFS = Renewable Fuel Standard. Final 2020 target represents 2020 RFS volumetric targets in EPA Final Rule on December 19, 2019, Adjusted 2020 target represents actual 2020 gasoline and diesel consumption adjusted targets based on the February 2021 *Short-Term Energy Outlook*, Actual 2020 compliance represents official 2020 EPA renewable identification number (RIN) generation data across all RIN classifications

Dear DEPA Members,

The DEPA charge for 2021 is *persistence*.

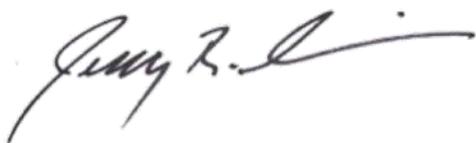
The objective is to amplify the message of our essential place in modern everyday life.

We do not write many PAC checks but do try to support those members of Congress or candidates that have/will support DEPA and our political agenda. As a result, our PAC account has become pretty low, so we are seeking your support to help replenish our funds.

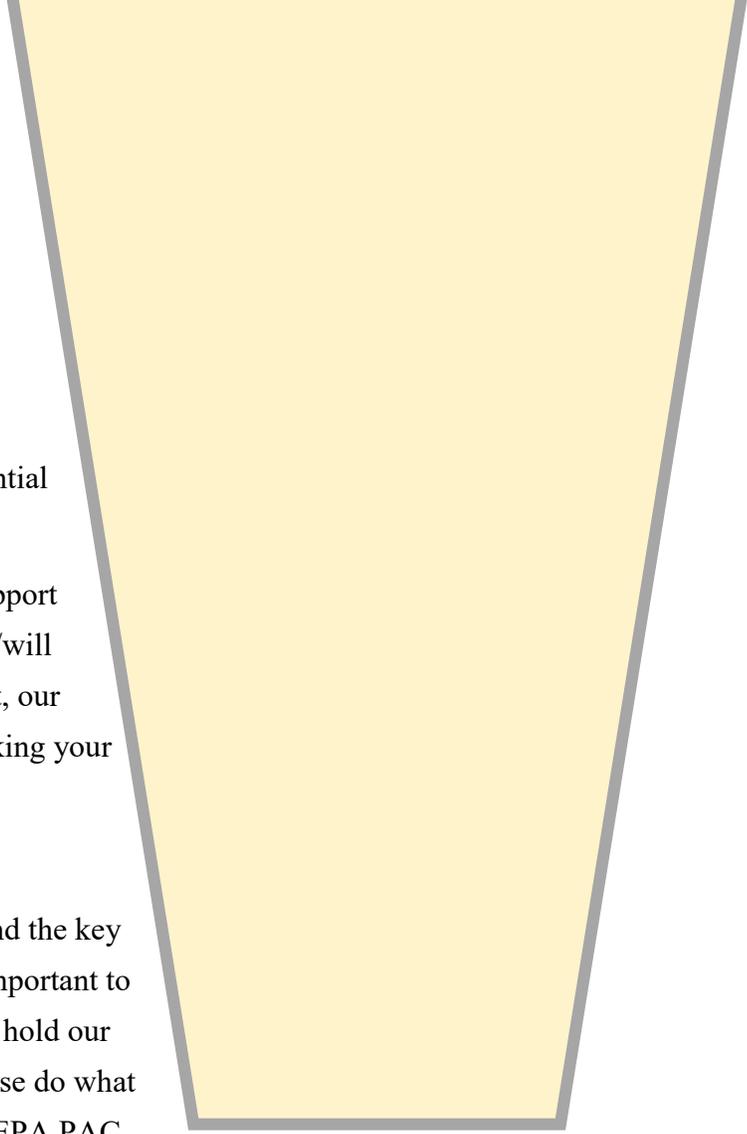
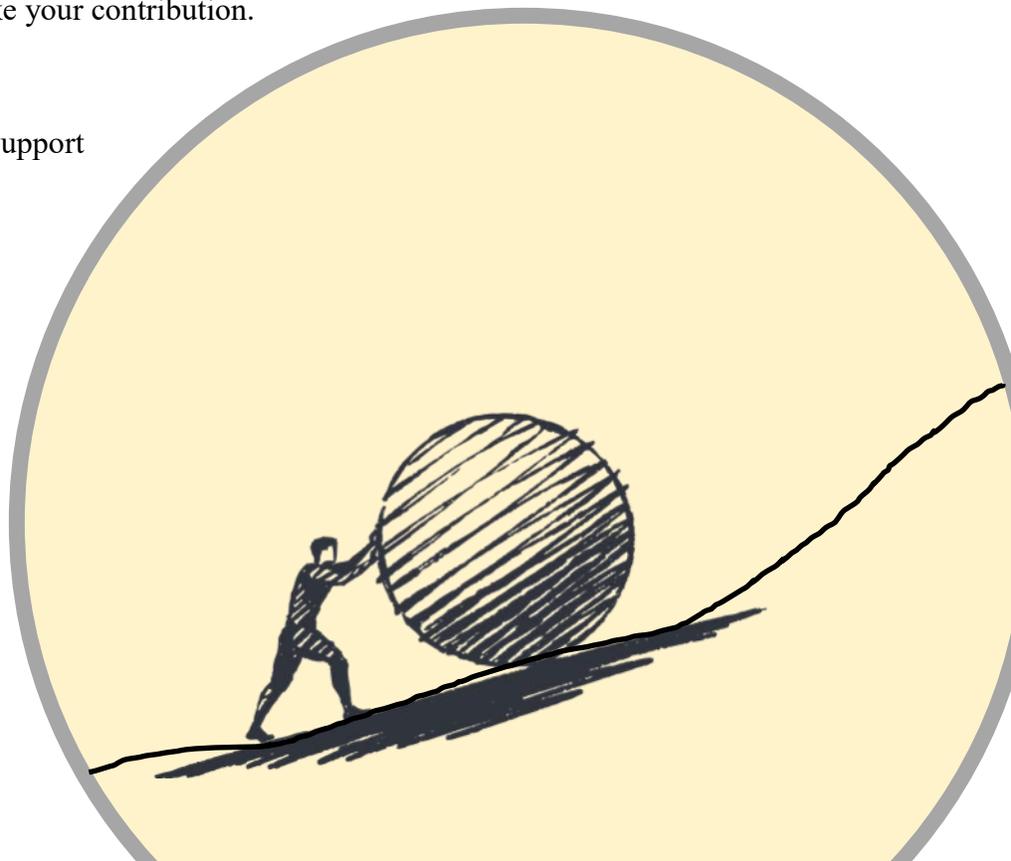
With the new administration's outlook on energy and the key leaders being nominated for the cabinet positions important to our industry, 2021 will be a year of uphill battles to hold our ground. It is vital for you to help us help you! Please do what you can to support our efforts by donating to our DEPA PAC.

PAC donation rules are very stringent. Please follow the instructions on the donation card to make your contribution.

Thank you for all you do, and for your support of DEPA, and our mission.



Jerry Simmons  
DEPA Executive Director



# DEPA PAC

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE



## What does your contribution to DEPA do?

We believe the only way to accomplish our sharply focused agenda is to establish common ground. We consistently seek common sense solutions to the challenges that face us in business, including our relationships with the legislative and executive branches of the Federal government.

DEPA gives a loud, clear voice to the majority of individuals, and companies responsible for the current North American energy renaissance. Find out more at [WWW.DEPAUSA.ORG](http://WWW.DEPAUSA.ORG)

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Any contribution levels listed are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more, or less, than the guidelines suggest or nothing at all, and you will not benefit or be disadvantaged by the amount of contribution, or a decision not to contribute.

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Fill out these forms and send them in with your support of our mission work in 2021.

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\$5,000 PAC Founder

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**Return to DEPA PAC:**  
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\*Monthly credit card payments are processed on or about the 15th of each month.

**Paid for by the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance PAC**

PAC contributions are not deductible for federal tax purposes. The maximum an individual may contribute to the PAC is \$5,000 per year. Couples may contribute \$10,000 from a joint account, but such contribution requires both signatures. Contributions from corporations, labor unions, federal govt contractors, national banks, and foreign nationals without permanent residency status and from any individual contributing another's funds are prohibited.