

Policy News & Monthly Review

AGI policy news briefs summarize geoscience policy activities and related events in Washington, D.C. as part of an effort to keep AGI member societies and other audiences informed about relevant federal policy and legislative updates.

To search for news briefs for a specific Monthly Review digest, enter the year and month of the Monthly Review in the search fields below.

Please note that as of April 2019, the publication of news briefs and the monthly review has been suspended. Policy news from April 2019 back to 2010 is available below; to browse Monthly Reviews from 1996 through 2010, please visit the [Monthly Review Archive](#).

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Bipartisan House bill would improve tsunami forecasting and preparedness in U.S.

Date: Thursday, July 31, 2014

Before the August recess, a bipartisan coalition of members from the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology released the Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act of 2014 (H.R. 5309), a bill which would reauthorize the Tsunami Warning and Education Act of 2006. The bill is intended to enhance coordination among coastal states to improve tsunami research and mitigation.



Senate Indian Affairs Committee holds hearing on natural disaster response in Indian country

Date: Wednesday, July 30, 2014

The Senate Indian Affairs committee held a hearing on July 30 to discuss responses to natural disasters on tribal lands.



Senate committee passes bill restricting agency conference travel

Date: Wednesday, July 30, 2014

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee approved the Conference Accountability Act of 2014 to limit the travel of federal employees to conferences.



Bureau of Ocean Energy Management requests comment on Arctic oil and gas leases

Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is requesting comments on the oil and gas potential of the Beaufort Sea Planning Area (BSPA) off the coast of Alaska



White House releases report on costs of delaying climate change action

Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

The White House Council of Economic Advisers released a report examining possible economic consequences of delaying

policies addressing climate change.



House subcommittee hearing on the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program

Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2014

A subcommittee of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee met on July 29 to review the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP). Committee members and witnesses agreed that reauthorization for NEHRP, which expired in 2009, is critical.



House hearing on U.S. Arctic policy discusses need for new icebreakers, stronger leadership

Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2014

The House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing on July 23 to discuss U.S. policy in the Arctic. Scientists and representatives from the military discussed the need for new icebreaker vessels and greater U.S. leadership in the Arctic.



Senate subcommittee examines future of the National Flood Insurance Program

Date: Wednesday, July 23, 2014

The Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee held a hearing on July 23 to discuss the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which is up for reauthorization in 2017. The hearing covered recent changes to legislation aimed at increasing the NFIP's solvency and plans to update Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) across the country.



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee discusses revenue sharing

Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2014

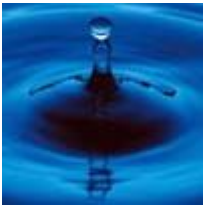
The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing to discuss revenue sharing for offshore drilling and access to federal lands on July 22.



Critical minerals bill fails to pass House without Republican support

Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2014

On July 22, the House failed to achieve the two-thirds majority vote required to pass the Securing Energy Critical Elements and American Jobs Act of 2013 (H.R. 1022), which supported federal investment in research and development for energy critical materials.



Geoscience-Energy Consortium holds briefing on carbon capture and storage

Date: Friday, July 18, 2014

The Geoscience-Energy Consortium, which includes the American Geosciences Institute, hosted a briefing on July 18 titled “Geologic Carbon Storage: Feasibility, Technology, and Challenges.”



Department of Energy announces funding to establish FORGE project

Date: Thursday, July 17, 2014

On July 17, the Department of Energy (DOE) allocated \$31 million in funding for the beginning phases of the Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE).



President Obama announces 3D Elevation Program

Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2014

President Obama announced the launch of the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) on July 16. The 3D Elevation Program, a partnership program led by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), aims to map the lower 48 states, Hawaii, and the U.S. territories with a laser technology called lidar (light detection and ranging) in an eight-year period.



House hearing on EPA veto authority in Clean Water Act

Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2014

On July 15, the House Transportation Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing to discuss the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) permit veto authority under the Clean Water Act.



Senate discusses wildfire funding at Energy and Natural Resources hearing

Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2014

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on July 15 to discuss wildfire funding issues and examine more effective ways to prevent wildfires.



House committee questions Bureau of Land Management on implementation of Helium Stewardship Act

Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2014

On July 15, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held an oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013.



House committee passes Interior, Environment Appropriations Bill

Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2014

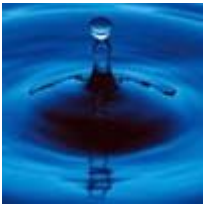
The House Appropriations Committee passed the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year (FY) 2015 on July 15. The \$30.2 billion bill would fund the Department of the Interior and appropriates \$1.035 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).



Interior Department reports impacts of FY 2013 activities and lands

Date: Friday, July 11, 2014

The Department of the Interior (DOI) released their fifth annual economic report on July 11. The report finds that DOI contributed \$360 billion to the U.S. economy and supported about 2 million jobs in fiscal year (FY) 2013.



Energy and Commerce Committee examines constitutionality of EPA regulations

Date: Friday, July 11, 2014

On July 11, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy held a hearing to discuss constitutional considerations of federal environmental policy.



House passes FY 2015 Energy and Water Appropriations bill

Date: Thursday, July 10, 2014

The House passed their fiscal year (FY) 2015 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill (H.R. 4923), on July 10 by a vote of 253-170. This \$34 billion bill funds the Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Rep. Peter DeFazio introduces legislation to update 1872 Mining Law

Date: Thursday, July 10, 2014

Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) introduced legislation intended to change the royalty structure for non-coal mining operations in the United States.



House appropriations bill funding EPA and USGS passes subcommittee

Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2014

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a markup on July 9 on the fiscal year (FY) 2015 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill.



House holds contentious hearing on EPA's proposed changes to Clean Water Act

Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2014

The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a hearing on July 9 to discuss proposed changes to the Clean Water Act.



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee holds field hearing to discuss Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas production

Date: Monday, July 7, 2014

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a field hearing on July 7 in Lafayette, Louisiana to discuss opportunities for increasing oil and gas production.



NASA launches satellite aimed at measuring carbon dioxide levels

Date: Wednesday, July 2, 2014

On the morning of July 2, NASA launched a satellite tasked with measuring the global distribution of carbon dioxide.

Monthly Review: January 2011

This monthly review goes out to the leadership of AGI's member societies, members of the AGI Government Affairs Advisory Committee, and other interested geoscientists as part of a continuing effort to improve communications between GAP and the geoscience community. The current monthly review and archived monthly reviews are all available online.

Monthly Review: February 2011

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Monthly Review: April 2011

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*****Announcements*****

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Monthly Review: July 2011

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Report by the National Academies identifies potential of induced seismicity in energy technologies

This August the National Research Council (NRC) released a report, sponsored by the Department of Energy, that examines the relationship between induced seismicity and energy technologies.