

Policy News & Monthly Review

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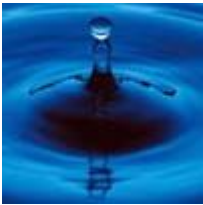
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Federal Register - May 2014

A list of notices from the federal register for May 2014 from agencies including the Department of the Interior, EPA, FEMA, USGS and more.



Environmental Protection Agency announces plan to cut carbon emissions

On June 2, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a proposed rule, the Clean Power Plan, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants.



Keystone XL vote hits roadblock in Senate

A key vote on the Keystone XL pipeline stalled May 12 after the Senate reached an impasse on the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2013 (S. 761), sponsored by Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Rob Portman (R-OH).



Supreme Court will not review Department of the Interior coal-export fee

On May 19, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) declined to hear a challenge to the Department of the Interior's (DOI) rule charging coal companies fees for exporting coal.



Senate Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations bill easily passes committee

In a bipartisan effort, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies unanimously passed their Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 appropriations bill allocating a total of \$51.2 billion.



House passes FY 2015 science appropriations bill

The House passed the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R. 4660) on May 30 by a vote of 321-87.



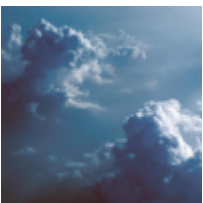
Geoscience-Energy Consortium holds briefing on the importance of geoscience in oil and gas development

On May 22, the Geoscience-Energy Briefing Consortium, which includes the American Geosciences Institute, held two briefings for congressional Senate and House staff entitled “Oil and Gas Development: How Geoscience Makes a Difference.”



Senate passes legislation to help prevent propane shortages

On May 21, the full Senate passed bipartisan legislation to combat severe propane shortages like those occurring last winter across the East Coast and Midwest. The Reliable Home Heating Act (S. 2086) was drafted by Senator John Thune (R-SD) and gained bipartisan co-sponsors.



USGCRP releases National Climate Assessment

The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) released the newest National Climate Assessment on May 6.



Department of Energy round table discusses methane emissions

On May 20, Department of Energy (DOE) officials convened a White House round table to discuss methane emitted by the natural gas sector.



House Science, Space, and Technology Committee examines IPCC report process

The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a hearing on the process used to compile the most recent United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report.



NIOSH to assess workplace hazards associated with hydraulic fracturing

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has called on the oil and gas industry to help assess the workplace hazards associated with hydraulic fracturing in response to four worker deaths since 2010.



USGS report: Record number of earthquakes recorded in Oklahoma

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) reports that the rate of earthquakes in Oklahoma has increased by about 50 percent since October 2013, indicating increased probability that a damaging quake will strike central Oklahoma.



Japan launches new satellite to survey disasters

On May 31, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) launched a satellite to study damage caused by natural disasters, including effects of major earthquakes, tsunamis, and depleting rainforests.



SEC moves forward with implementation of conflict minerals rule despite legal challenges

On May 14, the U.S. District Court of Appeals ruled in favor of allowing the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to implement its conflict minerals rule and upheld a June 2 deadline for companies to file a Conflict Minerals Report with the SEC.



House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources holds hearing on energy innovation and jobs

The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on Thursday, June 12 to discuss how technology and innovation help spur job creation in the energy sector.



Senate questions NRC officials over post-Fukushima safety recommendations

On June 4, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public works held a hearing to question officials of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on their progress in implementing Fukushima Near-Term Task Force safety recommendations.



Senate committee investigates funding issues for EPA Superfund program

The Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing on June 10 to discuss the impacts of contaminated Superfund sites, as well as strategies to speed up the decontamination process in light of decreased funding for the program.



Proposed changes to Clean Water Act spark controversy

This June, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers proposed a rule to clarify what types of water fall under the protection of the Clean Water Act.



House committee examines earthquake early warning system

On June 10, the House Natural Resources, Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee held a hearing to examine the development of an earthquake early warning system in the U.S.



President Obama proposes world's largest marine sanctuary in South Pacific

On June 16, President Obama announced his commitment to expand federal protection of the ocean near the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument in the southern Pacific Ocean.



House holds hearing to discuss natural gas pipeline approval process

The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on June 20 to discuss regulations related to natural gas pipelines.



House subcommittee passes Energy and Water Appropriations bill with bipartisan support

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development held a markup of their fiscal year (FY) 2015 appropriations bill, which allocates a total of \$34 billion for the Department of Energy (DOE), the Army Corps of Engineers, and other related agencies.



House committee approves new standards for EPA air quality permits

In a markup held June 10, the House Energy and Commerce Committee approved legislation intended to reduce delays in air quality permitting by a vote of 30-19



USGS nominee clears Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee cleared the nomination of Dr. Suzette Kimball as Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in a business meeting on June 18.



Colorado Senator Mark Udall calls for USGS funding to prevent natural disasters

On June 24, Senator Mark Udall (D-CO), a member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, called for the Senate to prioritize funding for natural hazard mitigation.



NASA widens 2014 research mission to study hurricanes and tropical storms

During this Atlantic summer hurricane season, NASA plans to widen its tropical storm studies with the addition of two unmanned Global Hawk aircraft ideal for flying over storms and monitoring the conditions under which they form and intensify.



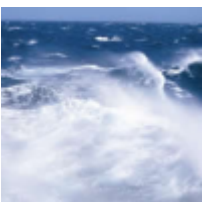
NASA plans mission to redirect asteroid for study

NASA is asking the public for help in identifying asteroids suitable for study in its Asteroid Redirect Mission (ARM), with the goal of capturing an asteroid with a robotic spacecraft, redirecting it to orbit the moon, and ultimately sending astronauts to study it.



House hearing on the future of human space exploration and the path to Mars

On June 25, the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held a full committee hearing on the future of space exploration and NASA's goal of landing humans on Mars.



Secretary Jewell speaks at Capitol Hill Ocean Week

Capitol Hill Ocean Week took place June 10 to 12, 2014 and was sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and many nonprofit organizations and private companies.



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Federal Register - July 2014

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Federal Register - August 2014

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Federal Register - September 2014

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Federal Register - October 2014

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Federal Register - November 2014

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Federal Register - December 2014

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Federal Register - January 2015

A list of notices from the federal register for January 2015 from agencies including the Department of the Interior, EPA, FEMA, USGS and more.



Federal Register - February 2015

A list of notices from the federal register for February 2015 from agencies including the Department of the Interior, EPA, FEMA, USGS and more.



Federal Register - March 2015

A list of notices from the federal register for March 2015 from agencies including the Department of the Interior, EPA, FEMA, USGS and more.



Federal Register - April 2015

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Federal Register - May 2015

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Federal Register - June 2016

A list of notices from the federal register for June 2016 from agencies including the Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, USGS, NOAA, NASA, and more.



Federal Register - July 2016

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