

Geoscience Policy Monthly Review: January 2015

The Monthly Review is part of a continuing effort to improve communications about the role of geoscience in policy. Current and archived monthly reviews are available online.

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January 2015

Congress

- Senate amends, passes bill approving Keystone XL
- New committee members in House and Senate
- New subcommittees announced for the House Natural Resources Committee

Energy

- Atlantic Ocean opened for outer continental shelf oil and gas leasing
- President and federal agencies propose new restrictions, leases in Arctic
- Leasing for offshore wind farms sells half of allotments
- Process of hydraulic fracturing linked to Ohio earthquakes

Environment

- NASA and NOAA declare 2014 the warmest year on record

Federal Agencies & Administration

- New director for USGS Earthquake Science Center
- GAO report: NOAA likely to experience gap in satellite weather data in 2016
- NOAA chooses Craig McLean as Assistant Administrator

Natural Hazards

- House passes bill on tsunami and windstorm research
- Wildfire funding bill reintroduced by Sen. Wyden and Crapo

Natural Resources

- China ends export quotas on rare earth elements

Space

- NASA launches Soil Moisture Active Passive satellite

Water

- National Research Council report on priorities in ocean research for next decade
- Executive order creates new flood requirements for federal projects

Federal Register

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