

Climate Policy Update

October 3, 2022

Good evening! This is Akin Gump's weekly policy newsletter on **climate change** policy and regulatory developments, providing information on major climate policy headlines from this past week and forthcoming climate-related events and hearings:

National

- **Landmark \$7 Billion Clean Hydrogen Funding Opportunity Announced** (*Speaking Sustainability*)
The Department of Energy opened applications for the H2Hubs Program, which seeks to create “up to ten regional clean hydrogen hubs across the country” with a focus on “the production, processing, delivery, storage and end use of clean hydrogen.”
- **Manchin's Permitting Overhaul: Not Dead Yet** (*E&E News*)
Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) removed his permitting reform language from a Continuing Resolution as it did not have the support to advance. However, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) reiterated his commitment to pass permitting reform before the 117th Congress concludes.
- **House GOP Agenda Light on Energy Details, Silent on Climate** (*E&E News*)
House Republican Leadership released an agenda to campaign on for the midterms featuring “long-standing conservative energy priorities like expanded domestic production and regulatory reforms.”

State

- **Texas Wants Oversight of CO2 Wells. Other States May Follow.** (*E&E News*)
The Texas Railroad Commission is slated to “submit an application to [the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)] to obtain primary enforcement authority, or ‘primacy,’ over wells that are used to inject carbon dioxide deep into underground formations.” North Dakota and Wyoming have obtained primacy and Louisiana has applied for such authority.

- [**Four in a Row: California Drought Likely to Continue**](#) (*Cal Matters*)

With its water year coming to an end, California is slated to experience a fourth drought year in a row. Moreover, a “La Niña climate pattern plus warm temperatures in the Western Tropical Pacific” may exacerbate California’s dry season.

- [**Seeking Public Comments on Pulling Out of RGGI**](#) (*CBS*)

A public comment period regarding Gov. Glenn Youngkin’s (R-VA) plan to pull Virginia out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) opened September 26 and will remain open until October 26.

International

- [**Russian Pipeline Leaks Spark Climate Fears as Huge Volumes of Methane Spew into the Atmosphere**](#) (*CNBC*)

Gas leaks along pipelines between Russia and Germany “sent huge volumes of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere.” The leak has an estimated climate impact of 7.5 million metric tons of carbon.

Check out below for key quotes, federal agency news and a look at the week ahead in congressional hearings and think tank events:

Quotes of the Week

“Senator Manchin, myself, and others will continue to have conversations about the best way to ensure responsible permitting reform is passed before the end of the year.”

-Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) discussing Sen. Manchin’s permitting reform efforts

([E&E News](#)— September 27, 2022)

“He thought he was going to pass a bill and get it signed into law. He miscalculated, is the nicest way I could put it.”

-Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) reacting to Sen. Manchin’s permitting reform language

([Politico](#)—September 28, 2022)

Upcoming Congressional Hearings (October 3-7, 2022)

Senate

No relevant Senate hearings.

House of Representatives

No relevant House hearings.

Federal Agency Climate News

The White House

[National Clean Energy Action Month, 2022](#) (September 30)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

[EPA Finalizes Environmental Justice Action Plan for Land Protection and Cleanup Programs](#) (September 30)

[EPA Administrator Regan Launches New National Office Dedicated to Advancing Environmental Justice and Civil Rights](#) (September 28)

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

[DOE Seeks Input on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Civil Nuclear Credit Program Round Two Funding](#) (September 30)

[Secretary Granholm Announces 7th Tribal Energy Summit](#) (September 29)

[DOE Welcomes New Biden-Harris Administration Appointees](#) (September 29)

[DOE Announces \\$24 Million to Advance Solar-Thermal and Industrial Decarbonization Technologies](#) (September 27)

Funding Opportunities

Restore Native Vegetation and Mitigate Environmental Hazards on
Mined Federal and Non-Federal Land

Department of Interior

Close Date: January 31, 2023

Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs

Department of Energy

Close Date: November 7, 2022

Fiscal Year 2023 Distinguished Early Career Program

Department of Energy

Close Date: November 3, 2022

Upcoming D.C. Climate Events (Registration)

[Climate Change: What is the Role for Financial Regulatory Policy?](#)

The National Association for Business Economics

Tuesday, October 4, 10:30 AM EST

[What Better Looks Like: Breaking the Critical Minerals
Resource Curse](#)

The Wilson Center

Tuesday, October 4, 11:00 AM EST

[Advances in PFAS Destruction](#)

The American Association for the Advancement of Science

Tuesday, October 4, 2:00 PM EST

[Launch: Army Climate Implementation Plan](#)

Center for Strategic & International Studies

Thursday, October 6, 9:00 AM EST

[Wage Dynamics and Climate Change Policies in an Inflationary World](#)

Peterson Institute for International Economics

Wednesday, October 5, 9:00 AM EST

[NPC Newsmaker: Vanessa Nakate, Climate Activist and UN Goodwill Ambassador](#)

The National Press Club

Friday, October 7, 10:00 AM EST

[The Economic and Social Impact of Climate Change in the MENA Region](#)

The Atlantic Council

Tuesday, October 4, 11:00 AM EST

For more information, please contact your regular Akin Gump lawyer or advisor, or:

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