

Climate Policy Update

July 6, 2023

Good morning!

This is Akin's newsletter on climate change policy and regulatory developments, providing information on major climate policy headlines from the past week and forthcoming climate-related events and hearings:

National

- **[DOE Launches \\$1 Billion Effort to Spur Clean Hydrogen Demand](#)** (*Politico Pro*)

The Department of Energy (DOE) announced its intent to “announce a new initiative later this year seeking an independent implementing entity for the new DOE-designed and DOE-funded mechanisms to support the development of the hydrogen hubs.”

- **[FERC Approves All Construction on Mountain Valley](#)** (*E&E News*)

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the “resumption of construction activities for the Mountain Valley pipeline, clearing the way for the natural gas project to move toward complete weeks after Congress ordered federal agencies to approve it.”

- **[White House Cautiously Opens the Door to Study Blocking Sun's Rays to Slow Global Warming](#)** (*E&E News*)

Last week, the White House issued a congressionally directed report that indicated the administration is open to “studying how to block sunlight from hitting Earth's surface as a way to limit global warming.”

- **[New WOTUS Rule Coming by September](#)** (*E&E News*)

After a blow from the Supreme Court, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers are finalizing the Waters of the United States rule, which is slated to be issued in September.

State & Local

- **[Rooftop Solar was Overlooked. Now It's Closing a New England Power Plant](#)** (*E&E News*)

ISO New England officials confirmed that “the region's power grid has been strengthened by cold-weather sunlight.” The area's infusion of solar power has resulted in the retirement of Mystic Generating Station, a power plant that is anticipated to close next summer.

- **Los Angeles DWP to Halt Water and Power Shut-Offs for All Customers During Extreme Weather** (*Los Angeles Times*)

Ahead of an anticipated heat wave, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power “voted in favor of a resolution that will cease water and power shut-offs due to nonpayment during extreme weather events.”

- **Where Do New York Offshore Wind Projects Stand?** (*SI Live*)

Last week, Gov. Kathy Hochul (D-NY) announced that the state’s first offshore wind farm, South Fork Wind, hit its first milestone “after the project’s first monopole foundation was installed for the creation of its U.S.-built offshore substation.”

International

- **Biden’s Hydrogen Bombshell Leaves Europe in the Dust** (*Politico*)

Despite European investments, a Norwegian manufacturer selected Michigan “as the site of a nearly \$500 million factory that will produce the equipment needed to extract hydrogen from water.”

- **Oil Industry Should Set Carbon Targets at COP28 – TotalEnergies CEO** (*Reuters*)

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of TotalEnergies called on oil and gas companies to set goals related to slashing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 at the Conference of Parties 28 (COP28).

- **Global Initiative Launches to Rate Corporate Carbon Offset Claims** (*Reuters*)

The Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative launched a “standard to assess companies’ claims about progress towards internal climate targets and their use of carbon credits.”

- **Spending Bill Targets Kerry’s Office, Global Climate Spending** (*Roll Call*)

House Republican appropriators are seeking to slash funding for John Kerry’s “position as President Joe Biden’s special envoy and for other international climate efforts.”

- **Global Shipping Poised to Get New Emissions-Fighting Strategy** (*United Nations*)

The United Nations (UN) rolled out a strategy to “set global shipping on an ambitious path towards phasing out greenhouse gas emissions.”

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

“Science tells us it is still possible to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 °C, but it requires an immense and immediate global effort, and shipping, which accounts for almost three per cent of global emissions, will be vital.”

– **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** (*United Nations* – July 3)

Congressional Hearings (July 3 - July 7, 2023)

Senate

No relevant Senate hearings.

House of Representatives

No relevant House hearings.

Federal Agency Climate News

Department of Energy

[Biden-Harris Administration to Jumpstart Clean Hydrogen Economy with New Initiative to Provide Market Certainty And Unlock Private Investment](#) (July 5)

[U.S. Department of Energy Releases Plan to Ensure Free, Immediate, and Equitable Access to Federally Funded Research](#) (June 30)

Department of the Interior

[Biden-Harris Administration Approves Third Major Offshore Wind Project in U.S. Waters](#) (July 5)

Environmental Protection Agency

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy Announce Partnership to Provide More than \\$1 Billion to Reduce Methane Emissions from Oil and Gas Sector](#) (June 30)

[Biden-Harris Administration Launches \\$7 Billion Solar for All Grant Competition to Fund Residential Solar Programs that Lower Energy Costs for Families and Advance Environmental Justice Through Investing in America Agenda](#) (June 28)

Funding and Comment Opportunities

[Powering Affordable Clean Energy](#)

Department of Agriculture

Close Date: September 29, 2023

[Empowering Rural America](#)

Department of Agriculture

Close Date: August 31, 2023

[Clean Energy Demonstration Program on Current and Former Mine Land](#)

Department of Energy

Concept Papers: May 11, 2023

Close Date: August 31, 2023

[Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs](#)

Department of Energy

Close Date: TBD

[Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program](#)

Department of Energy

Pre-Award Information: April 28, 2023

Close Date: July 31, 2023

[Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas](#)

Department of Energy

Concept Papers: April 14, 2023

Close Date: June 28, 2023

[Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund](#)

Environmental Protection Agency

Close Date: August 28, 2023

D.C. Climate Events

[Driving Energy Access Through Productive Use of Energy, Engagement, and Alternative Models in Puerto Rico](#)

United States Energy Association

Thursday, July 6, 11:00 AM EDT

[Low-Carbon Hydrogen: Tax Credits and Emissions Intensity](#)

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Thursday, July 6, 10:00 AM EDT

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

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