

Climate Policy Update

March 19, 2024

Good afternoon!

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

- [Granholm Says LNG Pause Will End Within a Year](#) (*E&E News*)

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm noted that the “Department of Energy’s [(DOE)] pause liquefied natural gas exports will wrap well within a year.”

- [Federal Court Halts SEC Climate Reporting Rule](#) (*Politico*)

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals obliged “two fracking companies that have asked for an emergency stay of the ‘expansive and novel requirements’ that they say the Securities and Exchange Commission’s [(SEC)] has imposed on them” through the SEC’s new climate disclosure requirement.

- [House Schedules First Hearings on Final SEC Climate Rule](#) (*E&E News*)

The House Financial Services Committee is holding a hearing with the aim to “discredit the [SEC’s] recent rulemaking requiring major companies to disclose their climate impacts.”

- [House Republicans Release Details for ‘Energy Week’](#) (*E&E News*)

The House GOP is slated to “take up six energy-related bills and resolutions for what Republican leaders are calling ‘energy week,’ which includes attacking President Joe Biden’s ‘radical, anti-energy agenda.’”

- [CERAWeek Begins: Cue the Gas Debate](#) (*E&E News*)

CERAWeek—comprised of traditional energy leaders and government officials—“will focus this year on the global challenges to meeting emission reduction goals amid evolving energy markets, growing demand for fossil fuels, and geopolitical tensions like the Russia-Ukraine war.”

State and Local

- [24 States Sue Over EPA Methane Rule](#) (*E&E News*)

Twenty-four attorneys general in red states filed a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its “new rule to limit methane emissions from the oil and gas sector,” citing EPA’s overstep in authority.

- [Arizona’s Biggest Battery System Starts Up](#) (*E&E News*)

The Sonoran Solar Energy Center is now operational, pairing “a 260-megawatt solar facility with a 1,000-megawatt-hour battery storage system.”

- [Youngkin Doubles Down on Axing RGGI](#) (*WVTF*)

In response to Virginia Democrats’ efforts to re-enter the Commonwealth to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R-VA) “again railed against a multistate compact aimed at reducing the impact of climate change.”

- [Josh Shapiro Proposes State Climate Program to Replace RGGI, and Asks For New Renewable Energy Goals](#) (*State Impact*)

Gov. Josh Shapiro (D-PA) “is offering his own version of a controversial program to limit climate-warming pollution from power plants, and is setting new goals for how much energy Pennsylvania gets from renewable sources.”

International

- [Pressure Builds for Charge on Global Shipping Sector’s CO2 Emissions](#) (*Reuters*)

With the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) discussions underway, the “European Union [(EU)], Canada, Japan, and climate-vulnerable Pacific Island states are among 47 countries rallying support for a charge on the international shipping sector’s greenhouse gas emissions.”

- [UN Weather Agency Issues ‘Red Alert’ on Climate Change After Record Heat, Ice-Melt Increases in 2023](#) (*Associated Press*)

The World Meteorological Organization’s State of the Global Climate report detailed “record-smashing increases last year in greenhouse gases, land and water temperatures and melting of glaciers and sea ice,” and cautioned that efforts to counter climate change may be inadequate.

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

Quote of the Week

“We will set our own cap. We will set our own price for those carbon credits. And we won’t have any other state determining what is right for us here in Pennsylvania.”

– Gov. Josh Shapiro (D-PA) (*State Impact* – [March 13](#))

Congressional Hearings (March 18 - March 22, 2024)

Senate

[Hearings to Examine the Nature of Climate Costs](#)

House of Representatives

[Victims of Regulatory Outreach: How the SEC’s Climate Disclosure Rule Will Harm Americans](#)

Senate Budget

Wednesday, March 20, 10:00 AM ET

House Financial Services

Monday, March 18, 10:00 AM ET

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request for the Department of Energy

House Appropriations

Wednesday, March 20, 10:00 AM ET

Assessing Domestic Offshore Energy Reserves & Ensuring U.S. Energy Dominance

House Natural Resources

Wednesday, March 20, 2:00 PM ET

Federal Agency Climate News

Department of Energy

[DOE Unveils Roadmap for the Next Generation of Geothermal Power](#) (March 18)

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$5 Million to Strengthen Domestic Manufacturing Capabilities and Support Small-and Medium-Sized Manufacturers](#) (March 14)

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$750 Million to Support America's Growing Hydrogen Industry as Part of Investing in America Agenda](#) (March 13)

Environmental Protection Agency

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$24 Million in Pollution Prevention Grants Under President's Investing in America Agenda](#) (March 18)

Department of Interior

[Interior Department Makes \\$55 Million Available from President Biden's Investing in America Agenda to Clean Up Orphaned Oil and Gas Wells on Tribal Lands](#) (March 15)

Funding and Comment Opportunities

[Climate Pollution Reduction Grants](#)

Environmental Protection Agency

Close Date: April 1, 2024

[Transmission Siting and Economic Development Program](#)

Department of Energy

Close Date: April 5, 2024

[Battery Materials and Battery Manufacturing Grants](#)

Department of Energy

Close Date: March 19, 2024

D.C. Climate Events

[The Crucial Role of Early-Stage University Research in Clean Energy Innovation](#)

Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

Thursday, March 21, 12:00 PM ET

[The 2024 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#)

Environmental and Energy Study Institute

Thursday, March 21, 2:00 PM ET

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

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