

Energy Newsletter



October 2014

King & Spalding Named Energy Advisory Firm of the Year by Petroleum Economist

The Petroleum Economist Awards were adjudicated by a panel of independent experts drawn from across the international energy industry and included: Abdullah Salem El Badri, Secretary General, OPEC; Lord Cullen of Whitekirk, KT; Torstein Indrebø, Secretary General, International Gas Union; and Lord John Browne, Baron Browne of Madingley, former Chief Executive, BP. [More »](#)

TRANSACTIONAL

Transactions/Mexico

Mexico's New E&P Contracts

Adrian Talamantes, Ken Culotta

State and privately-owned domestic and foreign companies may now compete in a free market for and directly engage in the exploration and production of liquid, solid and gaseous hydrocarbons, conventional or unconventional, pursuant to any type of host government instrument the Mexico creates and implements, except for concessions. [More »](#)

Transactions/Mexico

Electricity Reform in Mexico: New Opportunities and Roles

Ken Culotta, Adrian Talamantes, Alex Blomfield, Charity Kirby

Although much of the buzz around Mexico's energy reform focused on the oil & gas sector, the Mexican power sector also underwent a fundamental change. Together with eight new and twelve amended federal laws, Mexico enacted the Ley de la Industria Eléctrica on August 11, 2014.

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Corporate/London

New Licence Terms Promoting Unconventional Exploration and Production are Introduced for the UK's 14th Onshore Licensing Round

Susanna Beard (née Marshall)

The UK's Energy Minister recently invited applications for the award of new onshore petroleum exploration and development licences in the 14th Landward Licensing Round. The new round is being welcomed after a moratorium on fracking imposed between November 2011 and December

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In The News

Blomfield speaks at HYDRO 2014 conference - 13-15 October, Lake Como, Italy [More »](#)

Richardson to Lead Panel on Electric Reliability Compliance and Enforcement [More »](#)

King & Spalding to Host Lecture by Author of New Book on FCPA Enforcement Trends [More »](#)

King & Spalding Advises IchorCoal on Universal Coal Investment [More »](#)

Malian Mining Sector Update: Mining Licenses Revocations and Mitigation Strategies [\[PDF More »](#)

2012 following two seismic tremors near a frack site in Lancashire.

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REGULATORY

Environmental

Studies Identify Flawed Well Construction (not Fracturing) as Source of Gas Contamination

Cynthia AM Stroman

For the past several years, the rapid growth of oil and natural gas production from shale and other unconventional sources has prompted vocal and often sensationalized concerns regarding the potential for migration of gas from hydraulic fracturing operations into sources of drinking water. Studies issued recently indicate that the presence of gas in drinking water resulted from faults in well casing or completion, not from the fractures. [More »](#)

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Oil & Gas Litigation

In BP Gulf Oil Spill Litigation, the District Court Decided Important Legal Questions that will Likely be Appealed, including the Standard for "Gross Negligence" and "Willful Misconduct" under the Clean Water Act and the Standard for Vicarious Liability for Punitive Damages under Maritime Law

H. Victor Thomas

In the BP Gulf Oil Spill Litigation, Judge Barbier issued two conclusions of law that could affect future litigation involving energy companies, namely, (1) the standard for "gross negligence" and "willful misconduct" under the Clean Water Act and (2) the standard for vicarious liability for punitive damages under Maritime Law. Because there does not appear to be much precedent on the first issue and U.S. appellate courts are divided on the second issue, these issues will likely be immediately appealed to the Fifth Circuit and possibly the U.S. Supreme Court. [More »](#)

International Arbitration

Doak Bishop Delivers Keynote Address at Energy Disputes Conference in Copenhagen, Sept. 1-2, 2014

Margrete Stevens

On September 1-2, King & Spalding sponsored a major conference on energy disputes held in Copenhagen. Hosted by the Danish Institute of Arbitration, the event included some 160 international practitioners and in-house counsel. [More »](#)

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