

Climate Policy Update

September 20, 2023

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

- **[Biden to Target Industrial Pollution in a 2nd Term, if He Gets One](#)** (*New York Times*)

Should President Biden win his reelection bid, it is anticipated that “his climate policies would take aim at steel and cement plants, factories, and oil refineries—heavily polluting industries that have never before had to rein in their heat-trapping greenhouse gases.”

- **[Team Biden Goes All in at New York Climate Week](#)** (*E&E News*)

With Climate Week underway, “the Biden administration is flooding New York with top climate and energy officials—including top White House aides and Cabinet secretaries—who will laude the president’s actions so far to drive down emissions, most notably the massive climate law known as the *Inflation Reduction Act*.”

- **[Dems Bet on Transmission Bill as Bridge to Permitting Deal](#)** (*E&E News*)

Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA) and Sen. John Hickenlooper (D-CO) introduced the *Building Integrated Grids with Inter-Regional Energy Supply Act* to “chase a bipartisan deal to overhaul the nation’s permitting process for energy projects.”

- **[Update Needed for 1872 Mining Law to Boost Clean Energy, Report Says](#)** (*Washington Post*)

The Department of Interior released a new report that argued that the *General Mining Act of 1872* “needs to be updated to suit modern realities.”

- **[UAW Strike Could Disrupt EV Rollout. Environmentalists Support it Anyway.](#)** (*Politico*)

With the United Auto Workers (UAW) strike underway—which could “threaten production of the cars that President Joe Biden wants to make up 50 percent of all new vehicle sales by 2030”—environmental groups expressed support for the effort.

State & Local

- **[Newsom Says He'll Sign Major Corporate Climate Disclosure Bill](#)** (*Politico*)

Gov. Gavin Newsom (D-CA) is slated to sign CA SB 253, “which would require companies earning at least \$1 billion per year and doing business in the state to disclose their scopes 1, 2, and 3 emissions.”

- **[California Sues Giant Oil Companies, Citing Decades of Deception](#)** (*New York Times*)

California filed a civil lawsuit against various oil companies “claiming their actions have caused tens of billions of dollars in damage and that they deceived the public by downplaying the risks posed by fossil fuels.”

- **[Advocates Urge Feds to Shut Off Reactor at California's Last Nuclear Plant](#)** (*Washington Post*)

Environmental advocates called on the federal government to “immediately shut down one of two reactors at California’s last nuclear power plant, stating in a petition filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that until tests are concluded on critical components, there is risk of ‘nuclear meltdown.’”

International

- **[Climate Takes Center Stage at UN as Global Temperatures Hit Record](#)** (*Reuters*)

On Wednesday, United Nations (UN) Secretary Antonio Guterres “will host his own Climate Action Summit, a high-profile event meant to reverse the backsliding on the Paris climate agreement goals and to encourage governments to adopt serious new actions to combat climate change.”

- **[Stronger International Cooperation in High Emissions Sectors Crucial to Get on Track for 1.5°C Climate Goal](#)** (*International Energy Agency*)

A new report reveals that “current efforts on clean energy and sustainable solutions, while improving, are not yet delivering the levels of investment and deployment required to meet international climate goals.”

- **[Canada Must Do More in “Make-or-Break” Global Climate Moment, Groups Urge](#)** (*Global News*)

A coalition of environmental groups urged Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the “minority Liberal government to fulfill a promise made last November, when Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault said Canada would have a cap on oil and gas emissions by the end of 2023.”

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

“California will once again lead the nation with this ambitious step to tackle the climate crisis and ensure corporate transparency.”

– Sen. Scott Wiener (D-CA) on SB 253 (*Politico* – September 17)

Congressional Hearings (September 18 - September 22, 2023)

Senate

[Hearings to Examine Drought Impacts on Drinking Water Access and Water Availability](#)

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee

Wednesday, September 20, 2:30 PM EDT

House of Representatives

[Examining the Biden Administration's Mismanagement of the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Program](#)

House Natural Resources Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee

Tuesday, September 19, 10:30 AM EDT

[American Hydropower: Unleashing Reliable, Renewable Clean Power Across the U.S.](#)

House Energy and Commerce Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Subcommittee

Wednesday, September 20, 10:00 AM EDT

Federal Agency Climate News

Department of Energy

[DOE Announces \\$25 Million To Help Communities Expand Affordable and Reliable Clean Energy Across America](#) (September 14)

Environmental Protection Agency

[EPA Seeks Applicants for 2023 Environmental Education Grants](#) (September 14)

[Biden-Harris Administration Invests More Than \\$4.5 million in Virginia Recycling Infrastructure Projects Through Investing in America Agenda](#) (September 14)

[EPA Issues Final Rule to Strengthen Water Protections, Support Clear and Timely Reviews of Infrastructure and Development Projects](#) (September 14)

Funding and Comment Opportunities

[Powering Affordable Clean Energy](#)

Department of Agriculture

Close Date: September 29, 2023

[Climate Pollution Reduction Grants](#)

Environmental Protection Agency

Close Date: April 1, 2024

[Silicon Solar Manufacturing and Dual-Use Photovoltaics Incubator](#)

Department of Energy

Concept Paper: September 27, 2023

Close Date: November 14, 2023

Critical Mineral Innovation, Efficiency, and Alternatives

Department of Energy

Close Date: November 10, 2023

Methane Emissions Reduction Program

Department of Energy

Close Date: September 30, 2023

Additional Clean Hydrogen Programs – Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs

Department of Energy

Close Date: TBD

Domestic Manufacturing Conversation Grants

Department of Energy

Close Date: December 7, 2023

D.C. Climate Events

Accelerating Net Zero Nuclear

Atlantic Council

Monday, September 18, 9:00 AM EDT

How Technology is Accelerating the Effort to Find Climate Change Solutions

Washington Post

Wednesday, September 20, 11:30 AM EDT

Combating Green Corruption: Fighting Financial Crime as a Driver of Environmental Degradation

Wilson Center

Tuesday, September 19, 9:00 AM EDT

Unlocking Carbon Dioxide Removal's Potential

United States Energy Association

Thursday, September 21, 1:00 PM EDT

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

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