

# Energy Newsletter



January 2015

## TRANSACTIONAL Transactions/Mexico

**Mexico: E&P Regulator Issues First Call for Bids under Round One**  
*Adrian L. Talamantes, Ken Culotta, Vera de Brito de Gyarfas*

The Comisión Nacional de Hidrocarburos has issued the first call for bids under Round One and the terms and conditions governing the tender. CNH seeks to award 14 production-sharing contracts for the exploration and production of hydrocarbons in 14 areas located in shallow waters offshore the States of Veracruz, Tabasco and Campeche in the Gulf of Mexico. [More »](#)

## Transactions/France

**Have the Challenges of the Energy Transition been Overcome?**  
*Mehdi Haroun, Ruxandra Lazar*

The ongoing debate over environmental issues and their impact on the French energy model raises many issues. Successive governments have taken different approaches to the problem and energy transition has been presented as a key initiative of President Hollande's five-year mandate. [More »](#)

## Corporate/EU

**Challenges for energy security in Europe: Do European shale gas or US LNG offer a solution?**  
*Nina Howell*

The prosperity and economic stability of the European Union, and wider Europe, is dependent on a stable, abundant, diverse and competitively priced supply of energy. In light of recent geopolitical events, we consider the roles that European shale gas, or US LNG exports could play in supplying Europe's energy markets. [More »](#)

## Transactions/France

**France: Hard Times for Electricity-Intensive Consumers**  
*Mehdi Haroun, Ruxandra Lazar*

Following the liberalisation of energy markets in the 2000s, electricity-intensive consumers in Europe have faced high and unpredictable prices. [More »](#)

## Construction

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## In The News

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**Alex Blomfeld Is  
Contributing Writer of  
New Book on  
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Construction Contract  
Law** [More »](#)

## **Transactional Construction Law: Focus on Energy Projects**

*Scott A. Greer*

Scott A. Greer, a partner in King & Spalding's Global Transactions Practice Group, describes the firm's construction practice. [More »](#)

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## **REGULATORY**

### **FERC**

#### **Commentors Disagree on FERC's Proposal to Change the Gas Day Start Time**

*James F. Bowe, William E. Rice*

Comments recently filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission show that the natural gas and electric power industries continue to disagree fundamentally on government efforts to redefine the "Gas Day," a 24-hour period during which shippers nominate and schedule natural gas transportation services furnished by natural gas pipelines. [More »](#)

### **Intellectual Property**

#### **Patent Office Statistics Indicate Growth In Oil & Gas Patents**

*Russell E. Blythe*

An analysis of data recently provided by the United States Patent and Trademark Office shows that the number of patents granted in the oil and gas sector has grown at a double-digit rate in the six years since the 2008 recession, including a 47% increase in granted patents related to wells and a 62% increase in granted patents related to earth boring, well treating, and oil field chemistry. [More »](#)

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## **DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

### **International Arbitration**

#### **ExxonMobil Decision by ICSID: A win for ExxonMobil or Venezuela?**

*Nina Howell, Sarah Vasani, Greg Lazarev*

An ICSID tribunal has ruled on the compensation payable by Venezuela to ExxonMobil for the nationalization of ExxonMobil's Cerro Negro and La Ceiba projects. ExxonMobil had claimed US\$14.5 billion and Venezuela had offered US\$353 million. The ruling that Venezuela pay ExxonMobil US\$1.6 billion has been declared a victory by both sides.

[More »](#)

### **Oil & Gas Litigation**

#### **Media Reports on 2014 "Fracking" Verdicts Miss the Real Story: Scientific Study Continues to Demonstrate the Safety of Professional Hydraulic Fracturing**

*Craig Warner*

Even as headlines in 2014 misleadingly suggested that lawsuits against hydraulic fracturing operations were gaining steam, continued scientific study provided new legal ammunition for energy companies defending state-of-the-art energy exploration. [More »](#)

### **Nuclear Litigation**

#### **Federal District Court Ruling in Fukushima Daiichi Case Has Implications for Global Nuclear Liability Management**

*Lynn Kerr McKay, Scott A. Greer*

A recent ruling in *Cooper v. Tokyo Electric Power Company*, one of three lawsuits filed in the United States related to the 2011 incident at the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power plant, highlights gaps in the application of methods for managing nuclear liability and the need for global expansion and strengthening of those methods. [More »](#)

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