

# The Voice of the Gas and Oil Industry

September 2025

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### GO-WV names 2025-2026 leadership team

Craig Colombo has been elected as 2025-2026 Chair of the Gas and Oil Association of WV, Inc. (GO-WV). He will be joined by Vice President Chris Weikle, Secretary Ben Sullivan, Treasurer Kelly Moss and Immediate Past Chair Brett Loflin.

In addition, other voting members of the board of directors include: Maribeth Anderson, Antero Resources; John Bane, EQT; Jason Harshbarger, BHE GT&S; Doug Malcolm, D. C. Malcom, Inc.; Jonathan Morgan, Jay-Bee Oil and Gas; Nick Munoz, Williams; Erin Osting, MPLX; Roman Stauffer, TC Energy; Jennifer Vieweg, Greylock Energy; Eric Vir, Pillar Energy; Marlin

Witt, Baker Tilley, US, LLP; and Andria Wymer, Energy Transportation.

Members at Large include: Jon Farmer, Arsenal Resources; Kathy Hill, Ergon Oil Purchasing; Tom Westfall, Mountaineer Gas; and Tim Wilcox, Amcox Oil & Gas. Members Emeritus include:

Marc Halbritter; Ben Hardesty; Lloyd Jackson II; Don Nestor; and Bob Orndorff.

Craig Colombo has over 38 years in the Oil and Gas Industry and is Vice President of Gas Supply for Hope Gas. Colombo worked with

Leadership team



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## **EPA Extends Certain Compliance Deadlines for** Oil, Natural Gas Clean Air Act Requirements

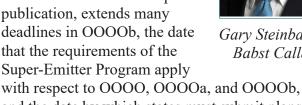
(by Gary E. Steinbauer, Esq., Gina Falaschi Buchman, Esq., and Christina M. Puhnaty, Esq.)

On July 31, 2025, EPA published in the Federal Register its highly anticipated Interim Final Rule to extend several deadlines in 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subparts OOOO, OOOOa, OOOOb and OOOOc that were promulgated in EPA's 2024 Methane Rule. 90 Fed. Reg. 35966 (July 31, 2025). That same day, environmental groups filed a lawsuit challenging the Interim Final Rule. Envtl. Defense Fund v. U.S. EPA, Case #25-1164 (D.C. Cir.). Absent a stay by the court, which the environmental groups are currently not seeking, the Interim Final Rule and the various extended deadlines are effective.

#### **Summary of Deadline Extensions**

The Interim Final Rule extends numerous compliance deadlines for oil and gas air emission sources subject to the New Source Performance Standards in 40 C.F.R. Part 60 Subparts OOOO,

OOOOa, OOOOb and OOOOc. The previous compliance deadlines were published in a March 2024 final rule. 89 Fed. Reg. 16820 (March 8, 2024). The Interim Final Rule, which became effective upon publication, extends many deadlines in OOOOb, the date that the requirements of the Super-Emitter Program apply



and the date by which states must submit plans to EPA pursuant to the OOOOc emissions guidelines.

EPA extended the following OOOOb compliance deadlines to at least January 22, 2027:

**Process Controllers:** The date by which process controller affected facilities are required **EPA** changes Continued on page 17



Gary Steinbauer Babst Calland









### Following two of the best

Assuming the role of Chair for the Gas and Oil Association of WV is a daunting task under any circumstances. Doing it in the face of your predecessor's retirement and the upcoming retirement of the heart of the Association makes it even more so.

Jim Crews stepped down from the board two months ago in preparation for his retirement from MPLX and his next adventure, whatever that may be. Professionally, he has been Vice President of Northeast Business Development for MPLX since 2011. Previously, he held various positions with NiSource Gas Transmission and Storage-NGT&S (and its predecessor Columbia Gas Transmission), at Cabot Oil and Gas' drilling and production division in Charleston, at Babcock and Wilcox Nuclear Power in Lynchburg, Va. and for Washington Gas Light Company in Washington D.C. He is a past president of WVONGA. Crews received a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering from WVU and is a registered professional mechanical engineer in Virginia and Ohio.

Personally, Jim is an amazing font of industry knowledge. As Charlie Burd says, Jim is "often the smartest man in the room." He has been a friend and mentor to me, and to so many others in our association and the whole industry. His retirement will leave a vacuum in our profession, but his friendship will remain.

Charlie Burd, the heart of this association, became the executive director of the Gas and Oil Association of WV, Inc. (GO-WV) with its creation following the merger of the West Virginia Oil and Natural Gas Association (WVONGA) into the Independent Oil and Gas Association of West Virginia (IOGA) on January 1, 2021. Prior to the merger, Charlie had served as Executive Director to IOGA since July 2002. He was named GO-WV's President in 2024. Prior to his trade association affiliation, Charlie enjoyed a 29-year career at Hope Gas, Inc., where he held a variety of marketing, economic development, and management positions. He holds an associate degree in accounting from Mountain State College, a Regents BA degree from Glenville State University and is a graduate of the University Of Oklahoma's "Economic Development Institute." He is a 2001 graduate of Leadership West Virginia. His industry involvement beyond GO-WV is nationwide in its impact. Personally, I think "Mr. Baseball's" future will be directed by his wife, Leone.

It will be tough to be one of Charlie's last GO-WV Chairmen and Jim Crews will be sorely missed. There's a reason both men have been honored as the Oil & Gas Person of the Year!

I feel both privileged and excited to be at the helm of this esteemed organization and look forward to all the great things we, working together, can accomplish for our industry.



#### **2024-25 OFFICERS**

Chair:

Craig Colombo

Vice Chair:

Chris Weikle

Secretary:

Ben Sullivan

*Treasurer:* 

Kelly Moss

Past Chair:

Brett Loflin

#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Maribeth Anderson, Antero Resources John Bane, EQT Jason Harshbarger, BHE GT&S Doug Malcolm, D. C. Malcom Jonathan Morgan, Jay-Bee Oil and Gas Nick Munoz, Williams Erin Osting, MPLX Ben Sullivan, Diversified Energy Roman Stauffer, TC Energy Jennifer Vieweg, Greylock Energy Eric Vir, Pillar Energy Marlin Witt, Baker Tilley, US, LLP Andria Wymer, Energy Transportation Members at Large: Jon Farmer, Arsenal Resources Kathy Hill, Ergon Oil Purchasing Tom Westfall, Mountaineer Gas Tim Wilcox, Amcox Oil & Gas Members Emeritus: Marc Halbritter

Ben Hardesty

Lloyd Jackson II

Don Nestor

**Bob Orndorff** 





## Register now for September 26 Sports Weekend

Register online here, or use the forms on pages 20-21, to join the fun at the 2025 GO-WV Sports Weekend beginning on Friday, September 26, at Bridgeport Country Club. Activities begin with registration at 8:00 a.m. followed by breakfast.

The four-person scramble format golf tournament features a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. Your golf foursome registration fee is \$800 for GO-WV members and \$900 for nonmembers.

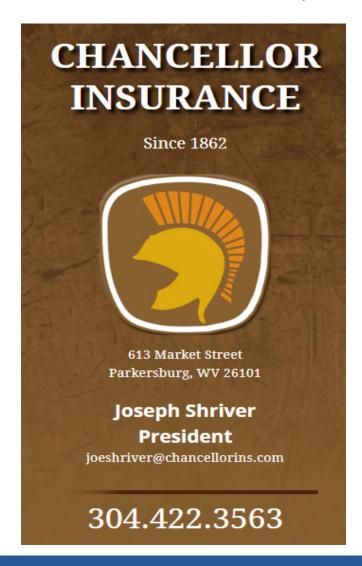
Lunch will be served following golf on the patio at the Bridgeport Country Club. Skill prizes will be awarded to the winning golfers, plus additional door prizes that all golfers are eligible to win!

GO-WV will NOT have tickets to Saturday's

football game against the Utah Utes, nor will we have a tailgate party. Don't let that stop you from driving to Morgantown on Saturday, September 27 to cheer the Mountaineers to victory. You can make your own arrangement for game tickets at: 2025 Season Tickets (wvusports.com) or several other ticket outlets. The game time has not yet been announced.

Please remember this is a GOpac fund raising event. Contributions must be by personal check or cash.

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact Lori Miller Smith at 304-344-9867 or via email at lmillersmith@gowv.com.









## From the Burd's Nest: It's still "business as usual"

As you discovered in the personalized Action Alert I sent on July 18 and again in my August *GO-WV News* article, I am retiring. The time is right, but still, it is a very difficult decision. Once I decided it "was time," I still had some doubts.

Why? Because I have dedicated my entire 52+ year career to serving the industry I truly love. Oil and natural gas have been my life—and has provided for my family. In fact, my very first day in the industry occurred when I went to work at Hope Natural Gas on April 2, 1973.

Since making my announcement, I have set a goal to try and get something more accomplished every day so I can leave things to my successor with as much explanation and instruction as possible. Leaving it better than it was when I was hired has always been my objective.

The process to find and on-board my replacement—YOUR next president—is well underway. There has been a plethora of outstanding candidates who have stepped forward and applied. The "Selection Committee" has been formed and the initial candidate assessments are underway—all with the goal of hiring a great leader for GO-WV before year's end. More on that as time progresses.

From a slightly different perspective, the GO-WV office and member services will not skip a beat. The staff of Lori, Katie and Jordan do their jobs exceptionally well and, along with me, will continue to be there to take care of all your needs. From my very beginning in 2002, one of my rules, drawn from a sports analogy—go figure, has been: *There is no "I" in team.* So don't expect any changes in the great services you have grown to expect any time soon. GO-WV has and will continue to have a great team.

All this said, let me add some perspective: there is still an Association to run and run it we will!! Here are some of the upcoming Association activities that should be of interest to you:

**September 10-13**: The 57th WV Oil and Gas Festival. Please make every effort to come

to Sistersville, WV for the festival that runs Wednesday through Saturday, September 10-13. Activities include exhibits, where you can stop by the GO-WV booth, see and hear many natural gas-fired steam engines, partake in two Ohio River dinner cruises (Thursday and Saturday), and enjoy the Grand Parade on Saturday at noon that honors Clay Perkins, Perkins Oil and Gas, as the 2025 Oil and Gas Person of the Year, who also serves as Grand Marshall. Come early to get your spot along the parade route. Festival activities conclude with a grand fireworks display on Saturday evening at 10:00 p.m. You definitely do not want to miss the fun and festivities!

September 26: Please go online at gowv.com to register for the annual fall golf outing at the Bridgeport County Club on Friday, September 26. Registration for the four-person team scramble golf tournament opens at 8:00a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. Your 4-man team registration fee includes golf, lunch, drinks and skill and door prizes. (Foursome cost: \$800 for members and \$900 for non-members.) This is a GOpac fundraising event, so come prepared to have fun. Buying mulligans is much better than begging for them!! LOL Please make your own arrangements for tickets for Saturday's football game against Utah. Kickoff time TBA.

January 21-22, 2026: The GO-WV Winter Meeting at the Charleston Town Center Marriott, Charleston, WV. Details will be forthcoming. This meeting also includes a GOpac fundraising event with state legislators that you will want to attend.

**February 5, 2026**: The Gas and Oil Day at the Legislature held around the upper rotunda of the WV State Capitol. Details will be forthcoming.

As you can see, there are lots of upcoming opportunities in which to get engaged with me, the staff, members and friends. The clock may be ticking but the Association always withstands the test of time. So, for now and the foreseeable future, it remains "business as usual."



**ISP** 

**PRO** 



# GO-WV Board welcomes four new members in August

Please join the GO-WV Board of Directors in welcoming these members approved in August:

ACE Everything, LLC

2197 Charleston Rd.

Spencer, WV 25276

**Chad Perkins** 

Mobile: (304) 543-1779 contact@ACEeverything.com

Alera Group

237 E. Main St.

Bridgeport, WV 26330

Office: (304) 848-9130

Josh Halstead

Mobile: (304) 546-7338 josh.halstead@aleragroup.com

www.aleragroup.com

Goodwin & Goodwin, LLP

300 Summers St.

**Suite 1500** 

Charleston, WV 25301

Office: (304) 346-7000

Fax: (304) 344-9692

**Laura Goins** 

Mobile: (304) 546-3302

**PRO** 

**ISP** 

lmg@goodwingoodwin.com

**Workover Solutions** 

156 S. Campus Dr. Imperial, PA 15126

Phone: (346) 774-4433

**Adam Cobb** 

Mobile: (304) 627-4055

acobb@wos.com

## Get your GO-WV license plate now!



<u>Click here</u> for the application.



### 2025 Summer Meeting in pictures



The 2025 Summer Meeting opened Sunday with registration, sponsored by Arsenal Resources, golf tee times, and a Welcome Reception, sponsored by EQT, followed by dinner, sponsored by Williams, then dancing to the Josh Stewart Band. Attendees included, at left, GO-WV Chair Craig Colombo, Gov. Patrick Morrisey and GO-WV President Charlie Burd.



Monday opened with an industry session, sponsored by Encova, where attendees heard from WV Attorney General JB McCuskey, Dr. Brian J. Anderson, Highmark WV's Sarah Marche, U.S. Senators Jim Justice and Shelley Moore Capito, Congresswoman Carol Miller, and Morgan O'Brien of Hope Gas. Pictured above are, from left Jonathan Brady, The Thrasher Group, Morgan O'Brien, Hope Gas, Jason Miller, Equipment Share, and Dr. Brian Anderson.



Tuesday's industry session, also sponsored by Encova, featured Encova's Steve Gandee, Pete Hollis of Fidelis New Energy, WV PSC Chaiman Charlotte Lane, WV Senator Ben Queen, Nickolaus E. Munoz, Jaclyn Presnal and Killian Bryce, all of Williams, and WVU physicians P.S. Martin, MD FACEP FAEMS, James F. Scheidler, MD FACEP FAEMS and Michael Shukis MD, FACEP, FAEMS.



We were honored to have Congresswoman Carol Miller join us and share her perspective on issues at the federal level. She's shown with GO-WV Chair Craig Colombo.



Above are WV Senator Ben Queen, WV PSC Chairman Charlotte Lane and GO-WV Chair Craig Colombo. Lane discussed new opportunities for the gas industry.



## 2025 Summer Meeting in pictures

At right are GO-WV Chair Craig Colombo and WV Attorney General J.B. McCuskey.



At left are attendees Darren Espey of Icon Midstream and Greg Hoyer of Hope Gas.





Monday evening featured an after dinner reception and Casino Night, sponsored by Diversified Energy.



Tuesday evening featured a Membership Reception, sponsored by Steptoe & Johnson, that included awards for sporting events, followed by a New Orleans-style dinner, sponsored by Expand Energy. The evening was topped off in spectacular fashion with door prizes, sponsored by Apex Pipeline, followed by a jazz band and fireworks, sponsored by Ergon.



## Thanks to our 2025 Summer Meeting sponsors

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#### **2025 Summer Meeting Platinum Sponsors**

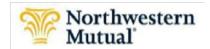












#### **2025 Summer Meeting Gold Sponsors**













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#### **2025 Summer Meeting Bronze Sponsors**































### Upcoming events for your review

September 10-13, 2025

WV Oil & Gas Festival

Sistersville, WV

September 12, 2025

WV O&G Festival Person of the Year Ceremony

First Baptist Church, Sistersville, WV

September 15, 2025

**BHE GT&S Golf Outing** 

Pete Dye Golf Course, Clarksburg, WV

September 16-18, 2026

**Shale Insight Conference** 

Bayfront Convention Center, Erie, PA

September 22-24, 2025

**IOGCC Annual Conference** 

Anchorage, AK

Info: iogcc

September 26-27, 2025

**GO-WV Sports Weekend** 

Bridgeport Country Club and Mountaineer Field

Info: gowv.com

September 29, 2025

Ace PL 1st Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Berry Hills Country Club, Charleston, WV

October 2, 2025

**SOOGA Fall Trade Show** 

Towers Conference Center, Marietta, OH

Info: sooga.org

October 20, 2025

11th Annual Apex PLCharity Golf Tournament

Berry Hills Country Club, Charleston, WV

January 21-22, 2026

**GO-WV Winter Meeting** 

Marriott Town Center Hotel, Charleston, WV

February 5, 2026

Gas & Oil Day at the Legislature

State Capitol, Charleston, WV

February 18-20, 2026

2026 NAPE Summit

Houston, TX

Info: NAPE Summit

## SAVE THE DATE!

"Industrial Athlete"

October 22 | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm | Bridgeport

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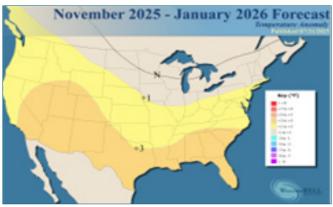




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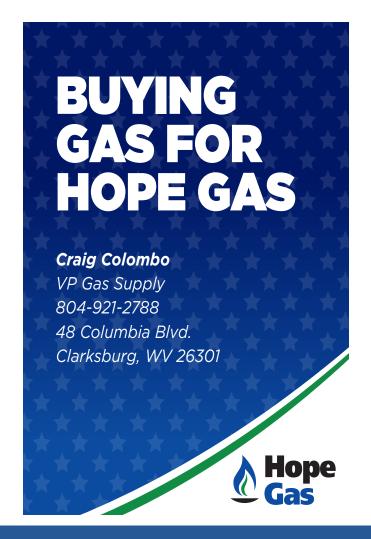
## WeatherBELL: Early winter forecast



For more information about WeatherBELL's services and to get the hot-off-the-press forecast updates, please visit our website www.weatherbell.com or contact us at sales@weatherbell.com.

Winter could turn out to be a lot like last winter. If we see excess tropical impacts late in the season, that has been a good indicator of an early cold period. If not, we could see the cold shots hold off until January. From this far out, early winter appears like it will be on the mild side.

What most models and analogs share is a warm Southwest, which argues for the tendency to have a trough in the East. The last 10 years have averaged very warm in November into December, though late-season tropical cyclone activity has given us a jump on a chilly period from November into December. Compared to average, the latter part of this 90-day period should be colder than the front part.

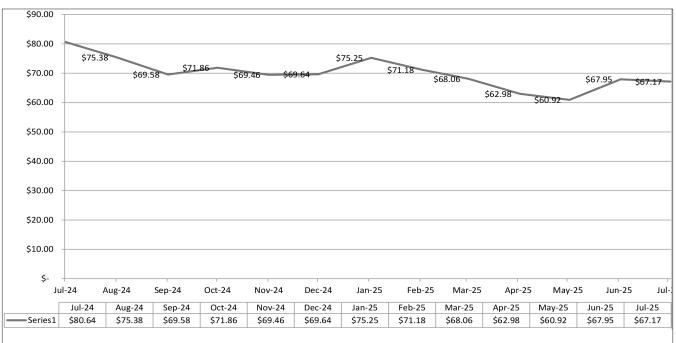








## Monthly Appalachian Basin crude oil prices





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### Do we want to be the backup plan?

In college at WVU when I asked a young lady for a date, "No," or "I have other plans," were not what I wanted to hear, but were truthful answers. If I wanted a date for Saturday night, I knew I needed to ask someone else. "Yes," was a better answer if it was truthful. Several times when I went to meet my date on Saturday, I learned from her roommate, "She left here 30 minutes ago with her ex," or, "She just left with one of the football players." I realized "Yes" really meant, "I will go with you if I don't get a better offer." I was the backup plan.

Looking back, it wasn't all bad. I quickly learned those girls lacked integrity. Best to learn early and find someone else, which I did in Lynnda, my wife of now 50 years. Trust and integrity are essential in any long-term relationship. The truth is easier to remember than a lie or a story. Truth doesn't change.

What would I have done if one of the girls was honest and told me upfront, "Yes, Greg I'll go out with you. You're not my first choice. If my ex or one of the football players asks me out, I'm going with them, not you. Are you good with that?" I would have appreciated the honesty and probably said, "Thanks but no thanks." One girl, I recall, would have been worth taking the chance for as a backup. I didn't have the courage then to ask for a Wednesday night date for being the Saturday night back up. Backups deserve to be compensated.

According to AI, a top tier experienced veteran backup quarterback in the National Football League can earn \$10 million or more annually. Not bad money for sitting on the bench and not taking hits from large lineman. Backups are expected to step in and perform competently if the starting quarterback gets hurt. A backup's ability to perform when called upon can increase their value. A lot like natural gas.

Many people can't understand why electricity is so expensive in places like California and Europe where renewables are a primary energy

source. After all, the sun and wind are free. The problem is the sun doesn't always shine and the wind doesn't always blow. Night comes daily. Storms and cloudy days happen. Backup power is needed so people can have 24/7/365 electricity. We want air conditioning on hot summer days and heat in the winter, especially in extreme cold. When power goes off people can die like they did in Texas during a winter storm in 2021 when over 200 people died in the cold without heat. Natural gas is the typical backup for renewables because it can be brought on line quickly. Large batteries are starting to be used as backup power. Batteries don't produce energy; they only store it. All backup power sources come at a cost paid for by us, the ratepayers.

Backup power for our homes makes sense. We have an all-electric home. It was built in the 1980s when natural gas was unavailable. Getting natural gas to our subdivision has been unsuccessful. We've had numerous power outages over the years. The worst was for nine days after the June Derecho some years ago. For winter backup heat, we have a wood burning fireplace and a propane gas grill for cooking. For summer we have the gas grill for cooking and batteries for lights. We don't have a backup plan to keep us cool without electricity.

We looked at roof top solar with battery storage for backup electricity. It was expensive. Since I would own the panels, a big concern was the disposal cost for the solar panels at the end of their useful life of 25-30 years. My waste hauler won't take them. I talked to a friend who is a realtor who cautioned, "A solar panel on a house complicates the deal and can make the home difficult to sell. The buyer (new home owner) assumes the liability for panel disposal at an unknown cost. Most home buyers don't want to assume this risk." For example, a house with 10-year-old solar panels will need to replace them in 15 years and dispose of the old panels. From Backup plan

Continued on page 16



AI overview, "Old solar panels can be considered toxic because they contain heavy metals like lead and cadmium that can leach into the environment making them a form of hazardous waste."

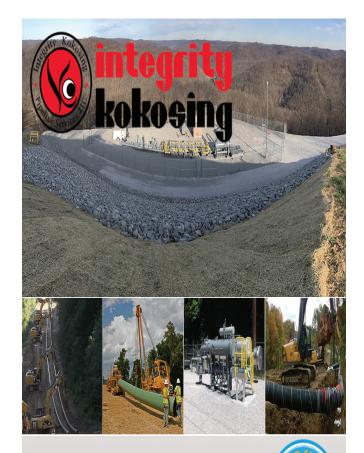
With AI, data centers, EVs and increased manufacturing, electricity demand is quickly increasing. Currently natural gas is the only fuel we have that can economically meet this demand and even that will be a challenge. Nuclear power from small modular reactors will eventually be able to handle some of this load, but not for years. Wind and solar can take some of the increased load, but grid operators like our PJM grid must have 100% backup baseload power for every Gigawatt of intermittent power on the grid to keep our lights on. This will either be natural gas or large batteries. Large batteries are more expensive and less dependable than natural gas. In winter, with short cloudy days, batteries are difficult to recharge. The ratepayers will have to pay for the renewables and the backup plan.

More wells will be need to be drilled to meet added demand. Producers will have choices like: selling natural gas to micro grid power plants needed for data centers; direct sales to large industrial users; increased demand from existing manufacturing; and new natural gas power plants on the grid. Shale Crescent USA is working with companies from all over the world wanting to locate all or part of their manufacturing in the USA and specifically in our region for;

- #1 Our market, the largest in the world.
- #2 Dependable, economical energy.
- #3 Safety and security.

Companies will have to decide to whether to sell their gas to customers with constant demand or to customers who only want to use natural gas as a backup fuel. They will know they are the backup and can charge accordingly.

Most experienced NFL quarterbacks prefer to be the starting quarterback instead of the backup. The starter knows what to expect and can make more money. Knowing and understanding the truth about future opportunities allows companies and individuals to make wise choices. The only fuel that can possibly meet the USA's 2030 demand for electricity is natural gas. No pressure. I believe in you.



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to be zero-bleed devices. 40 CFR §§ 60.5370b(a) (5)(i), 60.5390b(a), 60.5415b(h)(1).

- Storage Vessels:
- The date by which receiving additional crude oil, condensate, intermediate hydrocarbons, or produced water throughput at tank batteries triggers a modification. 40 CFR § 60.5365b(e)(3) (ii)(C) and (D).
- The date by which a legally and practicably enforceable limit used to determine the potential VOC and methane emissions from a storage vessel must include the elements provided in paragraphs 40 CFR § 60.5365b(e)(2)(i)(A) through (F). 40 CFR § 60.5365b(e)(2)(i).
- The date by which the potential for VOC and methane emissions from storage vessels must be calculated using a generally accepted model or calculation methodology that accounts for flashing, working, and breathing losses, based on the maximum average daily throughput to the tank battery determined for a 30-day period of production. 40 CFR § 60.5365b(e)(2)(ii).
- Covers and Closed Vent Systems: The date by which a required closed vent system or cover must be designed and operated with no identifiable emissions and corresponding inspections must be performed. This new compliance deadline is 18 months after the date the Interim Final Rule is published in the Federal Register or upon startup, whichever is later. 40 CFR §§ 60.5411b(a)(3), § 60.5411b(b)(4), 60.5416b(a)—(b).
- Control Devices: The date by which you must install and operate a continuous burning pilot or combustion flame, as applicable, and the date by which an alert must be sent to the nearest control room whenever the pilot or combustion flame is unlit. 40 CFR §§ 60.5412b(a)(1)(viii) and (3)(viii), 60.5413b(e)(2), 60.5415b(f)(1)(vii)(A) (1), 60.5417b(d)(8)(i), 60.5417b(i)(6)(v).

EPA also gave regulated facilities until November 28, 2025, or 180 days after startup, whichever is later, to comply with continuous monitoring system requirements for enclosed combustors or flares. 40 CFR §§ 60.5370b(a)(9)(i) and (iii).

Regarding OOOOc, the EPA emission guidelines that States are required to use when regulating existing sources (i.e., regulated

emission sources that commenced construction, modification, or reconstruction on or before December 6, 2022), EPA extended the deadline for States to submit their OOOOc plans to January 22, 2027. 40 CFR § 60.5362c(c). As indicated in our recent Alert, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection ("PADEP") has issued public notice and provided an opportunity for comment for its proposed OOOOc plan. The comment period on PADEP's proposed OOOOc plan closed on July 30, 2025. Several commenters urged PADEP to delay implementation of the OOOOc plan until EPA finalizes its reconsideration of OOOOc, and others raised concerns about PADEP's analysis, or lack thereof, related to considering the "remaining useful life and other factors" when devising the proposed OOOOc plan requirements. PADEP's proposed OOOOc plan noted the original March 2026 deadline for submission to EPA. It remains to be seen whether PADEP will continue moving forward with its plan given that it now has an additional 10 months to finalize and submit Pennsylvania's OOOOc plan to EPA for approval.

EPA also extended deadlines in OOOOa and OOOOb associated with the so-called "super emitter program" created under the March 2024 Methane Rule. In the preamble for the Interim Final Rule, EPA notes that in implementing the "super emitter program," which would allow EPA-approved third parties (using EPA-approved technologies) to provide EPA with data on super-emission events, "EPA has experienced unanticipated difficulties and concerns that require additional time for effective and lawful administration of various program procedures." 90 Fed. Reg. at 35976. EPA is delaying implementation of the super-emitter program until after January 22, 2027, during which time EPA will not act on applications seeking approval for remote-detection technologies for use under the program. See 40 CFR §§ 60.5371a and 60.5371b.

The Interim Final Rule indicates that EPA may make additional, substantive revisions to the 2024 Methane Rule in a separate reconsideration action. EPA invites comments on the revisions in the Interim Final Rule by September 2, 2025, even

**EPA** changes

Continued on page 18



though the rule became effective on July 31, 2025. **Environmental Groups' Challenge** 

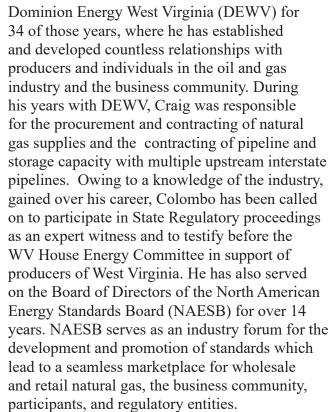
Ten environmental groups promptly filed a petition for review in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, challenging the Interim Final Rule. The Court has set initial filing deadlines, including a deadline to file any dispositive motions by September 18, 2025. A briefing schedule has not been established.

Press releases by the environmental groups suggest that they may attack the Interim Final Rule on both procedural and substantive groups. Procedurally, the grounds contend that EPA violated the law by offering no opportunity for public input. Substantively, the groups indicate that they plan to defend the 2024 Methane Rule requirements, including the original deadlines and requirements of that rule.

Babst Calland's Environmental Practice Group is closely tracking these regulatory developments, and our attorneys are available to provide strategic advice on how these actions may affect your business. For more information or answers to questions, please contact Gary Steinbauer at (412) 494-6590 or <a href="mailto:gsteinbauer@babstcalland.com">gsteinbauer@babstcalland.com</a>, Gina Buchman at (202) 853-3483 or <a href="mailto:gbuchman@babstcalland.com">gbuchman@babstcalland.com</a>, Christina Puhnaty at (412) 394-6514 or <a href="mailto:gpuhnaty@babstcalland.com">cpuhnaty@babstcalland.com</a>, or your Babst Calland relationship attorney. This article is reprinted with permission from

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Chris Weikle was born in Charleston, West Virginia in 1981 to the wonderful parents of Phil Weikle and Debbie Phillips. Chris went on to grow up in Teays Valley where he lumbered through the Putnam County school system graduating from Winfield in 1999. Chris then spent eight great years in Morgantown attending West Virginia University. While eight years seems like a lot, he did go on to graduate in 2003 with a B.S. in Political Science and in 2007 with a J.D. from West Virginia University. After graduating law school Chris left West Virginia for a year to live in the coastal Charleston. He quickly realized the error of his ways and returned to West Virginia to work in the legislature for the Joint Committee on Government and Finance. After that Chris was proud to work on the campaign and then serve in Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's administration as Deputy Director of Public Policy. While in the governor's office, Chris dedicated himself to education, energy and government efficiency. Chris reluctantly left the Governor's office to join LGCR Government Solutions as the Deputy Director of Government Relations and Advocacy. At this firm he represented clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to small non-profits. Chris Leadership team Continued on page 19



is now Director of Government Affairs for Expand Energy Corporation. He formerly held a similar position with Southwestern Energy. He has served on the Board of Directors at WVONGA, IOGA-WV and GO-WV. He has been married to his wife Kelly Matheney Weikle for over a decade and their two magnificent kids, Ainsley Jane and Landon Arlo keep Kelly and Chris on their toes.

Ben Sullivan is Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Legal & Risk Officer & Corporate Secretary of Diversified Energy Company. He joined Diversified in 2019 with oversight of the company's legal, land/real estate, community engagement, and policy/governmental affairs functions and works with the CEO and board on risk, compliance, and governance matters. Prior to joining Diversified, Ben worked with Greylock Energy (an ArcLight Capital Partners portfolio company with extensive national holdings) and its predecessor (Energy Corporation of America) as Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary with supervision of

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many business units. Prior to Ben's tenure at Greylock Energy, he worked as counsel for EQT Corporation and in private practice. He is a member of the leadership and Board of Directors of several commerce, legal, and industry groups, and has considerable experience in corporate governance and reporting / ESG, complex commercial transactions, land/real estate, acquisitions & divestitures, financing, government investigations, and corporate workouts and restructurings. He graduated from the University of Kentucky with a B.A degree in History and received a J.D. degree from the WU College of Law. He holds licenses to practice law in several States, including Pa. and WV.

Kelly Moss was a founding partner in Apex Pipeline Service, Inc. in 2006 and has served as President/CEO since inception. He was previously the Secretary/Treasurer and COO for S T Pipeline, Inc. from 1996 through 2005. Prior to that time, he worked for Columbia Gas Transmission from 1994 through 1996. From 1986 to 1994. he worked for various PVF wholesalers as a salesman and sales manager and worked for Bell Mechanical as an estimator. He is active in many industry associations and is often used by industry leaders to gain a contractor's point-of-view on many issues. He has been active in industry associations, as well, with service to WVONGA and the GO-WV Board of Directors. He graduated from South Charleston High School in 1984 and attended Marshall University from 1984 to 1987. He is married and has two children.

**Brett Loflin** is the Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for Northeast Natural Energy LLC based in Charleston, WV. Prior to joining Northeast in August of 2010 he served as Director of Regulatory Compliance for Atlas Energy and Manager of Regulatory Compliance for Chesapeake Energy. Mr. Loflin also worked for over 20 years as the staff engineer and director of the West Virginia OGCC. Loflin is a past president of IOGAWV and has served a combined three terms on the IOGAWV and GO-WV Board of Directors. He is a West Virginia native and a 1982 graduate of West Virginia University with a degree in Petroleum Engineering. He resides in Charleston, WV with his wife Beth and has two children, Evan and Katherine, and two grandchildren.





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