

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS AT-A-GLANCE**FEDERAL – Legislative**

- **EPA Regulatory Activity Hearing – Washington, D.C.** On July 6, the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Power held a hearing entitled “[A Review of EPA’s Regulatory Activity During the Obama Administration: Energy and Industrial Sectors.](#)” At the hearing, Texas Railroad Commission Chairman David Porter testified that small oil and gas operators in Texas will be hit the hardest by new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules reining in methane emissions. During an hour-long hearing examining the agency’s efforts to address climate change, Porter said his commission had urged the EPA to exclude lower producing oil and gas wells because the cost of infrared cameras and other equipment and services to meet the methane rules might force them to shut down. [Read more.](#)

STATE – Legislative

- **Liens; Recordation – Michigan.** On June 22, SB 600 was signed into law by Governor Rick Snyder. The Act amends Public Act 146 of 1937, which applies to the rights of contractors and other tradespeople to seek a lien for labor or material provided on oil and gas wells, so that the fees provided for recording a real estate mortgage also apply when recording a lien against oil and gas wells. [Read more.](#)
- **Recording Fees – North Carolina.** (Update to 7/5/16 Weekly Report) On June 30, SB 19 was signed into law by Governor Pat McCrory. The Act changes the fee for Deeds of Trust filed with Register of Deeds offices from \$56 for the first 15 pages and \$4/page thereafter, to \$64 for the first 35 pages and \$4/page thereafter. [Read more.](#)
- **Unitization; Pooling – Ohio.** On June 28, Governor John Kasich signed into law [HB 390](#), which among other matters, clarifies the status of pending applications for unit operations concerning mineral rights owned by the Ohio Department of Transportation. In particular, it requires the chief of the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management to issue unit orders with respect to such applications within forty-five days of the law’s effective date (i.e., 90 days after signing). It also provides that if an application is approved, the applicant is not required to commence unit operations for a period of two years from the order’s effective date. [Read more.](#)
- **Public Records – Ohio.** (Update to 7/5/16 Weekly Report) On June 28, Governor John Kasich signed SB 321 into law. The Act creates a procedure within the Court of

Claims to hear complaints alleging a denial of access to public records, to modify the circumstances under which a person who files a mandamus action seeking the release of public records may be awarded court costs and attorney's fees, and to expand the infrastructure record exemption under the Public Records law. [Read more.](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS FLASH:

◆ The United States now has more untapped oil than Saudi Arabia, Russia, or any other country, according to a new report from Rystad Energy, which estimates that the U.S. is sitting on 264 billion barrels of oil reserves. The estimates include oil in existing fields, new projects, recent discoveries, as well as projections in undiscovered fields, and more than half of that untapped oil is from unconventional shale. [Read more.](#)

PRACTICE TIP: Force majeure clauses. In the latest issue of The Oil and Gas Report, Holland & Hart addresses force majeure clauses and discusses how they vary widely and their application depends on the specific language in the clause. [Read more.](#)

ELECTION ALERT:

🗳️ On July 8, RealClearPolitics.com published its analysis of where the two presidential candidates stand on energy policy issues. Many of these positions may become part of the official party platforms in the upcoming nominating conventions. [Read more.](#)

State-by-State Legislative Session Overview

Please note: AAPL's bill tracking and legislative reporting service does not produce a State-by-State Legislative Session Overview for this week due to the July 4th holiday the prior week. This section will return in the next Weekly Report.

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