

# Climate Policy Update

August 15, 2022

**Good evening!** This is Akin Gump's weekly policy newsletter on **climate change** policy and regulatory developments, providing information on major climate policy headlines from this past week and forthcoming climate-related events and hearings:

- **Biden-Harris Administration Launches \$675 Million Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Program to Expand Domestic Critical Materials Supply Chains** (*Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy*)  
The Biden-Harris administration released a request for information regarding the Critical Materials Research, Development, Demonstration and Commercialization Program, which was provided \$675 million in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- **Amid Fight with Oil Industry, Newsom Makes a Last-Minute Pitch to Harden California's Climate Goals** (*Los Angeles Times*)  
Gov. Gavin Newsom (D-CA) released a five-point plan which calls on "lawmakers to enact more aggressive targets on state laws that reduce greenhouse gases and increase the use of renewable energy." Additionally, the proposal seeks to establish health and safety buffer zones around new oil and gas wells.
- **California Energy Commission Adopts Historic California Offshore Wind Goals, Enough to Power Upwards of 25 Million Homes** (*California Energy Commission*)  
The California Energy Commission adopted "a report establishing offshore wind goals." More specifically, the report set goals of producing 3,000 to 5,000 megawatts of offshore wind by 2030.
- **Calif. Governor Gives Lifeline to State's Last Nuclear Plant** (*E&E News*)  
Gov. Newsom proposed legislation to keep California's "last nuclear power plant open five to ten years beyond its planned 2025 final closure date." The Governor's spokesperson noted that the extension of the nuclear power plant is necessary as "climate impacts are hitting faster than expected."
- **Congress Just Passed a Big Climate Bill. No, Not That One.** (*The Atlantic*)  
On Tuesday, President Biden signed the CHIPS and Science Act into law. In addition to incentivizing semiconductor production, the measure "could direct an estimated \$67 billion, or roughly a quarter of its total funding, towards accelerating the growth of zero-carbon industries and conducting climate-relevant research."

Check out below for key quotes, federal agency news and a look at the week ahead in congressional hearings and think tank events:

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## Quotes of the Week

“We are behind where we need to be in bringing our clean resources online, to ensure that we can retire [...] This is something that we think is necessary to maintain reliability, necessary to make our transition.”

**-California Department of Finance Director Ana Matosantos *discussing the extension of Diablo Canyon Power Plant’s operations***

*(E&E News – August 15, 2022)*

“To the degree we are going to lower emissions that will be a good thing. Do I think this will be a game changer? No I don’t. [...] Providing extra payments for using labor unions is a lot of money not going to projects, but to a higher wage base to take care of the Democratic constituency.”

**-Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) *reacting to the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022***

*(Politico – August 12, 2022)*

## Upcoming Congressional Hearings (August 15-19, 2022)

Senate

House of Representatives

*The Senate is in recess from August 15-19, 2022.*

*The House is in recess from August 15-19, 2022.*

## Federal Agency Climate News

The White House

[Statement from Vice President Harris on the Inflation Reduction Act](#) (August 12)

US Department of the Interior

[Interior Department Leaders Highlight Biden-Harris Administration’s Commitment to Strengthening Indian Country, Environmental Protections at United Nations Conference](#) (August 11)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

[Statement by Administrator Regan on the Passage of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022](#) (August 12)

## U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

[DOE Announces Contract Awards For Latest Crude Oil Sales From The Strategic Petroleum Reserve](#) (August 11)

[Biden-Harris Administration Launches \\$675 Million Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Program to Expand Domestic Critical Materials Supply Chains](#) (August 9)

[Biden-Harris Administration Launches New Offices to Lower Energy Costs and Deploy Clean Power Nationwide](#) (August 10)

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## Upcoming D.C. Climate Events (Registration)

[A New Day for Nuclear Power](#)

**United States Energy Association**

Friday, August, 19, 2022, 12:00 PM EST

[How Local Governments Can Benefit from FERC Order No. 2222](#)

**The World Resources Institute**

Thursday, August, 18, 2022, 12:00 PM EST

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

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