

Climate Policy Update

September 6, 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:

- [Stricter Standards Needed for Carbon Offsets, Several House Democrats Urge](#) (CNBC)
Reps. Jared Huffman (D-CA), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) and Kathy Castor (D-FL) drafted a letter calling for the Government Accountability Office to “conduct a study on federal efforts to quantify carbon reductions from offsets, and recommended actions agencies can take to increase transparency in private voluntary carbon offset markets.”
- [What to Expect on Permitting Reform as Congress Returns](#) (E&E News)
As the Senate returns from recess, the chamber is pressed for time to “vote to streamline environmental reviews of energy infrastructure.” However, the permitting reform legislative language has yet to be released.
- [White House Announced Regulations, DOE Nominees](#) (E&E News)
President Biden selected Richard Revesz — who “has deep experience in environmental law and policy” and “spent years on EPA advisory panels” — to lead the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. Additionally, the Biden-Harris administration announced that Gene Rodrigues — “vice president in energy, environment and infrastructure for ICF” — will head the Department of Energy’s Office of Electricity.
- [Climate Chief Gina McCarthy Leaving White House as John Podesta Returns](#) (Politico)
As Gina McCarthy, one of President Biden’s domestic climate advisers, leaves the administration, Ali Zaidi will lead the Climate Policy Office. Additionally, John Podesta will join the White House as a “senior adviser for clean energy innovation and implementation.”
- [Diablo Canyon: Nuke Plant a Step Closer to Staying Open](#) (Cal Matters)
The California Legislature passed SB 846 “which would keep [Diablo Canyon] open for five more years, until 2030, and give its operator, Pacific Gas & Electric, a \$1.4 billion loan to do so.” Gov. Gavin Newsom (D-CA) ultimately signed the measure into law.
- [California Legislature Approves Climate Change Steps – But One Ambitious One Fails](#) (Cal Matters)
While the California Legislature approved “laws to set interim targets for 100% clean energy, regulate projects to remove carbon from the atmosphere and smokestacks, and end new oil drilling near communities,” AB 2133 was shot down by the California Assembly. The bill would have “ramped up goals for reducing greenhouse gases.”

- [EU's Sustainable Investing Taxonomy to Include Gas and Nuclear Sector Products](#) (*Speaking Sustainability*)
The European Parliament rejected a motion that sought to “remove nuclear and gas sector products from the [Taxonomy Regulation].”

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

“The agreement on energy project permitting reform was an essential part of getting the Inflation Reduction Act, and its historic climate and environmental justice provisions, enacted into law.”

-Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) discussing permitting reform

(E&E News – September 6, 2022)

“As far as a permitting agreement among Democrats, we still have not seen legislative text [...] so yes, you can count me as skeptical that Democrats will follow through on a plan to deliver true permitting reform that expands drilling, builds pipelines, protects coal jobs, and cuts regulatory red tape.”

-Sen. Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV) discussing permitting reform

(E&E News – September 6, 2022)

Upcoming Congressional Hearings (September 6-9, 2022)

Senate

[Hearing to Examine S. 2736, S. 1475, S. 2661, S. 2421](#)

Senate Environment and Public Works
Wednesday, September 7, 2022, 10:00 AM EST
406 Dirksen Senate Office Building

House of Representatives

[Power in the Pacific: Unlocking Offshore Wind Energy for the American West](#)

House Natural Resources
Thursday, September 8, 2022, 10:00 AM EST
10001 Kennedy Way Morro Bay, CA 93442

Federal Agency Climate News

The White House

[President Biden Announces Senior Clean Energy and Climate Team](#) (September 2)

U.S. Department of the Interior

[Assistant Secretary Trujillo Showcases Innovative Science to Combat Drought, Climate Change in Stockholm](#) (September 2)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

[EPA Proposes to Stop Authorized Use of Certain PFAS in Pesticide Products](#) (September 1)

[EPA Seeks Input on New Environmental Justice-Focused Pollution Prevention Grant Opportunity Funded by \\$100 Million Investment from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) (September 1)

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

[2021 Hybrid-Electric Vehicle Sales Increased by 76% over 2020](#) (September 5)

[DOE Funding Opportunity for Nuclear-Coupled Hydrogen Production and Use](#) (September 1)

[DOE Announces \\$46 Million to Explore New Technologies That Convert Carbon and Waste Into Clean Energy](#) (August 31)

Upcoming D.C. Climate Events (Registration)

[Advanced, Sustainable and Local Agriculture](#)

The Atlantic Council Global Energy Center

Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 2:30 PM EST

[Sparking Solutions: The Fuels Management Challenge and Opportunity](#)

Resources for the Future

Wednesday, September 7, 2022, 12:00 PM EST

[5G's Climate Impact: Conversation with Rep. Buddy Carter](#)

Punchbowl

Thursday, September 8, 2022, 9:00 AM EST

[Buying Power: How Federal Procurement Can Drive Clean Energy Innovation](#)

Information Technology & Innovation Foundation

Wednesday, September 7, 2022, 12:00 PM EST

[Industrial Decarbonization Roadmap](#)

Department of Energy

Wednesday, September 7, 2022, 11:00 AM EST

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

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