

# Environmental Newsletter

Quarter 3

# TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

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## White House Happenings -

**Socio Economic and Climate Equity** – As I previously mentioned last quarter, during the Colorado listening Sessions on Climate Action the topic of low income/ potentially impacted socio economic classes being targeted by the Oil and Gas Industry was presented. As this idea is being used more and more it is becoming a new tactic of the Federal environmental justice agenda. As many of you have seen in the news the House Bill 1512 (“CLEAN Future Act,”) is the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee and largely claims to deal with transitioning the country to renewable energy sources while providing a platform to include all socio – economic groups in the implementation phase. The language regarding the definition of environmental justice can be deemed concerning for all industries targeted by the bill because it could potentially put a stop on permitting in urban areas or rural lands as well. See small expert below:

“...or low-income community shall be exposed to a disproportionate burden of the negative human health and environmental impacts of pollution or other environmental hazards.”

It’s important to mention that because the House Bill is so wide sweeping and impactful they requested a stay on permitting related to the above language until the bill passes and rules enacted, having serious consequences for new facilities.

**Order 3395** – As I stated last quarter, The Department of Interior (DOI) stated they will not be renewing the 60 day order requiring administrative (appointed) political officials to approve the processing of Oil and Gas Operation permits on Federal lands. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has resumed the duty. This lift will official take place in June. UPDATE: the DOI recently had a online conference with several industry leaders, environmental groups, tribal leaders, unions, and other impacted organizations to discuss the oil and gas permits program on federal land. The main takeaway was to redo the current incentivized royalty structure to make it exceedingly more cost restrictive to develop oil and gas programs on federal lands. Ultimately it will continue to be an uphill battle to keep existing permits and unlikely to obtain new ones.

## GCA Environmental Committee - What is Happening

Again, due to COVID restrictions our planned Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Compliance Officer will be unable to attend. At this time I’m tentatively planning on putting together a presentation to highlight the new rule in New Mexico and Colorado Regulation 7 challenges the industry faces. Any help with this would be great. As the conference gets closer I will be sending out an official Agenda. If there is anything specific any of you wish to discuss please send them to me and I’ll make sure to include them.

GCA Environmental Website – This will be a prominent topic for our August meeting. Any suggestions to help make the website more interactive are encouraged. At this time I’ve gotten with Stephanie to begin updating some items and when I send out an official August agenda I will outline them in detail. As the political climate continues to heat up, making the Environmental Committee of the GCA as useful as possible is of utmost importance. Over the next year expanding the tools we can offer the Oil and Gas Industry can not only help membership in a big way but also offer each of us the path to create the most robust environmental programs we can muster.

## **Colorado Climate Action Plan to Reduce Pollution –**

In response to the “Climate Action Plan To Reduce Pollution”, known as [House Bill 19-1261](#), and the [Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap](#), the division has commenced a process to develop rules to address greenhouse gas emissions from the oil and gas industry. You are invited to attend upcoming public meetings on this subject.

The primary purpose of this meeting is to get feedback from community members and stakeholders on the [strategies](#) presented by the division in March. All [meeting materials](#) from the March 25, 2021 meeting are also available on the website linked below.

Public Listening Session

Thursday, May 11, 2021

6:00 - 8:00 pm

[Register Here](#)

[Visit the division’s website](#) for more information on the stakeholder process and GHG reduction goals for oil and gas sources.

## **New Mexico Methane Strategy – Draft Ozone Precursor Rule for Oil and Gas Sector**

If anyone wishes to read the public comments currently being reviewed for the above mentioned rule please click the link below.

<https://www.env.nm.gov/air-quality/ozone-draft-rule-stakeholder-comments/>

Should anyone have any other regulatory updates pertaining to other states please send that information along so that the GCA can be proactively involved. As always if there are any questions or the need for specific documents please feel free to contact me at any of the numbers or email listed below.

Thanks again for everyone’s continued support,

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