

***Please note:** Due to the August recesses at the Federal, multiple state legislative and regulatory levels, August reports will be published bi-weekly. The next report will be published August 20, followed by the September 10 report after the Labor Day holiday week. Enjoy the rest of your summer!*

## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS AT-A-GLANCE

### FEDERAL – Legislative

- **Congressional Summer Recess.** The U.S. Congress is out of session in their August recess. Both chambers will be back in session on September 4, 2018. [Read more.](#)

### FEDERAL – Regulatory

- **BLM Oil and Gas Lease Sale – Nevada.** On July 27, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) [announced](#) that it will offer will offer 144 parcels in Eureka, White Pine, Nye, Lincoln and Elko Counties totaling approximately 295,174.30 acres in the Ely and Elko Districts at its September 2018 quarterly oil and gas lease sale. [Read more.](#)
- **BLM Oil and Gas Lease Sale – Utah.** On July 26, the BLM [announced](#) that it will offer more than 100 parcels for oil and gas development in southeastern Utah at its September 2018 quarterly oil and gas lease sale. The 109 parcels, totaling approximately 204,172 acres, are located in the BLM's West Desert, Color Country and Green River districts. [Read more.](#)
- **BLM Oil and Gas Development – Wyoming.** On July 31, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Wyoming Governor Matt Mead (R) [jointly announced](#) that conservation in the mule deer migration corridor in Southwestern Wyoming will be prioritized over energy resource development through both deferred lease sales and lease stipulations in the area. The agreement, which came in the wake of pushback from conservation groups and sportsmen, will preclude about 5,000 acres of BLM land from oil and gas lease sales for the time being and additional parcels in the migration route would only be leased with a rider mandating collaboration with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. "This decision gives the public and those involved in the (development of land management policy in the area) time to work on steps that balance wildlife needs with energy development needs," said Governor Mead in a statement. [Read more.](#)

## **INDUSTRY NEWS FLASH:**

♦ **U.S. remains the world leader in natural gas production.** According to a July 29, 2018 *Forbes* magazine report, the U.S. still leads the world in natural gas production. In fact, last year the U.S. produced an average of 71.1 billion cubic feet per day, up one percent from the prior year, and closing in on the 2015 record of 71.6 billion cubic feet per day. According to the report, hydraulic fracturing helped boost domestic production by an astounding 51 percent from 2005 to 2015 alone, which pushed the U.S. back into the global lead after historically trailing behind Russia and the Middle East for many years – a lead which is projected to hold in the near term. [Read more.](#)

## **State-by-State Legislative Session Overview**

**Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania** are in regular session. **California** is in recess until August 6. **Michigan** is in recess until August 15. The **District of Columbia** Council is in recess until September 15. **Illinois, New York, Rhode Island and Wisconsin** are in recess to the call of the chair.

**West Virginia** Republican Gov. Jim Justice issued a proclamation calling for a special session to begin June 26 to address possible removal of one or more Justices of the Supreme Court of Appeals. The House Judiciary Committee announced meetings that took place between July 12 and July 14. The House Judiciary Committee returned on July 26, according to the West Virginia Legislature.

**Utah** held a one-day special session on July 18 to address online sales taxes, reports the AP. **North Carolina** held a one-day special session on July 24 to address constitutional amendments on November ballots, reports the Blue Ridge Public Radio. The session is in recess and the legislature is expected to adjourn the week of August 5. **New Hampshire** held a one day special session on July 25 in response to a Supreme Court ruling that states can require online retailers to collect sales tax on purchases in states where they don't have a physical presence, reports the NHPR.

**Maine and Virginia's** special sessions are in recess to the call of the chair.

**Delaware** Democratic Gov. John Carney had until July 30 to act on legislation or it becomes pocket vetoed. **Utah** Republican Gov. Gary Herbert has until August 7 to act on special session legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Alaska** Independent Gov. Bill Walker has 20 days from presentment, Sundays excepted, to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Connecticut** Democratic Gov. Dannel Malloy has 15 days from presentment to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Illinois** Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner has 60 days from presentment to act on all legislation passed during the veto session or it becomes law. **Kansas** Republican Gov. Jeff Coyler has 10 days, not including the day of presentment, to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Louisiana** Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards had 20 days from presentment to act on legislation presented after May 8 or it becomes law.

**Minnesota** Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton had 14 days from presentment to act on legislation presented on or after May 17 or it is pocket vetoed. **Missouri** Republican Gov. Mike Parson has 45 days from presentment to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **New Hampshire** Republican Gov. Chris Sununu has five days from presentment, Sundays excepted, to sign or veto legislation or it becomes law without signature. **New York** Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo has 10 days from presentment, Sundays excepted, to sign or veto legislation or it becomes law without signature. **North Carolina** Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper has ten days from presentment to act on special session legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Rhode Island** Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo has six days from presentment, Sundays excepted, to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Vermont** Republican Gov. Phil Scott had five days, Sundays excepted, to act on legislation presented after May 16. The disposition of legislation not acted on after that period will be determined on a case-by-case basis. **West Virginia** Republican Gov. Jim Justice has 15 days from adjournment of the second special session, convened on June 26 and solely to consider the possible impeachment of justices, Sundays excepted, to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Wisconsin** Republican Gov. Scott Walker has six days from presentment, Sundays excepted, to act on special session legislation or it becomes law.

The following states are currently holding 2019 interim committee hearings: **Alabama**, **Alaska**, **Arizona**, **Arkansas**, **Colorado**, **Connecticut**, **Florida House**, **Hawaii**, **Idaho**, **Illinois Senate**, **Indiana**, **Iowa**, **Kansas**, **Kentucky**, **Maine**, **Maryland**, **Minnesota**, **Mississippi Senate**, **Missouri House and Senate**, **Montana**, **Nevada**, **New Hampshire House and Senate**, **New Mexico**, **New York Assembly and Senate**, **North Carolina**, **North Dakota**, **Oklahoma House**, **Oregon**, **Rhode Island**, **South Carolina**, **South Dakota**, **Tennessee**, **Texas House and Senate**, **Utah**, **Virginia**, **Washington**, **West Virginia** and **Wyoming**.

The following states are currently posting 2019 bill drafts, prefiles and interim studies: **Kentucky**, **Montana**, **Nevada**, **North Dakota**, **Oklahoma House and Senate** and **Utah**.

*Please Note: AAPL's bill tracking service does not issue their detailed bill analysis report this week due to the National Council of State Legislatures annual conference. The detailed bill analysis section will resume in this space in the next weekly report.*

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