

The PIOGA Press

The monthly newsletter of the
Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association
May 2024 • Issue 169

PIOGA's Spring Meeting

CLIMATE, COMMODITIES & CHAOS



Threats to a strong U.S. Energy Game Plan

On April 18, 2024, PIOGA held its Spring Conference at the Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh. The conference provided an opportunity for industry, regulatory, legislative, and science community members to come together to discuss pertinent oil and gas matters.

Dan Weaver, PIOGA President & Executive Director, explained the importance of the Spring Conference and coming together as an industry.

"As the oil and gas industry changes, it is crucial to stay ahead of the curve. Coming together as an industry, at events like PIOGA's Spring Conference, to learn from experts and each other is imperative for the future of fossil fuels. The threats to the oil and gas industry seem overwhelming but together we can create a strong game plan."

The conference featured presentations from top experts providing thought-provoking information about the future of energy, along with updates on the regulatory, legislative, market development and business climate issues impacting businesses.

The conference was a successful day with informative presentations, great networking and exhibition of products and services from leading companies.

PIOGA would like to thank all who attended, the exhibitors and sponsors that made this year's event a success! Check out page 2 and 3 for a list of sponsors!

A special thank you to PIOGA's Conference Program Committee members that designed a valuable meeting complete with relevant and timely topics/speakers. Program members included: Ben Wallace – Penneco Oil Co./Penneco Environmental Solutions; John Snedden – ShalePro Energy Service; Jake Stilley - Patriot Exploration Corp.; Dan Billman – Billman Geologic; Jeff Walentosky - Moody and Associates, Inc.; Teresa McCurdy – TD Connections; and Dan Weaver, Deana McMahan and Meghan Keely from PIOGA.

For more scenes from the day's activities check out Page 3 and 4. Be sure to visit the *Photos Galleries* section at pioga.org to see all photos from the Spring Conference and Spring Meeting Kick-off Happy Hour.

Link to access presentations from the 2024 Spring Meeting: <https://pioga.org/presentation-pages/2023-pioga-spring-meeting-presentations>

Continued on page 3

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PIOGA HAPPENINGS

MAY
21st

PIOGATech: Pipeline Compliance

PIOGA 2024
Meetings
& Events

JUNE
4th

PIOGA's Oil Patch Classic Golf Outing

PIOGA.ORG > EVENTS

2024 PIOGA Committee Schedule

Market Development and Environmental Committee (Market Development 9-10:30 am. Environmental 10:45 am - 12:30 pm.)

June 12; July 10– Shell Cracker Plant Tour; August 14; September 11; October 9; November 13 – Travel day TBD; December 11

Membership Committee (Meetings will be held from 2-3 pm the second Thursday of each month) **May 14; June 11; July 9; August 13; September 10; October 8; November 12; December 10**

Legislative Committee (1:30 - 3 pm. All Legislative Committee Meetings are virtual/call-in only.) **June 6; July 11; August 1; Sept. 5; Oct. 3; Nov. 7; and Dec. 5.**

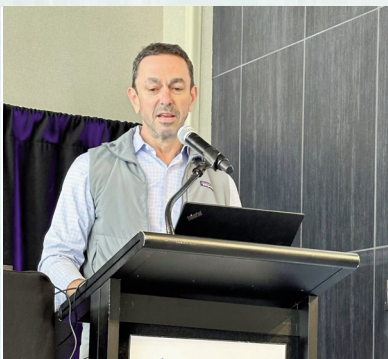
Diversity Committee (9-10 am. All Diversity Committee Meetings are virtual/call-in only.) **June 11; Sept. 3; and Dec. 3.**

PIOGA committee chairs and staff are hoping to see more people in-person in 2024! The committee meetings are more collaborative and valuable when our members are in the same room.

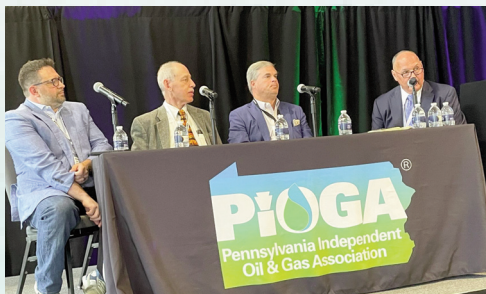
Please contact Deana McMahan at deana@pioga.org or 724-933-7306 ext. 23 if you are interested in joining a committee or have any questions about the schedule.

Committee meetings are for PIOGA members only and dates are subject to change. Go to www.pioga.org for updates.

Spring Meeting *Continued from page 1*



Keynote Speaker Sponsor - Allen Fore
V.P., Public Affairs, Kinder Morgan



Producers Roundtable - Navigating the Risks to Energy Development

Brad Gray, Diversified Energy
Art Stewart, Cameron Energy, Co.
William Dressel, S.T.L Resources
Moderated by: Mike Hillebrand, Huntley & Huntley



Lou D'Amico, former PIOGA President & Executive Director and Charlie Burd, Go-WV



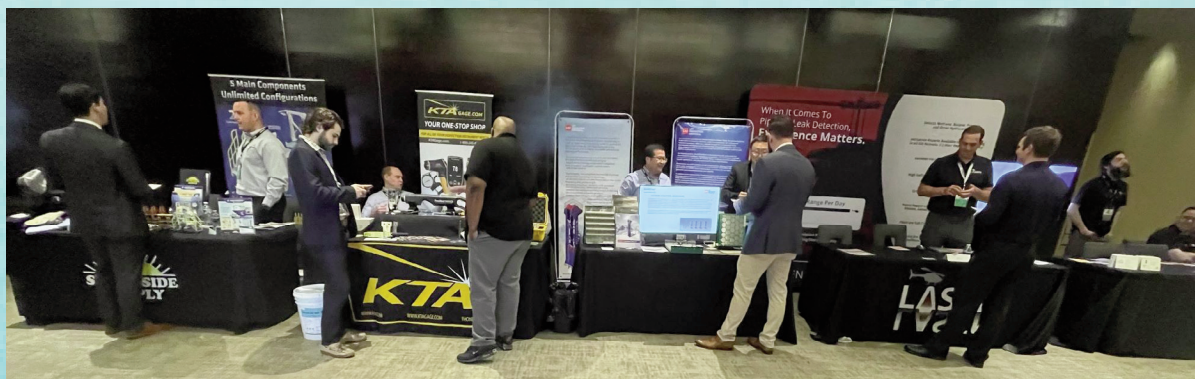
Keynote Speaker, Toby Rice, EQT Corp.
and Dan Weaver.



Exhibitor - American Refining Group, Inc.



Jeff Walentosky, Moody and Associates and
Jim Elliot, Spillman Thomas & Battle, PLLC



Exhibitors:

SunnySide Supply,
KTA-Tator, Inc.,
LaSen, Inc., and
SherTech/Techhelp2U



Steve Goreham, New Lennox Books, Inc. **"But I'd Like to Keep My Gasoline Truck and Gas Stove"**

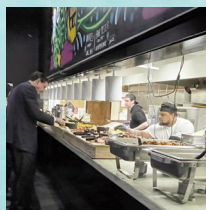


Jim Brandt, Kriebel Energy LLC; Joe O'Donnell, IGS Energy; Shane Kriebel, Kriebel Energy LLC; and Jim Kriebel, Kriebel Energy LLC

Continued on page 4

PIOGA's 2024 Spring Meeting Kick-off Happy Hour

PIOGA and The Women's Energy Network (WEN)-Greater Pittsburgh Chapter- held their second joint Happy Hour on April 17th at the Voodoo Brewing Company, North Shore-Pittsburgh. The happy hour sold out quickly. Great food and networking opportunities combined for the perfect way to kick-off PIOGA's 2024 Spring Meeting. Thank you to WEN and all of the event sponsors!





SPRING MEETING

April 18, 2024 | Rivers Casino Pittsburgh

CLIMATE, COMMODITIES & CHAOS
Threats to a Strong U.S. Energy Game Plan

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PIOGA's Spring Meeting Kick-off Joint Happy Hour

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Finalizes National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Certain PFAS Chemicals

Babst Calland - Jean M. Mosites, Esq. and Mackenzie M. Moyer, Esq.

On April 10, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) Rule¹ regulating six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300f et seq. This final rule establishes the first-ever nationally enforceable drinking water standards for PFAS. The final rule establishes Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) and Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid and its ammonium salt (HFPO-DA, commonly known as GenX chemicals), and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS). The final rule also establishes a Hazard Index MCLG and MCL for mixtures containing two or more of PFNA, HFPO-DA, PFHxS, and perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS).

For PFOA and PFOS, the final rule sets MCLGs – non-enforceable health-based goals that represent the maximum concentration of a contaminant in drinking water at which there is no known or anticipated negative effect on a person's health – at 0 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCLs, which are legally enforceable, are set at 4.0 ppt for PFOA and PFOS. The MCLs represent the maximum concentrations allowed in drinking water that can be delivered to users of a public water system and are informed by factors such as available treatment technologies and cost. As a change from the proposed rule, the final rule sets MCLGs and MCLs for PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA at 10 ppt.

For mixtures of two or more of PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS, the final rule establishes a Hazard Index due to the chemicals' likely co-occurrence. The Hazard Index is calculated by dividing the concentration of each of the four PFAS compounds by its Health-Based Water Concentration (HBWC; 10 ppt for PFNA, 10 ppt for HFPO-DA (GenX), 9 ppt for PFHxS, and 2000 ppt for PFBS) and then adding the results together. A total value greater than 1.0 is an exceedance of the proposed Hazard Index MCL. For a more detailed explanation of the Hazard Index calculation, see EPA's Fact Sheet for Understanding the Hazard Index, available here.

The final rule regulates community water systems (CWSs)

and non-transient non-community water systems (NTNCWSs), collectively public water systems. A CWS is defined as "a public water system which serves at least fifteen service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least twenty-five year-round residents" and a NTNCWS is "a public water system that is not a [CWS] and that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons over 6 months per year." 40 C.F.R. § 141.2.

Under the final rule, public water systems have three years (by 2027) to complete initial monitoring of each of the six PFAS, followed by ongoing compliance monitoring. The public must be provided with information on the levels of these PFAS in their drinking water beginning in 2027. Public water systems have five years (by 2029) to implement solutions to reduce PFAS if monitoring shows levels exceeding the MCLs. After those five years, public water systems that have PFAS in drinking water violating one of the MCLs must take action to reduce PFAS levels and provide notice to the public of the violation.

In the final rule, EPA identifies granular activated carbon, anion exchange resins, reverse osmosis, and nanofiltration as the best available technologies for PFAS removal in drinking water. According to EPA, PFAS tend to co-occur, and these four treatment technologies have been documented to co-remove other forms of PFAS, along with the six PFAS being regulated. More information on the final rule can be found on EPA's webpage, available here.

The final rule supersedes any state-specific MCLs, if those MCLs are less stringent than EPA's. For example, Pennsylvania adopted MCLs for PFOA (14 ppt) and PFOS (18 ppt) in January 2023. To retain primacy over the drinking water program, states must regulate PFAS no less stringently than EPA. Under the final rule, states with primacy will have up to two years after the date of rule promulgation to develop regulations that are at least as strict as the federal MCLs. Pennsylvania's regulations already incorporate the federal drinking water standards by reference but given Pennsylvania's earlier action to regulate PFAS in drinking water, it is likely there will be a regulatory amendment to remove Pennsylvania's earlier standards. 25 Pa. Code § 109.202. The regulations incorporated by reference are effective on the date established by the federal regulations; therefore, regulated entities in

¹ https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/pfas-ncpdwr_prepub-federalregisternotice_4.8.24.pdf

Continued on page 9

PIOGA - Diversity Committee Article

The Battle for Talent will be Won in Unfamiliar Places

Author: Dr. Jennifer Vieweg

The energy industry is facing an unprecedented challenge. While the long-term demand for oil, natural gas, and natural gas liquids remains strong, skilled and educated professionals entering the industry are at dangerously low levels. And, as the average age of our workforce increases and long-time employees rush toward retirement, the competition for talent will only become more fierce. In fact, experts estimate the world will need to add nearly 2 million oil and gas workers by 2025.

To complicate matters, the industry continues to face headwinds caused by misinformation campaigns and scare tactics, which have proven very effective. According to a 2023 Gallup study, the oil and gas industry has the third-worst reputation in America – ranked above only the federal government and big pharma (not favorable company). These smear campaigns are discouraging students, recent graduates, and job seekers from pursuing careers in fossil fuels. And a 2024 report by McKinsey & Company found that the Upstream sector is experiencing the greatest employee attrition in the industry – making the fight to attract good talent even more critical.

Simply put, the selling points we have traditionally relied upon to attract workers to the oil and gas industry (high pay and generous benefits) are no longer sufficient to ensure stable staffing levels in the long term. So, how can we attract and retain the skills and talent we need to operate today – and for decades into the future?

The answer is this: energy leaders must think beyond compensation and benefits; and instead work to develop organizations that attract, retain, and include a broader and more diverse set of applicants – people with whom our industry has not typically engaged. This includes female leaders, minorities with in-demand skills, and candidates from different backgrounds, geographic locations, and life experiences. It includes veterans, individuals with different abilities, and people from all generations.

But that is far easier said than done. Where do we begin, and what does it take to attract new and diverse talent? Here is a simple, four-step process to help you get started.

Step 1) Become a place where people want to be. I imagine you are already paying top wages and offering generous benefits, but that is no longer enough. Potential employees are becoming more and more selective about the types of organizations they choose to work for. They

are adamant that their work has purpose and that they are contributing to something far bigger than themselves. They are seeking fulfillment in their vocations. That is why leaders must thoughtfully and intentionally create their organizations' cultures. This includes drafting an inspiring mission statement (the purpose of the organization), a motivating vision statement (what the organization seeks to accomplish), and compelling core values (how they will pursue their mission and vision). These cultural artifacts help inform candidates about what they can expect from the organization, how they can anticipate being treated as employees, and how they will be fulfilled in their day-to-day work.

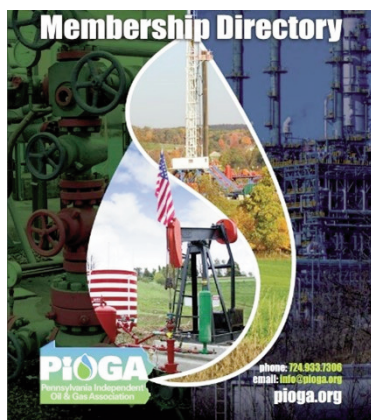
Step 2) Deploy your culture. Once you have crafted your mission, vision, and values, it is critical to intentionally deploy those artifacts throughout your organization. Your culture must be more than words listed on a wall or splashed across a brochure. Leaders, managers, and employees must not only be aware of them, they must also commit them to memory and work daily to live them out. They must become part of your organization's vernacular. Your mission and vision should drive your business, and your core values should guide decision-making and action. Leaders and employees alike must be held accountable to build the organization you are striving to become – and that requires talking about your mission, pursuing your vision, and relying on your core values as a firm foundation.

Step 3) Create opportunities. To effectively attract and retain employees, you must create opportunities. Today's candidates are looking for companies where they can grow – learning new skills, taking on stretch assignments, assuming new responsibilities, and innovating. But, in addition to creating growth opportunities, you also need to present them to new and diverse audiences. That may require you to set aside your expectations of what makes a good leader and recognize that some of your strongest employees may come from diverse backgrounds. This could include different work experiences, industries, and locations than your traditional staff.

Step 4) Communicate your culture and connect with non-traditional audiences. Talent follows opportunity. That is why the greatest football programs attract the greatest talent. The finest restaurants attract the finest chefs. And the best schools attract the best minds. So, once you

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PIOGA's 2024-2025 Directory Update



If you are your company's main member contact for PIOGA, don't forget that updates are needed by **June 1**, for our 2024-2025 PIOGA Membership Directory.

You should be receiving within the week a letter giving you the opportunity to update information

about your company as well as other colleagues listed as company contacts in our database.

If you have questions, please contact Deana McMahan at 724-933-7306 ext. 23 or deana@pioga.org.

Don't forget too that advertising is available in the directory! Please contact Debbie Oyler at 724-933-7306 ext. 22 or debbie@pioga.org for more information on advertising.

Advertising Opportunities

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Warning: Climate Radicals are Coming to Western Pennsylvania

4.25.24 - Opinion Piece by Sam Breene - County Commissioner - Venango County

The birthplace of the oil and gas industry is the latest target in the crosshairs of climate change activists. Having grown up in Oil City, Pa., I know how vital oil and gas has been for Western Pennsylvania, and I know how important it will continue to be.

Living in Oil City, I also know that you can have a healthy environment and a healthy fossil fuel industry, but you cannot have a healthy economy without fossil fuels.

Oil and gas and the affordable energy they provide are the lifeblood of our economy, in Pennsylvania, and around the world. The industry supports tens of thousands of jobs in Pennsylvania alone.

But our state and our livelihoods are under assault. Out-of-state billionaires, who fund the so-called Center for Climate Integrity, are trying to start a proxy fight in Allegheny County. Their goal is to persuade states and localities to sue energy companies for damages from weather events that they claim are caused by the “climate crisis.”

Having previously worked in Washington D.C., I can recognize from a mile away when people are being used as political pawns. And this time, Western Pennsylvanians are being used to further the anti-fossil fuel agenda by out-of-touch climate alarmists and out-of-state attorneys.

Enough is enough.

If these supposed environmentalists actually cared about the environment and emissions, they would be targeting India and China, the actual drivers of pollution, instead of Pennsylvania and American companies.

It's patently absurd to try to weaponize state and local jurisdictions for something as broad as “combating the climate crisis.” There's no science in that.

And here's the sad truth: The only people who stand to benefit from these frivolous lawsuits are the lawyers and the special interest groups behind the lawsuits.

The people pushing this agenda don't actually care about the people in Western Pennsylvania. After all, who funds groups like the Center for Climate Integrity? The Rockefellers. And how did the Rockefellers make their money? Through an oil and gas monopoly, spanning all 50 states. How hypocritical and how ironic. These lawsuits today have absolutely nothing to do with individuals in Western Pennsylvania. They only serve as vanity projects

for the elites, designed to further line their pockets and make them feel better about themselves.

Growing up around the energy industry, I know these lawsuits will ultimately hurt regular Americans already struggling to pay their energy bills and the people whose livelihood depends on extracting energy from American soil. These lawsuits will hurt the people of Pennsylvania.

I know what keeps the lights on: oil and gas.

I know where energy comes from: our backyard.

If you want clean energy and you want America to remain competitive on the global stage, we must have a strong natural gas industry in the Keystone State.

These radical environmentalists won't stop with pushing lawsuits in Bucks County. And they certainly will not stop if they get what they want and persuade Allegheny County to initiate another lawsuit. This is clearly just the beginning.

Energy production and exploration are embedded in the fabric of Western Pennsylvania. These out-of-state interests have made this personal. And they won't stop until they reach their wildly unrealistic goal of eliminating fossil fuels.

What these activists forget in their misguided crusade is that fossil fuels are all around us. None of our enjoyment of Pennsylvania's natural beauty would be possible without the equipment made by oil and gas. Our fishing equipment, our tents, our backpacks, and our hiking boots are all made with petroleum products.

America's economy is the strongest in the world. We need to take advantage of the incredible wealth available to us in our country's natural resources to keep our economy strong. We cannot let our local and county officials embrace this scam of a lawsuit being pushed by the radical environmental and anti-fossil fuel movement.

If these out-of-state climate litigators parachuting into our backyard get their way, it will be yet another blow to a state already being punished by Joe Biden's ban on natural gas exports. One more left-wing attack from climate radicals hellbent on destroying the economic powerhouse that is Pennsylvania. ■

PFAS *Continued from page 5*

Pennsylvania should assume that the federal standards are effective upon the dates listed in the final rule.

The final rule is the latest action under President Biden’s plan to combat PFAS pollution and EPA’s 2021 PFAS Strategic Roadmap (available here - <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-strategic-roadmap-epas-commitments-action-2021-2024>), under which EPA is taking a “whole-of-agency approach” to address PFAS throughout its lifecycle. The final rule is expected to be published in the Federal Register in the near future. Additional rulemaking proposals include the designation of certain PFAS as hazardous and information gathering obligations to be imposed on certain wastewater systems.

EPA also announced nearly \$1 billion in newly available funding through the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) to help states and territories implement PFAS testing and treatment at public water systems and to help owners of private wells to address PFAS contamination. This funding is a part of the \$9 billion included in the IIJA to invest in drinking water systems impacted by PFAS and other emerging contaminants. ■

*Babst Calland’s PFAS Work Group, including environmental, public sector, and litigation attorneys, continue to track PFAS technical and legal developments and are available to assist you with PFAS-related matters. For more information on this and other remediation matters, please contact **Jean M. Mosites** at (412) 394-6468 or jmosites@babstcalland.com, **Mackenzie M. Moyer** at (412) 394-6578 or mmoyer@babstcalland.com, or any of our other attorneys in this practice.*

To stay informed on timely legal and regulatory information on PFAS, view our PFAS Perspectives page (<https://www.babstcalland.com/perspectives/pfas-perspectives/>), **or subscribe to updates here.** (<https://www.babstcalland.com/perspectives/stay-informed-pfas/>)



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Gregory Wrightstone: Gov. Shapiro's misguided attempt to cure a very healthy climate

4.30.24. Published by Broad + Liberty. Author of Opinion Piece: Gregory Wrightstone

Pennsylvania's environment is not in the state of crisis that alarmists say it is.

Somebody should tell Gov. Josh Shapiro that his state is doing very well environmentally. Overall, the weather has been getting better and agricultural production is up in Pennsylvania.

Nevertheless, he repeatedly attacks the producers and users of energy to address a supposed climate crisis. His administration is trying to keep Pennsylvania trapped in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which the Commonwealth Court ruled as an illegal tax. Recently, he proposed a new energy tax and the expansion of a program to force consumers to buy larger amounts of expensive and unreliable wind and solar power.

Shapiro's angst may stem from predictions by the state Department of Environmental Protection that climate change induced by emissions of carbon dioxide would lead to extreme weather and environmental harm — including both floods and droughts — and would damage Pennsylvania's \$80 billion agricultural sector.

Yet, nothing could be further from the truth.

It is a fact that atmospheric carbon dioxide has increased since 1750 to 420 parts per million from 280. Most of that 50 percent increase is probably from CO₂ emissions that began a steady rise with the Industrial Revolution and accelerated after World II because of vigorous economic growth.

However, almost nothing supports the popular claim that recent modest warming has been caused by carbon dioxide. In fact, geological evidence overwhelmingly indicates that this warming trend is simply another in a series of warming and cooling cycles operating since the end of the last glacial advance more than 10,000 years ago. Moreover, our current warming trend started more than 300 years ago, long before we began emitting CO₂ in earnest in the mid-20th century.

To put the governor at ease, we turn to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's U.S. Historic Climate Network. Even though the network's temperature record is biased toward the global warming narrative by both corrupted and manipulated data, it still offers reassurance that Pennsylvania's climate has been becoming more

benign since at least 1895.

Over the past 130 years, Pennsylvania's average temperature has increased about one-half a degree Fahrenheit. Considering that cold is up to 20 times as lethal as heat, warmth is a good thing for anybody familiar with the Keystone State's winters. Average maximum temperature has remained unchanged and the percentage of days above 100 degrees has declined significantly — by more than half.

As for the claim of increasing drought, since 1895, the state's average annual precipitation has increased to 45 inches from 40 and the severity of droughts has decreased slightly but steadily.

Neither has flooding become more of a problem since the beginning of the 20th century. In fact, numerous data points around the state show fewer floods over time.

For example, the flood crests for the decades of the 2000s and 2010s are about 60 percent that of the 1900s and 1910s for the Allegheny River at Franklin, Venango County. Similar declines in flooding were recorded for the Ohio River at Pittsburgh, the Susquehanna River at Williamsport and for Bucks County, where George Washington crossed the Delaware and famously experienced a particularly harsh Pennsylvania winter.

As for agricultural health, food production in Pennsylvania and around the world is up, partly because of a warmer climate, which has increased the U.S. growing season by more than two weeks and lessened the threat of killing frosts in the late spring and early autumn. Also contributing to better crop yields are the fertilization effect of more CO₂ and the use of fertilizers derived from foolishly maligned fossil fuels. This boost in productivity has enabled farmers to support eight billion people, ten times the population of 300 years ago.

An overall greening of Earth that has been widely attributed to modern warming and high concentrations of atmospheric CO₂ is unsurprisingly reflected in Penn's woods. Since 1955, the state's standing timber has increased five-fold. Worldwide, tree cover has grown by more than 2 million square kilometers, a seven percent increase.

Continued on page 12

Wrightstone *Continued from page 11*

So, with all the good news, why the pressure to increase energy prices and subsidize favored industries at a cost of billions of dollars? The purported answer is to quench the fever of an allegedly overheating planet.

Well, consider that the calculated theoretical heating that would be averted by 2100 if Pennsylvania eliminated all emissions of carbon dioxide would be 0.008 degrees Fahrenheit, an amount too small to measure.

Gov. Shapiro should heed the caution to first do no harm because his climate prescriptions are sure to damage the interests of people who need abundant, affordable energy. ■

Gregory Wrightstone, a Pennsylvania native, is a geologist; executive director of the CO2 Coalition, Arlington, Va., and author of “Inconvenient Facts: The Science That Al Gore Doesn’t Want You to Know” and “A Very Convenient Warming: How modest warming and more CO2 are benefiting humanity.”

Link to article: <https://broadandliberty.com/2024/04/30/gregory-wrightstone-gov-shapiros-misguided-attempt-to-cure-a-very-healthy-climate/>

PIOGA’s 2024 Promise Land Clay Shoot

On May 2nd, PIOGA held its annual Clay Shoot Networking Event at the Promise Land Sporting Clays Club in Freeport, Pa. The sold-out event was a huge success and enjoyed by all!

PIOGA would like to thank the sponsors of the event and all participants.

Check out some of the event photos and make sure to visit the Photo Galleries section at [pioga.org](https://pioga.org/about/photo-galleries/) to view all photos from the event! (<https://pioga.org/about/photo-galleries/>)



*Join us this summer for a day of golf,
networking and great food!*

Oil Patch Classic Golf Outing

Thursday, June 4
Wanango Country Club, Reno, PA

Annual Divot Diggers Golf Outing

Thursday, August 22
Tam O'Shanter Golf Club, Hermitage, PA



Talent *Continued from page 6*

have created pathways for opportunities, you must communicate your culture and your opportunities to potential candidates. This means you need to reach them where they are. Gone are the days of just needing talented petroleum engineers. Today, and in the future, we need software engineers, computer science majors, and experts in artificial intelligence. We need business majors, safety and environmental experts, scientists, and much more. These types of skills and expertise can come from a wide variety of industries. So, think about new geographic locations where energy may not be a top-of-mind, but talent is strong. And consider what life experiences could be an asset to your organization and the industry. Then, be there and be proactive about sharing your company's message with high-potential candidates from non-traditional backgrounds. When you assemble a diverse workforce with people from different backgrounds, skills, talents, thoughts, and perspectives, you will find your company benefits from greater innovation, stronger growth, higher productivity, and reduced turnover.

Attracting the talent, you need to run your business is tough and it is competitive. For the energy industry to compete, we must evolve to attract the talent of today... and tomorrow. That means oil and gas companies must invest time and energy in developing organizational culture, creating opportunities, and sharing those opportunities with non-traditional targets. Create opportunities, and talent will follow. ■

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Commonwealth Court rejects DEP/EQB efforts to avoid responsibility for not complying with CDAC statute

Update by Kevin Moody - PIOGA General Counsel & Vice President of Government Affairs

In the case of PA Independent Oil & Gas Association, et al. v. DEP & EQB, the Commonwealth Court on April 16th overruled the Preliminary Objections (POs) raised by the two state regulatory bodies.¹ The three industry trade associations (PIOGA, PGCC & PIPP) are challenging the lawfulness of the process used to develop the “Control of VOC Emissions from Conventional Oil and Natural Gas Sources” (Conventional VOC Regulation).² The associations assert that the two regulatory bodies failed to comply with the clear directive in a 2016 statute, the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Development Act (Act 52 of 2016), that:

Any rulemaking concerning conventional oil and gas wells that the Environmental Quality Board undertakes after the effective date of this act **shall be undertaken separately and independently of unconventional wells** or other subjects and **shall include a regulatory analysis form** submitted to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission **that is restricted to the subject of conventional oil and gas wells.** (emphasis added)

That statute also created the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Development Advisory Council (CDAC) to examine and make recommendations regarding existing technical regulations and policies implemented by DEP under Title 58 of PA's Consolidated Statutes (58 Pa.CS) as well as to review and comment on the formulation and drafting of all technical regulations proposed under Title 58. <https://dced.pa.gov/pa-grade-crude-development-advisory-council/>.

CDAC is also charged with developing:

- a regulatory framework for environmental oversight and enforcement of the conventional oil and gas industry while also promoting the long-term viability of the conventional industry;
- a plan to increase PA grade crude oil production in an environmentally responsible way; and
- an environmentally responsible and economically viable production water management option.

A different section of the CDAC statute abrogated the DEP's 2016 update to regulations concerning the operations of conventional oil and gas wells and contained the directive quoted above applicable to “any” future regulation concerning conventional oil and gas wells. The court rejected the argument of DEP/EQB that it was clear and free

from doubt that this directive did not apply to the Conventional VOC Regulation because it was promulgated under a Title 35 statute: the Pennsylvania Air Pollution Control Act.

The court's decision requires the regulatory bodies to answer the statements in the associations' lawsuit and paves the way for the associations to seek prompt final resolution of its lawsuit. This would require DEP/EQB to start over with the development of a VOC regulation concerning conventional oil and gas wells by communicating with the conventional oil and gas industry. So far – for over six (6) years – DEP has not done so. ■

For further details, you can refer to the official court decision: PA Independent Oil & Gas Assoc., et al. v. DEP & EQB of the Com. of PA. ³

¹ <https://law.justia.com/cases/pennsylvania/commonwealth-court/2024/574-m-d-2022.html>

² <https://casetext.com/case/pa-indep-oil-gas-assn-v-dept-of-envtl-prot-of-the-commonwealth>

³ <https://law.justia.com/cases/pennsylvania/commonwealth-court/2024/574-m-d-2022.html>

PIOGA Members in the Community



PIOGA is looking for more Members in the Community feature stories! If you are a PIOGA member and have a positive community story to share - please reach out to meghan@pioga.org.

We are looking for stories of community impact - education programs, volunteering, positive industry outreach, donations, etc.

It is time to showcase all the good in our industry and shed light on the positives! These feature stories/articles will be used in PIOGA's social media and future marketing materials!

If you have any questions or suggestions for articles - please reach out! Together we can educate and promote the Oil & Gas industry!



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Oil & Gas Dashboard

Sources

American Refining Group:
www.amref.com/Crude-Prices-New.aspx
 Ergon Oil Purchasing: www.ergon.com/crudeoil
 Gas futures: quotes.ino.com/exchanges/?r=NYMEX_NG
 Baker Hughes rig count: bakerhughesrig-count.gcs-web.com/na-rig-count
 NYMEX strip chart: Mid American Natural Resources
 Basis futures values: BHE Eastern Energy Field Services

Penn Grade Crude Oil Prices

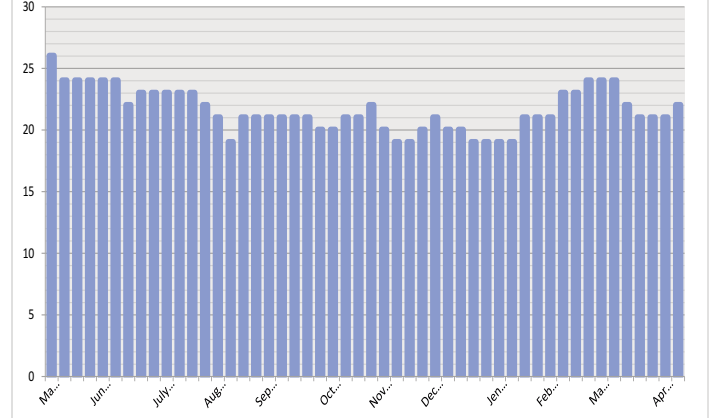


Natural Gas Futures Closing Prices

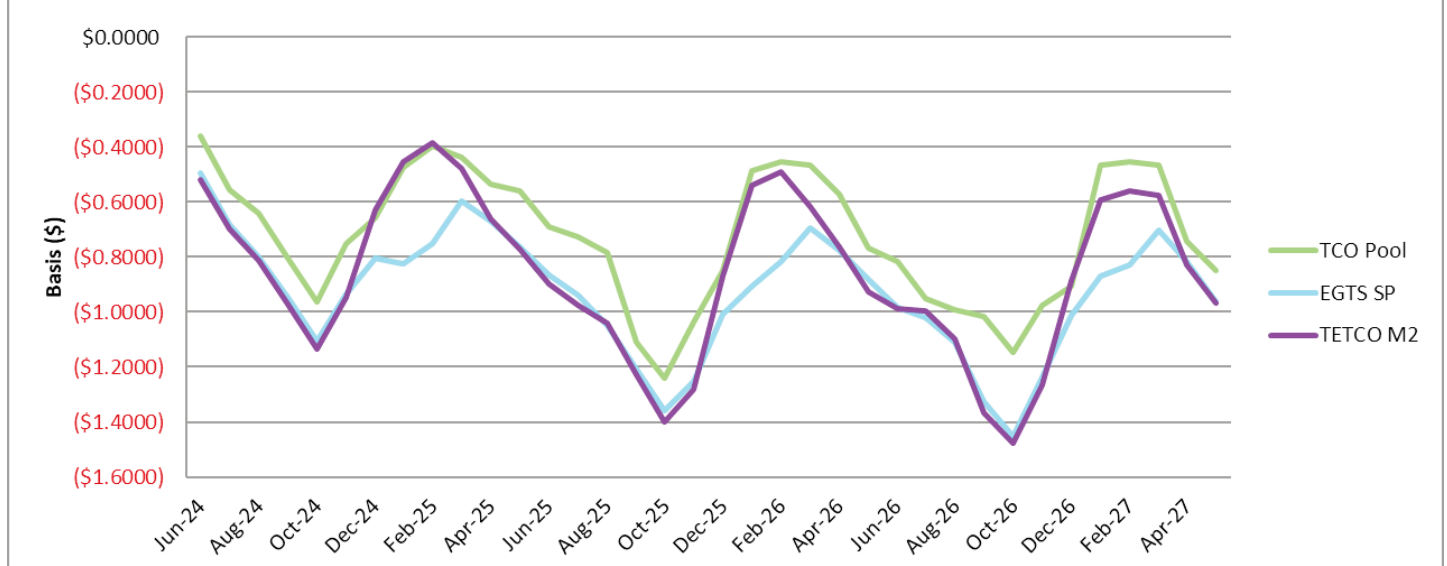
June 2024	2.048
July	2.337
August	2.451
September	2.456
October	2.573
November	2.980
December	3.510
January 2025	3.775
February	3.608
March	3.219

Prices as of May 3, 2024

Pennsylvania Rig Count



Basis Futures Values



Northeast Pricing Report — May 2024

Increased demand is anticipated because of the greater amount of feedgas flowing to LNG export plants. In addition, producers have continued to reduce gas output. The production of gas in the Lower 48 US states fell to an average of 95.7 billion cubic feet per day (bcfd) in May, down from 98.1 bcfd in April. In December 2023, the monthly record was 105.5 bcfd. Based on daily data, the output was expected to decline by 2.1 bcfd in the last eight days, leading to a preliminary 15-week low of 95.6 bcfd on Thursday. In the Northeast, there has been little price movement.

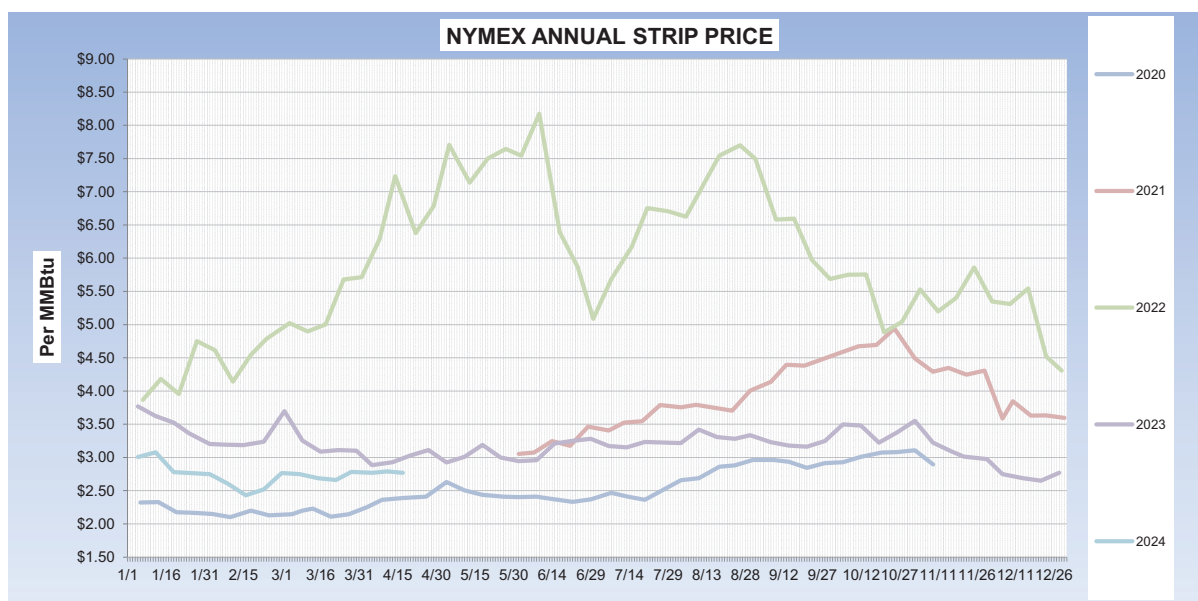
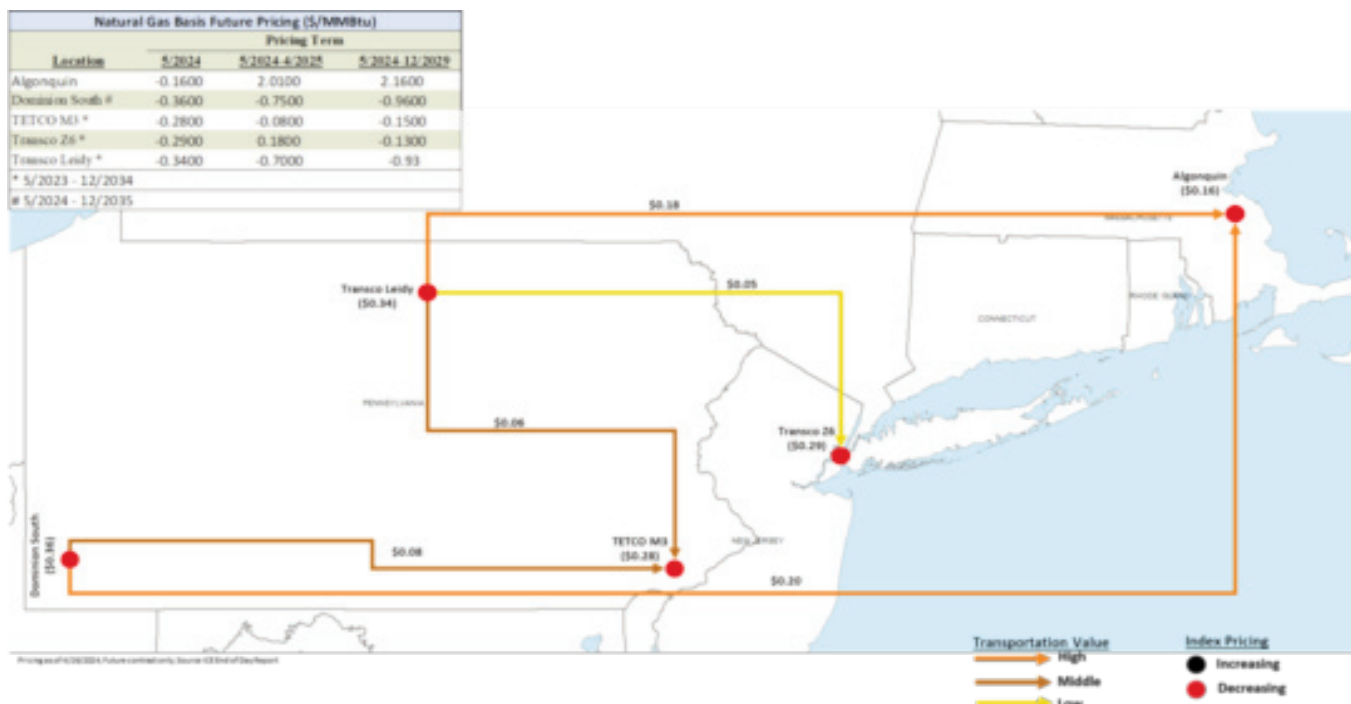
Most of the values for transportation have decreased. Dominion South to Algonquin has dropped by \$0.09 per MMBtu, while Transco Leidy to Algonquin has dipped by another \$0.08 per MMBtu compared to last month. The value for Transco Leidy to Transco Z6 and TETCO M3 to Transco Z6 have decreased by \$0.18 and \$0.11 per MMBtu respectively. However, all other transportation routes have increased by \$0.01 per MMBtu.

Transportation Value Market Indicator



Provided by Bertison-George, LLC

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The information in this report was obtained from reliable sources but is not guaranteed for accuracy. The views and opinions set forth are solely those of the author(s), and are subject to change without notice.

Spud Report: April



The data show below comes from the Department of Environmental Protection. A variety of interactive reports are available by going to the Office of Oil and Gas Management page at www.dep.pa.gov and choosing Report from the menu. The table is sorted by operator and lists the total wells reported as drilled last month. **Spud** is the date drilling began at a well site. The **API number** is the drilling permit number issued to the well operator. An asterisk (*) after Operator indicates a conventional well.

Operator	Wells	Date	API#	County	Municipality	Operator	Wells	Date	API#	County	Municipality
BF Adventures LLC *	2	4/3/24	123-48889	Warren	Glade Twp	Range Resources	8	4/13/24	003-22659	Allegheny	Fawn Twp
		4/11/24	123-48888	Warren	Glade Twp			4/13/24	003-22660	Allegheny	Fawn Twp
Cameron Energy Co *	3	4/1/24	123-48861	Warren	Sheffield			4/13/24	003-22661	Allegheny	Fawn Twp
		4/8/24	123-48864	Warren	Sheffield			4/14/24	003-22657	Allegheny	Fawn Twp
		4/15/24	123-48865	Warren	Sheffield			4/27/24	125-29120	Washington	Chartiers
Chesapeake Appalachia	4	4/1/24	015-23912	Bradford	Wysox Twp			4/27/24	125-29117	Washington	Chartiers
		4/1/24	015-23913	Bradford	Wysox Twp			4/27/24	125-29118	Washington	Chartiers
		4/1/24	015-23914	Bradford	Wysox Twp			4/27/24	125-29119	Washington	Chartiers
		4/1/24	015-23911	Bradford	Wysox Twp	Scorpio Energy *	3	4/5/24	053-31041	Forest	Howe Twp
Daniel P Hornburg *		4/29/24	123-48893	Warren	Sheffield			4/18/24	053-31040	Forest	Howe Twp
Evergreen Resource Co *		4/29/24	123-48905	Warren	Pleasant			4/29/24	053-31043	Forest	Howe Twp
First Amer Energy	2	4/15/24	123-48850	Warren	Mead Twp	SWN Prod Co LLC	2	4/15/24	115-23156	Susquehanna	Great Bend
		4/22/24	123-48849	Warren	Mead Twp			4/15/24	115-23155	Susquehanna	Great Bend
Gas & Oil Mgmt. Assn *		4/10/24	123-48853	Warren	Pleasant						
Howard Drilling Inc. *	2	4/2/24	083-57685	McKean	Wetmore						
		4/9/24	083-57684	McKean	Wetmore						
Mead Oil LLC *		4/29/24	123-48902	Warren	Sheffield						
Olympus Energy, LLC	2	4/8/24	129-29232	Westmoreland	Penn Twp						
		4/8/24	129-29233	Westmoreland	Penn Twp						
R & N Resources LLC *	3	4/1/24	123-48812	Warren	Sheffield						
		4/8/24	123-48813	Warren	Sheffield						
		4/18/24	123-48816	Warren	Sheffield						

	April	March	Feb.	Jan	Dec. 23'
Total Wells	35	37	40	48	46
Unconventional Gas	16	29	34	37	41
Conventional Gas	0	0	0	1	0
Oil	17	5	4	1	7
Combination Oil/Gas	2	3	2	10	1

New PIOGA Membership Category - Gas Storage Operator

PIOGA has a new Membership Category - Gas Storage Operator!

If you are an individual or business entity engaged in the storage of natural gas with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - you can now join PIOGA!

Any current PIOGA members who know anyone in the gas storage operations sector, please share the news! Help PIOGA increase our membership and get more industry operators involved!

Storage members are entitled to vote.

For information on the new gas storage operator membership, dues and other memberships, visit: <https://pioga.org/about/membership-and-benefits/>



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Calendar

PIOGA events

Information: www.pioga.org > **PIOGA Events**

PIOGATech: Pipeline Compliance

May 21. Ferrante's Lakeview. Greensburg, Pa.

PIOGA's Oil Patch Classic Golf Outing

June 4. Wanango Country Club. Reno, Pa.

PIOGA's Producers Golf Outing

July 25. Pennhills Club. Bradford, Pa.

PIOGA's Annual Divot Digger Golf Outing

Augut 22. Tam O'Shanter. Hermitage, Pa.

Other events

GO-WV Science Teacher Workshop

June 5-6. Morgantown, WV
(<https://pioga.org/event/go-wv-science-teacher-workshop/>)

LDC Gas Forum Northeast

June 10-12. Boston, Mass.
(<https://pioga.org/event/ldc-gas-forum-northeast/>)

Full Calendar - PIOGA Event & Meeting Schedule -

<https://pioga.org/event/pioga-event-and-meeting-schedule-2024/>

PIOGA Members and Industry Partners - Please email meghan@pioga.org to advertise upcoming events.

New PIOGA members Welcome!

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Steve Williams
9345 Ravenna Road - Unit A. Twinsburg, OH 44087
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