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The monthly newsletter of the Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association July 2024 • Issue 171

TOUR OF SHELL POLYMERS - MONACA FACILITY







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On July 10th, PIOGA Committee Members enjoyed a tour of the Shell Polymers Cracker Plant in Monaca. A guided tour through the facility allowed members to learn more about the ethylene cracker plant and the processes of producing polyethylene pellets.

The plant produces an estimated 1.6 million tons of polyethylene pellets annually. The pellets create products that we see and use every day, including: common household goods; consumer and food packaging; as well as industrial and utility products.





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PIOGA HAPPENINGS

JULY

24th

PIOGA's Producer Golf Outing



<u>AUGUST</u>

PIOGA.ORG > EVENTS

22nd

PIOGA's Annual Divot Diggers Golf Outing

2024 PIOGA Committee Schedule

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

August 14; September 11; October 9; November 13 – Travel Day TBD; December 11

<u>Membership Committee</u> (Meetings will be held from 2-3 pm the second Thursday of each month) *August 13; September 10; October 8: November 12: December 10*

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

<u>Diversity Committee</u> (9-10 am. All Diversity Committee Meetings are virtual/call-in only.) **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 up*dates.*

PIOGA's New General Counsel & Vice President of Governmental Affairs - Todd M. Pappasergi, Esq.

odd Pappasergi, Esq. has been appointed as PIOGA's new General Counsel & Vice President of Governmental Affairs, following an extensive search process. Kevin Moody, Esq. the current General Counsel & Vice President of Governmental Affairs, is set to retire in August.

On July 1, Pappasergi, began as the next General Counsel and Vice President of Governmental Affairs at PIOGA. Todd has lived in Southwestern Pennsylvania his entire life. He obtained both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. After graduating law school in 2008, Todd clerked for Justice Max Baer of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for six years. He then

transitioned into private practice, working for two different Washington County law firms from 2014-2021, concentrating in commercial litigation (including an active oil and gas practice) while also serving as the appointed solicitor or outside general counsel for several municipal governments and non-profit organizations. Most recently, Todd was the Legal Director of Global Contract Management for Coupa Software, Inc.

While Todd thoroughly enjoyed his foray into technology law, he missed being involved in legal and political issues that impacted Pennsylvania's citizens and business even more. Living in Cecil Township, Washington County with his wife (Lacey), two children (Vivian and Alec), and two dogs (Jack and Gus), Todd sees firsthand the issues that PIOGA's members face on a daily basis. "What excites me the most about joining PIOGA is the ability to make a positive difference not just in my literal backyard, but for our members and all Pennsylvanians. Pennsylvania remains at the forefront of oil and gas exploration in the 21st century, and I can't wait to learn from and work with Dan, Kevin, and the rest of the amazing staff to make sure that Pennsylvania remains our country's leader in the responsible production, transportation, and storage of energy resources."

Check out the August PIOGA Press for an interview with the new hire, Todd Pappasergi, and the September issue for a

PIOGA farewell to the GREAT Kevin Moody.



PIOGATech Water & Waste Management Training

September 12th - 9 am - 4 pm. @ Hilton Garden Inn -Cranberry.

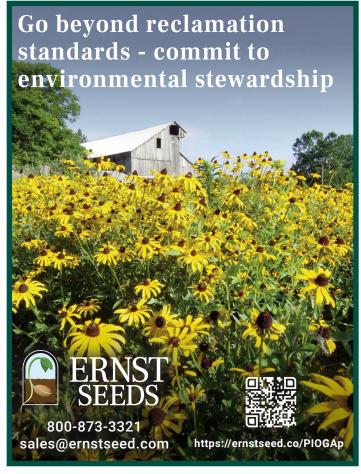
Includes Full-day Training, Breakfast/Lunch and Reception. Also Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) and Professional Development Hours (PDH) certificates.

Tentative Topics: PFAS; UIC Wells; ESCG4; DEP Updates; Legal & Regulatory Updates; Critical Element Study; Trenchless Technologies.

For more information and to register:

https://pioga.org/event/piogatech-water-waste-management/



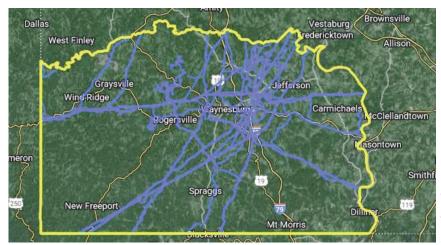


Appalachian Natural Gas Basis - Columbia vs. Eastern

June 2024. David Marks, Managing Director - PA Energy Fuels LLC.

atural gas production originating in Appalachia makes its way into several different interstate pipelines serving a variety of markets. The price that a developer receives for this production can differ substantially, depending on which pipeline transports this supply – even though the points of origination may be in close proximity to each other.

This discussion focuses on the price difference for supplies into Columbia Gas Transmission (TCO) versus Eastern Energy Transmission (formerly Dominion Transmission). We call the difference in price a 'spread.' But we're getting ahead of ourselves already. First, we have to understand Basis.



Greene County Pennsylvania has a lot of production; how is it that Basis is different for different pipes? Why are producers paid so differently when the gas is coming from the same county? These questions are answered in this paper. map NPMS

What is Natural Gas Basis?

Basis, for this discussion, is the difference in price for the same commodity in two different locations. A bottle of sunscreen in Seattle Washington in June has a different value than that same bottle in Ft. Lauderdale Florida. And so a quantity of gas at the wellhead - where sub-

stantially less people can really use it – has a different value than that same quantity at a utility's city gate, where competition for delivered gas can be fierce.

Basis is simply the difference between the price at Henry Hub – the benchmark for natural gas in Louisiana – and all other points, including TCO Pool, the main pooling point on Columbia, and South Point, the main pooling point on Eastern. Basis values from Henry to TCO Pool differ – sometimes greatly – from Basis values to South Point. And this is the focus of this writing.

The Marcellus Phenomenon - The Marcellus Shale Phenomenon, which started in 2008, brought huge amounts of gas to a commercial level. The incremental volume flipped Basis for Appalachian production, and for prices across the Northeast. That is. Basis in Appalachia, which had been a positive component to price, suddenly began to change and turn negative. There was so much gas in Pennsylvania and West Virginia that prices fell, and Basis went negative to Henry. Pipeline companies that had flowed south to north from Texas and Louisiana reversed the flow of gas and new pipelines were built. Billions of dollars were invested. And Basis continued to change dramatically.

Before Marcellus, Basis for TCO Pool on Columbia and South Point on Dominion (now Eastern) was relatively close in value. Basis could average five to ten cents above Henry on Dominion and ten to twenty cents on Columbia. The price was tied to transport costs to get field gas to Pittsburgh. Hence, Basis for supply shipped on Texas Eastern from the Gulf Coast was around twenty-five cents – again, the approximate cost to ship from Texas to Pittsburgh. Basis also included a penny or more as a premium, depending on circumstances regarding demand.

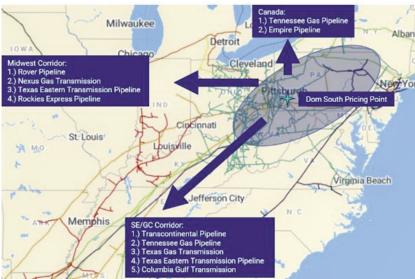
Today, Appalachia is swimming in gas. The Basis component is no longer relative to pipeline transport charges. Appalachian supplies are now also shipped south. Transport is still a function of the Basis price, but because of so much gas in Appalachia, with different shares on different pipelines, the price differential between Henry and Pittsburgh has become distorted. Normal market forces, such as LNG feedstock demand, cooling demand, and data center power needs have also changed the landscape. In a very short amount of time, Basis from Henry to TCO Pool began to differ substantially from Basis to South Point. Today, this difference fluctuates weekly if not daily.

Production – where it goes is one factor that determines how it's valued - Basis can differ on pipelines with the same origin because each pipe has different downstream assets. That is, production from nearly the same fields, entering two different pipes, can be valued differently when gas packages are earmarked for an industrial facility versus a commercial/residential

delivery point.

To illustrate this, consider the need for a gas-fired power plant. Demand can be more than 120,000 dts per day for a 1,000+ megawatt plant. Gas packages scheduled for delivery to this plant will have a stronger Basis than packages shipped to a small town on an alternate pipeline. Basis on Pipe A will be different – and be a higher value - than Basis on Pipe B.

Another example involves LNG demand. Much Appalachian feedstock for LNG exports is transported via Columbia and Columbia Gulf, a straight shot to the Gulf Coast. And exports occur for one reason Europe and Asia fetch a much higher price than Henry. The Basis from Henry to Europe and Asia is positive and in dollars. Supply into Columbia Gulf can be priced higher than the same gas scheduled



South Point on Eastern serves as a liquid proxy for Mid-Atlantic Basis. TCO Pool on Columbia serves as the proxy for Mid-Atlantic and points south. The map shows the different corridors out of the Appalachian basin. - from Aegis Hedging.

into Eastern meant for heating homes and storing gas in Pennsylvania. Hence, TCO Pool is more valuable and has a lower negative Basis.

This higher TCO Pool value occurs as demand for LNG feedstock rises, while storage on Eastern Energy is adequate to back up demand for supply into Pittsburgh. Moreover, the prolific production into Eastern, along with its huge storage assets, removes scarcity, while the desire to capture a higher price on TCO creates competition for capacity, and for supplies scheduled into Columbia Gulf and onward to LNG export facilities.

Columbia and Eastern operate differently to serve different markets -The Columbia System spans from Kentucky north to Ohio and New York, southeast through Virginia, and east to New Jersey. This system has been serving Mid-Atlantic cities for more than a hundred years. But the system is constrained throughout, and the legacy shippers - those who leased capacity to TCO Pool years, and even decades ago – are holding onto this precious asset. There is not enough space for every producer who wants to ship to the higher-priced TCO Pool. Producers compete aggressively on Columbia, as TCO Pool is the most liquid point on the system. Once there, gas packages can move to the Gulf Coast.

In stark contrast, producers flowing into Eastern have no problem making it to the highly liquid South Point Pool. Fewer constraints exist to reach South Point, and the gathering and transport costs for producers to flow to South Point can be much lower versus the costs to reach TCO Pool. The trade-off is the market value at the other end. Only a small percentage of Eastern shippers make it to Cove Point Maryland to enjoy an uptick in LNG export prices.

Table 1 (Below) lists the two major Appalachian trading points, South Point (EGSP) and TCO Pool, with a point description, the relative pipeline to the pool, regions of production and downstream markets. Table 1 illustrates that, although production can originate in close proximity, receiving pipelines deliver to varying markets that will yield different prices.

TCO Pool and South Point are two of the most major pooling points for Appalachian production south of Punxsutawne	эy
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TCO Pool and South Point are two of the most major pooling points for Apparachian production south of Punxsulawney								
TRADING POINT >	EGSP	TCO Pool TABLE 1						
Point Description	Eastern Gas South Point – the virtual pool in the pipeline's southern region – mirrors TETCO M-2 most seasons	The virtual pool in the southwest of the system at Leach KY						
Interstate Pipeline	Eastern Gas Transmission & Storage	Columbia Gas Transmission						
Producer Regions	Southeast Ohio, Southwest PA, Northern WV	Eastern OH, Western PA, most of WV						
Market Regions	Ohio Valley, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, PA & WV Storage, Central Mid-Atlantic including Baltimore, Washington & Richmond	Gateway to Columbia Gulf, Kanawha & Ohio Valleys, Columbus, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, OH Storage, Mid-Atlantic						

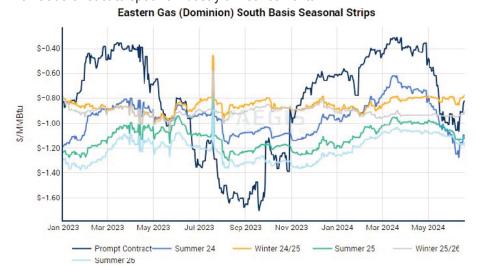
Continues on page 6

Gas Basis Continued from page 5

Industry Announcements can turn Basis on a dime - The chart below shows that changes in the rate of rise and fall, and even the direction of Basis values move when traders react to specific industry announcements.

This chart shows reactions to announcements such as the September 12th news that Transco's REA project will go online, the December 20th announcement that FERC approved the MVP Southgate Extension, and February 21st when Equitrans delayed the MVP startup.

The June 11th announcement is particularly interesting because Transco is requesting approval for another 160 bcf of capacity online in July, allowing MVP to optimize space into Transco, thereby increasing the utility of these systems. These situations can help us



This seasonal chart is helpful for seeing how Basis prices react to announcements. Eastern Gas is often used to discuss price action in Appalachia, serving as a proxy to other named hubs.

understand how demand on different pipes, and with it, value, immediately impacts Basis.

Change in Season always means a Basis adjustment - As the seasons change and the temperatures move up or down. demand changes can naturally affect Basis. Higher demand means higher prices. When demand for Appalachian supplies increases, Basis strengthens. And when demand falls, Basis can weaken.

However, if the NYMEX rallies while demand increases in Appalachia, Basis can actually LOSE value, to the extent that Basis does not rise faster than the NYMEX. The opposite is also true – when the NYMEX falls, Basis can increase in value to maintain a price level that matches local demand, possibly for storage fill or heating and cooling loads.

Because supplies into TCO Pool generally have a different final destination than supplies into South Point, seasonal changes can also be offset by the differing weather at delivery points. If a large amount of supply on Columbia is headed south for LNG export, while at the same time balmy winter weather is in Pennsylvania, then Basis at TCO Pool could strengthen while Basis at South Point weakens. And the opposite is also true. If temps in Pennsylvania plunge and storage on Eastern is being pulled on hard while LNG exports fall, then Basis at South Point can strengthen while Basis at TCO Pool could become weaker.

Table 2 (below) is taken from the December 29th market. The spread between South Point and TCO Pool is 16¢ (\$0.615 -\$0.455). That is, TCO Pool is 16¢ more valuable than South Point.

Table 3, (next page) from June 19th, shows that South Point Basis has deteriorated by 21.5¢ and TCO Pool has widened also by 23.3¢. This does not mean that demand has fallen on both pipelines. Rather, Basis traders have sold off positions to keep pace with the rising NYMEX. In May, when the Prompt Month changed to June and prices rallied by more than 50 cents at Henry Hub, this also lifted trading hubs all across the county. The market said that the rise in value at Henry Hub is not equivalent to the rise in value in Appalachia. This of course is because the Appalachian Basin has a huge supply due to the Marcellus phenomenon. So Basis falls when the NYMEX rallies in a big way, because Appalachia is oversupplied.

TABLE 2

TRADE POINT >		SSP South Point	TCO Pool Columbia Gas Transmission		
APPL'N BASIS	CHANGE	CHANGE SETTLE		SETTLE	
Prompt Month	-4.2¢	-0.615	-2.7¢	-0.455	
Winter 24-25	-4.2¢	-0.608	-1.8¢ -0.447		
Summer 24	-2.0¢	-0.967	-1.5¢	-0.802	
1 year	-2.4¢	-0.914	-1.4¢	-0.738	
2 years	-2.0¢	-0.992	-1.3¢	-0.794	
3 years	-1.9¢	-1.028	-1.0¢	-0.823	

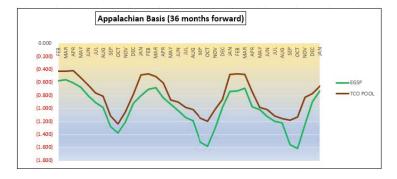
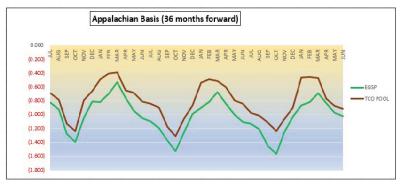


TABLE 3

TRADE POINT >		GSP South Point	TCO Pool Columbia Gas Transmission			
APPL'N BASIS	CHANGE	SETTLE	CHANGE	SETTLE		
Prompt Month	+1.5¢	-0.830	-1.8¢	-0.688		
Summer 24	-1.1¢	-1.109	-1.4¢	-0.961		
Winter 24-25	-1.0¢	-0.783	-0.1¢	-0.545		
1 year	-1.0¢	-0.925	-0.6¢	-0.726		
2 years	-0.8¢	-0.996	-0.3¢	-0.777		
3 years	-0.7¢	-1.021	-0.2¢	-0.803		



The Daily Basis Change Table 2 (Left/page 6) is from December 29th of last year; Table 3 (Above) is from June 19th.

End-users, Storage and Export Demand can affect TCO Pool and South Point differently - We began by saying that Appalachian production makes its way into different interstate pipelines serving different markets. These markets have different levels of demand depending on weather, pipeline conditions, geopolitical events and regulatory issues.

Basis traders must focus on weather, both in Appalachia and at the delivery points. Weather in Appalachia can be noticeably different from the weather on the Gulf Coast, or in Richmond or Rochester. If temps are plunging in Ohio (served by TCO storage) and LNG exports are rising while storage on Eastern is full, TCO Pool Basis can strengthen while South Point could weaken.

A pipeline disruption that stops flow to a major demand center will affect Basis immediately. And the disruption to Australian LNG exports to Asia could lift Basis both at TCO Pool and South Point, with TCO Pool getting more of a lift having a larger share of that market. And the explosion of a Russian pipeline serving Europe or a FERC approval to start up a new pipeline moving Appalachian supplies will affect Basis, as demand for US supplies suddenly increases. And if workers go on strike at a major steel facility and plants get shut, Basis at South Point could tank, as some supply comes in via South Point while Columbia is less affected.

Columbia Storage versus Eastern Storage – they differ greatly - Columbia (TCO) has 620+ bcf of underground storage capacity in four states. Eastern Gas Transmission (EGTS) operates 17 underground storage fields with 756 Bcf of total storage capacity and 420 bcf of working gas capacity in six states.

The value of Columbia's storage is impacted by constraints on that system. On the coldest days, Operational Flow Orders are common, and deliveries are impacted, lessening the value of TCO storage versus Eastern storage. Additionally, EGTS has more storage capacity which can translate into higher demand during storage injection season. Both of these situations affect Basis differently on each pipeline.

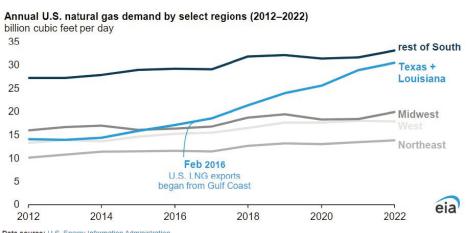
LNG Exports are making a difference - LNG exports had been on the rise before the 2022 war in Europe. Now, the US is

the largest supplier of LNG to Europe (66%) and Asia (26%). 2023 was the third year in a row that the US supplied more LNG to Europe than any other country. Russia's invasion of Ukraine drove exports higher. Europe's increased dependency on US LNG affects TCO Basis.

The Cove Point LNG terminal receives feed gas from Marcellus and Utica shales. With one train, the terminal can export 820,000 dts per day. Production capacity is expected to remain 5.75 million tons per year through 2030, so Basis at South Point won't fluctuate as TCO can.

Continues on page 11

LNG-exporting Gulf Coast states drove U.S. natural gas demand growth



Note: Demand=domestic consumption (residential, commercial, industrial, electric power) plus gross exports. LNG=liquefied natural gas.

Demand Louisiana and Texas grew by 116%, or 16.0 Bcf/d from 2012 to 2022, driven by increased demand for feedgas for LNG exports.

EPA's Small Entity Compliance Guide – Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed and Modified Sources and Emissions

6.24. Schneider Downs. Daniel Struth

https://schneiderdowns.com/our-thoughts-on/epas-small-entity-compliance-guide/

Back in December 2023, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a final rule aimed to reduce methane and other harmful air pollutants. That rule became effective May 7, 2024, and targeted methane "waste emissions charges (WEC)" from the oil and gas sector. The rule implements Section 60113 of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA), which gives the EPA the power to act as tax assessor, collector and enforcer.

For a summary recap of the new rules relating to the methane emissions charge, see Our Thoughts On the WEC charge.

Since then, the EPA has shown a continued focus on methane emission regulations, and moving forward to March 8, 2024, established a new rule on "Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review."

These new rules became effective on May 7, 2024, alongside the new rules that included the methane emissions charge.

Most recently, on May 20, 2024, the EPA published a small entity compliance guide for the new emission standards that were part of the March 8, 2024 rules.

The purpose of the guide, while non-authoritative, was created to assist small entities in complying with the new rules for certain impacted facilities (or points of emissions).

The impacted facilities mentioned within the guide are included within Table 1-1 of the referenced guide linked below. A summary of these impacted facilities (or points of emission sources) includes:

- Well completions (including two separate subcategories based upon type)
- Well liquids unloading
- New wells with associated gas (including three subcategories based upon construction dates)
- Wells with associated gas reconstructed or modified after December 6, 2022
- Wet seal centrifugal compressors
- Dry seal centrifugal compressors
- Reciprocating compressors
- Process controllers
- Pumps

Fugitive emissions from well sites and compressor stations

Equipment leaks at natural gas processing plants Sweetening units

Storage vessels

The guide goes on to outline steps for determining facility status, compliance timelines, testing and monitoring protocols, reporting obligations and recordkeeping/retention protocols.

As mentioned within the guide, certain requirements such as reporting and recordkeeping will likely be relevant for most, if not all, of the impacted facilities described above. If you own or operate more than one affected facility, you may submit one report for multiple affected facilities, provided the report contains all of its required information.

Have you read through the compliance guide to assess how these new rules could impact your operations? There are specific requirements for compliance for each of the abovementioned points of emissions. ■



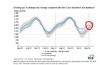
Links: Small Entity Compliance Guide

Final Rule – Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review

(https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/03/08/2024-00366/standards-of-performance-for-new-reconstructed-and-modified-sources-and-emissions-guide-lines-for)

David Marks at PA Energy Fuels LLC is your **NG Daily Report Provider** for Appalachian Forward Prices, the Appalachian Index, Eastern and Columbia Basis, Weekly ElA Storage, and regulatory and project news that affects forward pricing for Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia markets.





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PA Energy Fuels LLC

PA Energy Fuels 1014 Kennedy Ave Duquesne PA 15110

412.554.7746 david.marks1@verizon.net

In The Courts

Federal Courts Dismiss Two Climate Lawsuits

Fossil fuel opponent's efforts to advance climate goals through U.S. courts took a hit recently with a pair of federal court rulings.

Juliana v. Unites States – May 1st ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. According to court documents, the decision upheld a federal district court's dismissal of a case brought by twenty-one plaintiffs, which claimed that "by failing to adequately respond to the threat of climate change, the federal government has violated a putative "right to stable climate system that can sustain human life."

G.B. v. U.S. EPA – May 8th court order granted the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's motion to dismiss the case. The lawsuit entailed a group of California minors alleging the agency's inadequate regulation is responsible for their climate change harms.

Climate Lawsuits

On May 22, Republican attorneys general for nineteen states filed a motion for leave to file bill of complaint with the U.S. Supreme Court that asserts climate lawsuits against oil companies by California, Connecticut, Minnesota, New Jersey and Rhode Island are an attempt to seize control of the country's energy policy outside the democratic process. The nineteen attorneys general motion is asking to block several Democratic-lead states from pursuing climate change-related litigation against major oil and gas companies in state courts.

Hawaii agrees to 'historic' settlement in youth climate case

Navahine v. Hawaii Department of Transportation (DOT) — (June 2024) Hawaii has reached an historic agreement in response to litigation by youth activists, promising to speed up the de-carbonization of its transport sector to protect their right to a safe and healthy climate. Thirteen young people from across the islands brought the case in June 2022, arguing that their constitutional rights to a life-sustaining climate were being violated. This case was the world's first youth-led constitutional climate case seeking to address climate pollution from the transportation sector.

Judge throws out anti-ESG lawsuit against New York City pension funds.

July 2, a New York state judge has thrown out a lawsuit against three of the five pensions funds in the New York

City Retirement Systems. Plaintiffs claimed that the pension funds violated their fiduciary duties by supporting divestment of fossil fuel holdings. New York State Supreme Court Judge Andrea Masley ruled July 2 that she dismissed the complaint because "plaintiffs here have not, and will not, suffer any monetary losses based upon defendants' investment decisions."

Colorado judge advances climate lawsuit against oil companies

At the end of June, the Boulder County District Court Judge said that a lawsuit filed by the city and county of Boulder against oil majors Exxon Mobil and Suncor Energy does not – as the companies contend – attempt to regulate emissions or stomp on the energy industry's First Amendment rights. The judge rejected claims from the companies that Boulder's climate liability case is an attempt to use Colorado law "to control the worldwide activity of companies that play a crucial role in virtually every sector of the global economy."

Alaska vs. Federal Government

July 3 – Alaska filed a lawsuit challenging new federal regulations imposed for oil and gas leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPR-A). In April, President Joe Biden's administration took steps to limit both oil and gas drilling and mining in Alaska. The lawsuit seeks to prevent overreach by federal agencies that disregard the states' rights. Alaska said it had sought to participate in the rulemaking process, submitted thoughtful comments and requested additional time to prepare comments. However, it claims that the "rules were passed in haste to beat a potential change in congressional oversight."

July 2 – Alaska sued the federal government seeking to recover revenues it lost out on after the Biden administration canceled oil and gas drilling leases in the 19.6-millionacre federal National Wildlife Refuge.

Baltimore judge tosses landmark climate change lawsuit

Baltimore Circuit Court judge, Videtta Brown, ruled that the city cannot regulate global emissions and swatted down the city's arguments that it merely sought climate-related damages from the defendants (oil/gas companies), not the abatement of their emissions. She further stated that the court does not accept the city's contention that it does not seek to "directly penalize emitters."

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Gas Basis Continued from page 7

Gulf Coast export capabilities include multiple facilities in Texas and Louisiana with a combined capability to export well over 11 bcf per day of LNG, or more than ten times the capability of Cove Point. It's no surprise that when prices rise in Europe, TCO Pool Basis reacts positively and in larger increments than South Point, because demand for LNG feedstock is much greater into the Gulf Coast than to Cove Point. Hence, TCO Pool Basis can rise in value more than Basis at South Point. The spread between the two has the propensity to be volatile.

Conclusion - The Basis value to TCO Pool varies from that of South Point, despite the fact that production entering these two pipes can come from the same area. This means the price that a developer receives will be different, depending on which pipeline - Columbia or Eastern - transports this supply.

Columbia and Eastern have differing markets. Deliveries to regions with extreme weather, or a changing industrial load, can see larger Basis fluctuations.

Columbia's system is constrained, and fully subscribed. The pipe is full and there is an added cost associated with moving new production to TCO Pool. In contrast, Eastern has less restrictions to move field gas to South Point, creating higher liquidity at a lower Basis price.

Industry Announcements, Prompt Month changes and seasonality can affect Basis as the NYMEX contract value changes. Basis can tighten or widen quickly on news or a calendar change.

And finally, Basis on Columbia reacts differently than on Eastern to export demand because liquidity on the Gulf Coast is higher than at Cove Point, an inverse of Basis values reacting to storage injection demand. When storage levels fall here, injection demand on Eastern is stronger. When storage falls in Europe, export demand is stronger on Columbia. The fundamentals reveal the contrast.





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Pennsylvania Budget - Update

Updates provided by Gmerek Government Relations and Article published by Spotlight PA

Gmerek Government Relations - Budget Update

Governor Josh Shapiro has signed all of the budget bills on his desk, with the exception of the Higher Education package. This action finalizes nearly every component of the state budget for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

The agreed-upon budget includes \$47.598 billion in enacted state appropriations from the General Fund, marking a \$2.72 billion (6.2%) increase from the previous fiscal year. The legislative proposals included in the budget agreement have been signed into law, as follows:

1. The General Appropriations Act (Senate Bill1001) -

Act 1A of 2024

- **2.** The Fiscal Code (House Bill 2310), which directs how funding is allocated, along with many other policy priorities. **Act 54 of 2024**
- 3. The Tax Code (Senate Bill 654) Act 56 of 2024
- **4.** The School Code (Senate Bill 700), which includes the formula by which state funds are allowed to K-12 public school and other education policies. **Act 55 of 2024**
- **5.** A package of bills addressing Higher Education funding and policy priorities (Senate Bill 1150, Senate Bill 1154, House Bill 897) **Not Signed**
- **6.** Funding for Pennsylvania's State-Related Universities (Penn State, Pitt, Temple Lincoln) (House Bill 613) **Act 11A of 2024**
- **7.** Multiple other proposals to authorize the budgets of the various independent entities which have already been signed into law by Governor Shapiro:
 - Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (SB1002, Act 2A of 2024)
 - Workers' Compensation Act Administration for the Department of Labor & Industry (SB1003, Act 3A of 2024)
 - Office of Small Business Advocate (SB1004, Act 4A of 2024)
 - Office of Consumer Advocate (SB1005, Act 5A of 2024)
 - Public School Employees' Retirement System (SB1006, Act 6A of 2024)
 - State Employees' Retirement System (SB1007, Act 7A of 2024)
 - Philadelphia Parking Authority (SB1008, Act 4A of 2024)

- Public Utility Commission (SB1009)
- Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (HB2337/SB1010, Act 10A of 2024) ■

Link to Bills and Amendments:

https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/bills/index.cfm

Compromises on education spending, tax cuts, and transit headline Pa.'s \$47.6B budget

Spotlight Pa. 7.11.24. by Stephen Caruso, Kate Huangpu & Katie Meyer.

Pennsylvania lawmakers have sent Gov. Josh Shapiro a \$47.6 billion budget that increases public education spending, funnels new dollars into economic development, provides a one-time boost for transit systems, and creates a new college scholarship program.

Education defined budget conversations more than any other issue this year, as lawmakers grappled over how to handle a state appellate court ruling that found the commonwealth unconstitutionally underfunds public school districts.

The final deal boosts K-12 education funding by more than \$1 billion. Much of that increased investment is targeted at the state's poorest school districts, though the total is less than what Shapiro, other Democrats, and advocates say is needed.

The deal between the Democratic governor, narrowly Democratic-controlled state House, and Republican-led state Senate was finished two weeks after the June 30 deadline and coalesced after a string of talks that ran late into the night.

"This agreed upon budget delivers on bipartisan priorities to invest in our students, create safer communities, grow our economy, cut taxes and costs, responsibly spend taxpayer dollars, and build a better future with more freedom and opportunity for all Pennsylvanians," Shapiro said in a statement.

The final budget is also notable for what it doesn't include. It doesn't cut the personal income tax or appropriate tax-payer money for private school vouchers, as state Senate Republicans wanted. Nor does it OK any of the revenue-generating ideas pitched by Shapiro, like legalizing recreational cannabis or regulating slot-like skill games.

Here's more on what the budget does and doesn't do:

More money for transit - Whether to increase funding for public transit systems emerged as a late sticking point in

talks.

Transit systems across the country have warned of an impending fiscal cliff as federal stimulus dollars run out. The issue is especially dire for large systems like Philadelphia's SEPTA and Pittsburgh's PRT, which have said they would have to cut services if they didn't get more state money. Systems in every corner of the commonwealth say they are similarly stressed.

In his February budget address, Shapiro pitched a \$283 million increase for buses, subways, and medical transportation, an idea first proposed by state House Democrats. State Senate Republicans expressed skepticism, saying such an increase would need to be tied to more aid for roads and bridges or funded by an independent revenue source.

GOP leaders at one point suggested regulating and taxing slot-like skill games — already seen in corner stores and taverns across Pennsylvania — and using the revenue to fund transit, but gaming's complicated politics sank the idea.

Still, the issue remained a top priority for state House Democrats. The final deal provides a one-time boost of \$80.5 million to transit agencies.

"I don't see how we can leave businesses and transit users in the lurch," state House Majority Leader Matt Bradford (D., Montgomery) told Spotlight PA on Tuesday.

Site development dollars and permitting reform - State lawmakers did approve one of Shapiro's key asks: \$500 million to provide grants or loans to developers or local government agencies so they can prepare sites for industrial or mixed-use projects.

His administration will hand out \$400 million to applicants, while the rest will be handled by a state board with legislative appointees.

Shapiro has argued the program will help make Pennsylvania more competitive as a location for economic projects with other states. State Senate Majority Leader Joe Pittman (R., Indiana) countered that quicker permits would be more helpful.

In the end, Pittman also got his wish, as lawmakers approved a streamlined process for businesses to apply for certain air, water, and land disturbance permits. Under the program, the state Department of Environmental Protection will select a third-party expert to review an applicant's permit request if the applicant pays for an expedited review. The agency must also set up an online portal so applicants can view permit statuses.

State dollars for solar schools - Lawmakers also agreed to fund a grant program to help schools, community colleges, and technical schools pay for solar energy projects and levied a new fee on electric vehicles to raise revenue for road maintenance.

The \$25 million grant program will be administered by the Department of Community and Economic Development, and the money will be used to pay for equipment, permitting fees, and other related costs.

The project is also designed to take advantage of federal tax credits for solar energy projects. State Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler (D., Philadelphia), the bill's author, has estimated that these credits would cover between 30% and 50% of installation costs that aren't covered by the state appropriation.

The legislature also approved a fixed, annual electric vehicle fee. Currently, electric vehicle users self-report the amount of energy they use to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and pay a tax based on that amount.

Moving forward, EV users will be charged a flat fee: \$200 in 2025, \$250 in 2026, and then an amount determined by PennDOT annually. The revenue recouped will be used to pay for highway and bridge maintenance.

Some environmental advocates and lawmakers pushed back against the bill, saying that it would disincentivize consumers from purchasing EVs, which emit fewer pollutants. However, the bills passed both chambers with large majorities as many lawmakers said they viewed the fee as an equitable payment for using the state's roads. Pennsylvania funds road and bridge maintenance through a gas tax.

Political bickering over state-related funding may end -Several changes to Pennsylvania's higher education system also made it into the final deal, though the legislature did not adopt an ambitious overhaul of Pennsylvania's higher education system pitched by Shapiro.

Lawmakers approved a new scholarship program, proposed by Republicans, that gives students in an "approved course of study," like nursing or education, up to \$5,000 per academic year. They must stay and work in Pennsylvania after graduation for 12 months per grant received.

Shapiro wanted to combine the systems that oversee Pennsylvania's 10 state-run universities and 15 community colleges and eventually cap tuition at \$1,000 per semester

Continues on next page

Budget Continued from page 13

for many families. That plan didn't make it into the final deal, but lawmakers did agree to create a new State Board of Higher Education, which will develop strategic plans for the systems and recommend ways for schools to coordinate.

That board will also include a new council tasked with making recommendations about how to assess performance and distribute funds to Pennsylvania's four state-related universities: Lincoln, Penn State, Pitt, and Temple.

The council is part of a plan to significantly change the way funding is approved for those schools. Currently, twothirds of the legislature must approve the funding. Moving forward, the council will come up with a new metric to dole out funding based on performance. Lawmakers have directed council members to consider factors like graduation and student retention rates.

Approving funding for the state-related universities has become increasingly difficult in recent years. Using the twothirds vote requirement, Republicans have blocked funding for political reasons, including protesting fetal tissue research conducted at the University of Pittsburgh and trans health care provided by Penn State.

Tax cuts and credits - A top priority for the business community is included in the deal: allowing companies to reduce their tax liability by increasing the percentage of annual operating losses they can carry forward.

Republicans argued that the increased deduction, which will match what is allowed under federal law by 2028, will help businesses get through their first few years.

"I was always told by my mentors, you're going to lose everything you got the first year, and the second year you hope to break even and the third year you might make enough money to pay your bills," state Sen. Greg Rothman (R., Cumberland) said. "And then you start making money."

The budget also gives employers tax credits if they help employees pay for child care expenses or match an employee's contribution to a state-run college savings plan. It also creates a state tax deduction for student loan interest.

The deal includes a bevy of tax credits targeted at politically popular industries and causes. Lawmakers approve such credits as a compromise instead of increasing state spending.

The deal expands an existing credit for companies that burn waste coal and creates a special zone in Reading in which taxes paid by developers can instead be used to pay down any debt taken out to build in a pre-defined neighborhood.

One loser? Cryptocurrency companies, which will no longer be eligible for a tax exemption that encourages the development of data centers in Pennsylvania.

Shapiro, who put a rare spotlight on housing in his budget address, got some key wins in the area.

The budget increases the amount of realty transfer tax revenue that goes to an affordable housing program, boosts state homelessness aid by \$5 million, and provides \$2.5 million to fund legal protections for low-income tenants facing evictions.

"We believe in a better Pennsylvania," state Rep. Lindsay Powell (D. Allegheny) said at a news conference last week. "We believe in a better America, where everyone has a safe place to call home."

Link to full article: https://www.spotlightpa.org/news/2024/07/pennsylvania-budget-public-schools-economic-development-scholarshipsjosh-shapiro-legislature/



On future power demand

Hypocrisy: Big Data Hates Natural Gas Until It Needs.... A Lot of it.

Reality Check: A January 2024 report from the International Energy Agency noted that electricity usage worldwide by high-demand data centers and cryptocurrency mining in a worstcase scenario model were expected to double from 460TWh in 2022 to over 1,000TWh by 2026. And that's just the beginning.

Click HERE to download/print – Hypocrisy: Big Data Hates Natural Gas Until It Needs.... A Lot of it. (https://pioga.org/realitycheck-on-future-power-demand/)





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Oil & Gas **Dashboard**

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Resources

American Refining Group: www.amref.com/Crude-Prices-New.aspx
Ergon Oil Purchasing: www.ergon.com/crudeoil
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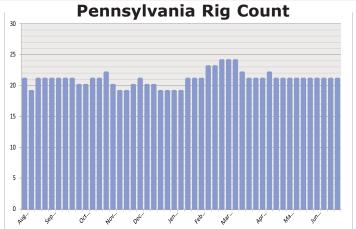


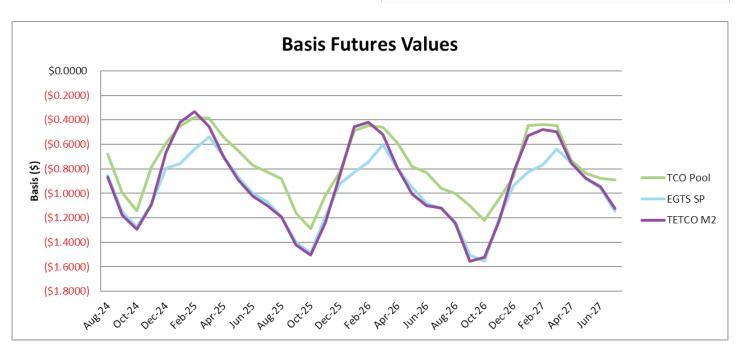
Penn Grade Crude Oil Prices

Natural Gas Futures Closing Prices

August 2024	2.348
September	2.366
October	2.473
November	2.893
December	3.393
January 2025	3.670
February	3.520
March	3.142
April	2.943
May	2.983

Prices as of July 9, 2024





Northeast Pricing Report — July 2024

Natural gas prices have reached a 5-week low due to the expected decrease in demand caused by cooler temperatures in the United States. Despite an increase in electricity output, which usually leads to higher natural gas demand, the market is currently experiencing ample natural gas supplies, as evidenced by rising inventories. Moreover, the active US natural gas drilling rig count has dropped to a 2-3/4 year low, reaching a total of 97 rigs. In the Northeast, front month basis prices increased across the board. Algonquin increased the greatest amount by \$0.68 per MMBtu. Rolling one-year basis prices were mixed. Algonquin again increased the most by \$0.13 per MMBtu. TETCO M3 decreased the most by \$0.06 per MMBtu.

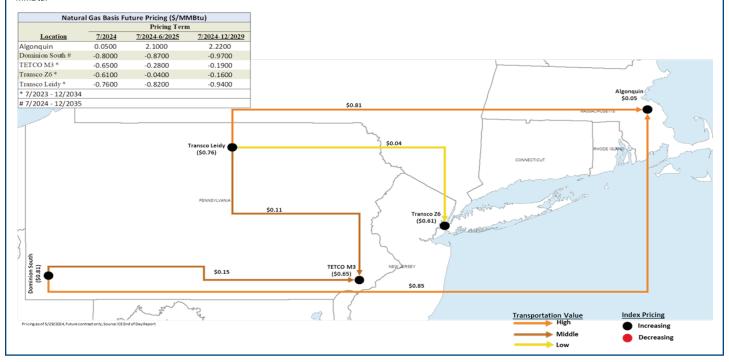
Most of the values for transportation continue to increase. Dominion South and Leidy to TETCO M3 both decreased by

Transportation Value Market Indicator

Provided by Bertison-George,

www.bertison-george.com

\$0.10 per MMBtu. Both Dominion South and Transco Leidy to Algonquin rose by \$0.47 per MMBtu. The value for Transco Leidy to Transco Z6 and TETCO M3 to Transco Z6 increased by \$0.05 and \$0.15 per MMBtu respectively. Dominion South to TETCO M3 rose by \$0.25 Per MMBtu.





Spud Report: June



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
Anderson Energy *		6/11/24	123-48774	Warren	Brokenstraw	Olympus Energy	4	6/13/24	129-29255	Westmoreland	Upper Burrell
Branch John D. *		6/5/24	123-48790	Warren	Warren City			6/13/24	129-29213	Westmoreland	Upper Burrell
Bull Run Resources *	2	6/24/24	123-48942	Warren	Pleasant Twp			6/13/24	129-29253	Westmoreland	Upper Burrell
		6/28/24	123-48943	Warren	Pleasant Twp			6/13/24	129-29254	Westmoreland	Upper Burrell
Cameron Energy *	2	6/6/24	053-31113	Forest	Howe Twp	Pennhills Resources	7	6/3/24	053-31103	Forest	Howe Twp
		6/18/24	053-31114	Forest	Howe Twp			6/5/24	053-31094	Forest	Howe Twp
Chesapeake Appalachia	1 0	6/17/24	015-23928	Bradford	Albany Twp			6/11/24	053-31105	Forest	Howe Twp
		6/17/24	015-23930	Bradford	Albany Twp			6/17/24	053-31092	Forest	Howe Twp
		6/17/24	015-23926	Bradford	Albany Twp			6/20/24	053-31106	Forest	Howe Twp
		6/17/24	015-23927	Bradford	Albany Twp			6/25/24	053-31093	Forest	Howe Twp
		6/18/24	015-23929	Bradford	Albany Twp			6/28/24	053-31122	Forest	Howe Twp
		6/10/24	015-23925	Bradford	Wyalusing Twp	R&N Resources *	2	6/20/24	123-48814	Warren	Sheffield Twp
		6/10/24	015-23922	Bradford	Wyalusing Twp			6/20/24	123-48815	Warren	Sheffield Twp
		6/10/24	015-23923	Bradford	Wyalusing Twp	Range Resources	5	6/19/24	125-29140	Washington	Donegal Twp
		6/10/24	015-23924	Bradford	Wyalusing Twp	-		6/19/24	125-29141	Washington	Donegal Twp
		6/10/24	015-23921	Bradford	Wyalusing Twp			6/19/24	125-29142	Washington	Donegal Twp
Keyrock Energy		6/18/24	125-29081	Washington	Amwell Twp			6/19/24	125-29143	Washington	Donegal Twp

	June	May	April	March	Feb
Total Wells	35	47	35	37	40
Unconventional G	as 19	32	16	29	34
Conventional Gas	0	0	0	0	0
Oil	8	10	17	5	4
Combination Oil/G	Gas 7	5	2	3	2
Coalbed Methane	1				





Calendar

PIOGA events

Information: www.pioga.org > PIOGA Events

PIOGA's Producers Golf Outing

July 24. Pennhills Club. Bradford, Pa.

PIOGA's Annual Divot Digger Golf Outing

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

PIOGATech: Water & Waste Management

September 12. Hilton Garden Inn. Cranberry, Pa.

PIOGA's Birds & BBQ Clay Shoot

September 18. West Penn Sportsmen' Club. Murrysville, Pa.

Other events

GO-WV Summer Meeting

August 4-6

(https://pioga.org/event/go-wv-summer-meeting/)

The Appalachian STEPS Network Quarterly Meeting August 8

(https://pioga.org/event/the-appalachian-steps-network-quarterly-meeting-piogas-safety-committee-meeting-2/)

SOOGA Annual Trade Show

September 19-20

(https://pioga.org/event/sooga-annual-trade-show/)

Full Calendar - PIOGA Event & Meeting Schedule -

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

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Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association

100 Allegheny Drive, Suite 104. Warrendale, PA 15086 724-933-7306 • www.pioga.org

Harrisburg Office (Kevin Moody)

212 Locust Street, Suite 300, Harrisburg, PA 17101 717-234-8525

> Oil Region Office (Meghan Keely) 304 East Bissell Ave., Oil City, PA 16301 814-671-2484

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