

# The PIOGA Press

The monthly newsletter of the  
Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association  
January 2025 • Issue 177

## PIOGA Giving PIOGA Helping those in Need

**P**IOGA is proud to announce the association raised \$1,040 from our holiday basket raffle for the *Samaritans Purse - International Relief*.



Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet the needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine.

"We are excited to support an organization that is focused on helping those in need," said PIOGA President and Executive Director, Dan Weaver.

Money raised by PIOGA and donated to Samaritan's Purse will equip the organization with the resources - including personnel, materials, supporting services, buildings and equipment - to fulfill the organization's mission. (<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/>)



### Partnering with The Lighthouse Foundation to spread holiday cheer



For the ninth year, PIOGA partnered with member company Print King to collect toys for our area's children through The Lighthouse Foundation.

Every year, PIOGA staff and members step-up in a big way to ensure no child goes without during the holiday season.

"As many families continue to struggle to make ends meet, PIOGA recognizes the importance to a child of opening a present that contains a new toy or fun game. I am proud of the PIOGA staff and our members for their commitment to this effort," said Dan Weaver, president and executive director.

The donated toys helped support the foundation's annual Christmas Toy Shoppe. The Lighthouse Foundation's Annual Christmas Toy Shoppe provides local parents who are served through the food pantry and emergency financial assistance programs with the opportunity to shop for their children's presents in a safe and cheerful atmosphere. Parents are able to personally choose their children's gifts, stuff a stocking for each child with the assistance of a personal shopper and have all their gifts wrapped by the foundation's Christmas Elves.

Staff and members once again gave generously and appreciated the opportunity to donate to The Lighthouse Foundation that is doing great work on behalf of the impoverished individuals and families in northern Allegheny and Butler Counties. ■ To learn more, go to: <https://www.thelighthouse-pa.org/>

# Trusted Legal Counsel to Energy Companies

Step toe & Johnson is a nationally recognized U.S. energy law firm with over 400 lawyers and other professionals across 18 offices serving all sectors of the industry:

Oil & Gas | Utilities | Mining | Renewables



For more information visit [steptoe-johnson.com](http://steptoe-johnson.com)

11 Grandview Circle, Suite 200, Canonsburg, PA 15317

THIS IS AN ADVERTISEMENT

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Main Article, Page 1:** PIOGA Giving
- 3:** PIOGATech - Air Quality Compliance Training
- 4:** Harrisburg Update - Gmerek Government Relations
- 7:** PIOGA 2025 Changes
- 11:** Hillebrand Announced as the New IPAA Chairman
- 12:** In The News
- 16-18:** Oil & Gas Dashboard
- 19:** PIOGA & Industry Events and Board of Directors



The PIOGA Team wants to wish you and your family a Happy New Year! 2024 has been great and we can't wait to see what happens in 2025!

### PIOGA's Diversity Committee's Historical Influences in Oil & Gas

**1896 – Florence Bascom (1862–1945)**

Recognized as America's first female geologist, Bascom was actually the second woman in the United States to earn a PhD in geology (Johns Hopkins University, 1893) after Mary Holmes earned a doctorate in geology from the University of Michigan in 1888.



Bascom, however, was the first woman to be hired by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1886 and achieved many other milestones in her career, including founding the geology department at Bryn Mawr College in 1895.

In a letter written to another professor in 1931, she stated, "I have always claimed that there was no merit in being the only one of a kind . . . [my students] are all notable young women who will be a credit to the science of geology."

*Photo Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution Archives, Accession 90-105, Science Service Records, Image No. SIA2007-0184.*

# Final 2024 PIOGATech - Air Quality Compliance Training

On December 17th, the Environmental Committee hosted their final PIOGATech training of the year focusing on Air Quality Compliance. This training was the tenth technical session over the past years to address air quality compliance and the ever-changing regulations that our industry must comply with. Now more than ever, air quality compliance is a major focus federally and at the state level and the oil and gas industry must be prepared.

A group of oil and gas industry people participated in the all-day training that provided them with an overview of the air quality regulations affecting the oil and gas industry. In addition, participants were able to learn about air permitting issues, heard about the impact of the 2024 election with regulatory and litigation updates, got an update on the PA Environmental Justice Policy, and working through operational challenges on methane regulations. We also heard from experts on the Appalachian Methane Initiative and efficient Compact Combustors for methane mitigation.

This annual training would not be complete without a hands-on demonstration on Methane Monitoring with the use of OGI camera and drones. Thank you for CleanAir Engineering, Konica Minolta and Civil & Environmental Consultants for their assistance. Mother nature was cooperative this year and the group enjoyed some fresh air while having a contest on getting measurements.

Thank you to Advanced Cooling Technologies, Babst Calland, Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc., CleanAir Engineering, CNX Resources Corp., PennEnergy Resources, SLR Consulting., Sommer Energy Technologies and Spilman, Thomas & Battle for putting together a very relevant program and for providing their expertise on this important topic for our members. ■



SLR Consultants



Sommer Energy



Konika Minolta



Demo - Clean Air Engineering



Larry George - ENCINO



Amanda Black - CEC



CEC

## Good-Bye 2024, Hello...a Repeat of 2024?

We have discussed this in various PIOGA meetings and concluded in our 2024 legislative update with the statement that requires repeating for the 2025-2026 legislative session: The fundamental policy differences between the Senate Republican majority and the House Democratic majority led to one of the least active legislative sessions in recent history.

The fundamental policy differences, along with a Governor who many inside the Capitol have complained as not engaging to foster compromise, resulted in the legislative death of many significant issues at the end of the 2023-2024 Legislative Session. The legislative leaders have repeated that the electorate sent a divided Legislature to Harrisburg and that compromise is required, but the last session showed how difficult that can be. Since the November elections, the House Democrats argue their 2023-2024 majority was not an anomaly and that their priorities must be heard, and the Senate Republican Caucus must "step up to the table" on issues of importance to all Pennsylvanians. The Senate Republican leaders counter that its caucus will "...continue to hold the line on the outrageous spending that House Democrats send to us on a regular basis," and that they "...will strive to work in a divided government, it [the Senate Republican Caucus] will not compromise its principles.

The challenges in working in a divided Legislature were witnessed in the recently concluded 2023-2024 Legislative Session, which passed fewer bills and held fewer session days than legislative sessions in recent history. Adding to the gridlock over the policy divide was also the fact that the two-year legislative session resulted in many starts and stops in the legislative flow because each time the House Democratic Caucus had a member resign, the Democrats adjourned the session until a replacement could be reelected in a Special Election. That also resulted in the Senate halting legislative business because the House of Representatives was not in session to consider the Senate's or any legislative proposals. In the 2023-2024 Legislative Session, there were 11 Special Elections- 1 in the Senate and 10 in the House of Representatives. The Senate will face a Special Election on March 25 to replace Senator Ryan Aument (R-Lancaster), who resigned to

become the State Director for U.S. Senator Dave McCormick. However, with the Senate Republicans holding a 27-22 majority after the resignation, legislative business will continue in the Senate until the Special Election is held.

## Hot Topic Issues for the New Legislative Session -

There will be a host of unresolved issues carried into the new two-year legislative session and some new priorities.

The accomplishments of the 2023-2024 legislative session included business tax cuts, expanding the property tax and rent rebate program for seniors, expanding funding for community development and economic development projects, working to control prescription drug costs, permitting reform, and providing a nearly \$1 billion increase in education funding.

## Some of the priorities in the new legislative session will include:

- *Funding for K-12 Education.* The 2024-2025 Fiscal Year budget resulted in a nearly \$1 billion increase in funding. However, maintaining, let alone increasing, the amount of education funding next fiscal year will become another point of contention in budget negotiations given the financial challenges facing Pennsylvania and the other challenges facing the Commonwealth that are competing for a finite amount of available funding. The education funding debate will again be focused on the House Democrats pushing for more funding to address funding inequities among schools and Republicans who are pushing for more education reforms, such as school choice, which Governor Shapiro supports but the House Democrats oppose.
- *Funding for public transit...and highways and roads,* which legislative Republicans say must be part of any final deal to provide new funding for public transit. While Governor Shapiro redirected federal funding allocated to road and bridge projects to halt fare increases and service cuts in the short term, this will again be a significant issue in this year's budget negotiations.
- *Increasing the minimum wage* from \$7.25/hour.
- *Developing a comprehensive energy policy.* In light of the significant increase in PJM electricity capacity prices for 2025/2026, addressing energy affordability has become a significant concern of the Legislature and

Governor Josh Shapiro, who recently filed a complaint with the Federal Energy Regulatory Agency against PJM and its operating rules. This marks another policy area where the solutions of the Senate Republicans, House Democrats, and the Shapiro Administration have diverged widely.

- *Other issues* that will likely receive some attention include the legalization of marijuana, technology-related matters because of the growth of AI and continued concerns about data privacy, enshrining the protections of the Affordable Care Act in state law out of concerns of the incoming Trump Administration, and supporting rural health facilities.

The majority of these issues, because of their impact on the state budget, will be negotiated under the shadow of Pennsylvania's growing structural budget deficit, which Pennsylvania's Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) has pegged at \$3.4 billion in the 2024-25 fiscal year, a figure that is expected to grow to \$6.65 billion by 2030. IFO projections noted that Pennsylvania's current Rainy-Day Fund of approximately \$10 billion will be eliminated in the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year if Pennsylvania remains on the current course. The mid-year budget briefing by Governor Shapiro's Budget Office forecasts slowing economic growth in Pennsylvania through 2027. The briefing also raised concerns about the uncertainty of federal spending in a Trump Administration, health care and human services costs rising faster than inflation, an aging population, expiration of COVID-19 federal funds, and the challenges of finding common ground in a divided government.

**Politics** - After being the focus of national attention for months in the Presidential election, Pennsylvania is facing an "off-cycle" political season. However, the 2025 election cycle includes key judicial retention races for three Democratic Supreme Court Justices, one Democratic retention race in the Commonwealth Court, one Democratic retention race in the Superior Court, and races for Pittsburgh mayor, Harrisburg mayor, the Philadelphia district attorney, and county judicial positions.

Governor Shapiro, whose term expires in 2026, will face a Harrisburg with three Republican row officers (Treasurer Stacy Garrity, Auditor General Tim Defoor, and Attorney General Dave Sunday) who he will need to deal with, a growing number of potential Republican challengers seeking to unseat Governor Shapiro (or at least damage his public image, especially with the speculation of Governor Shapiro's national ambitions), and a Republican-controlled

Senate that will also not shy away from challenging Governor Shapiro and his priorities. As a result, the window of "legislating" before politics again takes center stage is limited.

**Conclusion** - Much of the first few months of the new 2025-2026 legislative session will be focused on the economy, Pennsylvania's budget, and how changes made by the Trump Administration will affect state programs, especially since more than 50% of Pennsylvania's budget is comprised of federal funds and the incoming Trump Administration has called for a \$2 trillion reduction in federal funding.

After spending tens of millions of dollars in the last election cycle, there may be new faces in Harrisburg, but the political makeup of the House of Representatives (102 D – 101R) and Senate (27R – 22 D, with 1 Republican vacancy) did not change. In the entire election cycle in which all 203 members of the House of Representatives and 25 of the 50 members of the Senate were up for reelection, only two districts (both in the Senate) switched from one political party to the other: Senator Jimmy Dillon (D-Philadelphia) lost his reelection bid to Republican Joe Picozzi, and the Democrats won the Senate district representing Harrisburg, which was held by the John DiSanto (R) who retired.

While the political divide that existed in the 2023-2024 Legislative Session will remain in the new two-year legislative session, there will be a few legislative changes impacting PIOGA and its members with the changing leadership in legislative committees and the creation of new legislative committees that will be involved in energy issues and oil and gas issues. In the House of Representatives, that will include the Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee, Environmental & Natural Resources Committee, and Energy Committee. In the Senate, legislation of interest will continue to be considered by the Environmental Resources & Energy Committee, and the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee. These committees will all play a role in the ongoing discussions on how Pennsylvania will address the rising electricity demand and seek to expand energy production in the Commonwealth.

As the Legislature returns to legislative activity, we look forward to working with Dan Weaver, Todd Pappasergi, the PIOGA team, and you to represent the membership's views before the Pennsylvania state legislature and government. ■



# 2024 PIOGA Events



# PIOGA 2025 Changes

Update by Dan Weaver - PIOGA President & Executive Director

Thank you to all our PIOGA Partners and everyone that attended any of our events last year. You - our members - have spoken; we listened and there are some significant changes coming in 2025.

We understand in this economy and with historic depressed commodity pricing that everyone is trying to do more with less. People simply do not have the “free time” or the budgets to attend events every month.

In response to noted issues, PIOGA has decided to have four major events in 2025: the Spring Meeting “A New Direction...Maybe?” on April 17; a clay shoot in June; a golf outing in August; and the annual meeting in October. In addition, this year, the Membership Committee will be hosting a variety of networking events throughout the state.

PIOGATechs will continue as is – having four PIOGATechs in 2025. This will allow for ample opportunities to increase your knowledge while earning credits at the training(s).

If you want to get the most exposure for your business, consider becoming a PIOGA Partner. For our past ‘Golf Partners’ and ‘Clays Partners’ you will notice that the level of membership has changed to the ‘Sporting Event Partner.’ The Sporting Event Partners will still receive eight entries but will be given the choice to utilize however one deems most suitable for you and your business.

We appreciate all your support and look forward to seeing you at one and hopefully all of our events this year.

*Additional information on PIOGA Partners can be found on Page 8.*

## PIOGA Event Schedule

*(More information will be available soon - make sure to check on PIOGA's event page at pioga.org)*

**April 17 - PIOGA Spring Meeting**

**June - Clay Shoot** (date and location TBD)

**August - Golf Outing** (date and location TBD)

**October - Annual Meeting** (date and location TBD)

Throughout the year - the **Membership Committee** will be hosting networking events. Events will be advertised to members via PIOGA newsletters, emails and website.

**PIOGATechs** - quarterly (4) - schedule and topics will be advertised to members via PIOGA newsletters, emails and website. *The Safety PIOGATech is being planned for March 25th.*

## PIOGA Committee Schedule for 2025

### Market Development and Environmental Committee

February 12  
March 12  
April 9  
May 7  
June 11  
July – Enjoy Summer - month off!  
August 13  
September 10  
October 9 – *Committee Meetings will be held in conjunction with Annual Meeting. Date/Location TBD*  
November 12  
December 10

### Membership Committee

February 11  
March 11  
April 8  
May 13  
June 10  
July 8  
August 12  
September 9  
October 14  
November 11  
December 9

### Diversity Committee

2025 Meeting dates to be announced soon!

### Tax Committee

February 13  
April 22  
July 22  
October 21

### Legislative Committee

February 6  
March 6  
April 3  
May 1  
June 5  
July 3  
August 7  
September 4  
October 2  
November 6  
December 4

PIOGA Committee Chairs and Staff are hoping to see more people involved with committees in 2025!

Please contact Deana McMahan at [deana@pioga.org](mailto:deana@pioga.org) or 724-933-7306 ext. 23 if you are interested in joining a committee or have any questions on the schedule.

Committee meetings are for PIOGA members only and dates/times are subject to change. Go to [www.pioga.org](http://www.pioga.org) for updates.



## Don't Forget to Renew your PIOGA Membership for 2025!

For most PIOGA members, now is the time to renew your membership for the coming year. The 2025 dues renewal invoices will be sent via email beginning the week of December 16th and will be directed to the main contact of your company membership.

Your PIOGA membership has always been a great value, worth far more than the amount you pay in dues. For more than a century, PIOGA and our predecessor associations have prided ourselves on our role of bringing together a widely diverse range of companies, individuals and interests to collaborate for the benefit of the entire industry. As stated on our website's homepage, 'Working together, we help members accomplish that which they cannot achieve alone. What you can be sure of is that PIOGA is working harder than ever to advocate for Pennsylvania's oil and gas industry. Understanding the interconnectedness of all facets of the industry is crucial to the success of our industry. Coming

together to work on today's challenges is imperative and effectively communicating to our stakeholders is paramount.

If you would like to know more about how we are working together on behalf of the entire Pennsylvania oil and gas industry, please take a few minutes to review our website. You'll find suggestions about how to increase the value of your membership, such as participating in PIOGA committees and taking advantage of member discounts.

Thank you in advance for continuing to be a PIOGA member in 2025 and beyond.

Questions about your membership? Contact Debbie Oyler, Director of Member Services, at [debbie@pioga.org](mailto:debbie@pioga.org) or 724-933-7306 ext.22

## Become a 2025 PIOGA Partner



### 2025 PIOGA PARTNERS SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM



#### KEYSTONE PARTNER = \$10,000

Company logo will be recognized as an official PIOGA Partner at all PIOGA events, in the monthly PIOGA Press, PIOGA eWeekly and your logo will be added to our rotating slider section of the [pioga.org](http://pioga.org) homepage. Plus, (2) tickets to ALL PIOGA Meetings, golf/clay events and PIOGATech's. In addition, you will be eligible to submit an article highlighting your company in the PIOGA Press and you will receive a 30% discount on advertising rates in the PIOGA Press and eWeekly for one year. **Over 10,000 monthly impressions**

#### EXECUTIVE PARTNER = \$ 7,500

Company logo will be recognized as an official PIOGA Partner at PIOGA events, in the monthly PIOGA Press, PIOGA eWeekly and your logo will be added to our rotating slider section of [pioga.org](http://pioga.org) homepage. Plus, (2) tickets to all PIOGA Meetings and PIOGATech's. In addition, you will be eligible to submit an article highlighting your company in the PIOGA Press and you will receive a 20% discount on advertising rates in the PIOGA Press and eWeekly for one year. **Up to 8,000 monthly impressions**

#### MEETINGS PARTNER = \$ 5,000

Company logo will be recognized as an official PIOGA Partner at all PIOGA events, in the monthly PIOGA Press, PIOGA eWeekly and your logo will be added to our rotating banner section of the [pioga.org](http://pioga.org) homepage. Plus, (4) tickets to PIOGA Meetings. In addition, you will be eligible to submit an article highlighting your company in the PIOGA Press and receive a 10% discount on advertising rates in the PIOGA Press and eWeekly for one year. **Up to 7,000 monthly impressions.**

#### SPORTING EVENT PARTNER = \$ 4,000

Company logo will be recognized as an official PIOGA Partner at all PIOGA events, in the monthly PIOGA Press, and the PIOGA eWeekly and your logo will be added to our rotating slider section of [pioga.org](http://pioga.org) homepage. You will receive (8) tickets with your Sporting Partnership. Tickets can be split between our golf event and our clay shoot event this year however you wish to use them, but only (8) tickets total between the 2 events. **Up to 6,000 monthly impressions.**

#### COMMITTEE/PIOGATech PARTNER = \$ 3,500

Company logo will be recognized as an official PIOGA Partner at PIOGA committee meetings, in the monthly PIOGA Press, PIOGA eWeekly and all PIOGA initiated committee correspondence. Plus (2) tickets to all PIOGATech Seminars. **Up to 6,250 - 7,500 monthly impressions**

#### INDUSTRY PARTNER = \$ 2,500

Company logo will be recognized as an official PIOGA Partner at PIOGA Meetings, in the monthly PIOGA Press and PIOGA eWeekly. Plus (1) ticket to the PIOGA Spring Meeting. **Over 5,000 monthly impressions.**

We are pleased to announce the 2025 PIOGA Partners Program. The program was launched seven years ago in response to member requests for a "one stop" yearlong event sponsorship option for budgetary purposes.

We also continue to offer traditional event-by event sponsorships.

The various Partner levels and their benefits are shown in the table (left). If you have any questions or are ready to sign on now, contact Debbie Oyler at: [debbie@pioga.org](mailto:debbie@pioga.org) or 724-933 7306 ext. 22.

**And finally, a big thank-you to the members who were 2024 PIOGA Partners.** They can be found on page 15 of this issue. We greatly appreciate your support!



### PIOGA's Membership Incentive Program

Purpose: To actively promote membership growth and participation in PIOGA while rewarding active members for their consistent efforts toward these goals.

To learn more about this program:

[https://pioga.org/publication\\_file/2025\\_Incentive\\_Program\\_flyer.pdf](https://pioga.org/publication_file/2025_Incentive_Program_flyer.pdf)



# PIOGA's Online Buyers' Guide

Someone from Strategic Value Media may be contacting you soon via email or phone!

## Secure your listing or advertisement!

PIOGA is pleased to partner again with Strategic Value Media - a leading nationwide provider of print and digital media solutions for national, state and local trade and membership associations - to produce the 2024-2025 edition of PIOGA Buyers' Guide, the premier resource of relevant products and services for oil & gas professionals.

## We encourage PIOGA members to utilize the services or products of our member companies.

The 2024-2025 version of the Buyers' Guide features updated and expanded company and product listings, in addition to other valuable information relating to the oil & gas industry. PIOGA members and other industry professionals now have an easy way to browse for goods and services.

"For the past 10 years, the PIOGA Buyers' Guide has become a great online purchasing resource and is a "one-stop-shop" for our members looking for products and services needed for oil and gas operations," said Dan Weaver, PIOGA's President and Executive Director. "We encourage you to look for the PIOGA logo on the listings and use the products and services of our PIOGA members. They support us and we should support them!"

All PIOGA Allies & Provider members get a complimentary basic listing in the guide with the PIOGA logo to indicate your company is a member! Contact Strategic Value Media to discuss other options of getting your business more visibility in the Guide.

We encourage you to take advantage of this exceptional opportunity to highlight your products and services in the Buyers' Guide.

**The Buyers' Guide is accessible through the PIOGA website at [www.pioga.org](http://www.pioga.org) and will be updated soon with new advertisements and updated information.**

## PIOGA Profits too!

A portion of the proceeds from the Buyers' Guide comes back to PIOGA to help sustain our association. An investment in the Buyers' Guide is not only an investment for your company, but an investment in PIOGA too. **We thank you!**

To learn more, please email [pioga-advertise@svmmmedia.com](mailto:pioga-advertise@svmmmedia.com).

**BITCO INSURANCE COMPANIES**

## FUEL YOUR BUSINESS WITH QUALITY COVERAGE.

### Your protection is our priority.

Your business fuels America. That's why we're dedicated to providing quality insurance coverage for the oil and gas industry. From operators to drillers and contractors, we're the insurance partner who truly knows your business and how to support you best. Since 1917, BITCO has been dedicated to protecting you and delivering confidence day-in and day-out.



Get the service you deserve.  
Visit [BITCO.com](http://BITCO.com) to find a specialist agent near you.



**OLD REPUBLIC INSURANCE GROUP**

Industry Intelligence. Focused Legal Perspective.  
Unparalleled Value.

## HIGH-YIELDING RESULTS.



Energy &  
Natural Resources



Environmental &  
Regulatory



Business  
Transactions



Real Estate,  
Land Use & Zoning



Pipeline &  
HazMat Safety



Commercial  
Litigation

We are critical thinkers who are focused, driven and cost effective in everything we do.

**Meet our attorneys at [babstcalland.com](http://babstcalland.com).**

**Babst | Calland**  
Attorneys at Law

*Where Trust and Value Meet.™*



PITTSBURGH, PA | CHARLESTON, WV | HARRISBURG, PA | STATE COLLEGE, PA | WASHINGTON, DC

## Hillebrand Announced as the New IPAA Chairman

PIOGA's Board of Directors Chairman, Michel Hillebrand, has been elected IPAA Chairman - effective January 1, 2025. The Independent Petroleum Association of America announced the new appointments to their Board of Directors in November. *Below is a press release from IPAA on the announcement.*

WASHINGTON — The Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) – advocating for thousands of oil and natural gas producers that develop 90 percent of wells nationwide – held its fall Board of Directors meeting as part of its 95th Annual Meeting and announced the following board appointments.

**Current IPAA Regional Director for Pennsylvania, Michael Hillebrand was announced as the new IPAA Chairman effective January 1, 2025. Hillebrand is President and CEO of Huntley & Huntley, LLC; Founder, Principal, and BOM of Olympus Energy, and current Chairman of the Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association (PIOGA).**

Justin Cope, President & CEO of Flywheel Energy, LLC will remain in his role as Vice Chairman of IPAA.

Jonny Heins, Senior Director of Corporate Affairs, Permian Resources was named an At-Large Director.

Cye Cooper Wagner, Executive Vice President of Exploration, Cooper Oil & Gas, Inc. was named an At-Large Director.

Matthew White, Vice President of Accounting and Commercial, Burk Royalty Co., Ltd. was named Regional Director – North Texas.

Kate Farr, Senior Director of Government Affairs, Occidental Petroleum was named Chair of the IPAA Land & Royalty Committee.

Andrew Vecera, Director of Advocacy Services, Ryan LLC was named Chair of the IPAA Tax Committee.

Jeff Eshelman, IPAA President and CEO: "The organizations these industry leaders are a part of show the breadth of our industry and IPAA, from small to large independent producers with operations in basins across the country providing energy to Americans. The IPAA team is grateful to have these men and women contribute their expertise and talent to our association." <https://www.ipaa.org/independent-petroleum-association-of-america-announces-new-appointments-to-board-of-directors/>

### Michael Hillebrand's comments on being elected IPAA Chairman

"I am honored to take the lead of our Country's oldest and largest oil and gas issues at the federal level as Chairman of the IPAA. The IPAA will continue fighting for the Nation's oil and gas operators' energy interests where we insist upon expedited, well debated legislation and common-sense regulation along with its legally interpreted applications within all three branches of our Federal government's jurisdictional coverage. More importantly, I will fight relentlessly against the discrimination and mischaracterization of worldwide use of our Nation's blessed and abundant oil and gas production and reserves. Having the Nation's second largest oil and gas resources located here in the Appalachian basin provides the opportunity for those of us who operate here to bring diverse, factual perspective to the aligned fight many of the other regions of our Country engage upon. I look forward to leading this fight against the many factions who simply do not understand the environmentally friendly and positive economic impact our fossil fuel industry provides the civilized world via clean, reliable, abundant, and inexpensive energy. If not actively involved with organizations like PIOGA and the IPAA, I humbly request that you reach out and get involved. Organizations like PIOGA and the IPAA represent all oil and gas operators, uniting the different sectors into one very strong and respected voice."



## In The News

News Clips of Interest

Check out PIOGA's website (<https://pioga.org/newsletter/>) for hyperlinks to articles

### **'Fundamental constitutional right': Montana Supreme Court upholds landmark climate ruling, agrees that state must provide a 'clean and healthful' environment.**

MSN.com - 12.20.24. Chris Perez.

The Montana Supreme Court has ruled that the state has a "fundamental constitutional right" to provide a "clean and healthful" environment — upholding a landmark 2023 climate ruling that said residents were having their rights violated on account of the state not having a "stable climate system that sustains human lives and liberties."

The original case stemmed from a federal lawsuit filed in 2020 by 16 young Montanans between the ages of 7 and 23 who sued the state, local officials and a collection of agencies for not protecting them from "climate change" and all that comes with it.

At the trial last year, the youths successfully argued that climate change had drastically altered their lives and that Montana officials were doing nothing to "assess the greenhouse gas emissions and climate impacts of all future fossil fuel permits" in the state, according to Melissa Hornbein, attorney for the plaintiffs.

**Link:** <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/fundamental-constitutional-right-montana-supreme-court-upholds-landmark-climate-ruling-agrees-that-state-must-provide-a-clean-and-healthful-environment/ar-AA1weuNb?ocid=BingNewsSerp>

### **CO2 from Gas-Fired Plants Record High, Yet Overall Emissions Down**

Marcellus Drilling News. 1.8.25.

For the first time, over 1 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) was discharged from U.S. gas-fired power plants in a single year in 2024. It marks a new pollution threshold for the world's largest gas producer and consumer of natural gas. Yet, because natgas has replaced coal and other higher-polluting sources of electric power, U.S. power emissions from all fossil fuels were up only 0.5% in 2024 from 2023, to 1.64 billion tons. And get this: Overall emissions from all sources were down 19% last year versus 2015. Using natural gas to produce electricity makes the country "greener," something the media ignores.

**Link:** <https://marcellusdrilling.com/2025/01/co2-from-gas-fired-plants-record-high-yet-overall-emissions-down/>

**Link to similar article:** <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/us-gas-fired-power-boom-reveals-key-emissions-payoff-2024-maguire-2025-01-08/>

### **PJM responds to Pennsylvania Governor's complaint over power market rules**

Reuters. 12.31.24.

Grid operator PJM Interconnection responded to a complaint from Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro over power market rules, citing concerns about potential power shortages due to the fast-paced expansion of data centers.

Shapiro had filed a complaint with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, arguing that the largest U.S. power grid operator needs to change its market rules to avoid a potential surge in electricity costs.

"We have been warning for over two years of the prospect that parts of our country could run short of power during high demand periods," PJM said in a statement.

"This possibility has been growing, primarily as a result of state and federal policy decisions that are pushing generators to retire prematurely, and also due to unprecedented and rapidly growing data center construction," the grid operator added.

**Link:** <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/pjm-responds-pennsylvania-governors-complaint-over-power-market-rules-2024-12-31/>

*Continues on next page*

The advertisement for Alberts Spray Solutions features a central image of a worker in a yellow shirt and hard hat using a spray application on a dark surface. To the left, three circular inset images show different containment scenarios: 'SECONDARY CONTAINMENT' (a large white container), 'PRIMARY CONTAINMENT' (a large black containment area), and 'TEMPORARY INSTALLATIONS' (a worker on a road). The text 'TURNKEY CONTAINMENT SOLUTIONS' is prominently displayed in large, bold, white letters. At the bottom, the company name 'ALBERTS SPRAY SOLUTIONS' is written in a circular logo. Contact information includes 'CALL US TODAY 570-368-6653' and 'ALBERTSSPRAYSOLUTIONS.COM'.

## **MVP Runs Full, Gives Appalachia Natural Gas Prices More Exposure to Winter Demand Spikes**

NGI. 1.9.25. Chris Newman.

The 2 Bcf/d Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) is running at capacity for the first time since it came online in June, allowing more Appalachian Basin natural gas to reach the Southeast and price closer to downstream premiums.

The 303-mile pipeline from northwestern West Virginia to southern Virginia has provided one of the few new linkages out of the Appalachian Basin. Underscoring the difficulty in adding egress out of the prolific Marcellus and Utica shale formations, it took an act of Congress to finish the pipeline.

This week (1.6.25), more than 10 years after the project first went to federal regulators for approval, the full impact of its completion finally could be seen in gas flows.

**Link:** <https://naturalgasintel.com/news/mvp-runs-full-gives-appalachia-natural-gas-prices-more-exposure-to-winter-demand-spikes/>

---

## **Tired of Waiting For You - U.S. LNG At A Standstill Waiting Out Construction, Regulatory, Legal Delays**

RBN Energy. 1.10.25. Lindsay Schneider

Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Europe's subsequent pivot away from Russian natural gas caused a huge resurgence in interest in U.S. LNG. That led to nearly 60 MMtpa (7.9 Bcf/d) of new U.S. LNG capacity reaching a final investment decision (FID) in 2022-23. But regulatory delays at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Biden administration's pause on non-free-trade-agreement (non-FTA) export licenses, and legal challenges to the FERC approval process have essentially halted LNG development in the U.S. There are several LNG projects with enough commercial momentum to move forward that are stuck in regulatory or legal limbo, but even projects that have reached FID are not safe from legal challenges. In today's RBN blog, we conclude our series on LNG delays by looking at recent court rulings and other regulatory issues and their impact on U.S. LNG development.

**Link:** <https://rbnenergy.com/tired-of-waiting-for-you-us-lng-at-a-standstil-waiting-out-construction-regulatory-legal-delays>

---

## **Biden Treasury Dept. Ruins 45V "Clean" Hydrogen Tax Credit**

Marcellus Drilling News. 1.13.25

On Jan. 3, the Biden IRS issued its final clean hydrogen tax credit rule, otherwise known as the 45V Clean Hydrogen Production Tax Credit. We previously wrote about 45V back in June (see Biden IRS 45V Tax Rule Endangers Hydrogen Hub Projects in M-U). Our take back then has not changed with the release of the final rule. The 45V tax credit, part of the

misnamed Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), can only be used if the hydrogen produced is "green" — meaning NOT made from natural gas. In addition, the electricity used to produce the hydrogen can't come from fossil fuel sources like natural gas (if you want the tax credit). From what we can tell, nothing changed between then and now, other than allowing coal-mine methane to qualify for the higher tax credit.

Projects that use electricity from solar and wind and that don't use natural gas as a feedstock, will get a \$3 per kilogram of hydrogen produced tax credit. Companies that don't qualify to receive the maximum 45V credit (because they use natural gas as a feedstock) can still invest in hydrogen projects, but their investment is now at a much higher risk and far less profitable than it would have been had the 45V rule applied.

It seems the oil and gas industry is hoping it can influence the incoming Trump administration to tweak the 45V rule to include natural gas as a feedstock that qualifies for the larger tax credit.

**Link:** <https://marcellusdrilling.com/2025/01/biden-treasury-dept-ruins-45v-clean-hydrogen-tax-credit/>

---

## **Climate change attorneys say a Pa. statute could be used to prosecute fossil fuel companies**

WHYY News Climate Desk. 1.10.25. Susan Phillips.

A new article published this month in the New York University Environmental Law Journal highlights a Pennsylvania statute that could be used as a unique legal strategy to hold large emitters of carbon dioxide accountable. But several lawyers say it could be a tough sell to prosecutors.

More than 2,000 legal cases related to climate change have been filed nationwide, including a lawsuit filed in March by Bucks County against BP. A landmark case decided in December by the Montana Supreme Court ruled the state was violating residents' constitutional rights to a clean environment by not taking into account the impact of greenhouse gas emissions when permitting fossil fuel operations. None of these thousands of lawsuits filed in state, local and federal courts, however, cite criminal statutes.

But the NYU law journal article, "Causing or Risking Climate Catastrophe," relies on Pennsylvania's criminal statutes and draws from a criminal case brought against the owner and manager of a nightclub on Pier 34 in Philadelphia, which collapsed into the Delaware River killing three women and injuring more than 40 people in 2000.

**Link:** <https://whyy.org/articles/climate-change-pennsylvania-criminal-statute/>

# Where in the World is Kevin from PIOGA?



PIOGA's former General Counsel & Vice President of Government Affairs, Kevin Moody, is representing PIOGA in Chile!

Moody is overlooking a glacier-fed lake in Chile - enjoying his retirement!

Stay tuned for more 'Where in the World is Kevin from PIOGA'



**AMERICAN REFINING GROUP, INC.**  
Refine everything.

Producer-focused, service-driven purchaser of light, sweet, paraffinic crude oil and blender of ARGuard™ lubricants for all of your industrial equipment needs.



ARG's roots are deep in the Pennsylvania oil fields. In 1881, the Bradford oil refinery was established in Northwestern PA, the birthplace of the domestic oil industry. 140 years later, ARG remains committed to supporting the Commonwealth's conventional oil and gas producers.

[www.amref.com](http://www.amref.com)

Bill Murray  
VP - Crude Supply & Logistics  
[bmurray@amref.com](mailto:bmurray@amref.com)  
330-224-4408

David Cook  
Crude Oil Relationship Manager  
[dcook@amref.com](mailto:dcook@amref.com)  
814-598-1607

Go beyond reclamation standards - commit to environmental stewardship



**ERNST SEEDS**

800-873-3321  
[sales@ernstseed.com](mailto:sales@ernstseed.com)



<https://ernstseed.co/PIOGAp>

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 PIOGA PARTNERS



## KEYSTONE PARTNERS



## EXECUTIVE PARTNERS



## MEETING PARTNERS



## GOLF PARTNERS



## CLAY SHOOT PARTNERS



## COMMITTEE/PIOGAtech PARTNERS



## NETWORKING PARTNERS



# Oil & Gas Dashboard

## Penn Grade Crude Oil Prices



### Sources

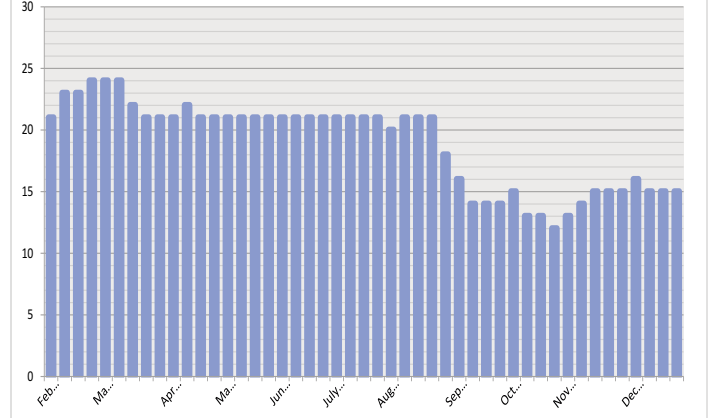
American Refining Group:  
[www.amref.com/Crude-Prices-New.aspx](http://www.amref.com/Crude-Prices-New.aspx)  
 Ergon Oil Purchasing: [www.ergon.com/crudeoil](http://www.ergon.com/crudeoil)  
 Gas futures: [quotes.ino.com/exchanges/?r=NYMEX\\_NG](http://quotes.ino.com/exchanges/?r=NYMEX_NG)  
 Baker Hughes rig count: [bakerhughesrig-count.gcs-web.com/na-rig-count](http://bakerhughesrig-count.gcs-web.com/na-rig-count)  
 NYMEX strip chart: Mid American Natural Resources  
 Basis futures values: IGS Energy, Inc.

## Natural Gas Futures Closing Prices

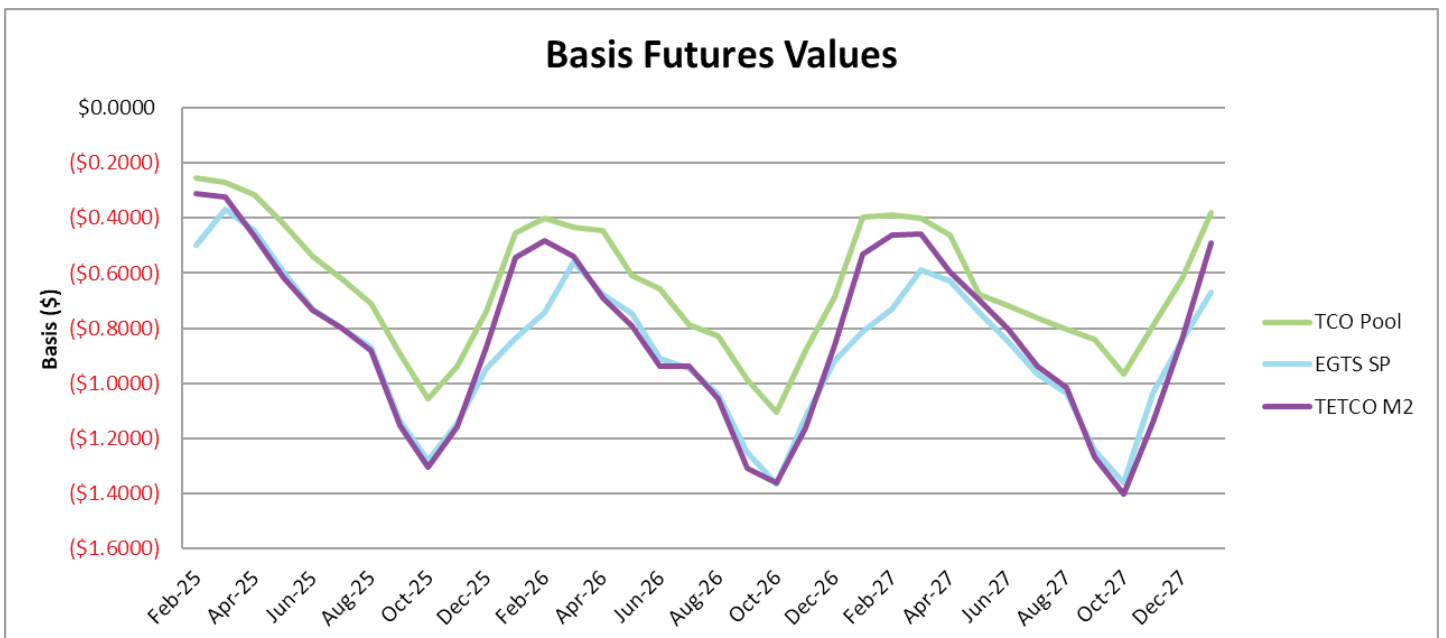
February 2025	3.989
March	3.398
April	3.349
May	3.417
June	3.595
July	3.744
August	3.768
September	3.738
October	3.805
November	4.036

Prices as of Jan. 13, 2025

## Pennsylvania Rig Count



## Basis Futures Values





# Northeast Pricing Report – January 2025

As of late December 2024, natural gas prices in the Northeast are experiencing significant volatility. The average price for natural gas in this region is approximately \$4.00 per MMBtu. This fluctuation is influenced by several factors, including predictions of colder weather for January and recent storage reports that have revealed lower-than-anticipated withdrawals. Furthermore, the transition between the January and February futures contracts has contributed to these price variations. Overall, the market remains highly responsive to weather patterns and storage levels, which are critical determinants of natural gas prices in the Northeast. Algonquin had the greatest increase of \$6.57 per MMBtu with Transco Z6 increasing \$4.58 per MMBtu. Dominion South and Transco Leidy are still unfazed dropping \$0.07 and \$0.11 per MMBtu respectively.

Transportation routes all increased for a third month in a row. Dominion South and Transco Leidy to Algonquin increased by \$6.64 and \$6.68 per MMBtu. Transco Leidy to TETCO Z6 increased \$4.69 per MMBtu. All the other transportation routes increased slightly.

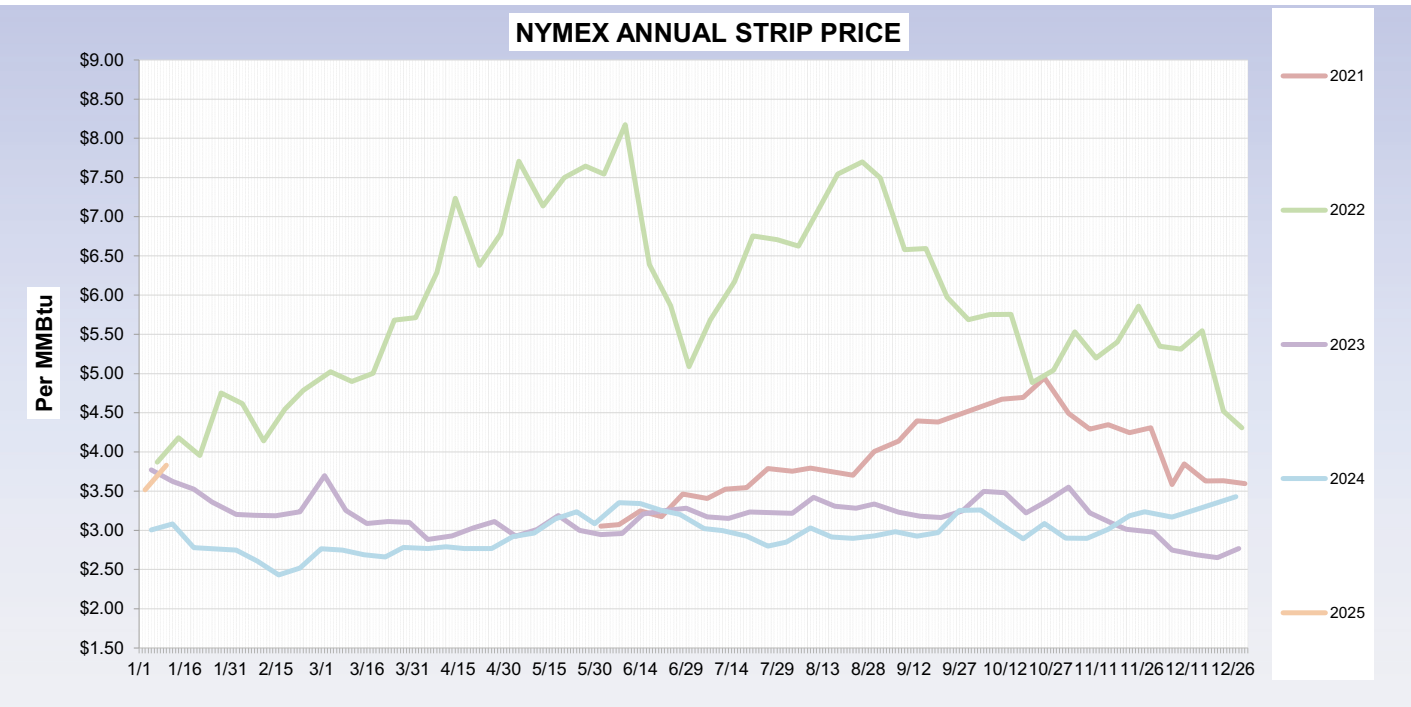
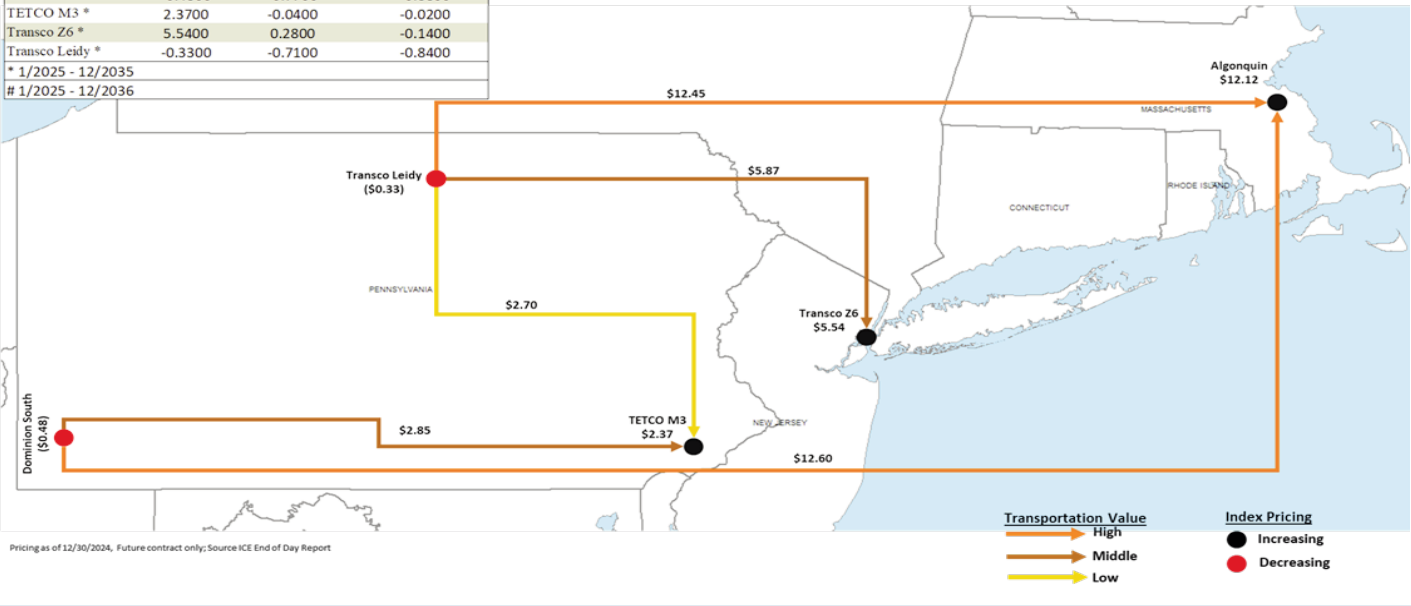


Provided by Bertison-George, LLC

[www.bertison-george.com](http://www.bertison-george.com)

Natural Gas Basis Future Pricing (\$/MMBtu)			
Location	Pricing Term		
	1/2025	1/2025-12/2025	1/2025-12/2030
Algonquin	12.1200	2.5100	2.0900
Dominion South #	-0.4800	-0.7700	-0.8800
TETCO M3 *	2.3700	-0.0400	-0.0200
Transco Z6 *	5.5400	0.2800	-0.1400
Transco Leidy *	-0.3300	-0.7100	-0.8400

\* 1/2025 - 12/2035  
# 1/2025 - 12/2036



# Spud Report: December



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](http://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
Bearcat Oil Co *		12/5/24	123-48879	Warren	Mead Twp	PennEnergy Resources	5	12/26/24	007-20673	Beaver	New Sewickley
BF Adventures *	2	12/23/24	123-48891	Warren	Glade Twp			12/26/24	007-20674	Beaver	New Sewickley
		12/31/24	123-48890	Warren	Glade Twp			12/26/24	007-20675	Beaver	New Sewickley
Cameron Energy *	2	12/12/24	123-48925	Warren	Sheffield Twp			12/26/24	007-20672	Beaver	New Sewickley
		12/24/24	123-48920	Warren	Sheffield Twp			12/19/24	053-31136	Forest	Kingsley Twp
EQT ARO LLC	11	12/9/24	081-22020	Lycoming	McHenry Twp	Range Resources	3	12/18/24	125-29172	Washington	Blaine Twp
		12/9/24	081-22021	Lycoming	McHenry Twp			12/18/24	125-29173	Washington	Blaine Twp
		12/9/24	081-22016	Lycoming	McHenry Twp			12/18/24	125-29174	Washington	Blaine Twp
		12/9/24	081-22017	Lycoming	McHenry Twp	Repsol Oil & Gas	4	12/9/24	015-23890	Bradford	Troy Twp
		12/9/24	081-22018	Lycoming	McHenry Twp			12/9/24	015-23891	Bradford	Troy Twp
		12/9/24	081-22019	Lycoming	McHenry Twp			12/9/24	015-23892	Bradford	Troy Twp
		12/17/24	081-22026	Lycoming	McHenry Twp			12/9/24	015-23893	Bradford	Troy Twp
		12/17/24	081-22022	Lycoming	McHenry Twp	Russ Holden Well *	3	12/11/24	123-48916	Warren	Watson Twp
		12/17/24	081-22023	Lycoming	McHenry Twp			12/24/24	123-48919	Warren	Watson Twp
		12/17/24	081-22024	Lycoming	McHenry Twp			12/27/24	123-48917	Warren	Watson Twp
		12/17/24	081-22025	Lycoming	McHenry Twp						
EQT PROD CO	11	12/16/24	059-28424	Greene	Jackson Twp						
		12/16/24	059-28419	Greene	Jackson Twp						
		12/16/24	059-28420	Greene	Jackson Twp						
		12/16/24	059-28421	Greene	Jackson Twp						
		12/16/24	059-28422	Greene	Jackson Twp						
		12/16/24	059-28423	Greene	Jackson Twp						
		12/3/24	125-29145	Washington	Union Twp						
		12/3/24	125-29144	Washington	Union Twp						
		12/3/24	125-29146	Washington	Union Twp						
		12/3/24	125-29147	Washington	Union Twp						
		12/3/24	125-28977	Washington	Union Twp						
MSL Oil & Gas Corp *		12/31/24	083-57696	McKean	Wetmore Twp						

	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sept	August
<b>Total Wells</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>48</b>
Unconventional Gas	33	14	41	13	29
Conventional Gas	0	0	1	1	0
Oil	9	6	17	15	17
Combination Oil/Gas	1	1	1	1	2

## New PIOGA members Welcome!

### WILLSCOT

John Fiorita  
1012 Robb Hill Rd. Oakdale, Pa 15071  
*Allies & Provider*

## 15% OFF ADVERTISING IN THE PIOGA PRESS!



Advertise in PIOGA's monthly newsletter!

Sign an advertising contract before February 1st and get 15% off your Ad!

For more information reach out to Meghan Keely at [meghan@pioga.org](mailto:meghan@pioga.org).



# SPRING MEETING

April 17, 2025 | Rivers Casino  
Pittsburgh



# Calendar

## PIOGA events

Information: [www.pioga.org](http://www.pioga.org) > PIOGA Events

### PIOGA's 2025 Event Calendar

#### Appalachian STEPS Network - 1st QTR 2025 Meeting (PIOGA Safety Committee)

February 13

#### PIOGATech - Safety

March 25

#### PIOGA Spring Meeting

April 17

## Other events

#### 2025 NAPE Summit

February 5

(<https://pioga.org/event/2025-nape-summit/>)

#### 6th American LNG Forum

February 10-11

(<https://pioga.org/event/6th-american-lng-forum/>)

#### GO-WV Winter Meeting

February 19-20

(<https://pioga.org/event/go-wv-winter-meeting/>)

#### NISTM's 27th Annual International Aboveground Storage Tank Conference

April 23 -25

(<https://pioga.org/event/nistms-27th-annual-international-aboveground-storage-tank-conference-trade-show/>)

#### Full Calendar - PIOGA Event & Meeting Schedule -

[https://pioga.org/publication\\_file/2025-PIOGA-Calendar.pdf](https://pioga.org/publication_file/2025-PIOGA-Calendar.pdf)

PIOGA Members and Industry Partners - Please email [meghan@pioga.org](mailto:meghan@pioga.org) to advertise upcoming events.



## PIOGA Board of Directors

Michael Hillebrand (Chairman), Huntley & Huntley, LLC  
Ben Wallace (Vice Chairman), Penneco Oil Company, Inc.  
Frank J. Ross (2nd Vice Chairman), T&F Exploration, LP  
James Kriebel (Treasurer), Kriebel Energy LLC  
Sam Fragale (Secretary), SEF Consulting, LLC  
Gary Slagel (Past-Chairman), Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC.  
Ben Jezonik, Ergon  
Robert Beatty Jr., Coolspring Gas & Oil Co., LLC  
Stanley J. Berdell, BLX, Inc.  
Dan Billman, Billman Geologic Consultants, Inc.  
Brad Little, Penn View Exploration, Inc.  
Brian Bittinger, Bittinger Drilling, LLC / D&B Gas Production, LLC  
Mark Cline, Cline Oil Company  
David Cook, American Refining Group, Inc.  
Carrie Crumpton, CNX Resources Corp.  
Charlie Frantz, CSR Services.  
Daniel Frick, Diversified Energy Company PLC  
David Hill, Hill Drilling  
Deana Stephens, Steptoe & Johnson PLLC  
Paul Castelnovo, WGM Gas Company Inc.  
Paul Kanouff, Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
Bruce King, Greylock Energy  
Joe O'Donnell, IGS Energy, Inc.  
Len Paugh, Long Ridge Energy & Power  
Gene Pietrowski, BlackRock Resources, LLC  
Sean Brake, ShalePro Energy Services  
Jake Stille, Patriot Exploration Corporation  
Bryan Snyder, Snyder Brothers, Inc.  
Jeff Walentosky, Moody and Associates, Inc.

## Committee Chairs

Diversity Committee  
Deana Stephens, Steptoe & Johnson PLLC  
Whitney Nightingale, Steptoe & Johnson PLLC  
Environmental Committee  
Paul Kanouff, Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
Angelo Albanese, CNX Resources Corp.  
Legislative Committee  
Ben Wallace, Penneco Oil Company  
Market Development Committee  
Gene Pietrowski, BlackRock Resources, LLC.  
Joseph O'Donnell, Eastern Energy Field Services, Inc.  
Safety Committee  
Wayne Vanderhoof, RJR Safety, Inc.  
Eric Staul, Diversified Energy Company PLC  
Tax Committee  
Woodrow Morris, CPA, Schneider Downs & Co., Inc.  
Membership Committee  
Donald Zuch, Fusilier Resources, LLC.  
Jeff Walentosky, Moody and Associates, Inc.

## Staff

Dan Weaver ([dan@pioga.org](mailto:dan@pioga.org)), President & Executive Director  
Todd Pappasergi ([todd@pioga.org](mailto:todd@pioga.org)), Vice President & General Counsel  
Debbie Oylar ([debbie@pioga.org](mailto:debbie@pioga.org)), Director of Member Services and Finance  
Meghan Keely ([meghan@pioga.org](mailto:meghan@pioga.org)), Director of Communications (also newsletter advertising & editorial contact)  
Deana McMahan ([deana@pioga.org](mailto:deana@pioga.org)), Director of Administration and Committee Liaison

## Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association

100 Allegheny Drive, Suite 104. Warrendale, PA 15086  
724-933-7306 • [www.pioga.org](http://www.pioga.org)

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



PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PITTSBURGH, PA  
15290  
PERMIT NO. 1211

100 Allegheny Drive, Suite 104  
Warrendale, PA 15086

**Address Service Requested**



## Premium Service for Your Premium Product.

Whether buying or transporting crude, Ergon Oil Purchasing's integrated network of assets offers diversity to the market. Through Ergon's refineries, network of terminals, barge and trucking fleets, we understand the needs of the crude oil industry.

1.800.278.3364 [eopsales@ergon.com](mailto:eopsales@ergon.com)  



**ERGON**  
Oil Purchasing