

Trump Halts Renewables Permitting on Private Land: Energy Brief

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Trump Halts Permitting for Renewables Projects on Private Land

The Army Corps of Engineers has temporarily paused permitting on 168 renewable energy projects, a potential escalation of President Donald Trump's pledge to block wind and solar energy in favor of fossil fuels.

The freeze is expected to last through at least Friday when the corps expects to receive the administration's feedback on these proposals, Army Corps spokesperson Doug Garman said Wednesday. If it lasts longer, it could slow renewable energy development, said Mark Sudol, a former Army Corps official.

The Army Corps issues federal jurisdictional determinations and dredge-and-fill permits for projects on private land that affect waters of the US, or WOTUS, under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Trump froze authorizations in January for wind and solar projects on federal lands and water. [Read More](#)

- **Also Read:** [Trump Freezes Renewable Projects on Federal Lands and Waters](#)

Trump's quest to increase domestic oil production resurgence may hit its own hurdle. Fresh data shows US oil exports grew at the slowest pace outside the throes of the pandemic, with daily exports rising to a record 4.103 million barrels in 2024 but up only 1% from a year earlier. [Read More](#)

Trump's trade war could make it worse. China, the engine of oil consumption for the past two decades, slashed its purchases by half last year, and Beijing recently announced a 10% retaliatory tariff on purchases of US crude oil. Canada may also shift its long-standing resistance to building new oil and gas pipelines there. [Read More](#)

Happening on the Hill

Mining for National Security: The US must increase domestic extraction and processing of critical minerals to create a resilient supply chain and reduce reliance on China, the head of a nonprofit energy company that aims to reduce emissions will tell a House panel today.

Improving the federal permitting process and limiting litigation over mining projects are two ways to ramp up US production, said Jeremy Harrell, CEO of ClearPath, in prepared remarks before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals.

- "Dependence on China will become a critical vulnerability when the United States needs to build essential infrastructure and cannot proceed because China refuses to sell us the materials the American people rely on," according to Harrell's remarks, obtained by Bloomberg

Government. [Opening Statement](#) | [Hearing Website](#)

—*Kellie Lunney*

Also Happening on the Hill:

- **Hearing on Wildfires:** A House Judiciary subcommittee will hold a hearing today on “California fires and the consequences of overregulation.” [Hearing Website](#)
- **House Passes Wildfire Bill:** The House passed by a voice vote [H.R. 836](#), an emergency wildfire technology bill.
- **Senate Bills Advance:** The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee advanced [S. 347](#), which reauthorizes brownfields revitalization funding, and [S. 351](#), which aims to improve recycling accessibility and related activities, on Wednesday by a voice vote.
- **New House Energy Caucus:** Reps. Chuck Fleischmann (R-Tenn.) and Marc Veasey (D-Texas) are launching and will co-chair the new bipartisan American Energy Dominance Caucus, they announced Wednesday. The group, which already has a dozen members, aims to encourage collaboration between the energy industry, the public and private sectors, and members of Congress around increasing domestic energy production and security. Fleischmann also chairs the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee. [Read the Release](#)

Editor’s Picks

[Key Climate-Change Data Offline for Maintenance, US Says](#)

A key site that monitors global carbon-dioxide emissions went offline for maintenance and will return later Wednesday, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[Trump Cuts Set to Hobble Agencies If Hard-to-Replace Staff Exit](#)

This week’s takeover of USAID stoked concerns for the job security of skilled scientists, attorneys, and other experts across the government as President Donald Trump moves to shrink the federal workforce.

[Interior Faces Challenge to California Oil, Gas Drilling Permits](#)

Environmental and health organizations are challenging the Interior Department’s continued approval of drilling permits for new oil and gas wells on public land in California’s San Joaquin Valley, which already faces pollution from other sources.

[EPA In-Person Attendance Averaged 18% Last Year, Data Shows](#)

An average of 18.4% of the EPA’s workforce was physically present at the agency’s Washington, D.C., headquarters in 2024, according to federal data reviewed by Bloomberg Law.

[EPA Seeks Delay in Arguments Over Chemical Risk Evaluation Rule](#)

The EPA has asked a federal appeals court to postpone oral arguments about a fundamental chemical analysis regulation so new Trump administration officials can “decide what action, if any, is necessary.”

Chevron Is in Contact With Trump Administration Over Venezuela

Chevron Corp. is in communication with the Trump administration as some Republicans call for the US to revoke the company’s license to operate in Venezuela.

Credit Agricole CEO Rules Out Quitting Climate Group Amid Exodus

Credit Agricole SA Chief Executive Officer Philippe Brassac vowed to remain a member of the banking industry’s largest climate-finance alliance, even after Wall Street’s biggest lenders walked away.

US Retreat Sparks New Push to Save \$45 Billion Climate Deals

Nations including Germany and Japan are working to shore up programs aimed at delivering about \$45 billion to help developing countries abandon fossil fuels as the US pulls back from a leadership role.

Kellie Lunney in Washington also contributed to this story.

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