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To: Adams, ChaneyChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov
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March 21, 2016

News for the oil and natural gas industry

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TOP STORY

US crude exports reaching markets worldwide

US crude exports have been steadily picking up steam in the three months since the end of a 40-year ban. Since shipments began Dec. 31, tankers have been carrying US oil to countries including China, Germany, Israel and Panama. Producers nevertheless expect the US to remain a small-scale exporter compared with other major oil-producing nations.

[Bloomberg](#) (3/18)

INDUSTRY NEWS

Caution pays off for Wyo. drillers that learned from past busts

Wyoming oil and natural gas drilling companies that survived the 1980s bust years have used the hard lessons to their benefit in the recent boom-and-bust cycle. Kirkwood Oil and Gas, which sought bankruptcy protection in 1986, resisted the urge to acquire heavy debt during the most recent boom. That means the company now has the flexibility to acquire assets from less wary competitors.

[Star-Tribune \(Casper, Wyo.\)](#) (tiered subscription model) (3/19)

Calif. regulators levy \$75,000 fine for illegal gas venting

California regulators have issued a \$75,000 fine against a Long Beach oil and natural gas company accused of illegally venting gas from a well in Aliso Canyon, the site of a months-long leak from a natural gas storage facility. Regulators say Termo was illegally venting gas from its oil well because it could not send the gas to the Southern California Gas storage facility. Termo "has identified several discrepancies by the state which we are evaluating" in the order, company spokesman Ralph Combs said.

[Los Angeles Times](#) (tiered subscription model) (3/18)

Feds say oil, gas companies may owe \$1.6M in wages

Some oil and natural gas companies owe workers a total of \$1.6 million in unpaid wages, according to the Labor Department. Investigations of four companies uncovered violations of overtime provisions in the Fair Labor Standards Act, agency officials said. "We continue to find unacceptably high numbers of violations in the oil and gas industry," said Betty Campbell, regional administrator for the Wage and Hour Division of the Labor Department.

[The Intelligencer/Wheeling News-Register \(Wheeling, W.Va.\)](#) (3/18)

US rig count rises after 12 weeks of cuts

US drilling companies added one oil rig last week after cutting their number for 12 straight weeks, Baker Hughes reported.

[Reuters](#) (3/21)

EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

Oil well approved for new national monument in Nev.

Makoil has received federal permission to put a new oil well in the newly designated Basin and Range National Monument. The Bureau of Land Management gave permission for the well near Murphy Gap Reservoir in Lincoln County, Nev., 140 miles north of Las Vegas. The approval "recognizes valid existing rights. We're following the language in the proclamation and following through with a valid existing right," BLM spokesman Chris Hanefeld said.

[Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/20)

REFINING & MARKETING

Owner disputes reports that Portland-Montreal Pipe Line is mothballed

The company that owns the Portland-Montreal Pipe Line disputes reports that the 75-year-old line is being shut down, despite its recent lack of activity. "Portland-Montreal Pipe Line remains open for business, supporting its customers, employees and annuitants, continuing the safe and excellent operation it has long been known for," said spokesman Jim Merrill. The line, which runs from Montreal to Maine, has been inactive this year and may stay that way, depending on the outcome of a court fight and a proposed competing line.

[Portland Press Herald \(Maine\)](#) (3/20)

POLICY WATCH

Iowa refuses to hurry up permit for Bakken pipeline

Iowa regulators have rebuffed a request by Dakota Access to fast-track a permit it needs to start construction of a crude pipeline. Dakota Access had asked the Iowa Utilities Board to speed up the permit process to minimize the impact of the project on farmers along the 346-mile route through the state.

[The Des Moines Register \(Iowa\)](#) (tiered subscription model) (3/18)

API NEWS

API Fundamentals of Auditing and Lead Auditing

The Fundamentals of Auditing two-day course covers auditing fundamentals and auditing processes that are unique to the API program. The third day, the Lead Auditor course, offers additional information on leading an audit team. Participants of this course will learn how to conduct effective audits by applying the principles, procedures and techniques of effective audits as well as how to manage the audit process. Presented by Qualified Specialists, International, May 17 to 19. To learn more about this course and to register, visit the [API-U Calendar](#).

OCTGTS 2016

Learn the latest in the field of oil country tubular goods and tubular string from the experts at this year's OCTGTS, April 27 to 28. OCTGTS is co-sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute, CNPC Tubular Goods Research Institute, the Petroleum Tubular Goods Committee of Chinese Petroleum Society and the CNPC Key Laboratory for Petroleum Tubular Engineering and Shaanxi Key Laboratory

for Service Behavior and Structural Safety of Oil Tubular Goods and Equipment Materials. Learn more by visiting the [API-U Calendar](#).

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Advertising - [Hillary Batchelder](#)

P: 202.407.7803

Editor - [Bryan McBournie](#)

Mailing Address:

SmartBrief, Inc.®, 555 11th ST NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20004

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