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Top Story

Opinion: N.Y. could be next hot spot of U.S. energy boom

New York state could be the next site of U.S. energy resurgence, considering the shale resources it holds similar to those of states that have benefited from the boom, writes Rep. Chris Collins, R-N.Y. However, Gov. Andrew Cuomo would need to end the state's moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, as several studies have already proved the safety of the activity, he notes. "While Gov. Cuomo and downstate New York bureaucrats delay, New York residents, especially Western New Yorkers, lose out on job opportunities, lower energy prices, and lucrative revenue streams,"

Collins writes. [City & State \(New York\)](#) (12/1)

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Industry News

Analysis: Market pressures hamper U.S. condensate exports to Asia

U.S. condensate exports to Asia have stalled, with some shifting to European destinations in response to market pressures, including the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' decision to maintain its oil production at a shift in crude prices, observers say. Sources said Asian refineries, four months after starting to import U.S. condensate, have suspended further purchases. "There's so much oversupply that Middle East crudes are now trading at discounts and it is not economical to bring over crudes from the U.S. anymore," said Tushar Tarun Bansal, head of oil for East of Suez at FGE. [Reuters](#) (12/1)

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Production cuts could stop U.S. oil output growth amid price decline

U.S. oil production could stop increasing over the next year and a half as a response to production cuts brought by a drop in oil prices, according to a Raymond James analysis. That is likely to happen if the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries maintains its position against cutting production in the next year and domestic producers decide to slow down output to balance supply and demand in the oil market, the analysis said. "U.S. shale projects are all on the proverbial chopping block to right-size global production," it added. [FuelFix.com](#) (12/1)

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Report: Strategic oil reserve function at risk with Gulf Coast infrastructure changes

Infrastructure changes in the Gulf Coast, brought by increases in crude oil output from Canada and the Bakken and Eagle Ford Shale plays, could jeopardize potential deliveries of crude from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in times of emergency, according to an Energy Department report to Congress disclosed last week. The report noted that due to the output growth, the region has become a stopping place for crude, instead of a source of it. The reserve's function could then be affected by a lack of pipeline capacity, storage and domestic-flagged tank ships, the report said. [Platts](#) (12/1)

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American Energy Partners affiliate draws \$500M in equity pledges

American Energy Partners affiliate American Energy Mineral Holdings said Monday it secured equity commitments amounting to \$500 million. It is expected to use part of the funding to acquire 28,000 net mineral acres and 29,000 acres of royalty interests in the Permian Basin and in the Utica, Marcellus and Woodford Shale plays. Meanwhile, \$350 million will be used for initial working capital. [The Oklahoman \(Oklahoma City\)](#) (12/2)

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Exploration & Production

EIA: Lower 48 gas production rose 0.3% in Sept.

Natural gas output from the Lower 48 states in September reached 80.52 billion cubic feet per day, up 0.3% from August, the Energy Information Administration said Friday. Wyoming saw the largest production growth for the period at 4.2%, while New Mexico had the largest drop at 1.4%. Meanwhile, total domestic production gained a 3.2% month-over-month, hitting 89.16 billion cubic feet of gas per day. [Platts](#) (12/1)

(Stringer . / Reuters)

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Marathon Oil unit finds oil, gas at Kurdistan well

Marathon Oil KDV has made an oil and natural gas discovery through its Jisik-1 exploration well drilled at a block in Iraq's Kurdistan Region. A test resulted in a flow rate of 6,100 barrels of oil per day, while multiple stacked gas zone had a flow rate of up to 15 million cubic feet per day, the Marathon Oil subsidiary said. Marathon holds a 45% working interest in the block, with Total and the Kurdistan Regional Government holding 35% and 20%, respectively. [Oil & Gas Journal](#) (12/1)

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Technology & Innovation

Canadian firm uses citrus-based solvent to separate bitumen from oil sands

Canada-based U.S. Oil Sands Inc. is using citrus-based d-limonene to extract bitumen from Utah oil sands more efficiently than other separation methods. The technology, which is being used in the company's PR Spring project in Salt Lake City, allows reduction of costs and energy in the activity, potentially alleviating environmental impact, the company said. "We plan to expand our project in Utah and drive it up to 10,000 barrels per day. And then we'll plan to take that as a model and show we can develop that in Alberta," CEO Cameron Todd said. [Reuters](#) (12/1)

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Policy Watch

Refiners group intends to sue EPA for delay in issuing 2015 RFS

The American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers on Monday filed a notice of intent to bring a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency over its failure to release the 2015 Renewable Fuel Standard by the Nov. 30 deadline. "For some reason, the administration feels that it is above the law and does not need to comply with the statutory deadlines of the RFS," said Charles Drevna, president of the refiners group. [Oil & Gas Journal](#) (12/1), [The Hill](#) (12/1)

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City challenges lawsuits by Texas industry group, agency against fracking ban

The city of Denton, Texas, on Monday filed motions in response to lawsuits by the Texas Oil and Gas Association and the state's General Land Office against a measure banning local hydraulic fracturing operations. It sought to transfer the state agency's lawsuit from Austin to a Denton district court. It also argued that the industry group did not clarify its argument that state regulations supersede local efforts to regulate oil development. [SeattlePI.com/The Associated Press](#) (12/1)

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Behavior-Based Material Handling, Dec. 15 to 17, Johor Bahru, Malaysia

Behavioral Based Safety Operations Training adopted by the ISO Group is an international approach to safety that focuses on safe and unsafe behaviors of staff in the workplace. Its aim is to identify, influence, and change the unsafe behaviors that exist in the workplace, or reinforce the safe behaviors already established. The ISO Group's Behavior Based MHE Safety Operations Training goes beyond common MHE Safety Training, by integrating the latest behavioral research findings with a person-focused approach. The system teaches four critical skills: acting, coaching, thinking and seeing. When operators master all of the skills, they become responsible for their own and co-workers' safety. [Order API publications.](#)

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