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Date: 3/17/2016 9:42:32 AM

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March 17, 2016

News for the oil and natural gas industry

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### TOP STORY

#### [More contamination lawsuits expected after Pa. fracking verdict](#)

More lawsuits should be expected now that two Pennsylvania families have won a \$4.2 million judgment against Cabot Oil & Gas over claims their well water was contaminated by hydraulic fracturing. "Seeing plaintiffs prevail here, even on limited claims and with debatable evidence, suggests that lawyers for plaintiffs will be emboldened to pursue many more cases," defense attorney

Brent Allen said. Other legal experts said the case failed to show a direct link between fracking and contamination.

[Bloomberg BNA \(free content\)](#) (3/14)

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## INDUSTRY NEWS

### **Marathon Oil selling stakes in Wyo.**

Marathon Oil wants to sell all its assets in Wyoming as part of a bigger plan to sell \$750 million to \$1 billion in non-core assets. The company has worked Wyoming's oil fields for more than 100 years, but it focused more on production in Texas and North Dakota during the recent oil boom. Company spokeswoman

(Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

Lisa Singhanian said sales would proceed "only if an acceptable offer is received. This is a valuable asset, and we would expect to get fair value before agreeing to any transaction."

[Star-Tribune \(Casper, Wyo.\) \(tiered subscription model\)](#) (3/16)

### **Shell, Saudi Aramco to split Motiva refining project**

Shell and Saudi Aramco plan to end their Motiva refining and marketing joint venture. A nonbinding letter of intent calls for Aramco subsidiary Saudi Refining to keep the Motiva name and the 600,000 barrels-per-day refinery in Port Arthur, Texas, among other assets. Shell will take assets including the Norco and Convent refineries in Louisiana and nine distribution terminals.

[Oil & Gas Journal](#) (3/16)

## EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

### **Calif. oil producers adopting water treatment technology**

In ongoing efforts to reduce water usage and cut costs, California oil and gas producers have adopted a water treatment technology for oil and gas wells called OriginClear. The method yielded positive results in a Bakersfield field test in 2015, said an OriginClear report. "The combination of solids and oil removal demonstrated to the oil producer that this treatment scheme provided effluent appropriate for their reuse purposes," the report said.

[Rigzone](#) (3/16)

### **IHS: Oil producers seeking capital to boost production**

Raising capital is more important than break-even costs in projecting future oil production growth, IHS said. Producers would require \$50 billion more to keep production steady if crude prices reached \$44 to \$45 a barrel, said IHS oil market analyst Jamie Webster. "They're looking at every place they can to find money," Webster said. "But generally what you see is, if producers have the money, they drill."

Most of them are quite bullish (on oil prices)."

[FuelFix.com](#) (3/16)

## POLICY WATCH

### **Judge: Government needs to move on Mont. lease dispute**

A federal judge gave the Interior Department 24 hours to act on an oil and natural gas lease dispute involving Montana land held sacred by the Blackfoot tribes. Solenex, which acquired the 6,200-acre lease in 1982, sued in 2013 over a longstanding suspension that has blocked it from drilling. In November, the Interior Department said it wants to cancel the lease, but it has failed to act since then.

[The Associated Press](#) (3/16)

### **Ban on oil well fracking, acidizing planned by Calif. city**

The city of Carson, Calif., plans to ban hydraulic fracturing, acidizing and similar oil well stimulation methods. The City Council is expected to ratify the legislation at its next meeting and consider additional oil industry restrictions. Benjamin Hanelin, a lawyer for the pro-industry group Californians for Energy Independence, said the city should yield to state regulations on well stimulation.

[Daily Breeze \(Torrance, Calif.\)](#) (3/16)

## API NEWS

### **Rigging and slinging**

The aim and objectives of this training are to provide the delegate with knowledge of the rigging principles, general hazards and risks of rigging and lifting operations, an awareness of relevant legislation and regulation and an opportunity to practice basic rigging operations following a lifting plan. The participants will be able to demonstrate safe lifting operation. Presented by Thunder Oilfield Services, March 22 to 24. To learn more about this course and to register, visit the [API-U Calendar](#).

### **API Inspection Summit**

Save the date for the API Inspection Summit held Jan. 30 to Feb. 2, 2017, in Galveston, Texas. This four-day summit includes three days of presentations spanning over 120 topics. Addressing issues involved in asset condition evaluation for drilling, production systems, pipelines, terminals, refining, chemical manufacturing and storage facilities. In addition, an optional day of training is conducted by subject matter experts. Each day focuses on presentations relevant to upstream, midstream, downstream operation and integrity management. API Inspection Summit provides an opportunity to learn about new and existing industry codes and standards, to hear about emerging trends from experts and to discuss new and existing issues in inspection and AIM technology. [Find out why API Inspection Summit is the leading event for the oil and gas industry.](#)

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