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MAY 1, 2014

News for the oil and natural gas industry

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API: EPA should include safety buffer in developing 2014 ethanol mandate

The Environmental Protection Agency should "include an adequate margin for safety" in drafting the final 2014 Renewable Fuel Standard so as to protect consumers, said Robert Greco, downstream group director at the American Petroleum Institute. The agency relies on the Energy Information Administration's gasoline projections in drafting the RFS mandate, but EIA estimates often miss the mark, Greco said. "EPA shouldn't try to micromanage

ethanol mandates based on slight changes in gasoline demand forecasts. Instead, the agency must be conservative with ethanol mandates to provide consumers with a buffer against the consequences of the blend wall," he added. [Oil & Gas Journal](#) (4/30)

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Can Shale Help Solve The Energy Crisis In The UK?

With the recent discovery of UK shale gas spurring on further exploration efforts – **the UK has never been closer to taking the first important steps in becoming an energy independent country.** Next month's *3rd annual summit* brings together operators & government, to find out how shale gas has the potential to revolutionise the UK energy industry – be part of it.

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Industry News

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API names new top lobbyist

The American Petroleum Institute has named Louis Finkel as the group's new executive vice president for government relations. He comes from the Grocery Manufacturers Association. "This is an important role and we will rely on Louis to guide our outreach on an increasingly organic and local level, participating in conversations and advocacy in communities and audiences far outside the traditional oil patch," said API President and CEO Jack Gerard. [American City Business Journals/Columbus, Ohio/Energy Inc. blog](#) (4/30)

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FERC: Proposed La. LNG terminal wouldn't have significant environmental impact

Sempra Energy's proposed liquefied natural gas export facility in Cameron, La., will not have a significant impact on the environment, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission said in an environmental impact statement released on Wednesday. The commission said the risks associated with the project "would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with the implementation of Cameron's proposed minimization and mitigation measures and the additional [EIS] measures." [Platts](#) (4/30)

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Train derailment in Va. causes fire, oil leak

An oil train owned by CSX derailed in Lynchburg, Va., on Wednesday, resulting in a fire and spilling crude into a nearby river. Residents were asked to evacuate while officials battled the fire. No injuries were reported related to the incident. [Reuters](#) (5/1), [Platts](#) (4/30)

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Report: M&A deals in oil, gas sector reach "historic" volume in Q1

Mergers and acquisitions activities in the U.S. oil and natural gas sector reached "a historic first quarter across the board," totaling 43 deals valued at more than \$50 billion, according to a report by PricewaterhouseCoopers' U.S. Energy Practice. The surge in upstream activities and greater interest among foreign investors contributed to this growth, PwC said. "Divestitures continue to be a major source of deal activity, but we are seeing smaller deals taking place; larger portfolio adjustments have already been made," said Doug Meier, PwC's U.S. energy transactions and deals leader. [Oil & Gas Journal](#) (4/30)

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Exploration & Production

Shell stops adding Russian investment, CFO says

Europe's biggest oil company, Royal Dutch Shell, is shutting down all further investment in Russia because of the turmoil in Ukraine, which Western governments have blamed on Russia. "I don't think we'll be jumping into new investments [in Russia] anytime soon," said Chief Financial Officer Simon Henry. The company previously suspended planning for a shale gas project in Ukraine. [The Moscow Times/The Associated Press](#) (4/30), [The Telegraph](#) (London) (tiered subscription model) (4/30), [Platts](#) (4/30)

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Technology & Innovation

Hess teams up with wireless network provider to digitize Bakken operations

Hess has teamed up with Canadian firm Redline Communications to build a wireless network to digitally connect its operations in the Bakken Shale in the Williston Basin. "Hess is seriously committed to the safety of the worker and its contractors. It is very hard to be committed to safety if you aren't connected," said Redline's Director of Strategic Accounts Louis Lambert. [The Bakken magazine online](#) (Grand Forks, N.D.) (4/30)

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Policy Watch

House panel clears 2 bills related to U.S. LNG exports

The House Energy and Commerce Committee on Wednesday approved a bill that would require the Energy Department to expedite the approval of natural gas export applications. The bill, originally drafted by Rep. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., would give the department a 90-day deadline to make a decision on each application after the comment period ends or after the enactment of the bill. The committee also approved an amendment proposed by Rep. Gene Green, D-Texas, that would give automatic approval to 20 countries that have free trade agreements with the U.S. [FuelFix.com](#) (4/30), [The Wall Street Journal](#) (tiered subscription model) (4/30)

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State agencies collaborate to examine connection between injection wells, quakes

The Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission and the Ground Water Protection Council are working with energy regulators and geologic surveys in different states to investigate whether injection wells trigger seismic events. The groups are forming a working group, called the Induced Seismicity by Injection Work Group, which will provide administrative tools for seismic risk mitigation and preparation, the IOGCC said. [Oil & Gas Journal](#) (4/30)

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N.Y. seeks more data on companies' crude-by-rail movements

New York state is looking at establishing a mechanism that would require companies to disclose more information on their crude-by-rail operations, state agencies said in a report released Wednesday. Currently, reporting "volumes, routes, modes of transportation, or crude oil characteristics" is not mandatory for companies that transport crude through the state, according to the report. [Platts](#) (4/30)

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API Specification Q1 9th Edition, May 28 to 30, Mumbai, India

Presented by International Quality Solutions, this three-day course frames the management system requirements in managerial and business prospective and provides a working understanding of the 9th Edition requirements. Participants will be given insight into the drivers behind Q1's importance and its value in the oil and natural gas industry. Using practical examples and hands-on application, this course is designed to progressively give you introductory to advanced knowledge of Q1 requirements and interpretations. To register, visit the [API-U Calendar](#).

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