

# The Impact of the Unexpected Presidency of Donald Trump on American Energy Policy

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# Polling Question

What is your current opinion of President Trump?

1. Favorable
2. Unfavorable
3. No Opinion

# A Nationalist Policy

“Together, we are going to start a new energy revolution – one that celebrates American production on American soil. We want to make our goods here, instead of shipping them from other countries.”

-President Trump, May 2017

# Trump on Energy



Our new American Energy Policy will unlock MILLIONS of jobs & TRILLIONS in wealth. We are on the cusp of a true energy REVOLUTION.

4:10 PM - 29 Jun 2017

# Trump Before Presidency



Fracking will lead to American energy independence. With of natural gas continuing to drop, we can be at a tremendous advantage.

12:28 PM - 3 May 2012

Oil would be \$25 a barrel if our government would let us drill. Our country would be rich again--who needs OPEC.

9:07 AM - 19 Sep 2012

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# Trump and the Media

The President's preferred forum for espousing his policy appears to be Twitter.

The last fifteen months have witnessed nearly inexplicable exchanges on social media and elsewhere frequently provoked by President Trump.



# Is there a Method to the Madness?

While attention has been drawn to a variety of topics through such exchanges, the Trump administration has set about undoing much of what the Obama administration enacted through Executive Orders and Federal Regulations.

# Regulation Rollbacks

In the first year of his administration, President Trump has been prolific in rolling back regulations of prior administrations.

This is consistent with the administration's so-called "one-in, two-out" executive order.

The Wall Street Journal reported that for every regulation implemented in the first 9 months of the Trump presidency, his administration rolled back 22 other regulations .



# The Impact on Energy Industries

Since the inauguration in January 2017, there has been a concerted effort by the Trump administration to remove roadblocks on construction of onshore energy projects, particularly pipelines, and to modify federal regulations that imposed additional costs on those industries.

# Executive Orders Reversing Obama Plans

By March, Trump had issued orders to review the Clean Power Plan, which Obama's EPA used to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants, and the Clean Water Rule, which significantly increased the authority of the EPA and Corps of Engineers to regulate inland waters.

# Increased Pipeline Construction

Through appointments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), regulatory delays imposed on pipeline construction projects have been significantly reduced.

In January 2017, the Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipeline projects were authorized by Executive Order.

# Additional Pipeline Projects

FERC has also approved or accelerated review of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (\$5 billion), the Mountain Valley Pipeline (\$3.5 billion), the Nexus Pipeline (\$2.2 billion), the Mountain Xpress Pipeline (\$1.8 billion) and the Penn East Pipeline (\$1 billion).

# Additional Regulatory Activity

In addition to FERC, the Department of Energy approved maximum exports from the Cheniere LNG project and the EPA is reconsidering new rules on toxic metal emissions from power plant wastewater and on methane emissions from new and modified oil and gas infrastructure.

# ANWAR

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2018 has opened 1.5 million acres of the Arctic National Refuge to oil and gas drilling.

For years, Republicans and the Energy industry had attempted to open ANWAR to exploration and drilling.

# Expanding National Lands for Exploration

In December 2017, by executive order, President Trump opened 1.35 million acres of Bears Ears National Monument and 1.87 million acres of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument to drilling and mining.

This is the largest reduction of national monuments in U.S. history.

# “America-First Offshore Energy Strategy”

In January, the Trump administration published its new proposed offshore drilling plan.

It would make at least 90% of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf available for lease.

It includes 47 potential lease sales.

19 off the coast of Alaska

12 in the Gulf of Mexico



# Offshore Safety Regulations

The Trump Administration also has proposed repealing several offshore safety regulations implemented after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon accident.

The Bureau of Safety & Environmental Enforcement has described this as an “effort to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens” which is expected to save companies \$288 million over 10 years.

# Provoking Controversy

These regulatory efforts have been confronted by lawsuits from various States and non-governmental organizations (NGO). NGOs such as the Sierra Club have initiated litigation over many of these steps.

# Influencing the Courts

Notwithstanding his well-publicized disputes with various judges over private litigation and his immigration efforts, Trump's most significant influence will likely develop through his appointments to the federal bench. His appointment of Justice Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court is the most evident example of that potential legacy.

In his first year, Trump also appointed a record 12 appellate judges (four times as many as Obama and twice as many as Bush II). He also appointed 10 district court (trial) judges. ■

# Polling Question

What effect do you believe Trump's energy policy will have on the insurance market?

1. Positive Effect
2. Negative Effect
3. No Effect

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