

Unleashing American Energy & Lowering Costs

TIMELINE OF TRUMP EPA's OIL & GAS RECONSIDERATION

President Trump promised his administration would end the war on oil and natural gas, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin vowed to do his part to fulfill this promise. In 2024, the Biden EPA slapped on burdensome and unnecessary oil and gas regulations that amounted to \$18 billion in costs for Americans. Behind every barrel of oil and every cubic foot of natural gas produced in the U.S. are **millions of workers, businesses, and the heartbeat of this nation's economy**; these regulations posed a monumental threat to all of that. But it wasn't just the producers and operators who suffered, it was every American, in every state. The country saw prices rise drastically as a result and Americans found themselves struggling to heat their homes and fill their gas tanks. America produces energy in a better and more environmentally friendly way than anywhere else in the world. The Trump EPA knows that our policies must meet our nation's potential. **Oil and gas touches nearly every part of our lives**, it supports millions of good-paying jobs, and it powers all our homes, businesses, and schools. The Trump EPA is making sure it is affordable and reliable.

March
2025

Announced Reconsideration of Biden EPA's 2024 Oil & Gas Regulations

On March 12, 2025, EPA announced a comprehensive reconsideration of the Biden-era OOOOb/c. This is not a typo, OOOOb/c is the technical name for federal Clean Air Act standards for the oil and gas industry. In 2024, the Biden EPA finalized these standards touting massive environmental benefits. However, the reality was \$18 billion in unnecessary regulatory costs with none of the environmental benefits promised. These added costs were passed onto consumers, and Americans started to see outrageous energy and gas bills. An industry that had supported communities for generations started to shrink away, jobs were lost and incomes were reduced.

At the Trump EPA, we heard the same message from all oil and natural gas producers—from the largest producers to families with a single well on their land that provides their retirement income—the Biden regulations were unworkable and were holding back American energy dominance. EPA began working on its reconsideration of these regulations to ensure America was no longer prevented from unleashing energy dominance and continuing our trajectory, not only as a leader in energy, but also of emissions reductions.

November
2025

Extended Unrealistic Biden-era Compliance Deadlines

On November 26, 2025, EPA finalized the extension of several compliance deadlines in the Biden 2024 rule. The extensions gave owners and operators more realistic timelines, and it gave time to understand, and quickly tackle, the many compliance problems with the Biden rule. Providing regulatory certainty is one of the best things we can do across the board.

It also provided immediate relief for hundreds of thousands of oil and gas sources across the country, while saving an estimated **\$750 million**.

April 2026

Finalized First Round of Changes to the 2024 Rule

On April 6, 2026, EPA finalized the first set of revisions to the 2024 Rule. These revisions covered the temporary flaring provisions for associated gas and the requirements for continuous monitoring of the net heating value (NHV) of vent gas. Serious concerns had been raised that the restrictions on flaring did not provide enough time for owners and operators to troubleshoot and repair equipment, putting reliability of energy for American families and the safety of workers at risk. With NHV, the Trump EPA found it could reduce the number of unnecessary monitoring tests by up to 141,000 per year **without a change in emissions**.

For everyday Americans, the changes meant **\$2.5 billion in savings** that translated to lower gas and energy prices. It also meant that families of energy workers could rest assured that their loved ones would not be put in harm's way unnecessarily.

Clarified When Oil and Natural Gas Producers Could Flare

May
2026

On May 1, 2026, EPA issued guidance clarifying that current federal rules already allow producers to flare associated gas at new oil wells in limited circumstances after the May 7, 2026 phase out deadline. The guidance was issued after operators in the Permian Basin and Williston Basin, including the Bakken, warned that circumstances beyond their control could force them to halt production, including the May 7, 2026, phase-out of routine flaring.

According to the Department of Energy, that clarification allowed **tens of thousands of barrels of oil a day to keep flowing**. That is an absolute necessity for American energy dominance. **It was a necessary action to lower gasoline and diesel prices nationwide.**

EPA is Not Finished—What to Expect Next

October
2026

In October 2026, EPA will build on all the work the agency has done to address concerns raised with the Biden-era rule and bring commonsense back to rulemaking. The Trump EPA will be proposing the second part of its comprehensive reconsideration. Alone, the move is expected to save **\$45 billion** and give domestic oil and natural gas producers of all sizes, including those producing on their family property, significant regulatory relief. **That relief doesn't stop at the wellhead. This proposal is expected to help lower prices at the pump and lower the cost of living for American families.**

The proposal will:

- Work to help families who have marginal wells and use the oil and gas they produce to power their homes or run farm equipment. This is often used by these family producers to offset everyday costs like groceries and gas.
- Work to return oil & gas regulations to the best reading of the Clean Air Act by proposing to remove the Super Emitter Program.
- Propose to split the “No Identifiable Emissions” standard into two parts, design requirements and operational requirements.
- Revisit the overall approach to regulating associated gas from oil wells.
- Make technical changes to give flexibility where appropriate.

America is blessed with an abundance of natural resources, including oil and natural gas. Our policies should allow Americans to tap into our full potential. **EPA looks forward to hearing from all Americans on its proposal.**