

Oil and Natural Gas Roundtable

Tuesday, February 27th and Wednesday, February 28th 2018
U.S. EPA Region 8 | 1595 Wynkoop Street | Denver, Colorado 80202

Cosponsors:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Environmental Council of the States
Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission

Disclaimer: This document does not represent an Agency position on the topics discussed herein and should not be construed as a regulation, policy, guidance, or the outcome of a scientific inquiry. The document is not a regulation itself, nor does it change or substitute for those provisions and regulations. Thus, this document does not impose legally binding requirements on EPA, states, or the regulated community. This document does not confer legal rights or impose legal obligations upon any member of the public. This document is not a guidance document nor is it EPA policy. Thus, this document does not clarify or state an agency position related to the exploration and production of unconventional oil or natural gas. Mention of any group, trade name, or commercial product does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by EPA. This document may be modified without notice.

Background Materials

Welcome

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the oil and natural gas roundtable. Oil and natural gas plays a key role in the United States' clean energy future. Responsible development of America's shale gas resources offers important economic, energy security, and environmental benefits. In order to achieve these benefits efficiently, effective stakeholder engagement is essential. The oil and natural gas roundtable is an opportunity for stakeholders to come together and discuss challenges and meaningful solutions.

Overview

In July 2017, Administrator Pruitt committed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to holding a roundtable with the oil and natural gas industry as well as other stakeholders, including state regulators, NGOs, and others "...to discuss industry concerns and enhance communication while ensuring safe and responsible domestic oil and gas production." EPA partnered with the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) to host the oil and natural gas roundtable.

The purpose of the roundtable is for a small number of oil and natural gas stakeholders to come together and share their individual expertise and experiences and work together to find reasonable and practical solutions related to various environmental regulatory, permitting, and compliance challenges with the goal of achieving more effective and efficient environmental outcomes. Therefore, the oil and natural gas roundtable objectives are:

1. To improve relationships and enhance communications among oil and natural gas stakeholders.
2. To identify and share solutions related to challenges that adversely impact efficient and timely compliance.

Following the roundtable, EPA will produce a document capturing various individual stakeholder ideas, experiences, and practices. The document may serve as the basis for further discussions at both the ECOS Spring Meeting in St. Paul, MN (March 20-22, 2018) and the IOGCC Business Meeting in Oklahoma, City, OK (May 6-8, 2018).

Logistics

The oil and natural gas roundtable will be held at EPA's Regional Office in Denver, Colorado in the EPA Region 8 Conference Center, which is located on the second floor of the building.

Prior to your arrival in Denver or visiting EPA Region 8, please visit the following webpage (<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/visiting-epas-region-8-office-denver>) to familiarize yourself with EPA Region 8's security and screening procedures. In addition to these procedures, you will also find

information on driving directions and parking resources for local participants as well as other pertinent visitor information.

To assist you with the security and screening process:

- You will proceed through security and screening on both days of the roundtable and anytime you leave the building and re-enter.
- While there are vending machines for snacks and cold beverages in the building, there is not an option for coffee or tea. You are welcome to bring your coffee or tea with you through security and screening.
- The roundtable starts at 8:30 a.m. on both Tuesday, February 27 and Wednesday, February 28. You may enter the building as early as 7:00 am.
- Once you complete the security and screening process, you will proceed to the conference center on the second floor for registration.
- All participants will be assigned seats.

Participant Preparation

Participants are asked to prepare by:

- Reviewing the roundtable materials, including the draft final agenda and two case studies.
- Contemplating your individual challenges and meaningful solutions so that you can succinctly share an example at the roundtable.

Facilitator

The roundtable discussions will be facilitated by Arleen O'Donnell, Vice President, Eastern Research Group (ERG), a contractor to EPA. Arleen has been working to protect and sustainably manage water resources since beginning her career as a researcher at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. During her 18 years at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection—where she rose to the position of Commissioner—she spearheaded innovative water resources management and air pollution control programs and regulations working closely with industry, agriculture and other members of the regulated community. She has held national leadership positions with the ECOS and the Association of Clean Water Administrators.

Since 2008, Arleen has stayed involved with ECOS and has supported the Shale Gas Caucus. She leads ERG's natural resource management practice, and supports the EPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Weather Service and other state and local government clients. An experienced stakeholder engagement facilitator, Arleen specializes in collaborative problem solving.

Arleen holds a B.S. in biology and environmental science from the University of Massachusetts and an M.S. in civil engineering and urban/environmental policy from Tufts University.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Who is attending the oil and natural gas roundtable?*

A mix of approximately 70 representatives from state regulatory agencies, tribes, industry, trade associations, environmental NGOs, and EPA. An attendee list will be provided.

2. *How was my organization selected to participate?*

ECOS and IOGCC identified prospective participants, and EPA issued invitations to prospective participants.

3. *Is the roundtable open to the public or the media?*

No, participation is by invitation only. However, EPA intends to release publicly a summary of the proceedings of the roundtable.

4. *Are the roundtable discussions for attribution?*

Consistent with Chatham House Rule, EPA's summary will not quote individuals or attribute statements to a specific organization. Chatham House Rule states: *"When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed."* If necessary, EPA's summary may generically attribute a sentiment to a stakeholder category, like "a representative from a state suggested..." or "an industry representative stated..."

5. *As a participant, will I be able to review and comment on a draft version of EPA's written summary of the roundtable prior to its release?*

Yes, EPA will provide all participants with a draft version of its summary by email for review for a short period of time. EPA requests that participants submit prospective edits/comments on an individual basis. EPA will work with ECOS and IOGCC to finalize the roundtable summary.

6. *What is the purpose of releasing a summary of the roundtable proceedings?*

Broadly, to offer oil and natural gas stakeholders additional perspectives and opportunities for engagement on specific challenges. More specifically, the summary of the roundtable proceedings may serve as the basis for further discussions at the ECOS Spring Meeting in St. Paul, MN (March 20-22, 2018) and the IOGCC Business Meeting in Oklahoma, City, OK (May 6-8, 2018).

7. *Will EPA offer additional oil and natural gas roundtables in the future?*

At this time, EPA is not planning an additional oil and natural gas roundtable. However, following the

January 2018 roundtable, ECOS and IOGCC plan to continue and build on the roundtable discussions at the ECOS Spring Meeting and the IOGCC Business Meeting.

8. *Why did EPA partner with ECOS and IOGCC on the oil and natural gas roundtable?*

EPA commonly partners with states through organizations like ECOS and IOGCC to ensure cooperative approaches to protecting human health and the environment.

9. *What is the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)?*

ECOS is the national nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of state and territorial environmental agency leaders. ECOS' purpose is to improve the capability of state environmental agencies to protect and improve human health and the environment.

10. *What is the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC)?*

IOGCC is the organization of the oil and natural gas producing states, with the responsibility to protect and develop the states' oil and gas resources, avoid waste of those resources, and protect the environment.