The Natural Gas Industry in a Climate-Focused Future: Regulators Take Action to Adapt

InsightsClimate change policies at the state and federal levels will have significant impacts on natural gas companies and their customers. On the one hand, there is pressure on companies to maintain safe and reliable service – on the other, the push for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Timing Key in Consulting Deal Between Firstenergy, Regulator

InsightsShortly before a utility lawyer and lobbyist was appointed Ohio’s top regulator of electric and power generating companies, he received $4.3 million from top executives at one of the companies whose fortunes would soon be in his hands.

Groups Seeking to Expand Reach of Clean Water Act

InsightsIn April 2020, the Supreme Court issued its opinion in County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund … vacating the Ninth Circuit's decision.

Nationwide Deep Freeze Leads to Spike in Natural Gas Prices

InsightsIn the wake of the deep freeze that recently swept the nation, natural gas has taken the forefront among a slew of price gouging allegations.

Texas Blackouts Show Vulnerabilities of Electric Grid

InsightsAn unusually severe winter storm has left millions in Texas without natural gas and electricity as the state's grid operator, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), implemented rolling blackouts.

Chesapeake Energy Emerges From Bankruptcy and Shifts Back to Natural Gas

InsightsU.S. shale producer Chesapeake Energy Corp on Tuesday exited Chapter 11 bankruptcy with business plan that nods to its founders’ emphasis on natural gas after a recent push into crude oil.

US Energy Policy Must Comply with the Laws of Physics

InsightsAs we are facing negative consequences of climate change due to carbon emissions, the Biden administration has launched an effort to quickly replace some of the fossil fuel industry that currently provides 80 percent of the U.S. energy supply with renewable energy, such as solar and wind.

Highlights of the Section 45Q

Final Regulations

InsightsOn January 6, 2021, the IRS issued T.D. 9944 (the “Final Regulations”), which finalizes the proposed regulations under section 45Q (the “Proposed Regulations”) that were issued in REG-112339-19 on May 28, 2020 and discussed in an earlier post. This article summarizes the key ways in which the Final Regulations differ from their predecessor.

2021 Clean Energy Outlook

InsightsThe end-of-the year omnibus (H.R. 133) is a massive $2.3 trillion spending bill containing appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, COVID-19 relief funds, the first energy authorization in over a decade and extensions of a number of tax incentives also important to the energy sector.

Energy & Sustainability: What to Expect

InsightsAfter what felt like one of the longest election seasons in history, Washington is preparing to welcome the incoming administration of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

Continuity Safe Harbor Extended to 10 Years for Qualifying Offshore Projects and Federal Land Projects

InsightsThe IRS issued new guidance (Notice 2021-05) on New Year’s Eve that extends the four-year window, within which projects must place in service in order to be deemed to have satisfied the ‘continuous efforts’ or ‘continuous construction’ requirement, to ten years.

COVID Relief and Appropriations Act Includes Major Climate Change and Energy Provisions

InsightsOn December 27, 2020, President Trump signed H.R. 133, the ‘Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021,’ an agglomeration of dozens of individual pieces of legislation which together total nearly 6,000 pages.

Solar and Wind Tax Credits Extended, Again

InsightsThe United States Congress passed a second large stimulus bill aimed at curtailing the economic disruptions caused by COVID-19.

EPA Recommends New Requirements to Address PFAS in Wastewater & Stormwater

InsightsLittle guidance is offered to permit writers as to when PFAS are ‘expected to be present’ in wastewater or stormwater discharges. Rather, permit writers are advised to look to the raw materials stored at the facility…

Judge Orders Texas Energy Regulator to Halt Exceptions to Environmental Rules

InsightsA state district judge in Austin has ordered the Texas Railroad Commission to stop granting exceptions to environmental rules requiring oil and gas companies to cap unplugged wells and clean up waste pits.

Lawmakers Debate One-Year Delay on Controversial Energy Law Rather Than Repeal

InsightsState lawmakers are considering pausing for a year an energy law at the center of an alleged $60-million bribery case rather than repealing it.

Virginia’s Clean Energy Transition

InsightsFrom a fossil-fuel friendly state with only a small renewables presence, Virginia went to one with a mandatory schedule for phasing out fossil fuels by 2050, participation in a regional carbon market and some of the highest renewables targets in the nation.

Climate Goals Will Boost Renewable Energy, but Fossil

Fuel Still Has Life

InsightsAddressing climate change and its effects is one of President-elect Joe Biden’s top four priorities.

Energy: 2020 Post-Election Analysis Issue-by-Issue

InsightsOne of the noteworthy moments of the recent Presidential campaign came in the candidates’ last debate, when Vice President Biden” commented that he would transition away from the oil industry and that it has to be replaced by renewable energy over time.

S&P Global Ratings Downgrades Firstenergy to BB+ Following Bribery Scandal

InsightsS&P Global Ratings downgraded FirstEnergy Corp. and its subsidiaries, citing the dismissal Thursday night, Oct. 29, of former CEO Charles Jones in relation to a bribery scandal.