

April 19, 2013

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WP-04-19-13

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE BATTLE HEATS UP

On Wednesday, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Chaired by Congressman Fred Upton (R-MI), approved legislation which would move the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline forward without the President's consent and limit litigation aimed to delay the construction process. The full committee approved the legislation known as the "Northern Route Approval Act" (H.R. 3) by a bipartisan vote of 30 – 18. H.R. 3 now has 111 bipartisan House cosponsors and is expected to receive a House floor vote before the Memorial Day recess.

On Thursday, the State Department convened a hearing in Grand Island, Nebraska to discuss the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) evaluating the proposed new route through Nebraska. Thousands of pipeline supporters and protestors attended. An Omaha World-Herald poll in September 2012 found that 61 percent of Nebraskans support the pipeline while only 28 percent oppose. The draft SEIS dispelled environmental critics' claims that the Keystone XL pipeline would increase the production of Canadian oil sands by arguing that Canadian oil sands would be developed with or without the pipeline's construction. A final SEIS should be completed soon which is likely to be the last hurdle in the Keystone reviewing process.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State John Kerry avoided questions from lawmakers this week when asked about the pipeline. He said that the Obama Administration is simply following its legal mandate to fully review the application process and consult with the public. House conservatives argue that the President is slow walking the process to avoid making one of his biggest energy policy decisions of his second-term.

A decision by the Obama Administration is expected later this year.

HOUSE COMMITTEE HOLDS CFTC FUNDING HEARING

Last Friday, the House Appropriations Committee - Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and related Agencies, held a hearing over President Obama's FY 2014 CFTC budget request totaling \$315 million. The CFTC is operating under a \$205 million budget level and employs 684 staff. The bulk of the funding increase would hire an additional 330 employees to enforce new futures markets regulations. Subcommittee Chairman Robert Aderholt (R-AL) argued that the CFTC should be using its funding for technology improvements rather than hiring additional personnel, but CFTC Chairman Gensler disagreed and said that the agency needs additional staff for futures market surveillance, enforcement and registration of new regulated swaps dealers.

Given that the over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives market has grown exponentially over the last 10 years, which now for the first time is required to register with the CFTC, PMAA supports additional CFTC funding for technological upgrades and additional staff hires. Currently, the U.S. OTC market totals \$300 trillion with another \$300 trillion traded world-wide. The CFTC's current \$205 million budget is inadequate to provide oversight especially since the agency is currently operating below early 1990's funding levels. An additional \$110 million appropriated to the CFTC from its current \$205 million level should be a widely accepted down payment to prevent another financial collapse.

BLENDER PUMP PROGRAM UPDATE

The Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) has announced that funds available for REAP during FY 2013 have increased from \$20 million to \$60 million. To facilitate the use of the additional funds, the application window for requesting grants, including feasibility study grants, and combination loan and grant, was extended from April 30, 2013 to May 31, 2013.

Blender pumps, those fuel dispensers that can blend and offer E15, mid-level blends and E85, remain among the list of renewable energy projects which are eligible for REAP funding. Eligible applicants include rural small businesses and agricultural producers. Grant requests can be made for up to 25 percent of total eligible project costs.

- Grant/guaranteed loan combination requests can be made for up to 75 percent of total eligible project costs, typically 25 percent grant, 50 percent loan guarantee request.
- Guaranteed loan only requests can be made for up to 75 percent of total eligible project costs.
- Feasibility study requests can be made for up to 25 percent of total feasibility study costs up to a maximum of a \$50,000 request. An independent third party must perform the feasibility study.

The BYO Ethanol Campaign offers FREE grant writing services for those who qualify and are installing blender pumps for offering mid-level ethanol blends including E85. For more information on the USDA REAP grant and the FREE grant writing services, please go to www.byoethanol.com/incentives.

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WPMA ANNOUNCES NEW PETROLEUM MARKETERS SUPPLY GUIDE

The Western Petroleum Marketers Association (WPMA) is pleased to announce that we have recently partnered with MultiView, Inc., an Irving, TX, publisher of Digital Buyer's Guides and E-News Briefs, to launch the *Petroleum Marketers Supply Guide*.

About the Petroleum Marketers Supply Guide

Our online vendor search is designed specifically for petroleum marketers, refiners, and c-store operators. Easily accessible from a link on the WPMA Web site home page (www.wpma.com) the marketplace enables users to conveniently perform targeted searches for industry-related products and services using either a user-defined keyword search, or an alphabetized category and sub-category directory search.

Unlike traditional search engine results that can generate numerous irrelevant results - and slow down your procurement process - the *Petroleum Marketers Supply Guide* is filled with industry-specific suppliers and service providers.

We feel confident you will find the *Petroleum Marketers Supply Guide* a valuable tool for researching, selecting and purchasing the resources you're looking for. Please click [here](http://petroleummarketersupplyguide.com/) (<http://petroleummarketersupplyguide.com/>) to visit the guide to see how it can work for you.

If you are a supplier or service provider, a listing in the *Petroleum Marketers Supply Guide* will ensure that your company's brand and message are easily accessible to the buyers who matter most to you. If you are interested in learning more about how to feature your company in the marketplace, please contact MultiView at 800-816-6710 or by email at wpma@multiview.com.

RESERVE YOUR ROOMS NOW FOR PMAA'S WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AND DAY ON THE HILL

PMAA's annual Washington Conference and Day on the Hill will be held in our Nation's Capitol of Washington, DC from May 15-17. The meeting will begin with an Opening Session / Issues Briefing in the early afternoon of May 15. Our welcome reception including our popular PAC silent auction fundraiser concludes the day! On the morning of May 16, marketers will head to Capitol Hill for visits with their Congressional delegations after a buffet breakfast and an issues briefing if you did not arrive in time to attend the opening session. The PMAA Board of Directors will meet on May 17.

If you plan on attending PMAA's Annual Washington Conference and Day on the Hill, now is the time to make your room reservation through A Room With a View at 1.800.780.4343. In the event that rooms become available at The Washington Court Hotel or The Liaison Capitol Hill due to cancellations, A Room With a View will notify conference attendees and help transfer reservations back those hotels in the order in which they were booked. For those planning to attend this informative conference, please be sure to complete the appropriate Registration Form at your earliest convenience. Information and instructions for these forms along with the Conference Schedule and the latest Hotel Information can be found [here](http://www.pmaa.org/pmaameetings/upcomingmeetings.asp) (<http://www.pmaa.org/pmaameetings/upcomingmeetings.asp>).

Please make your plans now to attend this important and productive opportunity to meet with your members of Congress to make your voices heard on topics important to the petroleum marketing industry!

2014 WESTERN PETROLEUM MARKETERS CONVENTION & CONVENIENCE STORE EXPO LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



Start planning now to attend the 2014 WPMA Convention and Convenience Store Expo. It will be held at the Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada. Mark your calendars for February 18-20, 2014.

Access the WPMA National Convention page by scanning the QR code on the left with your smart device.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2013

May 9-10, 2013 – NPM&CSA Big Dogs' Shootout – Red Rock Hotel & Casino – Las Vegas, Nevada

June 4-6, 2013 - Montana (MPMCSA) Convention - Holiday Inn Grand - Billings, Montana

June 17-20, 2013 - Washington (WOMA) Convention - Suncadia Lodge - Cle Elum, Washington

June 20, 2013 – UPMRA Summer Golf Classic – South Mountain Golf Course – Draper, Utah

July 31-August 2, 2013 - Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention - Sun Valley Resort - Sun Valley, Idaho

August 27-29, 2013 – New Mexico (NMPMA) Convention – Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North , Albuquerque, NM

September 12-13, 2013 - Utah (UPMRA) Convention - Zermatt Resort - Midway, UT

Petro Pete: *“I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.”*

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