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MULTI-STATE HOURS OF SERVICE WAIVER EXTENDED DUE TO WINTER STORMS

On Thursday, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) extended a regional Hours of Service waiver for the following states due to winter storms: **KENTUCKY, LOUISIANA, OKLAHOMA, TEXAS, VIRGINIA, AND WEST VIRGINIA through March 19th.**

The emergency declaration applies to all states and jurisdictions listed above. This waiver covers all fuel deliveries (heating fuels, including propane, natural gas, and heating oil, and other fuel products, including gasoline) in the states and jurisdictions listed because they support the "emergency," which in this case is maintaining adequate fuel distribution in those areas.

Important: The FMCSA waiver covers interstate shipment of fuel in and out of the states and jurisdictions listed in the waiver letter. The FMCSA waiver does not cover intrastate only shipments (deliveries that stay within the boundaries of a single state). State governors must issue waivers for intrastate shipments within their boundaries. State Governors typically issue such waivers as part of their Emergency Declaration, or when FMCSA waivers are put into effect. Most of these states have already issued intrastate HOS waivers. Click [here](#) to read the notice.

The Energy Marketers of America will continue to work closely with the FMCSA, DOE, DHS/FEMA and other federal agencies to ensure emergency preparedness and response waivers and solutions to problems that arise in response to the recent winter storms.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

Late Thursday, Senate Democrats released their version of the COVID-relief package, the American Rescue Plan Act. The Senate will consider additional amendments Friday afternoon with a final vote expected Saturday. Most, if not all, Senate Republicans are expected to join their House counterparts in voting against the package. Nonetheless, so long as all 50 Democratic Senators vote for the package, Vice President Kamala Harris will serve as the 51st tie-breaking vote. After Senate passage, the House will approve the changes and send the bill to President Biden, who could sign it into law early next week.

Key provisions of the package include:

- Direct payments worth up to \$1,400 per person.
- Extension of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation programs.
- Extension of the 15 percent increase in food stamp benefits through September, instead of allowing it to expire at the end of June.
- \$880 million for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
- Extension of the employee retention tax credit through December 31, 2021.
- Extension of tax credits for employer-provided paid sick and family leave through September 30th.
- \$4.5 billion for LIHEAP.
- \$19.1 billion to state and local governments to help low-income households cover back rent and utility bills.
- Expansion of the child tax credit to \$3,600 for children under 6 and \$3,000 for children under age 18.
- \$15 billion to the Emergency Injury Disaster Loan program.
- An additional \$7 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program.
- \$350 billion to state and local governments, as well as tribes and territories.

On the infrastructure front, this week President Biden spoke with bipartisan members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The Biden Administration has made it clear that than an infrastructure / highway / clean energy jobs package will be the President's second major priority after passing the COVID-package. While both parties see infrastructure as a key priority, Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO), the top Republican on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, urged the Biden Administration to focus exclusively on bridges and roads and not clean energy initiatives.

A key question for lawmakers is how to pay for an infrastructure package. House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman Peter DeFazio (R-OR) believes that an infrastructure package should not go through budget reconciliation due to the restrictions on what types of projects and programs could be funded. Importantly, Congress recently announced a plan to return to earmarks, formally known as congressionally directed spending. Earmarks allow Members of Congress to direct funding to certain projects in their districts and can be used as carrots and sticks for securing votes on key pieces of legislation. Chairman DeFazio is working with members of the Committee on an earmark process for the next surface transportation bill.

HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE DEMOCRATS INTRODUCE CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

This week, House democrats reintroduced an expanded version of the "Climate Leadership and Environmental Action for our Nation's (CLEAN) Future Act," to reach zero carbon emissions in the areas of power, buildings and efficiency, transportation, and industrial sectors.

Among the most significant plans, the proposal calls for:

- Electricity suppliers to provide an increasing supply of clean energy to consumers starting in 2023, rising to 80 percent clean energy by 2030 and 100 percent by 2035
- A mandate for zero-energy-ready buildings by 2030.
- Directives to states and federal agencies to develop and implement individual plans to meet the 2050 net-zero emissions target.
- New stringent vehicle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions standards alongside incentives to shift to low- and zero-carbon transportation fuels.
- A "Buy Clean" Program setting performance standards to reduce emissions in construction and manufacturing supported by federal funding alongside incentives for use of low-carbon materials; and
- A National Climate Bank to finance the energy transition through loans, grants and other mechanisms, particularly for frontline, rural, low-income and communities experiencing environmental injustice.
- A reauthorization of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) through FY 2030 as well as the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) through FY 2030.

Many environmentalist groups who said last year's bill did not go far enough since it did not call for a ban on fracking and all new fossil fuel infrastructure embraced the new version. The legislation is likely to pass a Democratically controlled House, however, it will face hurdles in the 50-50 Senate where Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) has been skeptical of proposed clean electricity requirements. Three GOP members of the Energy and Commerce Committee issued a joint statement on Tuesday opposing the legislation. "Just like President Joe Biden's executive orders, this rush to green with one-size-fits all regulations will force California's failed policies on the rest of the country," said Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Fred Upton (R-MI) and David McKinley (R-WV).

"We can pursue practical policies to innovate a cleaner energy future if we work together," they added. "We urge the Majority to join us in a bipartisan way to unleash innovation, strengthen our supply chains, and capture all the advantages of our abundant resources, which include coal, hydropower, nuclear technologies, and clean natural gas."

NEW GAS STATIONS TARGETED BY ACTIVISTS

This week, the City of Petaluma in California has voted to ban new gas stations (in this case a Safeway Supermarket) and current stations will not be allowed to add new pumps according to a story by Axios. Behind the effort to ban new gas stations is an environmental group called Stand.earth which ran a campaign called SAFE (stand against fossil fuel expansion). "The problem with allowing new gas stations is we don't really need them and they're putting existing gas stations out of business," said Matt Krogh, who heads Stand.earth.

Click [here](#) to read the story.

HEALTHY WORKPLACES TAX CREDIT ACT RE-INTRODUCED

On Tuesday, Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) reintroduced the bipartisan Healthy Workplaces Tax Credit Act to help all businesses continue to safely stay open during the COVID-19 pandemic while ensuring the safety of employees and consumers. The bill would allow a refundable tax credit against payroll taxes for 50 percent of the costs incurred by a business for increased testing, personal protective equipment (PPE), disinfecting, extra cleaning, reconfiguring workspaces to adhere to social distancing guidelines and training and education on the on the prevention of COVID-19 transmission. U.S. Representatives Tom Rice (R-SC) and Stephanie Murphy (D-FL) plan to introduce this legislation in the House of Representatives.

"Energy Marketers of America members have been following all guidance for safely operating their businesses and will continue to do so and the Healthy Workplaces Tax Credit Act will help to defray some of the costs. EMA strongly supports this legislation," said EMA Vice President Sherri Stone.

Click [here](#) for more details.

API CONSIDERS SUPPORT TO PUT A PRICE ON CARBON EMISSIONS

This week, it was reported that the America Petroleum Institute (API) is considering supporting a market-based carbon pricing policy according to a Reuters report this week. API did not give specifics on whether or when the group would formally endorse a price on carbon but said it has been "focused on supporting a new U.S. contribution to the global Paris agreement," said API spokeswoman Megan Bloomgren. Click [here](#) to read more.

Meanwhile, the Biden Administration's move to electrify the transportation sector will likely run into hurdles between conservation vs green energy. Biden has vowed to set aside at least 30 percent of federal land and coastal areas for conservation, triple current levels. However, to grow the EV battery market, it will need those areas to mine lithium and other minerals, thereby, putting two environmental constituencies at odds. Unless the Biden Administration changes course, the future of mining will likely depend on China to mine rare minerals even though the Administration has called the reliance on China as a national security threat. Click [here](#) for the story.

EMLI (PMLI) REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW

We are excited to announce that registration is open for the Energy Marketers Leadership Institute (EMLI)!

EMLI is new and improved and is designed to make it easier and more affordable for WPMA members to attend. The EMLI programs will be delivered online via Zoom video conference and will include breakout rooms so that the leaders who are attending can interact and learn together.

Special thanks to Lea McCullough for her leadership in working with Meridian to design and deliver the EMLI programs. For more information on how to register go to: <https://emamasters.com/energy-marketers-leadership-institute/>

WPMA COVID-19 - CRITICAL REFERENCES FOR MEMBERS

Please visit our web site for up-to-date information related to your business and the COVID-19 pandemic. You will find the link on our home page at www.wpma.com.

MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES - YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE!

WPMA welcomes industry-related articles for publication in the WPMA News magazine. All members and associate members of WPMA are eligible to submit items for publication. Articles will be included as space allows, and no self-promoting articles or editorials will be accepted. WPMA reserves the right to edit and make adaptation of such contributions to accommodate the magazine's space and style. Please submit articles or content to Jan Roothoff, WPMA Administration/IT Director at janr@wpma.com, or mail to Jan Roothoff, Western Petroleum Marketers Association, PO Box 571500, Murray, UT 84157-1500. Submissions for the Winter edition of WPMA News magazine are due before November 1st. Later submissions will be considered for the Spring issue.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15, 2021 – Hawaii (HPMA) Golf Tournament – Oahu Country Club – Honolulu, HI
May 6-7, 2021 - Nevada (NPM&CSA) Big Dogs - Red Rock Hotel & Casino - Las Vegas, NV
June 1-2, 2021 - Montana (MPMCSA) Convention -Fairmont Hot Springs Resort - Fairmont, MT
June 21-24, 2021 - Washington (WIED) Convention - Suncadia Resort - Cle Elum, WA
June 24, 2021 - Utah (UPMRA) Summer Golf Classic - Bountiful Ridge GC - Bountiful, UT
July 17-19, 2021 - Oregon (OFA) Annual Conference - Sunriver Resort - Sunriver, OR
August 4-6, 2021 - Idaho (IPM&CSA) Convention - Sun Valley Resort - Sun Valley, ID
August 23-25, 2021 - New Mexico (NMPMA) Convention - Sandia Resort & Casino - Albuquerque, NM
September 15-17, 2021 - Utah (UPMRA) Convention - Sheraton Park City Hotel - Park City, UT
February 22-24, 2022 – WPMA Convention & Expo – Mirage Hotel– Las Vegas, NV

Be sure to subscribe to all of our social channels for great tips, industry trends, and insider information about association activities and upcoming events!



Petro Pete: “Nothing is worse than that moment during an argument when you realize you are wrong.”

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