Message

From: Lyon, Christopher [lyon.christopher@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/8/2019 8:18:56 PM
To: Schaaf, Eric [Schaaf.Eric@epa.gov]
CC: Lopez, Peter [lopez.peter@epa.gov]; Mugdan, Walter [Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: Fyi

Thanks, Eric. Any impact on Limetree Bay?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 8, 2019, at 3:54 PM, Schaaf, Eric <Schaaf.Eric@epa.gov> wrote:

WHITE HOUSE

Trump to sign 2 energy orders this week

Hannah Northey and Ariel Wittenberg, E&E News reporters

Published: Monday, April 8, 2019 <image001.jpg>

President Trump is set to sign two energy-related executive orders. @EPAScottPruitt/Twitter

President Trump will sign two executive orders Wednesday aimed at accelerating the permitting and approval of oil and gas pipelines, according to a senior White House official.

The orders are slated to be unveiled at the International Union of Operating Engineers' International Training and Education Center in Crosby, Texas, a training center for union engineers, according to the official.

The official said the two orders, which have been rumored to be in the works for weeks now, are aimed at expanding energy production and incentivizing private investment in energy infrastructure, streamlining permitting of projects, and further reducing regulations.

"The two Executive Orders the President will sign will help American energy companies avoid unnecessary red tape, allowing the U.S. to continue to be the undisputed global leader in crude oil and natural gas production for the foreseeable future," said the official. "Additionally, American families and businesses in states with energy restrictions will be able to access affordable and reliable domestic energy resources."

While details on the orders remain sparse, sources expect them to boost the approval of pipelines across the United States, curb state interference on water permitting and possibly include action on liquefied natural gas exports.

Energy sector leaders have urged the Trump administration to cut down on the time states have to review Clean Water Act permits for pipelines.

The law clearly grants states the right to "certify" that projects requiring such permits also comply with state water quality standards. So projects being permitted by the Army Corps of Engineers, EPA or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission also must be approved, denied or approved with state conditions.

Energy companies say states have too long to review those permits and have been active on this issue since New York and Washington state refused to permit a high-profile pipeline in 2016 and coal terminal in 2017, respectively.

Just last week, multiple state chambers of commerce wrote to EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler asking him to "streamline the implementation" of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act "to ensure that the process aligns with Congress' intended statutory requirements."

States organizations, including the Western Governors' Association, are staunchly opposed to any effort to diminish their ability to approve or reject Clean Water Act permits.