

The Rundown

By: CLEARPATH
ACTION



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ClearPath Action Rundown March 27th, 2026

Happy Friday!

The Rundown will be back at the top of your inbox on April 10th.

National Ag Day was this Monday, organized by the Agriculture Council of America. Check out ClearPath's take on how America wins when it innovates, [starting with agriculture!](#)

1. ClearPath convenes Admin officials & energy leaders at CERAWeek



Winning the global energy race starts at home. This week in Houston, ClearPath hosted leaders across DOE, Dept. of Commerce, Export-Import Bank and ARPA-E for conversations on the U.S. energy innovation ecosystem. The discussion centered on a three-pronged strategy: innovate here, build fast and sell globally.

Key themes:

- The full innovation pipeline from lab to global deployment;
- Federal financing tools with private sector project development;
- Energy dominance through exports and new market access; and
- The role of public-private partnerships in scaling technologies.

We were honored to be joined by:

- **Paul Dabbar** (pictured below, bottom right), Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce;
- **Alex Fitzsimmons** (pictured with Jeremy Harrell above), Acting Under Secretary of Energy and Director of the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER), DOE;
- **Gregory Beard** (pictured below, top left), Director of the U.S. DOE Office of Energy Dominance Financing;
- **Jeff Wilson** (pictured below, bottom left), Chief Strategy Officer and Senior Advisor for Energy Dominance at EXIM;
- **Spencer Silverman** (pictured below, top middle), Chief of Staff, ARPA-E; and
- **Kyle Haustveit**, Assistant Secretary, Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office, DOE.



2. Geothermal takes center stage



L-R: Conner Prochaska, ARPA-E Director; Jeremy Harrell, ClearPath CEO

Geothermal is super hot. Once niche, it's now taking center stage at the world's biggest energy conference. At CERAWeek's Geothermal House, hosted by Project InnerSpace, ClearPath CEO [Jeremy Harrell](#) moderated a fireside chat with [ARPA-E Director Conner Prochaska](#), which covered exciting innovations and commercialization potential of new geothermal technologies and the [Genesis Mission](#).

The conversation covered:

- ARPA-E's new **SUPERHOT program**, which aims to speed up next-generation geothermal;
- Federal permitting reform and project financing are just as critical as the technology itself in scaling deployment;
- ARPA-E coordination with other DOE financing resources to bridge the gap from early-stage innovation to commercialization; and
- The Genesis Mission and how AI is accelerating discovery across geothermal, fusion and advanced materials.

What's clear: Unlocking next-generation geothermal's full potential requires strategic federal R&D, smart financing tools and permitting reform working in lockstep.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's **geothermal report** to learn more.

3. Energy narrative shifts from transition to addition



L-R: Bill Shireman of Future 500, John Dabbar of the National Petroleum Council; Luke Bolar of ClearPath; and Bob Stout of the Natural Gas Innovation Network (NGIN)

American energy dominance requires policies that survive political cycles and scale innovative American energy. ClearPath's Chief External Affairs Officer, [Luke Bolar](#), joined a panel exploring how the energy conversation is shifting toward delivering affordable, reliable and clean energy.

Key signals from the discussion:

- Supporting American energy innovation leads to long-term global competitiveness;
- Technology-neutral tax incentives help commercialize new technology and unlock private capital;

- Modernizing permitting to let America build faster will reduce project delays and costs; and
- Strengthening domestic supply chains will reduce reliance on adversaries and support energy security.

What's clear: While narratives often shift, durable energy policies that prioritize innovation over regulation and markets over mandates will help America achieve energy dominance.

4. ClearPath visits Calpine's Baytown CCS project



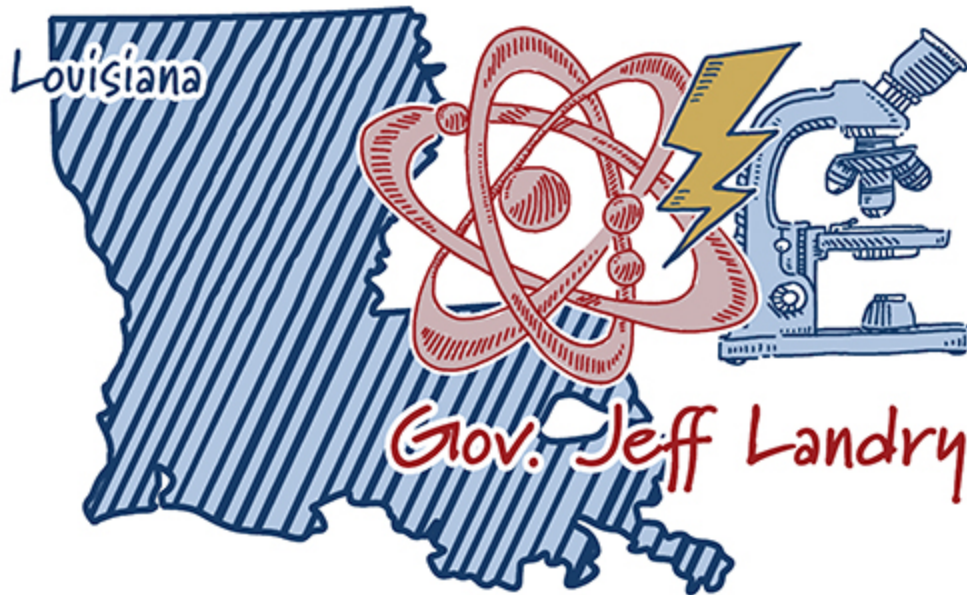
ClearPath staff toured [Calpine's Baytown Energy Center](#) with Texas Congressional staff, getting an up-close look at one of the most ambitious planned carbon capture and sequestration projects in the country.

Once operational, this project will:

- Capture and store approximately two million metric tons of CO₂ per year from their natural gas power plant;
- Deliver around 450 megawatts of low-carbon power and steam, enough to power more than 296,000 homes; and
- Generate an expected 1.5 million construction hours and 250 full-time jobs over three years.

What's clear: Projects like Baytown show what American innovation looks like in practice. Carbon capture at scale, paired with reliable power and industrial heat, is exactly the kind of clean firm solution that keeps the grid stable and strengthens U.S. energy security.

5. Louisiana goes all in on energy innovation and nuclear



Gov. Jeff Landry (R-LA) **announced** a \$45 million investment from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the Future Use of Energy in Louisiana (FUEL) program. This marks the next stage of NSF's record-breaking \$160 million, 10-year initiative to drive energy innovation and workforce development in Louisiana.

FUEL's initial proof-of-concept investments in 2025 included:

- Using carbon for chemical production;
- Clean hydrogen production;
- AI-powered emissions detection systems; and
- Low-carbon cement alternatives for oil and gas wells.

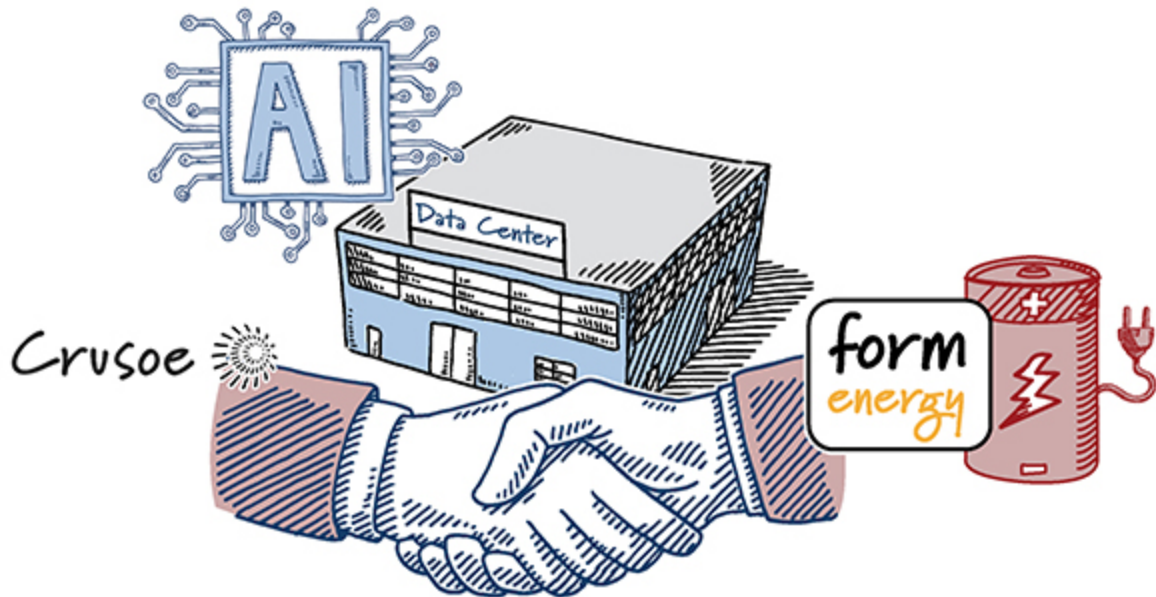
Gov. Landry (R-LA) also unveiled the Louisiana Nuclear Strategic Framework, which:

- Establishes development areas including nuclear manufacturing, component production, expanded generation and uranium fuel conversion and enrichment; and
- Coordinates efforts across state agencies, industry and local partners to streamline project delivery, align workforce development and support long-term growth.

Louisiana will host a **nuclear energy summit** next month to build upon this framework and establish long-term partners for investment in the state's nuclear future.

What's clear: Louisiana is pairing federal investment with state-level ambition across energy innovation and nuclear, taking a whole-of-state approach that turns energy potential into economic growth and sets a model for others to follow.

6. Form Energy and Crusoe: Powering AI with American-made batteries



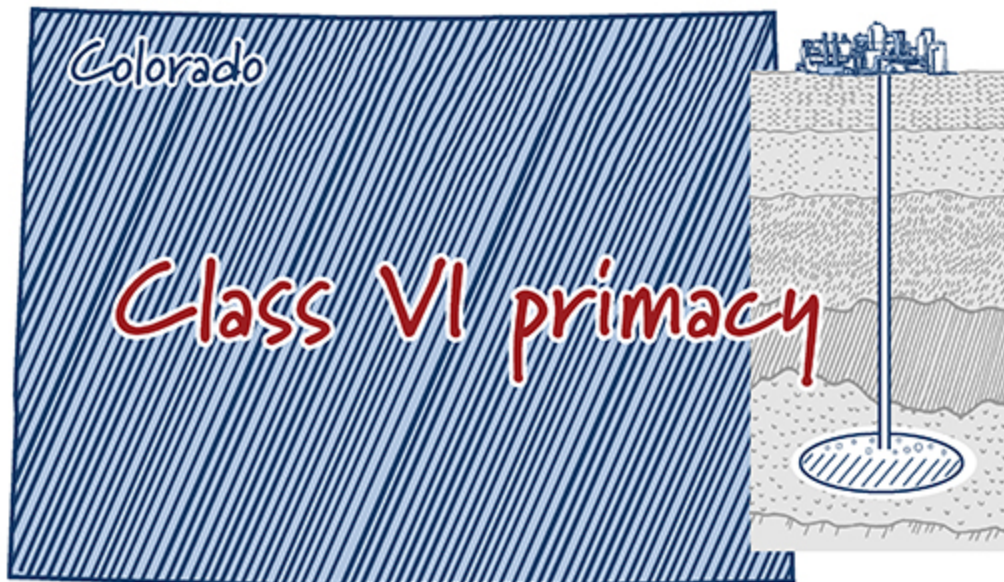
Powering the AI economy requires firm, reliable energy at scale. Two American companies just showed how it's done. Form Energy and Crusoe **announced** at CERAWeek a strategic capacity agreement to deliver 12 gigawatt-hours of iron-air battery storage to support the rapidly growing power needs of AI data centers.

Key details:

- All battery systems will be manufactured at Form Energy's Form Factory 1 in Weirton, West Virginia, supporting American jobs and domestic manufacturing leadership;
- Crusoe's "Bring Your Own Capacity" model develops power to reduce reliance on constrained grid capacity; and
- Form Energy has over 65 GWh of commercial projects under agreement, with its first commercial pilot system in Minnesota expected to come fully online in 2026.

What's clear: The AI economy runs on power, and American companies are stepping up to meet that demand with firm, reliable and domestically manufactured solutions. This is how America wins in AI and energy.

7. Carbon capture momentum in Colorado



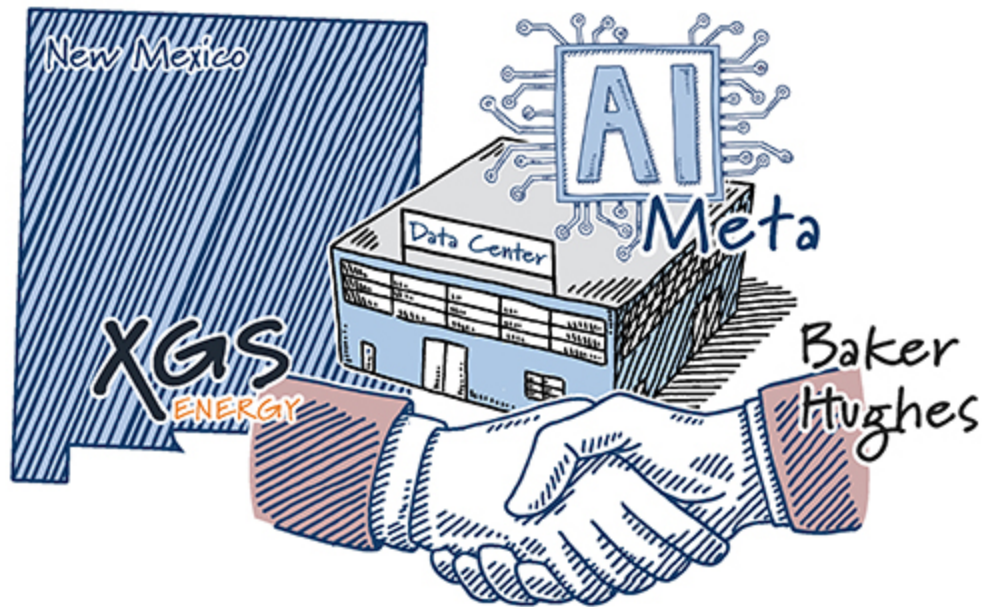
Colorado is on track to become a leader in carbon storage, with the Environmental Protection Agency **proposing** to grant the state Class VI primacy. If finalized, Colorado would be the seventh state to secure primacy from the EPA for Class VI carbon dioxide (CO₂) storage wells – shifting oversight to state regulators, leveraging local expertise and speeding project timelines.

Why it matters:

- State-led permitting can accelerate the development of carbon storage infrastructure and the deployment of carbon capture technologies; and
- The 45Q tax credit remains a key driver of innovation and private investment, supporting geologic storage, carbon utilization and enhanced oil recovery in Colorado.

What's clear: State primacy for Class VI wells is a key enabler for carbon storage infrastructure, bringing permitting decisions closer to home and accelerating projects.

8. XGS + Baker Hughes deal: powering data centers in NM



Next-generation geothermal is ready to scale. XGS Energy and Baker Hughes **partnered** to advance a 150-megawatt geothermal project in New Mexico, providing round-the-clock clean power to the Public Service Company of New Mexico's grid in support of Meta's data center operations.

The collaboration brings together:

- XGS' solid-state geothermal system removes reliance on water and specific geologic conditions, reducing project risk and enabling faster deployment;
- Baker Hughes' integrated engineering, well construction and power solutions to ensure industrial-scale execution; and
- Exploration and energy engineering advancements that lay the foundation for utility-scale geothermal deployment.

What's clear: Pairing innovative technology with industrial execution is how next-generation geothermal moves from demonstration to gigawatts of reliable, clean energy.

9. 250 years of American energy innovation: Carbon capture and direct air capture



As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, ClearPath is **highlighting** America's innovation story. From the earliest discoveries in electricity and steam power to modern nuclear, natural gas, advanced grid technologies and agriculture, American innovators have consistently pushed the boundaries of what's possible.

Brief history lesson: Carbon capture and direct air capture (DAC)

- **1907** - Frederick Gardner Cottrell develops the Electrostatic Precipitator at UC Berkeley, creating the foundational technology for industrial emission control by removing particles from exhaust gases.
- **1972** - The Terrell natural gas processing plant in Texas becomes the first commercial carbon capture project in the U.S., supplying CO2 for enhanced oil recovery
- **2008** - Congress establishes the 45Q Tax Credit, providing the first major federal incentive for companies to capture and geologically store CO2.
- **2023** - Heirloom Carbon Technologies opens the first commercial DAC facility in the U.S., utilizing limestone to pull CO2 directly from the atmosphere.

Plug in: Check ClearPath's **blog** on the next frontier of carbon capture innovation in America: carbon reuse and utilization.

10. The Circuit



Niko McMurray moderated a panel at the Atlantic Council's Strengthening US-ROK Civil Nuclear Cooperation event, titled "Implementing Projects: Roles and Responsibilities, Financing, Regulatory Pathways and Localization," with panelists from Constellation, the State of Indiana, KEPCO KPS, the Office of Energy Dominance Financing and Westinghouse.

11. ICYMI

- **Oklo on Science & Tech Council** — Oklo's CEO and co-founder, Jacob DeWitte, has been **appointed** by President Trump to serve on the Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.
- **White House AI National Policy Framework** – The White House **released** its AI National Policy Framework, calling on Congress to protect residential ratepayers from increased electricity costs and enact permitting reform for AI infrastructure.

- **New Hampshire nuclear push** – Gov. Ayotte (R-NH) issued an **Executive Order** directing the state's Department of Energy to explore next-generation nuclear power, create a statewide roadmap to guide future development and lower energy costs for Granite Staters.
- **Trump launches mineral and energy consortium** – The Trump administration **launched** a consortium with global investors, including Mubadala, Temasek and SoftBank, to strengthen U.S. energy and critical mineral supply chains. The voluntary initiative aims to raise \$1 trillion to fund projects in tech, mineral processing and infrastructure, with the U.S. contributing \$250 million.
- **Part 53: Faster reactor licensing** – The NRC approved the final rule for **Part 53**, a new licensing pathway for advanced reactors initiated by the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA), which **became law** in 2019. The rule was approved nearly two years ahead of its statutory deadline. More details to come as the rule is published in the Federal Register in the coming weeks.
- **AI unlocks geothermal potential** – Companies like Zanskar leverage **AI models** to identify overlooked resources faster and with greater precision, unlocking a vast, untapped U.S. energy source.
- **NRC targets faster environmental reviews** – Based on the updates to NEPA in the bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility Act, the NRC is **piloting** a new environmental review process with Fermi America's Project Matador in Texas. The NRC anticipates that this process will reduce NRC staff review time by approximately 50 percent while maintaining compliance with environmental requirements.



ClearPath believes America must lead the world in innovation over regulation... markets over mandates...providing affordable, reliable, clean energy.

That's all from us. Thanks for reading and have a great weekend!

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