

The Rundown

By: CLEARPATH
ACTION



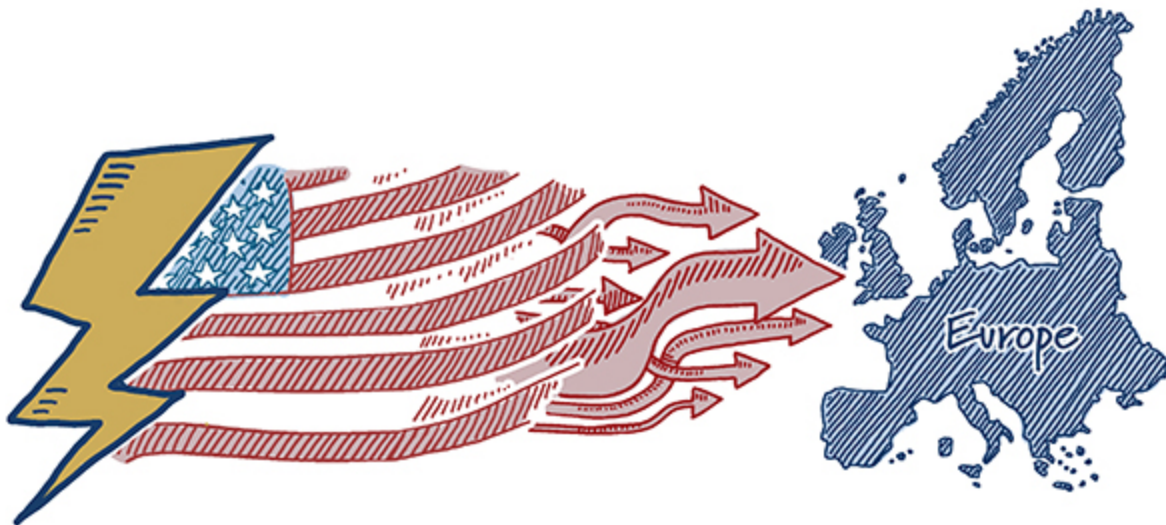
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ClearPath Action Rundown May 8th, 2026

Happy Friday!

1. America powers Europe: U.S. expands energy ties



U.S. energy is driving a new era of cooperation in Europe. Energy Secretary Chris Wright **announced** major investments across Central and Eastern Europe at the Three Seas Initiative Summit in Croatia. He also launched the Trump Peace Pipelines Framework to expand U.S. energy infrastructure in the region.

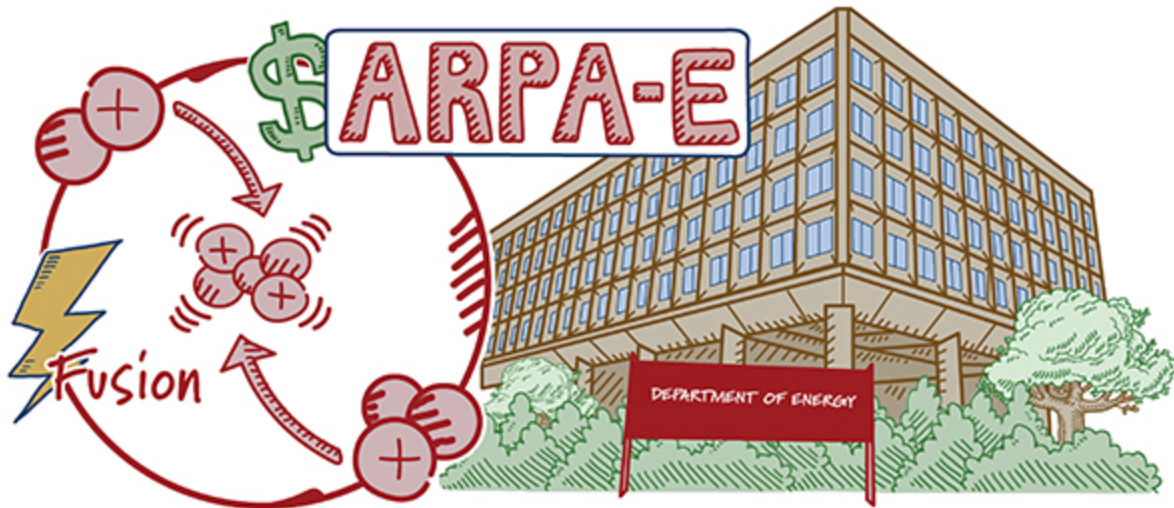
Key developments:

- The Trump Peace Pipelines Framework establishes a U.S.-led framework via MOU to advance strategic energy infrastructure and expand capacity to import U.S. LNG;
- The U.S. supported the Southern Interconnection Gas Pipeline to strengthen regional energy security;
- The U.S. and Croatia signed a joint statement to advance civil nuclear cooperation, supporting the deployment of U.S. SMR technology; and
- An American firm announced a next-generation data center investment worth up to \$50 billion in Croatia.

What's clear: American energy leadership is strengthening national security, expanding economic opportunity and deepening partnerships with allies.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's blog on putting energy security at the center of U.S. foreign policy [here](#).

2. ARPA-E commits largest-ever investment in fusion



Fusion energy development is accelerating in the U.S. as public and private investment continues to scale. The DOE's ARPA-E **announced** a \$135 million commitment over 18 months, the agency's largest-ever concentrated investment in fusion technologies, aimed at advancing the breakthroughs needed for commercial deployment.

Key focus areas for exploration may include:

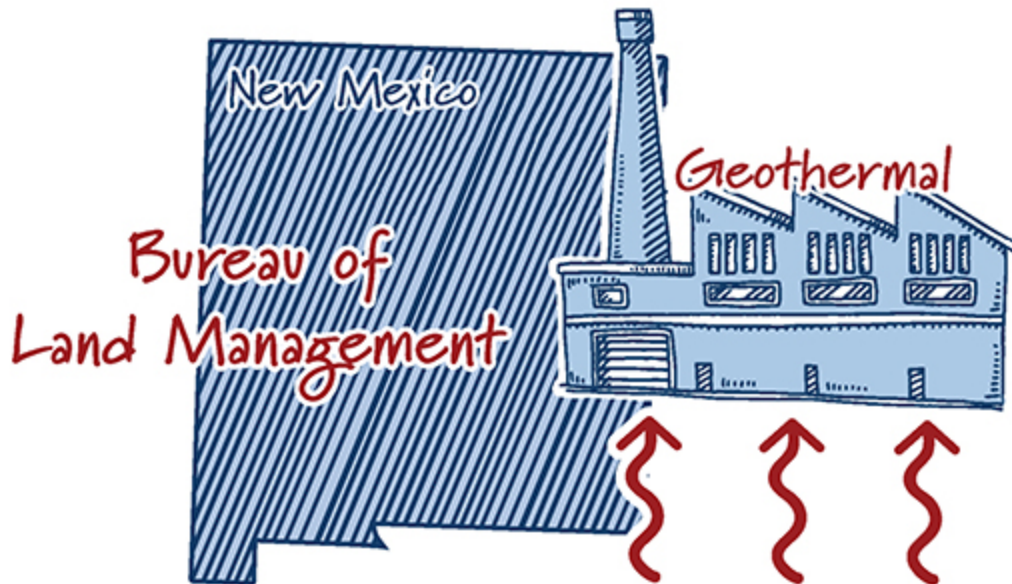
- **Advanced Plasma Heating and Driver Systems:** More efficient, lower-cost approaches to reduce the cost of fusion energy systems;
- **Next-Generation Fuel Cycles and Fuels:** Advanced fuels and novel fueling techniques, including spin-polarized fusion, to increase energy output and improve efficiency;

- **Advanced Power Conversion and Plant Systems:** Next-generation systems designed to improve efficiency and reduce the physical footprint of future fusion plants; and
- **Innovative Fusion Power Plant Architectures:** New plant designs and components aimed at improving durability and accelerating commercial readiness.

What's clear: This investment reflects growing momentum behind American efforts to commercialize fusion energy and expand the supply of affordable, reliable and secure baseload power. Continued public investment is helping de-risk breakthrough technologies and strengthen U.S. leadership in the next generation of global energy innovation.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's blog on how America can win the fusion race [here](#).

3. Geothermal leases advance in New Mexico



New Mexico is set for a major geothermal expansion. The Bureau of Land Management is **moving forward** with the state's first geothermal lease sale since 2024, proposing up to 68 parcels covering nearly 198,000 acres across five counties, a potential 44x increase from the prior sale.

What to know:

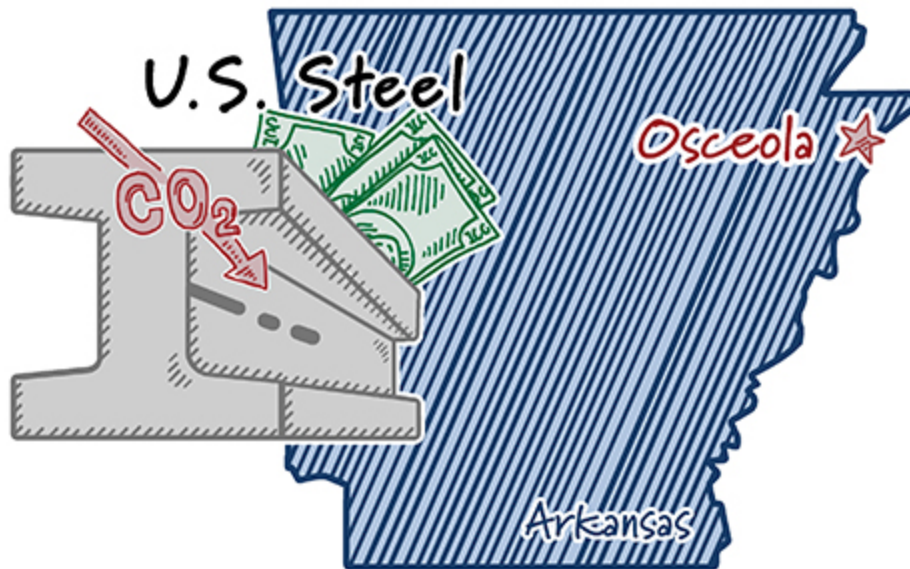
- Leasing is the first step in developing geothermal projects on federal land. Companies must secure a lease before moving forward with a specific project;
- The proposed sale marks a significant increase from the 2024 sale, which included just seven parcels (4,468 acres) and generated \$66,493 in bids; and
- New Mexico is already home to major geothermal projects, including Zanskar's Lightning Dock facility.

What's clear: The Trump administration has prioritized more frequent geothermal lease sales at a time when the industry is gaining clear momentum. Recent lease

sales in Utah, Idaho and Nevada have smashed records, generating millions for counties, states and the federal government. A more frequent pipeline of lease sales is exactly what the industry needs to attract private capital and accelerate deployment.

Plug in: ClearPath highlighted the importance of lease sales to attract private capital in our recent [blog](#).

4. U.S. Steel advances low-carbon steel in Arkansas



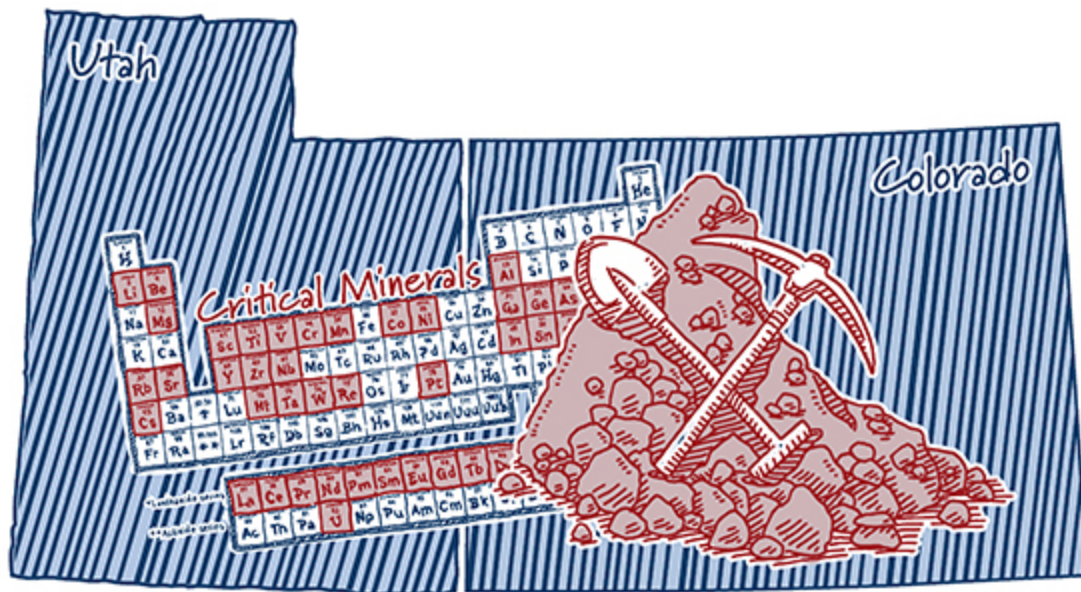
U.S. Steel **announced** a \$1.9 billion investment to build a Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) facility at its Big River Steel Works in Osceola, Arkansas. DRI steel-making uses natural gas to convert iron ore into iron, which will be melted into steel by the electric arc furnaces already onsite at Big River Steel, a first for any DRI facility in the U.S.

The new facility:

- Is expected to come online in 2029 and with an annual production capacity of 2.5 million metric tons, will increase domestic iron capacity by almost 10%;
- Will support 200 full-time jobs and create 2,000 construction jobs; and
- Demonstrates an integrated steelmaking solution that reduces emissions while improving efficiency and increasing supply chain security.

What's clear: U.S. Steel has created a vertically integrated supply chain connecting iron ore from Minnesota mines to steel in Arkansas. This investment demonstrates how reshored manufacturing can simultaneously boost supply chain resilience, create jobs and reduce emissions.

5. The Rockies are open for critical minerals business



Securing domestic critical minerals supply chains requires more than policy; it requires people and infrastructure. The National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR) **signed MOUs** with the University of Utah and the Colorado School of Mines to advance U.S. critical minerals research, technology demonstration, commercialization and workforce development.

The partners will:

- Share capabilities and facilities, such as NLR's Energy Materials and Processing at Scale facility (currently under construction) and Mines' new 50,000-square-foot Critical Minerals Innovation and Commercialization Hub in Golden, CO;
- Build a next-generation critical minerals workforce through university research pipelines and industry partnerships; and
- Strengthen the critical mineral supply chain, from geological discovery through commercialization.

What's clear: Connecting national lab infrastructure to top-tier university programs is how America builds the bench to advance U.S. leadership in critical minerals.

6. 250 years of American energy innovation



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.

Great American Energy Innovators: Ernest O. Lawrence

- **1931** – Founded Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, helping establish the national lab system that continues to drive U.S. energy research and development.
- **1932** – Invented the cyclotron, a breakthrough particle accelerator that allowed scientists to explore the atomic nucleus and earned him the Nobel Prize in Physics.
- **1940s** – Developed electromagnetic isotope separation, a key process that helped lay the foundation for the U.S. civil nuclear energy program.

What's clear: Ernest Lawrence showed that large-scale, multidisciplinary research can solve complex energy challenges. Today, advanced nuclear and fusion efforts build on the national lab system he helped establish, keeping the U.S. at the forefront of energy innovation.

Plug in: Explore **more** on America's history of breakthrough energy technologies and the role of national labs in driving innovation.

7. The Circuit



ClearPath CEO **Jeremy Harrell** spoke at the Silverado Summit on the "Watts for the Future: Powering the Next Frontier of Compute and Manufacturing" panel.

8. Coming down the pipeline

May 12, 3:15 PM ET, Washington, D.C. – [Niko McMurray](#) will speak on a panel at the Nuclear Energy Policy Forum discussing 2026 energy policy priorities, including early mover support, regulatory reform and strengthening U.S. leadership in nuclear energy.

9. ICYMI

- ClearPath CEO [Jeremy Harrell](#) spoke at the [U.S. Leaders' Forum](#) on the “Common Purpose: Leadership for a Shared Future” panel, covering how America can lead in the energy space.
 - **\$147M boost for Terra CO2's low-carbon cement** – Climate investment group the All Aboard Coalition has [invested](#) \$22 million in Terra CO2, a cement innovator constructing its first commercial-scale production plant in Cleburne, Texas. This brings Terra's Series B round to \$147 million.
 - **CEQ puts technology action plan into practice through permitting innovation initiative** – The Council on Environmental Quality opened its [Permitting Innovators Call for Solutions](#) to help modernize and accelerate federal environmental reviews and permitting. The initiative invites tech companies, startups, researchers and nonprofits to submit new technologies for infrastructure, energy and national security projects.
 - **PHNX turns coal ash into critical minerals** – As highlighted in the [Wall Street Journal](#), PHNX Materials uses a single integrated process to produce critical materials from industrial waste like coal ash, turning hazardous liabilities into valuable sources of gallium, germanium, and silicon.
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*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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