The Rundown

By: CLEARPATH ACTION

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ClearPath Action Rundown
May 22nd, 2026

Happy Friday!

Congratulations to…

Kyle Haustveit, who was confirmed as Under Secretary of Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy;

Stevan Pearce, who was confirmed as Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and

David LaCerte, who was confirmed for a second term as a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

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1. The National Interest: How Trump's Nuclear Orders Sparked America's Nuclear Revival

One year since President Trump signed **four nuclear executive orders**, ClearPath CEO **Jeremy Harrell** writes that the U.S. nuclear industry is in its strongest position in decades, and outlines what still needs to happen to finish the job.

The scorecard:

- Roughly 15 GW of new nuclear capacity in development through new builds, restarts and uprates, with reactors under construction in Wyoming, Texas and Tennessee;
- A domestic fuel supply chain is being rebuilt, with companies like Centrus and General Matter planning billion-dollar investments in Ohio and Kentucky; and
- $3.1 billion in FY26 appropriations matched by private capital, and NRC reforms that delivered TerraPower's construction permit eight months ahead of schedule.

What's clear: The orders set direction; capital and Congress are delivering. Finishing the job means expanding the 45X tax credit and reauthorizing EXIM to win the nuclear export race against China.

Plug in: Read Jeremy's full piece in **The National Interest**.

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2. House Science Committee advances geothermal and hydropower R&D bills

Firm, clean power got a boost on the Hill. The House Science, Space, and Technology Committee passed the **Next-Generation Geothermal Research and Development Act (H.R. 8790)** and the **Water Power Research and Development Reauthorization Act (H.R. 7129)** by voice vote, directing DOE to advance R&D for two of America's most reliable, always-on clean energy sources.

What the bills do:

- **H.R. 8790** directs DOE to support research, development and commercial application for next-generation geothermal projects, including super hot rock and closed-loop; and
- **H.R. 7129** reauthorizes and expands DOE hydropower and marine energy R&D, targeting grid resilience and domestic energy capabilities.

What's clear: Geothermal has the private capital, the technology and now the legislative momentum. Keeping federal R&D funded is how America turns that into gigawatts.

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3. NEW Blog: From Energy Act to IPO

Two companies that received awards supported by the **Energy Act of 2020** just delivered two historic IPOs. **X-energy raised over $1 billion** in the largest advanced nuclear public offering on record; **Fervo Energy raised $2.2 billion** in the largest-ever clean energy IPO. The private sector has taken the initiative, but most of the programs that supported these companies at their earliest stages are now expiring.

The programs behind both breakthroughs:

- The Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program (ARDP) supported X-energy through cost-sharing, enabling reactor design, NRC licensing and TRISO fuel

facility construction in Oak Ridge, Tennessee;
- Geothermal demonstrations, ARPA-E grants and DOE fellowship programs supported Fervo as the company validated its enhanced geothermal technology; and
- User facilities like the DOE's Utah FORGE project created the test-bed for drilling breakthroughs, which Fervo further improved by cutting drilling times by roughly 80% between 2022 and 2025.

What's clear: The federal R&D model works. Congress should reauthorize these programs before America forfeits its lead in firm, affordable, clean power.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's full blog, **From Energy Act to IPO: Federal Energy R&D Programs Deliver Results**.

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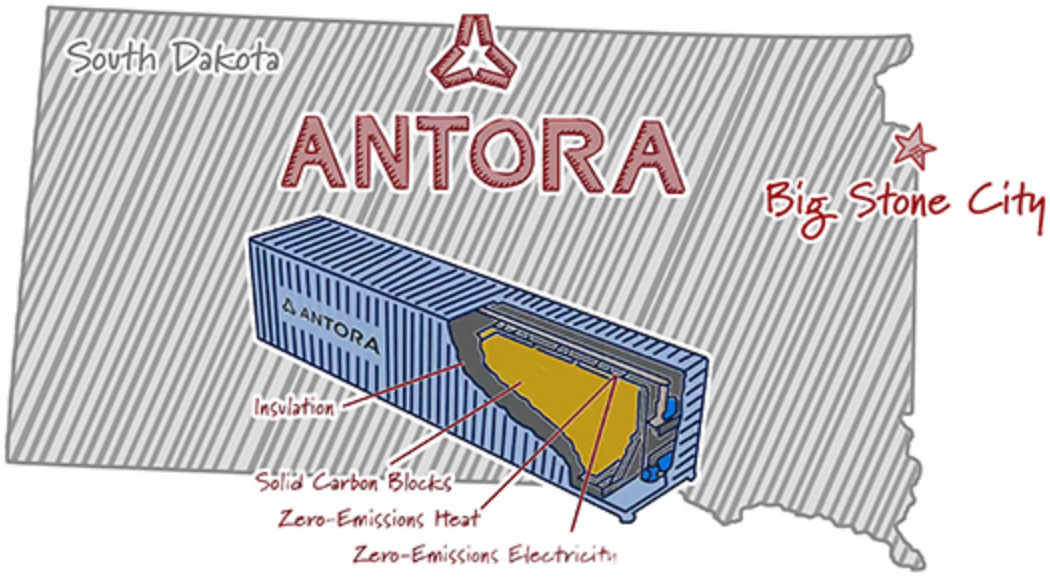
4. Antora deploys one of the biggest batteries on earth in South Dakota



Thermal energy storage (TES) company Antora Energy **announced** that it is commissioning a five-gigawatt-hour, multi-day TES system at POET's biofuel facility in Big Stone City, South Dakota. Project Big Stone ranks among the world's largest battery storage projects, delivered rapidly to meet domestic energy demand and boost competitiveness.

What to know:

- **Antora's system can be rapidly deployed:** The project went from an empty lot to already delivering round-the-clock energy in less than one year.
- **Delivering reliable and affordable energy:** Antora's system has enhanced the reliability of delivered power and heat, while lowering costs and improving efficiency.
- **Over 300 jobs created and supported:** All batteries are made using a fully American supply chain spanning a dozen states, from manufacturing in California to the project site in South Dakota.

- **Innovative rate structure:** Project Big Stone is made possible by an innovative rate structure that allows Antora's TES to charge during periods of low demand.

What's clear: Meeting the surging energy demands of the grid, onshoring manufacturing and building AI requires innovative policies to help scale innovative technology like Antora.

Plug in: Watch this **ClearPath whiteboard video** on Antora Energy for a refresher on thermal energy storage.

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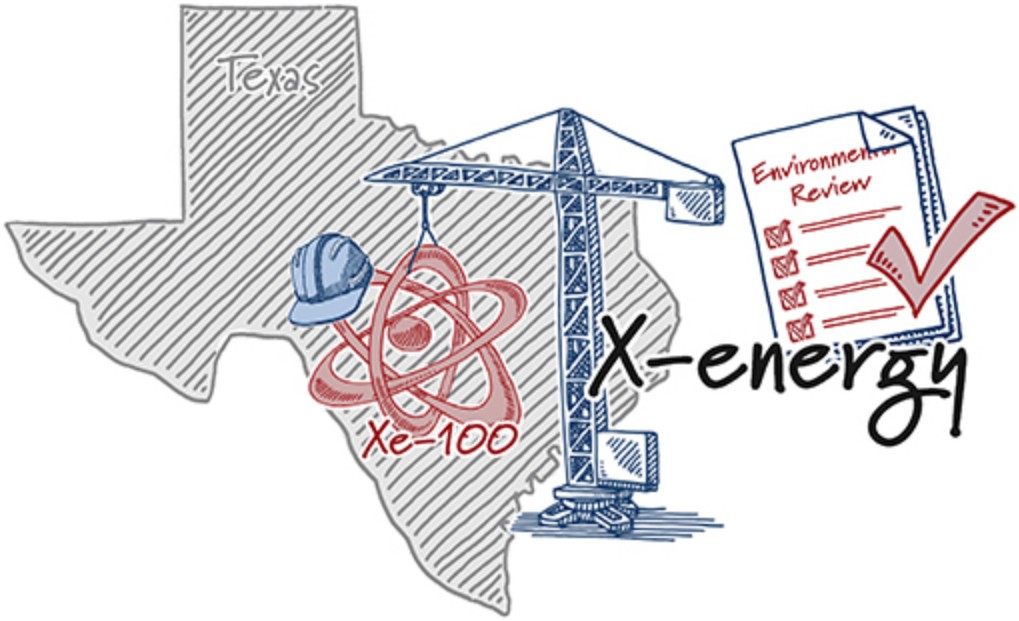
5. NRC clears path for X-energy's first commercial reactor in Texas



American nuclear deployment just cleared a critical regulatory hurdle. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) **completed the review of the environmental assessment** for X-energy's proposed plant at Dow's Seadrift Operations site in Texas, the first time in the Commission's history that an environmental review was completed for a commercial facility using an environmental assessment rather than a full environmental impact statement.

What this approval means:

- Clears the way for four 80-MWe Xe-100 high-temperature gas-cooled reactors at an industrial site in Texas;
- Demonstrates that the NRC can complete environmental reviews faster without compromising rigor, a model for future commercial reactor projects; and
- Advances Dow's goal of delivering affordable, reliable, clean power directly to American chemical manufacturing.

What's clear: Faster NRC reviews are not a corner cut, they are a competitive necessity. This milestone shows that regulatory modernization, driven by the

bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility Act and the ADVANCE Act, is translating into real deployment progress.

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6. DOE invests in domestic critical minerals innovation

America is positioned to lead the world in critical minerals innovation. From advanced batteries to defense systems, the materials powering modern technology are foundational to national security, industrial competitiveness and durable supply chains. DOE's Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation **awarded $45.7 million for 19 projects** that will unleash American innovation to advance domestic critical mineral production and processing capacity.

The funding will:

- Develop and scale pilot-scale domestic processing facilities for magnesium and rare earth elements;
- Advance novel technologies to fill critical gaps in U.S. supply chains; and
- Support end-to-end reshoring, ensuring minerals mined in America can be processed and manufactured here.

What's clear: Accelerating American innovation is an essential step toward building domestic supply chains and advancing America's national and energy security. Pairing these investments with faster permitting is how America breaks its dependence on Chinese critical mineral supply chains.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's **take on the importance of domestic** supply chains for more on why mineral security is energy security.

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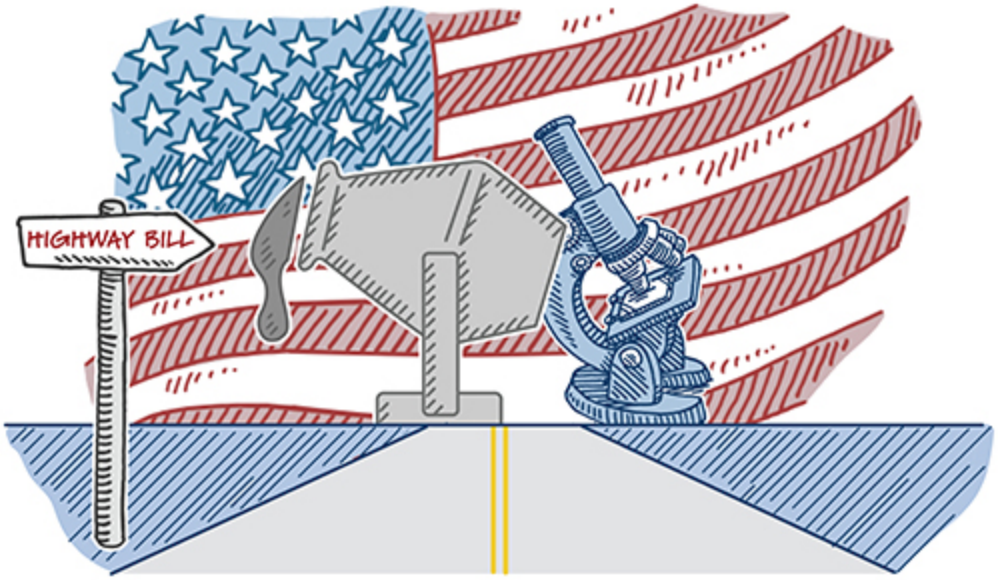
7. American innovation is rewriting cement — smart policy can scale it



American cement innovators are ready to build. Companies like Brimstone have developed lower-carbon cement that matches conventional materials on performance, backed by DOE grants. The missing piece is a smarter procurement policy to get these products into the market at scale.

A few things worth knowing:

- U.S. cement import reliance has risen from 15% to nearly 25% since 2021, and data center construction is set to add even more demand, making domestic production more critical than ever;
- Bipartisan bills **IMPACT 2.0 and CAIA** cut red tape and modernize procurement, so state DOTs can buy innovative, American-made products; and
- ClearPath's **Rafae Ghani** lays out how shifting to performance-based specifications and supporting testing of new materials can unlock the adoption of American cement innovation in an **American Affairs article**.

What's clear: American innovators have the technology. Modernizing procurement rules gives them the market access to compete, grow domestic supply and cut import reliance.

Plug in: **Watch ClearPath Action's video** featuring Brimstone CEO Cody Finke and Rep. Max Miller (R-OH) on the cement innovation opportunity.

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8. 250 years of American energy innovation: Unlocking the Atom

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 on nuclear energy:

- **1942** — Under the stands of the University of Chicago's Stagg Field, Enrico Fermi and his team achieve the first self-sustained nuclear chain reaction, launching the nuclear age;
- **1951** — The EBR-I reactor in Arco, Idaho becomes the first in the world to generate usable electricity from nuclear energy, lighting four light bulbs;
- **1958** — The USS Nautilus completes the first submerged transit of the North Pole, demonstrating that American nuclear propulsion could project power around the globe;
- **2016** — The advanced reactor demonstration era begins as NuScale Power submits the first small modular reactor design certification application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and
- **2023** — Vogtle Unit 3 in Georgia becomes the first AP1000 nuclear reactor to come online in the U.S., producing enough power for 500,000 homes.

What's clear: From the first chain reaction to the latest advanced reactor demonstrations, American nuclear innovation has never stopped. The next chapter — small modular reactors, advanced fuels and next-generation designs — is being written right now.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's **Nuclear 101** to understand how advanced reactors work and why they matter for America's energy future.

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9. The Circuit

Jeremy Harrell moderated a fireside chat with PHMSA Administrator Paul Roberti and Sen. Alan Armstrong (R-OK) on PHMSA's role in advancing American energy dominance through pipeline R&D, regulatory modernization and supporting LNG infrastructure.

Emily Johnson and **Sam Hattrup** presented at a Western Caucus Foundation briefing to highlight polling and messaging on energy innovation and permitting reform.

Lisa Epifani joined a panel at Georgia Tech's INTERSECT Conference on the importance of durable U.S. energy and climate policy, focusing on how bipartisan, innovation-driven policies can strengthen American energy leadership, support economic growth and reduce global emissions.

Savita Bowman spoke on a panel at Carbon Unbound in New York City on the value of carbon as a commodity in strengthening American competitiveness, supply chain security and resource independence.

10. ICYMI

- **Glenfarne Group** signed a gas supply agreement with ConocoPhillips, its third with a major North Slope producer, alongside ExxonMobil and Hilcorp Alaska, advancing a final investment decision on Phase One of the 807-mile Alaska LNG pipeline.
- DOE **selected** eight companies to support the near-term deployment of light-water cooled small modular reactors in the United States.
- Missouri Gov. Mike Kehoe (R) convened the inaugural meeting of the **Missouri Advanced Nuclear Energy Task Force**, a 23-member body established by executive order in January to advance nuclear development in the state and meet growing energy demand.
- Utah, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico launched the **Mountain West Geothermal Consortium** to streamline permitting, financing and infrastructure for geothermal development across a region the Department of Energy estimates holds 75% of U.S. geothermal potential.
- **AIRCO** unveiled a new facility in Pennsylvania that will manufacture its MAD Fuel System, a deployable, containerized platform that converts CO_2 and hydrogen into synthetic drop-in jet fuel or diesel anywhere in the world, backed by roughly $70 million in U.S. Air Force and Department of War funding, including a $15 million AFWERX STRATFI award.
- The **Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council** added the Arctic Project in Alaska to the FAST-41 Dashboard. The project contains one of the world's highest-grade copper deposits, with 46.7 million tons of probable mineral reserves in the Ambler Mining District. It is the Trump administration's 57th mining project added to the Dashboard.

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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ClearPath · 300 New Jersey Ave NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20001, United States