

The Rundown

By: CLEARPATH
ACTION



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ClearPath Action Rundown July 10th, 2026

Happy Friday!



Scott Prutting

ClearPath welcomes **Scott Prutting** to lead the regulatory and permitting portfolio. Scott joins the team from the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, where he was a Special Assistant and Congressional Affairs Advisor. He has also worked for Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX) and the House Appropriations Committee.

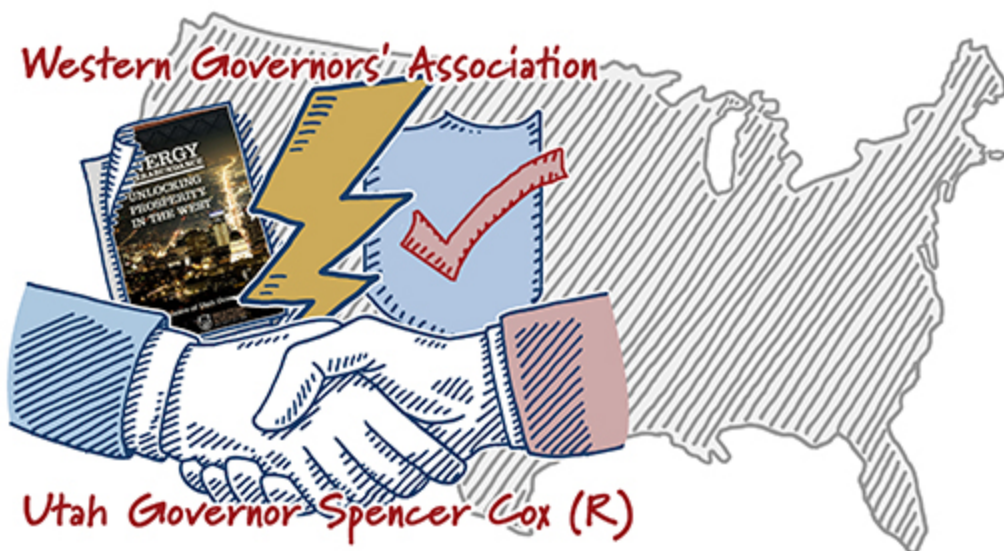


ClearPath also added four new fellows through our [Conservative Leadership Program](#) (CCLP).

- [Greg Giannone](#) joins focusing on Nuclear Policy;
- [Reagan Reese](#) joins the External Affairs team;
- [Anderson Waltz](#) joins focusing on International Policy; and
- [Michael Dennis](#) joins focusing on Agriculture Innovation.

Welcome to the team!

1. Western Governors' unveil bipartisan energy superabundance blueprint



The Western Governors' Association released its **Energy Superabundance: Unlocking Prosperity in the West** report, a bipartisan blueprint led by Gov. Spencer Cox (R-UT) to unlock more reliable, affordable power across the West. The report, which drew from a series of workshops with governors, national labs and industry, offers recommendations to address rising energy demand and the need for more transmission, calling for:

- Streamlined permitting for energy generation and transmission projects, including reforms to NEPA implementation;
- Expanded use of advanced transmission technologies and long-duration energy storage to unlock capacity on the existing grid;
- Deployment targets for advanced nuclear reactors; and
- Stronger domestic critical mineral and nuclear fuel supply chains.

What's clear: Permitting reform and energy innovation can unlock reliable, affordable power. Western governors can lead their states toward faster deployment, which is essential to winning the AI race and securing energy dominance.

2. NEW Op-Ed: The Lesson From 250 Years of Powering America



In a **new Daily Caller op-ed**, ClearPath CEO Jeremy Harrell looks back at 250 years of American energy breakthroughs and argues that the same visionary spirit is what will define the nation's next era of power. The formula: innovate fast, build here, sell globally.

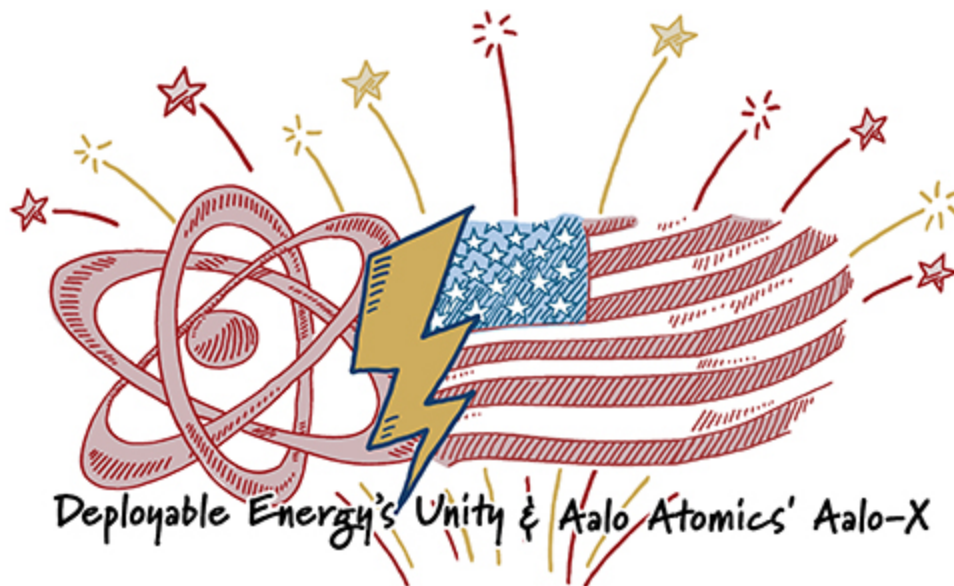
*"The lesson from 250 years of powering America is clear:
innovation — not regulation — wins."*

What's clear: Harrell's argument echoes the same lesson LNG and shale already taught the country, that competition and ingenuity move energy innovation forward. If

other energy sources follow that same path, markets over mandates will be what scales it into America's next energy revolution.

Plug in: Read the op-ed, [The Lesson From 250 Years of Powering America](#).

3. Two more advanced reactors achieve criticality, beating July 4th deadline

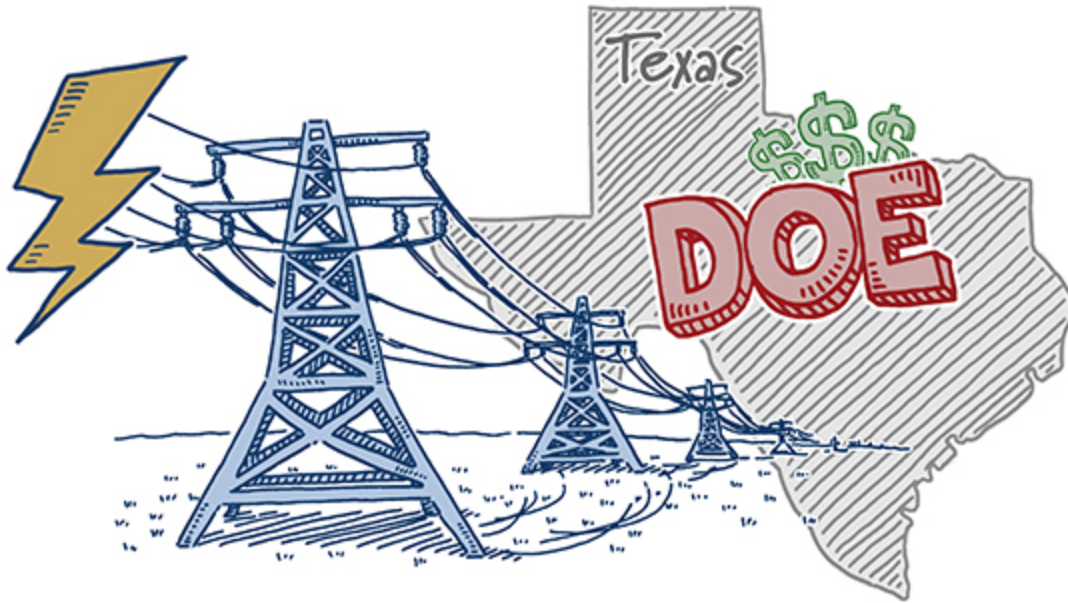


The U.S. is now the first country in history to achieve criticality in multiple unique advanced microreactor designs in a single month, a leap forward for American energy innovation and energy security. The first of the recent pair was Deployable Energy's [Unity reactor](#), which achieved criticality days before Aalo Atomics' [Aalo-X reactor](#). These two milestones surpassed the three-reactor goal in President Trump's [nuclear executive orders](#).

What's clear: Setting a bold deadline and giving developers a fast, DOE-authorized path to test their technology is producing real results. Four unique reactor designs reaching criticality within a matter of weeks shows how America's nuclear momentum is accelerating, strengthening both energy innovation and security.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's [How Trump's Nuclear Orders Sparked America's Nuclear Revival](#) for more on how the administration's executive orders are fueling America's nuclear future.

4. DOE closes loan to modernize Texas grid



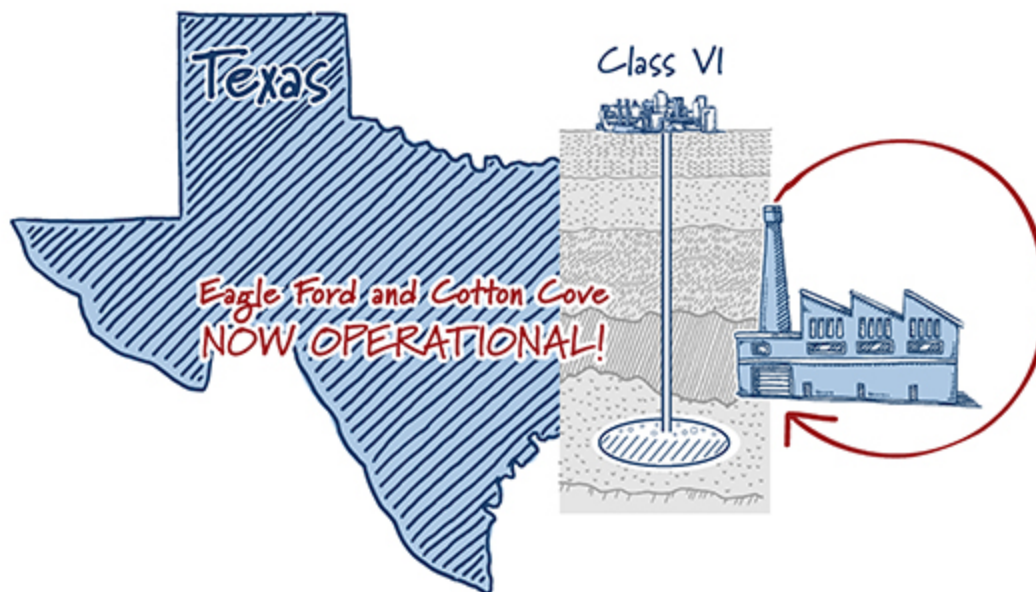
The Department of Energy's Office of Energy Dominance Financing **closed a loan of up to \$3.26 billion to AEP Texas** for reconductoring, rebuilding and building new transmission in Texas. The financing will fund roughly 100 projects spanning 2,800 miles to support rising electricity demand from data centers, advanced manufacturing and oil and natural gas development.

The investment:

- Saves Texans an estimated \$685 million in electricity costs over 30 years;
- Optimizes existing transmission rights-of-ways, enabling speed to power and reducing the need for new land; and
- Builds new transmission to bring more energy online and unlock economic growth throughout the state.

What's clear: America needs new transmission to meet rising demand, enable economic growth and deliver affordable power to American ratepayers and businesses.

5. BKV's two Texas carbon capture facilities now operational



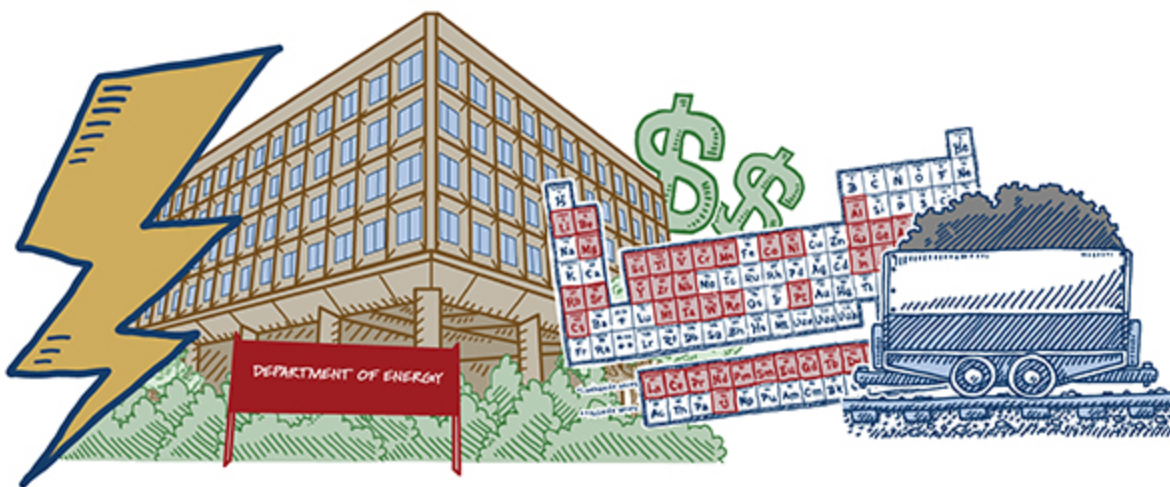
BKV Corporation, a Denver-based natural gas producer, **announced** that its Eagle Ford and Cotton Cove carbon capture and sequestration facilities in Texas are now operational, joining its existing Barnett Zero site.

These projects will:

- Capture CO₂ from natural gas processing facilities, then inject it into Class VI wells for underground storage; and
- Store more than 120,000 metric tons of CO₂ underground each year.

What's clear: The commercialization of carbon capture in Texas, built by private companies, demonstrates how American innovations can provide clean firm power.

6. DOE backs critical minerals recovery from coal



The Department of Energy's Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation **announced \$75 million** for five projects that will recover rare earth elements and other critical minerals from coal-based feedstocks. Funds will support the

development of pilot-scale facilities at industrial sites to produce market-ready critical minerals.

What to know:

- Recipients include Valor Metals, CONSOL Innovations, American Resources Corporation, Peabody Energy Corporation and the University of North Dakota;
- Projects will support domestic rare earths element production, as well as U.S. germanium, gallium and aluminium supply chains; and
- These awards build on the Department of Energy's **August 2025 commitment** to invest nearly \$1 billion to advance mining, processing and manufacturing technologies.

What's clear: Coal resources and other unconventional feedstocks hold untapped value beyond power generation – they contain the critical minerals needed to advance American energy and manufacturing competitiveness. Scaling critical mineral recovery from coal resources will advance domestic critical mineral production and secure U.S. supply chains.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's **analysis** on unleashing America's resource potential for more on why breaking China's grip on critical mineral supply chains is essential to U.S. energy and national security.

7. USDA launches fertilizer manufacturing program



The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the \$500 million Fertilizer Investment & Expansion for Long-Term Domestic Supply (FIELDS) Program to fund the construction and expansion of domestic fertilizer production facilities.

The FIELDS program:

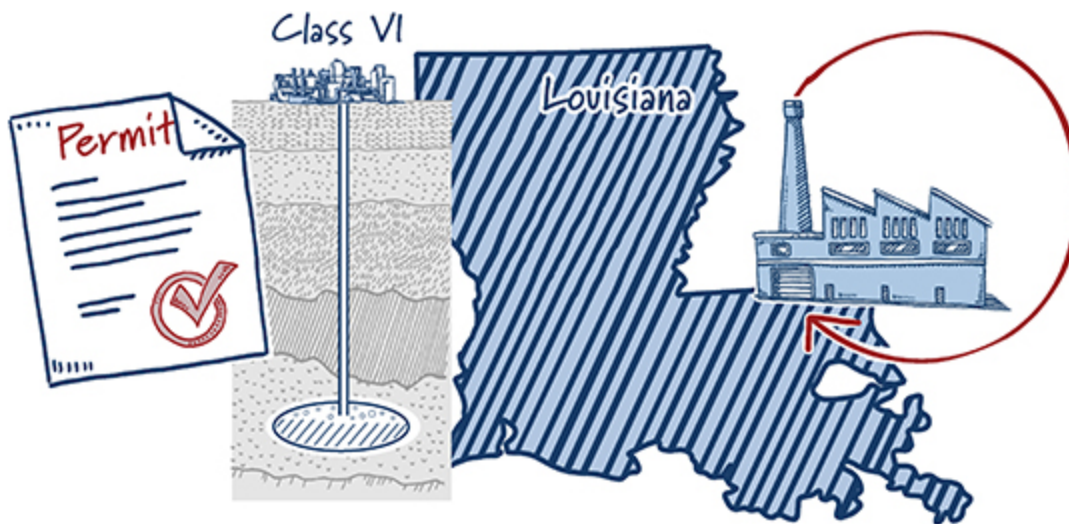
- Supports projects that expand domestic production of nitrogen, phosphate, potash, sulfur and other critical nutrient fertilizers;
- Prioritizes shovel-ready, financially viable projects capable of increasing production; and

- Addresses fertilizer's role as one of the biggest operating expenses on American farms, where shortages can lower crop yields, raise food prices and cut into farmers' profits.

What's clear: Expanding domestic fertilizer manufacturing strengthens U.S. security and cuts reliance on foreign competitors, while giving American farmers the reliable and affordable supply of inputs.

Plug in: Read ClearPath's [Fertilizer Innovations 101](#) for a breakdown of how fertilizer is produced and why domestic supply matters for American agriculture.

8. Louisiana approves landmark carbon storage permit



Strategic Biofuels secured a Class VI sequestration well permit from Louisiana for its fuels project. It is the third Class VI permit issued by Louisiana and the first for a single project using a multi-well injection design. The project is engineered in partnership with oilfield service company, SLB, and is co-located with bioenergy generation, carbon capture and storage all on one site.

This BECCS project will:

- Utilize about 1.3 million tons of sustainably sourced forestry residues and sawmill waste annually; and
- Supply 75 MW of clean, dispatchable electricity to the regional grid.

What's clear: Efficiently permitting Class VI wells is critical to carbon capture deployment. Developers need a timely, predictable permitting process to move projects forward and bring carbon capture capacity online.

9. Phil Deutch on the future of energy investing



In this [episode](#), veteran investor Phil Deutch, founder of NGP Energy Technology Partners, joined the Political Climate podcast to discuss where investment dollars are flowing and why he expects the next chapter of American energy to be defined by abundance.

Plug in: Keep up with the energy and policy questions shaping U.S. competitiveness with Political Climate's [newsletter](#).

10. ICYMI

- Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and John Hickenlooper (D-CO) introduced [S. 4870](#), the [Earth Mapping Resources Initiative \(Earth MRI\) Reauthorization Act](#), a bill to reauthorize the U.S. Geological Survey's [Earth MRI](#) program that collects essential data on U.S. critical minerals and other subsurface resources.
- The Council on Environmental Quality selected 45 companies to showcase permitting technology solutions at its inaugural [Permitting Innovators Expo](#), including AI, geospatial intelligence and workflow automation tools designed to speed up federal environmental reviews.
- Meta [published](#) a request for proposal to reduce emissions across its value chain, covering sectors including cement and concrete, aluminum production, iron and steel manufacturing and semiconductor manufacturing. Responses are due September 4th, 2026.
- USDA introduced its [Regenerative Feedstock Rule](#), empowering farmers to maximize profitability by adopting on-farm practices that lower the carbon intensity of biofuel feedstocks.
- Maryland-based [Centrus Energy](#) finalized a \$900 million DOE contract to expand its Piketon, Ohio facility for commercial production of HALEU, a fuel needed for next-generation nuclear reactors.

- The U.S. Forest Service **issued** its final Record of Decision (ROD) to advance South 32's **Hermosa Project**, an Arizona zinc and manganese mine. In 2023, Hermosa was the **first** critical minerals project to receive FAST-41 status.
- Two geothermal companies landed fresh funding this week: **Quaise Energy** raised \$134 million in its Series B to build a superhot geothermal plant in Oregon and **Hephae Energy Technology** closed a \$17.8 million Series A for its drilling technology.
- The **U.S.-Japan-Republic of Korea** signed an agreement to strengthen cooperation on deploying small modular reactors. This effort is supported by the State Department's FIRST program.
- **Fervo Energy** announced it has set a new drilling pace record with its third-generation well design, reflecting a 143% improvement since drilling its first Cape Station well.



*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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