

# New Administration New Congress New Opportunities





# **Inherited Challenges**

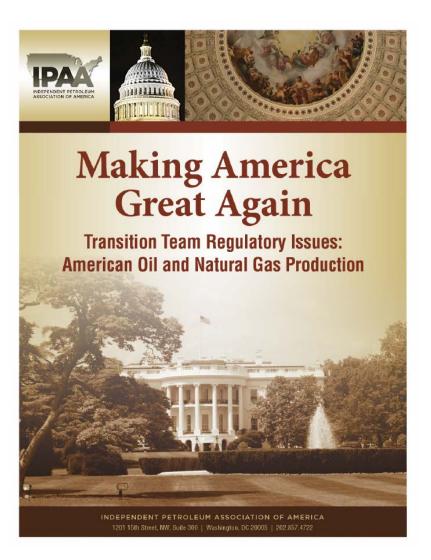
- NEPA Guidance on Effects of Climate Change from Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Social Cost of Carbon Regulatory Impact Analysis
- BLM Mitigation Policy
- BLM Drilling Regulations
- BLM Venting and Flaring Regulations
- EPA New Source Methane Regulations
- EPA Existing Source Methane Regulations and Information Collection Request
- EPA RCRA Litigation Settlement
- BLM Onshore Royalty Regulations
- BOEM Offshore Air Regulations
- BOEM Offshore Five-Year Plan
- EPA Effluent Limitations Guidelines
- EPA Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)
- EPA Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Regulations



# **Inherited Challenges**

- Numerous lawsuits are pending challenging the Obama regulations
  - WOTUS
  - Ozone NAAQS
  - BLM Drilling Regulations
  - EPA Methane Regulations (Subpart OOOOa)
  - BLM Venting and Flaring Regulations





#### **Transition**

- Immediately after the election, IPAA developed issues and recommendations for the incoming Trump Administration to address after the Inauguration
- 51 issues for action divided into 5 categories – Executive actions, policies, potential regulations, regulations in litigation and regulations in place



## **Early Actions**

- Trump Administration
  - Actions to move forward on Keystone and Dakota Access pipelines
  - Regulatory reductions for new regulations & Regulatory budget
  - Permit Streamlining Action Plan
  - Regulatory Reform Task Forces
  - Waters of the United States
  - Terminated Methane Regulation Information Collection Request



## **Early Actions**

#### Congress

- Congressional Review Act (CRA) allows Congress to terminate recently finalized federal regulations
  - Provides an opportunity to review and remove regulations pushed through in the finals days of an Administration
  - Has to pass House and Senate and the President must sign

#### CRA Resolutions

- Dodd-Frank Section 1504 Reporting Regulations (required U.S. oil and gas industry to disclose all payments to foreign governments, putting domestic industry at a competitive disadvantage) – passed House and Senate; approved by President
- BLM Venting and Flaring Regulations passed House, struggling in the Senate
- BLM Resource Management Plan Revisions passed House and Senate, awaiting President's signature



## **Opportunities**

- Pending Litigation
  - Many regulations are under litigation BLM Drilling Regulations, Subpart OOOOa, BLM Venting and Flaring Regulations, Ozone NAAQS
  - Trump Administration can change the former Administration's position on regulations and settle cases
    - Announced its intent to restructure the WOTUS regulations and acting to end litigation
    - Complicated by parties in the lawsuits opposing the regulations as excessive or as inadequate
    - Changing positions on the regulations that have been sustained or rejected by lower court rulings complicates future regulatory options
  - Environmentalists will challenge settlements



## **Opportunities**

- Regulatory Actions and Reforms
  - Trump Administration wants to eliminate two existing regulations for each new one
  - Eliminating regulations requires the same process as creating new ones
    - Proposal, comments, final revisions, promulgation
    - Eliminating will require the government to justify that its basis for promulgating the initial regulation is now incorrect



## **Potential Hurdles**

- Regulatory Actions & Reforms
  - Agency staff issues can undermine effort
    - Delaying the regulatory development process to prevent completion during the next four years
    - Inadequately supporting the justification for the revisions could open them to reversal during inevitable litigation
  - Reducing staff can adversely affect action
  - Opportunities for challenging revised/repealed existing regulations will grow dramatically



## **Potential Hurdles**

- Legislation
  - Many issues may require legislation to succeed
  - Congress largely remains subject to gridlock
  - Some issues may need to await 2018 election where substantial Republican Senate majority is possible
    - 25 Democratic Senators (2 are Independents that caucus with Dems) up for re-election
      - » Trump won 10 of those states
    - 8 Republican Senators up for re-election



## **Delegation to States**

- Trump Administration indicates that it wants to delegate regulatory authority to states
  - Key federal laws written with a structure that relies on state agencies as the principal regulator
  - States must seek delegation; states need money to run program that is authorized in federal law but not necessarily appropriated
    - » Congress needs to fund the state authority
- Barriers to delegation need to be identified and eliminated
  - Some legislation may be necessary



# **Industry Role**

#### Industry

- Maintain an active litigation role to resolve existing litigation and respond to new environmentalist actions
- Expand presence in regulatory arena to support reform actions and provide information to regulation dockets
- Support state delegation requests and both federal and state funding
- Develop grassroots responses to counter aggressive environmental efforts to increase state regulation and opposition to permits



## The Opposition is Better at ...

- Social Media
- Emotional argument
- Willingness to engage
- Getting publicity











- When
  - After Obamacare repeal/replace/reform
    - Much harder to do than it appears
    - May drag out far longer
  - House is talking about some action by the August break but what is unclear
  - Trying to crush into several months actions that typically take several years



#### - How

- Republicans would like to pass tax reform under regular order
  - Democrat opposition in Senate makes that path unlikely in this Congress
- Budget Reconciliation provides an alternative approach with pros and cons
  - Reconciliation prevents filibusters in the Senate and provides for a simple majority final vote
  - Reconciliation limits changes that increase deficits beyond
     10 years after enactment
    - » Triggered the 2010 and 2012 crises over the Bush tax cuts



#### - What

- Budget rules compel development of a revenue neutral or revenue raising tax reform proposal
  - Some indications that Congress may try to waive this constraint

#### Status

- House Republican leadership has a blueprint but no detailed language
- Trump Administration promises a proposal soon
- Senate is quietly looking at options while awaiting House action



- House Blueprint generally positive
  - Lower rates 20% corporate rate, 25% pass through entities, 12%/25%/33% individual rates
  - No AMT
  - Capital expenditures amortization One year
- Offsetting revenue approach controversial
  - Border Adjustment denying deductibility of costs of imports while allowing deduction of export sales
  - Changes in revenue options could limit extent of reform if revenue neutrality retained
- Transition to a new tax code