

Unconventional Oil and Natural Gas Development



Unconventional oil and natural gas play a key role in our nation's [clean energy](#) future. The U.S. has vast reserves of such resources that are commercially viable as a result of advances in horizontal drilling and [hydraulic fracturing technologies](#). These technologies enable greater access to oil and natural gas in shale formations. Responsible development of America's shale gas resources offers important economic, energy security, and environmental benefits.

We work with states and other key stakeholders to help ensure that the economic prosperity from unconventional oil and natural gas extraction does not come at the expense of public health and the environment. We have played a lead role in [convening stakeholders](#) and conducting outreach to individual citizens, communities, tribes, state and federal partners, industry, trade associations and environmental organizations that have a strong interest in the agency's work and policies related to unconventional oil and natural gas extraction.

Our focus and obligations under the law are to provide oversight, guidance and, where appropriate, rulemaking and enforcement, that achieve the best possible protections for human health and the air, water and land where Americans live, work and play.

News

Existing Owner Audit Program. In December 2019, we temporarily expanded the voluntary self-audit and disclosure program for upstream oil and natural gas facilities by giving existing owners the opportunity to find, correct, and self-disclose Clean Air Act violations. [View the Press Release to learn more.](#)

EPA-IOGCC Task Force. In August 2019, we renewed our commitment to collaborate with the IOGCC through the EPA-IOGCC Task Force. [Learn more.](#)