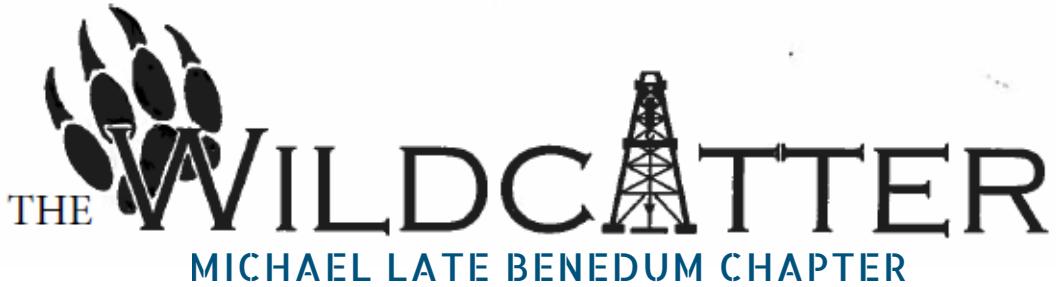


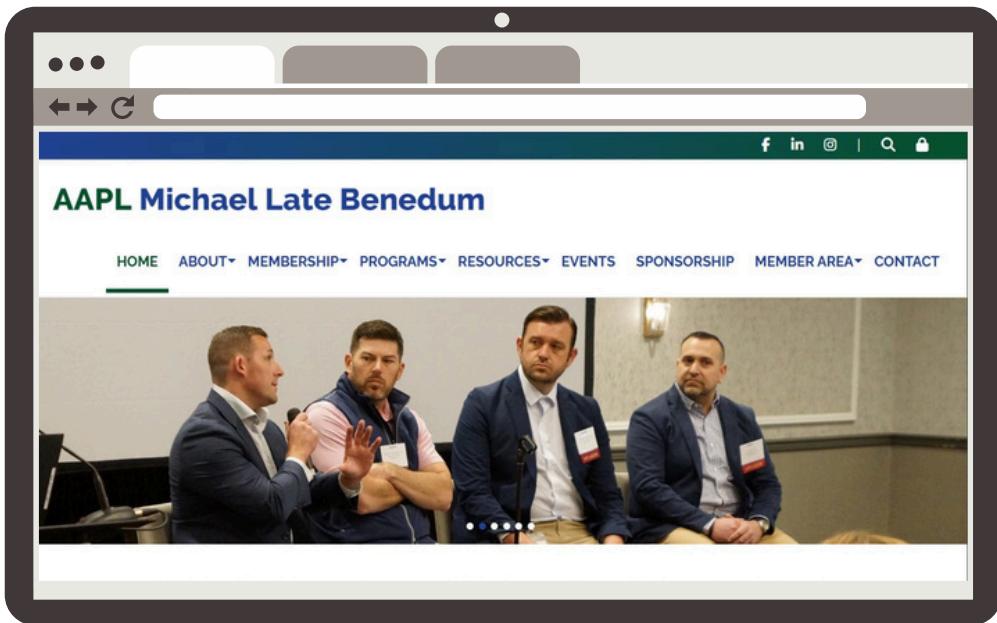
V O L 7 | I S S U E 1 | 2 0 2 6



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LANDMEN



Michael Late Benedum Chapter
American Association of Professional Landmen



Learn more about our new logo and website in the Letter From The President!

INSIDE THE ISSUE:

MLBC'S NEW LOGO & WEBSITE, WINTER SEMINAR RECAP, MEMBER SPOTLIGHT AND LEG & REG UPDATE



INSIDE THE FEBRUARY ISSUE

- 3** LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 5** CORPORATE SPONSORS
- 6** 2026 SPONSORSHIP LEVELS
- 7** WINTER SEMINAR RECAP
- 9** MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: KATHLEEN BEGLEY KINDYA
- 12** AAPL DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- 15** AAPL UPDATES
- 26** LEG & REG UPDATE
- 29** THE BASIN BRIEF
- 34** WVU ELM PROGRAM UPDATE
- 36** FEBRUARY LUNCH MEETING
- 37** STEPTOE & JOHNSON ARTICLE
- 39** UPCOMING MLBC EVENTS
- 40** EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- 41** COMMITTEE CHAIRS
- 42** MEMBERSHIP REPORT
- 43** MEMBERSHIP INFO

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

MLBC PRESIDENT, KEVIN PIERSON



Greetings MLBC Members! I hope the holidays provided an opportunity to recharge your reservoirs. That brief change of pace offered a powerful pause to recalibrate our focus and energize growth in the year to come. As we spud further into the new year, I am resolved to carry this energy and momentum into everything we do.

The MLBC is booming into the new year with the official launch of a redesigned **new logo** and totally **new websites platform**. The new logo draws strength from our regional roots, while the new website platform offers a cleaner, more streamlined experience for our membership. We're excited to move forward with these exciting changes as detailed below, further connecting our membership as the driving force behind our collective success.

New Website.

The new websites platform was launched for both the MLBC (www.mlbc.aapl.org) and the MLBC Foundation (www.mlbcfoundtion.org). Our transition to the Star Chapter platform is more than just a surface-level facelift. The upgraded system is a streamlined one-stop-shop to manage your profile, event schedule, register for events, pay your dues, sponsor events, corporate sponsors, improved member directory, resources, and much more, all in one secure location. We invite you to visit the new websites today to explore the new interface and verify your profile information, so your member experience is seamless for the year ahead.

The Logo Redesign.

The new logo redesign commenced separately but in conjunction with overhauling our websites platform to drastically enhance our digital presence in all regards. The new logo serves as a symbolic tribute to the historical grit and progress of land profession in the Appalachian Basin, grounded by the MLBC's mission and purpose.

Before the vibrant new logo image is unveiled on the following page, it's important to reflect on the MLBC's core principles, redacted and reformatted from our bylaws below, to truly understand the meaning that extends far beyond the noticeable visual impression.

Mission: The MLBC's mission is to promote the highest standards of performance for all Land Professionals, to advance their stature, and to encourage sound stewardship of energy and mineral resources. In furtherance of this mission, the MLBC may undertake such activities as are reasonably anticipated to promote the welfare of the MLBC and its members...

Purpose: Fostering fellowship among members; Furthering the landman's profession through educational activities; Maintaining a professional and ethical membership; Impressing upon the membership their role as representatives of the land profession in their interactions with the public; and Providing members with opportunities for community service.

Continued

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Michael Late Benedum Chapter American Association of Professional Landmen

The New Logo.

Visually vibrant emphasizing industry and Appalachian Basin influences.

What's in the New Logo.

I. The Colors.

The color **Blue** commonly represents stability and carried forward from the prior logo design in a warmer hue. The color of **Gold** applied to the logo was created through a chromatic blend of the many distinct legacy shades of Gold that are affiliated to the numerous universities and professional sports teams across the Appalachian Basin. Although subtle, this blended color is named **MLBC Gold** and represents the diversity among our membership.

II. Industry.

The **Oil & Gas Drilling Rig** is prominently centered for the industry that most Land Professionals serve. This key industry symbol demonstrates the sound stewardship and development of energy and mineral resources. The **Horizontal Wellbore** extending below the MLBC letters pays tribute to the outgoing logo and promotes forward progress, advancement, and technology. The base of the Oil & Gas drilling rig sits upon the sturdy foundation of a **Coal Mine** shaft with perspective lines receding deep into the mine. Although subtly intended, it's a historical tribute to the region's early commercial energy development, with the first commercial coal mine dating back to the early 1800s, and ongoing today throughout our region.

III. Appalachian Community.

The iconic **Bridges of Pittsburgh** in MLBC Gold adjoin the drilling rig to represent the Steel City and symbolize the connections we forge through professional networking. The **Appalachian Mountain Ridges** embody the highest standards of performance for all Land Professionals, to advance their stature, and furthering the landman profession through educational activities. **Three Rivers** are represented by three clean lines below the bridges signify our flowing unity, fostering fellowship among members. Collectively, these symbols establish the community for which we serve, impressing upon the MLBC membership their role as representatives of the land profession in their interactions with the public.

2026 CORPORATE SPONSORS



For more information or to purchase a Corporate Sponsor package or advertise in the The Wildcatter, please contact Abby Veigel at abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org.

DIAMOND



EMERALD



PLATINUM



**BLUE DUCK
RESOURCES**



GOLD



Cassidy Anderson
& Kane



COTERRA



Halo
Land Management

expand



**STOCKYARDS
ENERGY**
LAND SERVICES

SILVER



AN EMPLOYEE OWNED COMPANY

BRIGHTON
LAND MANAGEMENT INC.

2026 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS



The 2026 Corporate Sponsorship tiers are designed to support both the MLBC organization and the MLBC Foundation. Fifty percent of your contribution will support the MLBC organization, with the remaining fifty percent supporting the MLBC Foundation. By contributing, you're helping to advance energy professionals in our region, strengthen the communities where we work, and support the charities we proudly stand behind. Join us and our mission to support land professionals in our region and make a meaningful, lasting impact in our community.

For more information or to purchase a Corporate Sponsor package or advertise in the The Wildcatter, please contact Abby Veigel at abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org.

DIAMOND - \$10,000

- \$4,000 Foundation Credit (may be redeemed for event tickets or sponsorship)
- 4 passes to each MLBC educational & social event
- Logo included in every Wildcatter edition & membership email
- Logo linked on MLBC website
- Logo displayed at all events (virtually or in person)
- 4 full page ads in The Wildcatter per year
- 2 half page ads in The Wildcatter per year

EMERALD - \$7,500

- \$3,000 Foundation Credit (may be redeemed for event tickets or sponsorship)
- 4 passes to each MLBC educational & social event
- Logo included in every Wildcatter edition & membership email
- Logo linked on MLBC website
- Logo displayed at all events (virtually or in person)
- 3 full page ads in The Wildcatter per year
- 2 half page ads in The Wildcatter per year

PLATINUM - \$5,000

- \$2,000 Foundation Credit (may be redeemed for event tickets or sponsorship)
- 4 passes to each MLBC educational & social event
- Logo included in every Wildcatter edition & membership email
- Logo linked on MLBC website

- Logo displayed at all events (virtually or in person)
- 2 full page ads in The Wildcatter per year
- 1 half page ad in The Wildcatter per year

GOLD - \$2,500

- \$1,000 Foundation Credit (may be redeemed for event tickets or sponsorship)
- 2 passes to each MLBC educational & social event
- Logo included in every Wildcatter edition & membership email

- Logo linked on MLBC website
- Logo displayed at all events (virtually or in person)
- 1 half page ad in The Wildcatter per year

SILVER - \$1,500

- \$500 Foundation Credit (may be redeemed for event tickets or sponsorship)
- Logo included in every Wildcatter edition & membership email

- Logo linked on MLBC website
- Logo displayed at all events (virtually or in person)

WINTER SEMINAR RECAP

DECEMBER 4, 2025

SOUTHPOINTE GOLF CLUB





Trusted Legal Counsel to Energy Companies

Steptoe & Johnson PLLC is a law firm with over 400 lawyers and other professionals across 18 offices serving all sectors of the energy industry

Oil & Gas | Utilities | Mining | Renewables



For more information visit steptoe-johnson.com

COLORADO | KENTUCKY | OHIO | OKLAHOMA | PENNSYLVANIA | TEXAS | WEST VIRGINIA

400 White Oaks Boulevard, Bridgeport, WV 26330

THIS IS AN ADVERTISEMENT



Member Spotlight

Kathleen Begley Kindya



Tell us a little about yourself.

My name is Kathleen Begley Kindya, and I'm from Yardley, Pennsylvania, a suburb outside of Philadelphia. I moved to Pittsburgh in 2015 to attend the University of Pittsburgh, and I stayed for law school at Duquesne University. During this time, I met my husband, Zak, and upon graduating from law school, we moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado. While we absolutely loved living in close proximity to the Rocky Mountains, we moved back to Pittsburgh in 2024 to be closer to family.

Currently, I live on the North Side of Pittsburgh with my husband and our cat, Pickles. I love Pittsburgh, and to the disapproval of my family, I have become a huge Steelers fan. In my free time, I like to take Barre/Pilates classes, try new recipes and restaurants, and walk all over Pittsburgh. I am a frequent flier on the Three Rivers Heritage Trail.

Who are you currently employed or contracted with?

I am an associate attorney with Steptoe & Johnson PLLC, based in our Pittsburgh office.

How long have you worked in the oil and gas industry? And what states do you have experience? And tell us about any other land organization you belong.

I have worked in the industry for a little over two years. I started my career practicing family law but found it wasn't the right fit for me. I've always been interested in energy and the complexities behind what keeps our lights on, so the pivot to the energy sector felt natural.

I practice primarily in West Virginia, but I am also licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania and Colorado. While the MLBC is the only land organization I am currently a part of, I am an active member of the Women's Energy Network.

Do you have a mentor in the industry? Can you provide details?

I have many wonderful mentors! Specifically, Bill O'Brien has been instrumental in helping me understand the industry. Many of my S&J colleagues, such as Ben Kirchner, Deana Stephens, Whitney Nightingale, and Anthony Giresi, have also served as mentors. I am fortunate to work at a firm that really values mentorship.

Throughout this year, I have also been mentored by Renee Anderson, another highly experienced attorney, whom I was connected with through the Women's Energy Network.

Tell us about your first position in the industry.

My first position in the industry is with Steptoe & Johnson PLLC, in our Due Diligence and Mineral Title practice group.

What areas of the industry do you have experience in?

My experience is in due diligence and mineral title. Specifically, I prepare Division Order Title Opinions for our clients, which set forth a title ownership analysis, net revenue interest calculations, title defects, and curative requirements. Additionally, I have experience drafting Drilling Title Opinions and participating in due diligence projects for multi-million-dollar transactions involving mineral and other related assets.

Continued

Member Spotlight

Kathleen Begley Kindya

How long have you been a member of the MLBC. Do you currently have any certifications through the AAPL?

I have been a member of the MLBC since July 2024. I do not currently hold any certifications through the AAPL.

What benefits have you found as a member of the MLBC? What are your favorite aspects?

I appreciate the MLBC's focus on education. I have attended many educational seminars and luncheons through the MLBC, which have given me exposure to the industry outside of my day-to-day work. It is also a great organization for networking and meeting other industry professionals.

Do you serve the MLBC, AAPL, or any other organizations in an executive capacity and/or serve as a committee chair? Are you a member of any committees?

Currently, I serve on the Education Committee for the MLBC.



AAPL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted by: Rob Greiner



Highlights from the AAPL Board Meeting at Sea Island

The AAPL Board Meeting was held December 12–14 at the Sea Island Resort in Sea Island, Georgia. If you ever have the opportunity to visit this Philip Anschutz family-owned resort, I highly recommend it. The property is rich in both beauty and history.

Sea Island was developed by automobile pioneer Howard Coffin, who envisioned a luxury coastal getaway complete with modern infrastructure, including roads and power. During our stay, the resort was beautifully adorned with Christmas décor, adding to the charm of an already stunning property.

History is woven throughout Sea Island. In the garden courtyard of the resort's primary hotel, The Cloister, stands a majestic live oak tree draped in Spanish moss. The tree was planted by President Calvin Coolidge on New Year's Eve in 1928, just two months after the resort opened. Notably, it is the same species of live oak used to build the United States frigate Constitution, famously known as "Old Ironsides." The live oak timbers for the Constitution were shipped from a nearby bluff, now the site of the Sea Island Yacht Club.

Sea Island also played host to the 30th G8 Summit on June 8–10, 2004. That history remains very much alive today. Visitors can tour the property with the Sea Island Historian and hear remarkable stories of presidential visits, from the runway where Marine One first landed to the Summit Table where world leaders once deliberated. The sense of monumental history is truly palpable throughout the resort.

On to business.

The Board of Directors met Saturday for its quarterly roundtable discussion. The roundtable serves as an opportunity to discuss topics of concern, share ideas, and preview anticipated motions ahead of the formal board meeting. The most notable topic of conversation centered on a proposed by-laws change to redefine student membership.

After learning that the change would simply redefine what qualifies as a student, and would allow any student, not just those enrolled in an accredited Energy and Land Management (ELM) program, to apply for AAPL student membership, I was supportive. Because the redefining would still preclude non-ELM students from applying for scholarships, I felt this was a win for AAPL and an excellent opportunity to introduce more students to our industry and the Association.

Key takeaways from the Sunday Board Meeting include:

- AAPL total assets across all accounts now stand at approximately **\$60 million**.
- Nationwide Learning Institutes were announced, including **ALI scheduled for April 2–3**.
- **RPL/CPL reviews and exams** were announced, with **Pittsburgh slated for March 25–27**.
- **NAPE** was promoted, and it was encouraging to learn that this year's Wednesday evening Ice Breaker will coincide with the **NAPE Charities Celebration**. A standard floor pass will provide access to this collaborative event, with **Sammy Kershaw** performing live for the evening's entertainment.

Continued

AAPL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Continued



As you may already be aware, AAPL has rolled out its [new website](#). If you haven't done so, please log in and update your personal settings and profile. The new platform will deliver targeted content to each member based on individual preferences and selections.

I would also like to commend everyone involved in launching the [new MLBC website](#), which is now live. While the timing alongside the new AAPL site was not intentional, it truly is a great time to be a member of both MLBC and AAPL. Each organization offers a wealth of valuable resources to its members.

Did you know that AAPL provides industry-related forms and documents to its members **free of charge**? The Forms Committee is currently updating existing forms and adding new ones, including updated lease forms addressing **Geothermal and Lithium**.

Finally, I encourage all members to begin planning to attend the **AAPL Annual Meeting in June**. MLBC historically has strong member representation, and I hope to see some new faces this year as well. The meeting will be held in **Salt Lake City, Utah**, which promises to be a beautiful and enjoyable location.

As always, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns, I can help address. Stay warm, think positive! This cold winter is just what the natural gas market needs, and spring will be here before we know it!

Industry Intelligence. Focused Legal Perspective.
Unparalleled Value.

HIGH-YIELDING RESULTS.



Energy &
Natural Resources



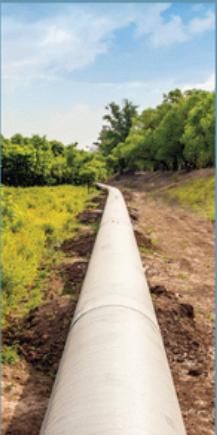
Environmental &
Regulatory



Business
Transactions



Real Estate,
Land Use & Zoning



Pipeline &
HazMat Safety



Commercial
Litigation

We are critical thinkers who are focused, driven and cost effective in everything we do.

Meet our attorneys at babstcalland.com.

Babst|Calland

Attorneys at Law

Where Trust and Value Meet.™



MEMBER NEWS



AAPL'S NEW WEBSITE IS HERE!

AAPL has been hard at work building a new association management system and website designed to serve our members better than ever before. The new experience features:

- A fresh look
- Smarter tools and functionality
- Customization at your fingertips
- Enhanced member connections
- Easier navigation

AAPL is confident this big change will make accessing AAPL benefits much easier and help advance our members' energy careers more efficiently. Continue reading for vital updates on the new experience, including how you can win awesome AAPL prizes just by updating your info.



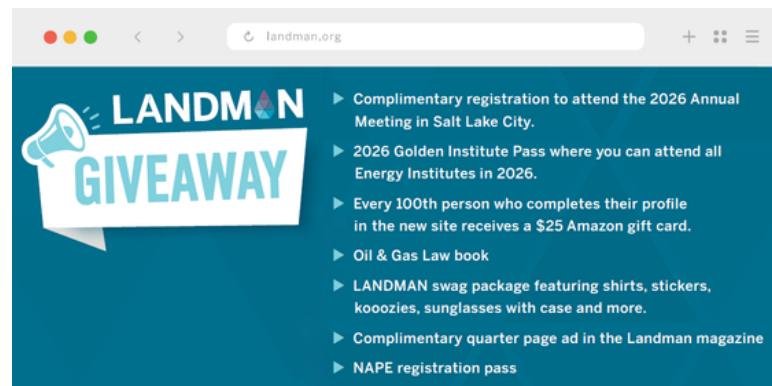
[**CHECK IT OUT!**](#)

PUBLIC MEMBER SEARCH PROFILE

AAPL's online member search just got better! Members can now upload a headshot, job title, biography, topics of interest and even links to their social media accounts. Provide the information you want to be visible in our online member search by [editing your public profile.](#)

LANDMAN GIVEAWAY

Update your profile in the new landman.org by Feb. 20, 2026, to have a chance to win one of these giveaways listed below!



MEMBER NEWS



EXPLORE MORE & UPDATE BOOKMARKS

We encourage you to become more familiar with our new site. Create new bookmarks on some of our most used benefits and webpages, including:

- [Online Member Search](#)
- [Landman Magazine](#)
- [Federal & State Bill Tracking](#)
- [Governmental Affairs Reports](#)
- [Mentorship Program](#)
- [Event Calendar](#)
- [Certification](#)
- [LANDNEWS](#)
- [Landman Now Podcast](#)
- [Career Center](#)

The new website is still getting tweaked, and some data is still migrating from our old system. We appreciate your patience during this time.

GAIN CEUS QUICKLY AT AN UPCOMING IN-PERSON EXAM REVIEW

AAPL's in-person RPL/CPL Certification Exam Reviews are fast-paced, intensive studies of the topics covered by the CPL and RPL certification exams. Existing certified members can brush up on their land skills and earn up to 18 CEUs plus 1 CEU ethics in just 3 days.

The reviews on [March 4-6 in Fort Worth](#) and [March 25-27 in Pittsburgh](#) are now open for registration! Save the dates for our other reviews in 2026 and stay tuned to our [calendar](#) for registration details.



EVENT CALENDAR

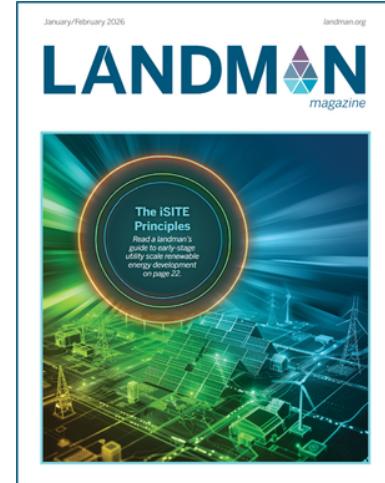
CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

THE NEW LANDMAN IS HERE!

The digital January/February 2026 issue of the Landman magazine is now available for e-viewing.

Featured articles include: "The iSite Principles," "NAPE News," "A River Ran Through It," "On the Hook," "Beyond Maps and Mineral Rights" and "Ownership of Produced Water."

READ THE NEWEST ISSUE



CONTINUE READING ONLINE WITH AAPL ADVOCACY

AAPL informs members of breaking news and timely analysis of emerging legislative, regulatory, judicial and tax matters that affect land professionals. Advocacy services include member access to the [AAPL Governmental Affairs Reports](#), which keeps members in-the-know on important government relations issues, and the [AAPL Federal and State Bill Tracking Summary](#), which provides real-time status updates on industry-specific legislation. Last year our team tracked over 1,000 bills in over 37 states. With important sessions and upcoming midterm elections, this year should be just as busy!

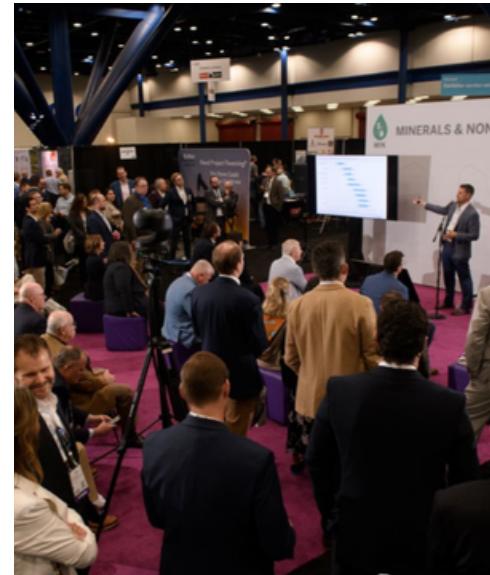
ADVOCACY HOME

JOIN NAPE TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS, MAKE DEALS & WIN

Managed by AAPL, NAPE is the energy industry's marketplace for the buying, selling and trading of prospects and producing properties. NAPE, which takes place Feb. 18-20 in Houston, brings together all industry disciplines, draws in decision-makers, focuses its participation on prospect generators, and hosts companies of all sizes.

With the addition of critical minerals, data centers, geothermal, minerals and non-operating, bitcoin mining and renewable energy sources to our oil and gas offerings, NAPE is the ultimate venue for energy deals.

Once the deals are done, the expo floor will be buzzing with anticipation for the winner of a brand-new INEOS Grenadier Trialmaster to be announced at the end of the show on Friday.



[**MORE ON 2026 NAPE SUMMIT**](#)

[**MORE ON THE SWEEPSTAKES**](#)



MEMBER ALERT



AAPL STUDENT MEMBER BYLAWS CHANGE

The AAPL board of directors met on Sunday, Dec. 14, at its quarterly meeting, and voted to approve a change in the AAPL bylaws.

Please take the time to review the bylaws change and cast your vote. The deadline to complete your ballot is **March 12, 2026, at 11:59:59 PM CDT**.

Current Bylaws:

Article V - Membership, Section 6

“Student Member is available to those who are enrolled in an AAPL Accredited Program. A Student Member shall not be considered an Active Member.”

Proposed Bylaws Change (underlined text):

“Student Member is available to those students pursuing a postsecondary education on a full-time basis. A Student Member shall not be considered an Active Member.”

Please cast your vote for or against the proposed bylaws change by clicking below.

[**VOTE NOW**](#)

Michelle Phillips, CPL, AAPL Membership Committee member, authored an article highlighting the interest in AAPL Student Membership from students outside of AAPL's accredited programs and the opportunity to grow AAPL's membership with the next generation of land professionals. Read "[Fueling the Future](#)" in the LANDNEWS section of [landman.org](#).



STUDENT MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION

A broader student membership definition aims to satisfy new interest in the land profession and fulfill the industry's growing need for bright, young land professionals.

Read more on how these proposed changes provide an opportunity to grow the next generation of land professionals in [AAPL Student Membership Expansion](#) and [Fueling the Future.](#)



SALT LAKE CITY
AAPL'S 72ND
ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 24-26, 2026



AAPL'S 72ND ANNUAL MEETING

AAPL's Annual Meeting returns to Salt Lake City June 24-26 and aims to elevate the land profession with relevant education, business-building networking, informative escapades and can't-miss fun!

Beyond the conference itself, SLC offers something for everyone. The "Crossroads of the West" is rich with museums, gardens, hiking trails, golfing, fishing and world-class dining. Nearby attractions such as Temple Square, Red Butte Garden, Antelope Island State Park, Snowbird and Park City make it easy to turn your conference trip into a memorable experience for all ages.

Continue reading for early information on official offerings at the land profession's premier professional development and networking event as well as how to save on your early registration.



ANNUAL MEETING HOME

PLAN YOUR VISIT

LOGIN & REGISTER NOW

RIO TINTO CANYON MINE TOURS

Attendees have the option to add a tour of Rio Pinto's Kennecott Bingham Canyon Mine, a world-class, integrated copper mining operation located just outside of SLC. Operating since 1906 as one of the world's largest man-made excavations, it measures over 4,000 feet deep and 2.5 miles wide, producing copper, gold, silver and molybdenum.

Learn more about the operations and catch all the stunning views the tour offers with fellow land professionals on Wednesday or Friday of Annual Meeting. Tours cost just \$25 per attendee and include transportation. Hurry, tour spots are limited and may sell out!



OPENING SESSION KEYNOTE

We are pleased to announce Fervo CEO Tim Latimer as our Opening Session Keynote! Tim began his career as a drilling engineer with BHP Billiton where he worked in the Permian and Eagle Ford basins. In 2015, he shifted his focus from oil and gas to renewables, earning an MBA and an MS in Environment and Resources from Stanford University.

In 2017, Latimer co-founded Fervo, which delivers 24/7 carbon free energy through development of next-generation geothermal power. Fervo's technology incorporates proven, cost-effective technologies, such as horizontal drilling and distributed fiber optic sensing, to unlock the potential of geothermal energy.

We look forward to learning more about Latimer's industry outlook, unique story, leadership approach and more on the Thursday morning of Annual Meeting.



EDUCATION TOPICS

Annual Meeting attendees have the opportunity to earn over 12 CEUs as well as CLEs from a variety of states through intriguing presentations and discussions on the following topics:

- Landman Day Rates
- Uinta Basin Fireside Chat
- AI
- Ethics
- Gas Markets Update
- Landman's Opportunities Panel

Special general sessions, including the Horizon Breakfast, Opening Session Keynote, Business Meeting, Western Energy Alliance Update and Friday Luncheon, also provide opportunities to earn continuing education credits. Stay tuned for full details and speakers!

NETWORKING, NETWORKING, NETWORKING

Just as important as education is the chance to reconnect with colleagues and build new relationships. AAPL's Annual Meeting offers numerous opportunities to do just that, beginning with our Welcome Reception, which also includes our First-Time Attendee Reception. Events such as our Business Meeting and Awards Luncheon, NEW Basin Bash at the Alta Club, breakfasts and networking breaks create natural settings for meaningful conversations that often lead to long-lasting professional connections.



4 WAYS TO SAVE

1. Loyalty Offer: Because you recently attended an Annual Meeting, we're offering an exclusive loyalty offer just for you! Register by April 15 and a \$100 discount will automatically be applied to your registration fee.

2. Professional Development Assistance Program: Active and Student members can apply for PDAP to reduce the Annual Meeting registration fee up to \$300. [Learn more and apply.](#)

3. Group Rates: If you are registering more than 5 people, contact education@landman.org to receive a 20% discount code to use on registration fees. Group rates cannot be combined with loyalty offer or other promo codes.

4. Priority Rates: No matter which way you choose to save, register early to take advantage of low priority rates, which expire **April 15!**



LOGIN & REGISTER NOW

SPONSOR EARLY FOR THE MOST EXPOSURE

With high exposure sponsorship packages available, including premier packages, registration bags and much more, you will have the perfect opportunity to put your company's name and logo in front of hundreds of landmen, dealmakers and executives. Contact [Jennifer Taylor](#) to customize a package or if you have questions about sponsoring.

2026 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

THANKS TO OUR EARLY ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS

bpx energy



COTERRA

devon

eog resources

EQT

expand

Ovintiv

OXY

ExxonMobil

GRAY REED

**MARAUDER
LAND RESOURCES**

TURNER
OIL & GAS PROPERTIES, INC.
Professional Land Services

**CROWLEY
FLECK PLLC
ATTORNEYS**

Halo
Land Management

**OLIVA
GIBBS**

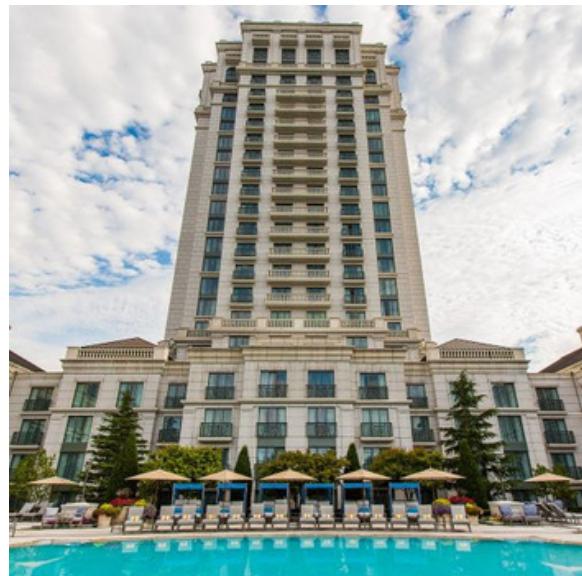
mac
Professional Land Services



GRAND AMERICA HOTEL

Annual Meeting's host hotel features stunning mountain views, handcrafted European furnishings, heated outdoor/indoor pool and exquisite dining experiences. The exciting downtown location allows for safe walks to more dining options, bars and entertainment.

Because of our heavily discounted rates, a booking link will be shared with registrants in their confirmation email after registering for Annual Meeting.



CONNECT BEFORE ANNUAL MEETING AT NAPE SUMMIT

Hundreds of operators – from independents to supermajors – will be present on the expo floor Feb. 19-20 in Houston to buy and sell prospects/energy-producing properties. There's still time to save on a registration or even a booth! Head to Houston in three weeks to find out why NAPE is the ultimate venue for energy deals!



MORE ON 2026 NAPE SUMMIT

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE

By Nikolas Tysiak, Legislative and Regulatory Chairman



Just a few cases to report this time.

Property Tax Assessment and Pipeline Valuation

The West Virginia Intermediate Court of Appeals in Lemley v. MarkWest Liberty Midstream & Resources, LLC, — S.E.2d — (2025) established significant precedent for oil and gas transportation infrastructure taxation. The court affirmed the Office of Tax Appeals' application of a 35% reduction in assessed value for 20-inch natural gas liquid pipelines due to economic obsolescence. The court held that external market forces beyond an operator's control, including COVID-19 pandemic impacts, can justify substantial economic obsolescence adjustments when pipelines operate significantly below design capacity.

The decision recognized that beginning in 2018, MarkWest installed 20-inch NGL lines anticipating increased production that never materialized due to market conditions that lessened demand for NGLs and led to scaling back of planned natural gas processing facilities. The court found that calculations showing pipeline utilization at only 28%, 36%, and 47% of design capacity demonstrated that economic obsolescence was necessary to fairly value the pipelines. This represents a significant shift in how underutilized oil and gas transportation infrastructure may be assessed for property tax purposes.

The court also confirmed important procedural changes affecting oil and gas operators challenging property tax assessments. Effective January 1, 2023, the West Virginia Legislature transferred jurisdiction over contested property tax matters from county commissions to the Office of Tax Appeals, establishing OTA as an independent quasi-judicial agency with de novo hearing authority. Most significantly, the Legislature reduced the burden of proof for taxpayers from "clear and convincing evidence" to a "preponderance of the evidence" standard, representing a substantial reduction in the evidentiary burden for oil and gas operators disputing tax assessments.

Compulsory Unitization and Good Faith Standards

In Haughtland Resources, LLC v. SWN Production Company, LLC, Not Reported in S.E. Rptr. (2025), the West Virginia Intermediate Court of Appeals addressed the application of the state's compulsory unitization statute under West Virginia Code § 22C-9-7a. The court established important precedent regarding good faith requirements for operators seeking to force pool non-consenting mineral owners for horizontal drilling projects.

The court rejected the appellant's argument for adopting specific good faith standards requiring offers based on prevailing lease terms with other unit owners, as found in Texas, Oklahoma, and Colorado. The court held that West Virginia Code § 22C-9-7a does not require offers to unitize to be based on other leases or that an applicant disclose its lease terms with other interest owners within a proposed unit. Instead, the court applied the general good faith standard defined by the West Virginia Supreme Court as "an intangible and abstract quality with no technical meaning or statutory definition" that "encompasses, among other things, an honest belief, the absence of malice and the absence of design to defraud or to seek an unconscionable advantage".

The decision also clarified important limitations on the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission's authority. The court found that the Commission lacks authority to make legal determinations regarding the status of a lease as "leased" or "unleased" in compulsory unitization proceedings, noting that such disputes remain open matters not determined by the Commission in its orders. This limitation preserves contractual interpretation issues for courts with proper jurisdiction over such matters.

Continued

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE

West Virginia Tax Sale Deed Authority

The West Virginia Intermediate Court of Appeals issued an important ruling in *U.S. Bank Tr. Nat'l Ass'n v. Duncan Homes, LLC*, decided November 13, 2025, establishing that "when tax sale deed is duly obtained and recorded by purchaser of tax sale lien, purchaser is vested with all interest and title to subject property." The court held that parties holding interests in deeds of trust at the time of tax sale were entitled to notice and right of redemption, but once proper procedures were followed, the tax sale conveyed clear title to the purchaser.

Transportation Issues

East Ohio Gas Company v. Croce, 2026-Ohio-75, is an Ohio Supreme Court decision that established the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's (PUCO) exclusive jurisdiction over claims involving utility tariff interpretation and gas measurement reconciliation processes. The court held that natural gas producers' tort claims against Dominion Energy for allegedly selling excess gas without compensation fell within PUCO's exclusive regulatory authority, even when framed as common law conversion and unjust enrichment claims.

Factual Background and Procedural Posture

Three natural gas producers filed a class action lawsuit against East Ohio Gas Company d.b.a. Dominion Energy Ohio in Summit County Court of Common Pleas, alleging conversion and unjust enrichment claims. The producers participated in Ohio's Energy Choice Program, which allows natural gas customers to purchase gas either from Dominion Energy directly or from independent choice suppliers. All gas from the producers' wells flowed into Dominion Energy's pipeline system regardless of the purchaser arrangement.

The producers alleged that choice suppliers only compensated them for estimated gas volumes communicated through a process called "nomination," while Dominion Energy allegedly sold or benefited from excess gas volumes without proper compensation through the required reconciliation process outlined in Dominion Energy's tariff. Judge Croce granted Dominion Energy's motion to dismiss in part, dismissing the conversion claim under Civil Rule 12(B)(6) but denying the motion as to other claims, concluding that the common pleas court had jurisdiction.

After the Ninth District dismissed Dominion Energy's appeal for lack of finality, Dominion Energy sought a writ of prohibition in the Ninth District against Judge Croce. The Ninth District granted the writ, ordering Judge Croce to cease exercising jurisdiction over the class action on grounds that PUCO had exclusive jurisdiction.

Legal Framework and Analysis

The Ohio Supreme Court applied the established *Allstate* two-part test to determine whether claims fall within PUCO's exclusive. This test examines: (1) whether PUCO's administrative expertise is required to resolve the dispute, and (2) whether the complained-of conduct constitutes a practice normally authorized by the utility. A negative answer to either question suggests the claim does not fall within PUCO's exclusive jurisdiction.

Administrative Expertise Requirement

The court found that resolving the producers' claims required determining whether Dominion Energy correctly carried out the reconciliation process set forth in Section 12 of its energy-choice pooling-service tariff. The court explained that the producers explicitly based their unjust enrichment, conversion, and other claims on Dominion Energy's alleged failure to correctly reconcile the difference between gas volumes delivered into the pipeline system and the choice suppliers' nominations.

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY UPDATE

The court characterized the gravamen of the complaint as an allegation that Dominion Energy's measurement or reconciliation practices were "unreasonable, unjust, or insufficient" in connection with services it furnishes. This type of complaint falls directly within the scope of Ohio Revised Code Section 4905.26, which the legislature explicitly placed under PUCO's jurisdiction. The court noted that questions regarding whether there was excess natural gas not covered by the tariff or whether Dominion Energy improperly retained and sold excess gas through incorrect reconciliation processes are matters requiring PUCO's specialized regulatory expertise.

'Normally Authorized Practice' Analysis

The court determined that gas measurement, reconciliation processes, and natural gas sales constitute practices normally authorized by utilities. PUCO regulations specifically require utility tariffs to address nomination processes and measurement of delivered gas under Ohio Administrative Code 4901:1-13-14(A)(1) and (4). Additionally, PUCO's approval of Dominion Energy's energy-choice pooling-service tariff demonstrated that these practices fall within normal utility operations subject to regulatory oversight.

The court distinguished this case from property rights disputes involving easement interpretation, emphasizing that the underlying dispute concerned tariff interpretation rather than property rights enforcement. Unlike cases involving easement disputes, the disposition of these claims depended on interpreting a PUCO-regulated tariff governing utility operations.

Solar Power Generation Legal Developments

In re Application of South Branch Solar, L.L.C., — N.E.3d — (2025), the Ohio Supreme Court established important precedent for solar facility siting requirements. The court affirmed the Ohio Power Siting Board's approval of a certificate for a 130-megawatt solar facility in Hancock County, rejecting a neighbor's challenge to the project approval.

The court applied the standard that it "will reverse, vacate, or modify an order of the board only when, upon consideration of the record, we conclude that the order was unlawful or unreasonable." This deferential standard of review emphasizes judicial restraint in reviewing Power Siting Board decisions while maintaining oversight authority.

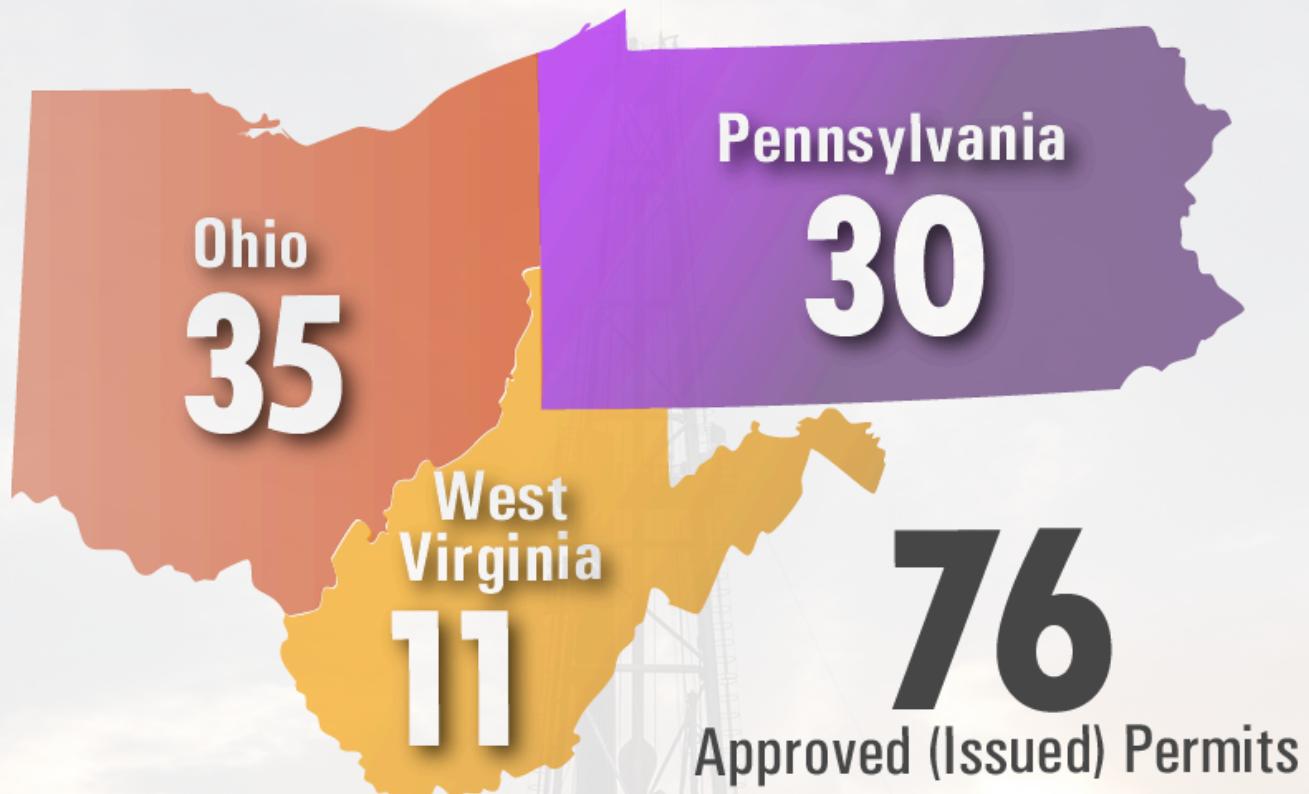
The decision addressed six key areas of solar facility regulation. First, regarding environmental impact assessment, the court held that sufficient evidence supported the Board's determination of the project's probable impact to wildlife and that the project represented minimum adverse environmental impact. Second, the court found that the Board properly required flood analysis for the facility's project area as part of environmental impact determination. Third, the court approved setback requirements of 300 feet from nonparticipating residences, 150 feet from public roads, and 50 feet from nonparticipating property lines.

Fourth, the court held that sufficient evidence supported the Board's finding that the facility served the public interest, convenience, and necessity, noting the Board identified specific benefits including "generation of zero emission energy, increases in local revenues, including the local school district, and enhancements to the state and local economy." Fifth, regarding economic impact analysis, the court rejected arguments that applicants must provide analysis of specific negative impacts, finding that rules require only that applicants "provide an estimate of the economic impact on local commercial and industrial activities." Finally, the court approved the Board's acceptance of a joint stipulation between the applicant, board staff, county commissioners, and farm bureau recommending certificate issuance.

As always, feel free to reach out if you think of anything you think we should be addressing.

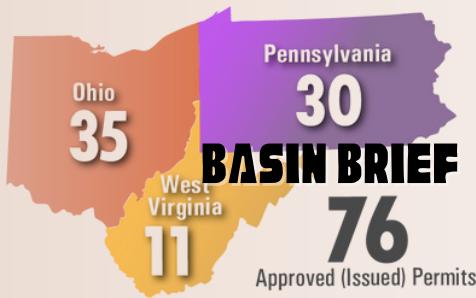
Nik Tysiak
Legislative and Regulatory Chair, MLBC

BASIN BRIEF



 **AYERS** PETROLEUM
CONSULTING

*BASIN ACTIVITY INFORMATION PROVIDED BY AYERS PETROLEUM
CONSULTING AND IS CURRENT OF JANUARY 2026.*

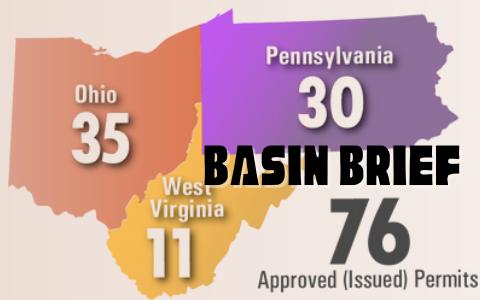


PERMIT DETAILS

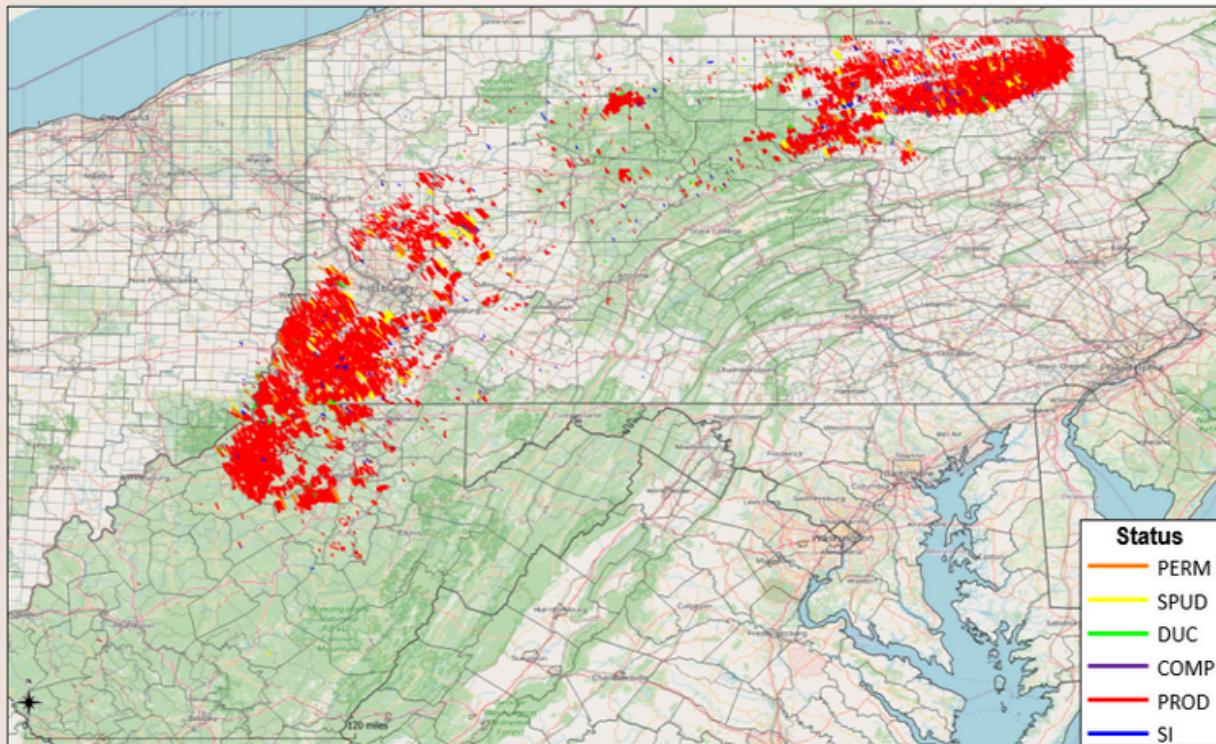
1	34-013-21658-0000	Belmont	Gulfport	12/2/2025	Utica
2	34-013-21659-0000	Belmont	Gulfport	12/2/2025	Utica
3	34-013-21660-0000	Belmont	Gulfport	12/2/2025	Utica
4	34-013-21661-0000	Belmont	Gulfport	12/2/2025	Utica
5	34-059-24747-0000	Guernsey	EOG Resources	12/2/2025	Utica
6	34-067-21883-0000	Harrison	EOG Resources	12/3/2025	Utica
7	34-111-25025-0000	Monroe	Expand Energy	12/3/2025	Marcellus
8	34-157-25557-0000	Tuscarawas	EOG Resources	12/3/2025	Utica
9	34-157-25558-0000	Tuscarawas	EOG Resources	12/3/2025	Utica
10	34-157-25559-0000	Tuscarawas	EOG Resources	12/3/2025	Utica
11	34-067-21884-0000	Harrison	EOG Resources	12/4/2025	Utica
12	34-067-21885-0000	Harrison	EOG Resources	12/4/2025	Utica
13	34-067-21886-0000	Harrison	EOG Resources	12/4/2025	Utica
14	34-067-21887-0000	Harrison	EOG Resources	12/4/2025	Utica
15	34-111-25026-0000	Monroe	Expand Energy	12/4/2025	Marcellus
16	34-111-25027-0000	Monroe	Expand Energy	12/4/2025	Marcellus
17	34-013-21662-0000	Belmont	Ascent	12/5/2025	Utica
18	34-013-21663-0000	Belmont	Ascent	12/5/2025	Utica
19	34-121-24707-0000	Noble	Antero	12/10/2025	Utica
20	34-019-22956-0000	Carroll	EOG Resources	12/12/2025	Utica
21	34-019-22957-0000	Carroll	EOG Resources	12/12/2025	Utica
22	34-019-22958-0000	Carroll	EOG Resources	12/12/2025	Utica
23	34-019-22959-0000	Carroll	EOG Resources	12/12/2025	Utica
24	34-019-22960-0000	Carroll	EOG Resources	12/12/2025	Utica
25	34-111-25028-0000	Monroe	Expand Energy	12/12/2025	Marcellus
26	34-013-21664-0000	Belmont	Gulfport	12/16/2025	Utica
27	34-013-21665-0000	Belmont	Gulfport	12/16/2025	Utica
28	34-013-21666-0000	Belmont	Gulfport	12/16/2025	Utica
29	34-157-25556-0000	Tuscarawas	EOG Resources	12/19/2025	Utica
30	34-157-25563-0000	Tuscarawas	EOG Resources	12/22/2025	Utica
31	34-157-25564-0000	Tuscarawas	EOG Resources	12/22/2025	Utica
32	34-157-25565-0000	Tuscarawas	EOG Resources	12/22/2025	Utica
33	34-157-25566-0000	Tuscarawas	EOG Resources	12/22/2025	Utica

34	34-029-22042-0000	Columbiana	Hilcorp	12/23/2025	Utica
35	34-029-22043-0000	Columbiana	Hilcorp	12/23/2025	Utica
36	37-081-22093	Lycoming	PA Gen Energy	12/1/2025	Marcellus
37	37-115-23219	Susquehanna	Coterra	12/1/2025	Marcellus
38	37-115-23215	Susquehanna	Coterra	12/1/2025	Marcellus
39	37-115-23218	Susquehanna	Coterra	12/1/2025	Marcellus
40	37-115-23217	Susquehanna	Coterra	12/1/2025	Marcellus
41	37-115-23216	Susquehanna	Coterra	12/1/2025	Marcellus
42	37-115-23214	Susquehanna	Coterra	12/1/2025	Marcellus
43	37-115-23213	Susquehanna	Coterra	12/1/2025	Marcellus
44	37-015-24011	Bradford	Expand Energy	12/4/2025	Marcellus
45	37-015-24010	Bradford	Expand Energy	12/4/2025	Marcellus
46	37-003-22721	Allegheny	Range Resources	12/10/2025	Marcellus
47	37-003-22722	Allegheny	Range Resources	12/10/2025	Marcellus
48	37-115-23220	Susquehanna	Expand Energy	12/11/2025	Marcellus
49	37-115-23222	Susquehanna	Expand Energy	12/12/2025	Marcellus
50	37-115-23221	Susquehanna	Expand Energy	12/12/2025	Marcellus
51	37-129-29294	Westmoreland	CNX	12/15/2025	Utica
52	37-129-29293	Westmoreland	CNX	12/15/2025	Utica
53	37-129-29292	Westmoreland	CNX	12/15/2025	Utica
54	37-117-22313	Tioga	Seneca	12/18/2025	Utica
55	37-117-22314	Tioga	Seneca	12/18/2025	Utica
56	37-117-22315	Tioga	Seneca	12/18/2025	Utica
57	37-117-22316	Tioga	Seneca	12/18/2025	Utica
58	37-063-37581	Indiana	INR Operating	12/23/2025	Marcellus
59	37-063-37580	Indiana	INR Operating	12/23/2025	Marcellus
60	37-063-37579	Indiana	INR Operating	12/23/2025	Marcellus
61	37-125-29255	Washington	Range Resources	12/24/2025	Marcellus
62	37-125-29251	Washington	Range Resources	12/24/2025	Marcellus
63	37-125-29252	Washington	Range Resources	12/24/2025	Marcellus
64	37-125-29253	Washington	Range Resources	12/24/2025	Marcellus

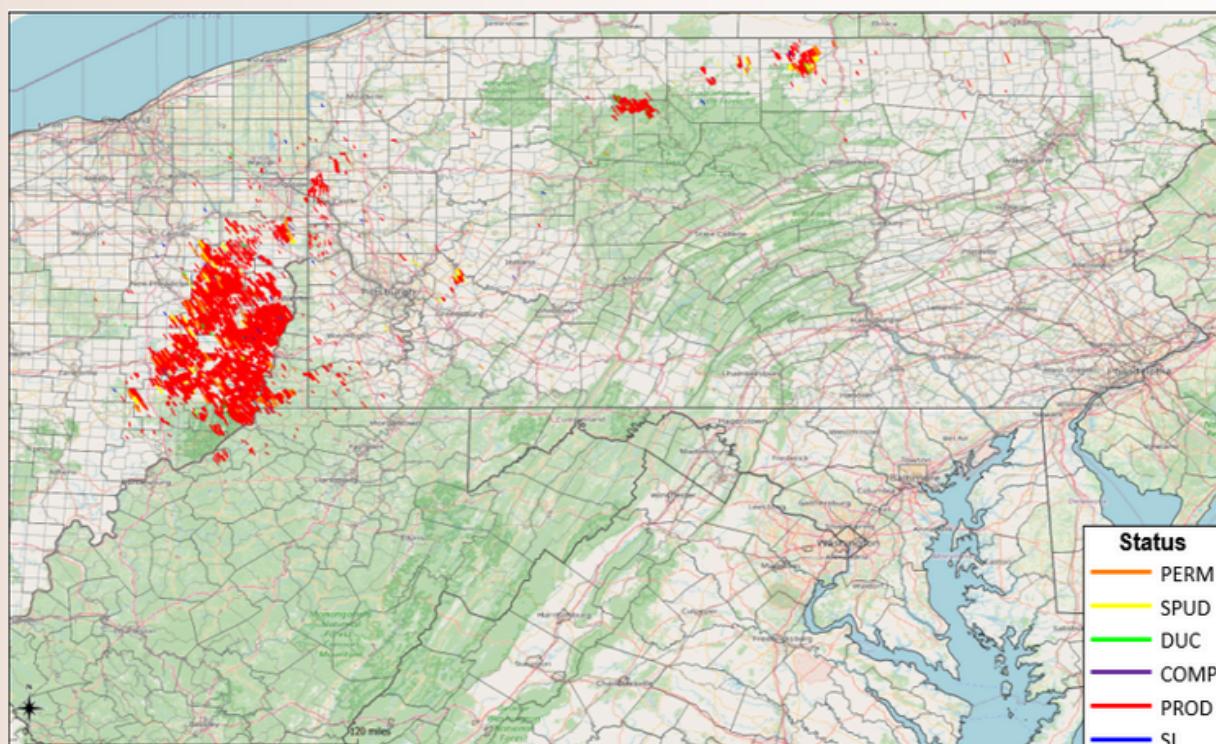
65	37-125-29254	Washington	Range Resources	12/24/2025	Marcellus
66	47-061-02016	Monongalia	Northeast Natural	12/2/2025	Marcellus
67	47-061-02017	Monongalia	Northeast Natural	12/2/2025	Marcellus
68	47-061-02019	Monongalia	Northeast Natural	12/2/2025	Marcellus
69	47-061-02021	Monongalia	Northeast Natural	12/2/2025	Marcellus
70	47-103-03188	Wetzel	EQT	12/4/2025	Marcellus
71	47-103-03191	Wetzel	EQT	12/4/2025	Marcellus
72	47-103-03299	Wetzel	EQT	12/4/2025	Marcellus
73	47-051-02504	Marshall	Expand Energy	12/30/2025	Marcellus
74	47-051-02508	Marshall	Expand Energy	12/30/2025	Marcellus
75	47-051-02509	Marshall	Expand Energy	12/30/2025	Marcellus
76	47-051-02511	Marshall	Expand Energy	12/30/2025	Marcellus

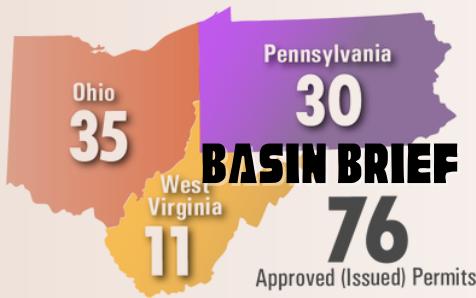


MARCELLUS WELLS BY STATUS



UTICA WELLS BY STATUS





PERMITTING SUMMARY BY STATE

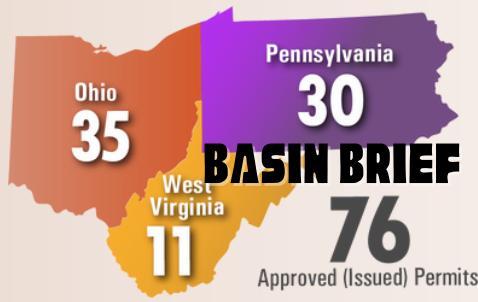
STATE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	DEC 2024
OH	26	27	14	40	33	22	23	29	32	8	17	35	34
PA	51	40	62	59	58	54	43	34	33	74	40	30	52
WV	11	15	9	14	23	15	8	33	16	15	24	11	16
TOTAL	88	82	85	113	114	91	74	96	81	97	81	76	102

PERMITTING SUMMARY BY OPERATOR

OPERATOR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
EQT	31	7	12	20	15	17	14	18	8	30	13	3	188
EOG Resources	8	15	-	24	18	11	13	16	13	8	9	19	154
Expand Energy	8	15	5	7	8	9	12	24	2	18	12	13	133
Range Resources	3	13	9	15	4	11	11	1	16	7	3	7	100
Seneca	-	3	13	7	14	11	2	1	-	-	1	4	56
Ascent	4	3	10	5	8	10	6	3	7	-	1	2	59
Coterra	4	-	5	6	3	1	2	4	6	-	-	7	38
CNX	-	-	-	10	11	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	26
Pennenergy	-	7	11	-	3	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	33
Antero	-	1	8	1	-	-	7	4	9	1	10	1	42
Others (22)	30	18	12	18	30	21	7	23	20	21	32	17	249
TOTAL	88	82	85	113	114	91	74	96	81	97	81	76	1,078

HORIZONTAL WELLS BY RESERVOIR BY STATUS

RESERVOIR	PERM	SPUD	DUC	COMP	PROD	SI	TOTAL
Marcellus	446	550	101	110	15,432	348	16,987
Utica	229	153	38	21	4,225	35	4,701
Burket	2	32	-	8	326	7	375
TOTAL	677	735	139	139	19,983	390	22,063



PRODUCING WELL COUNT BY RESERVOIR

RESERVOIR	OH	PA	WV	TOTAL
Marcellus	46	11,383	4,003	15,432
Utica	3,645	453	127	4,225
Burket	-	294	32	326
TOTAL	3,691	12,130	4,162	19,983

PRODUCING MARCELLUS WELLS

OPERATOR	OH	PA	WV	TOTAL
EQT	5	2,189	993	3,187
Expand Energy	30	2,423	696	3,149
Range Resources	-	1,601	-	1,601
Antero	-	-	1,311	1,311
Coterra	-	1,095	-	1,095
Seneca	-	831	-	831
Repsol	-	774	-	774
CNX	1	483	93	577
Pennenergy	-	355	-	355
XTO Energy	-	266	54	320
Others (51)	10	1,366	856	2,232
TOTAL	46	11,383	4,003	15,432

PRODUCING UTICA WELLS

OPERATOR	OH	PA	WV	TOTAL
EOG Resources	1,201	-	-	1,201
Ascent	973	-	-	973
Gulfport	484	-	-	484
EQT	189	23	89	301
Antero	241	-	1	242
Expand Energy	220	3	5	228
Seneca	-	204	-	204
Hilcorp	88	97	-	185
INR Operating	125	-	-	125
CNX	45	30	5	80
Others (18)	79	96	27	202
TOTAL	3,645	453	127	4,225

WVU ELM PROGRAM UPDATE

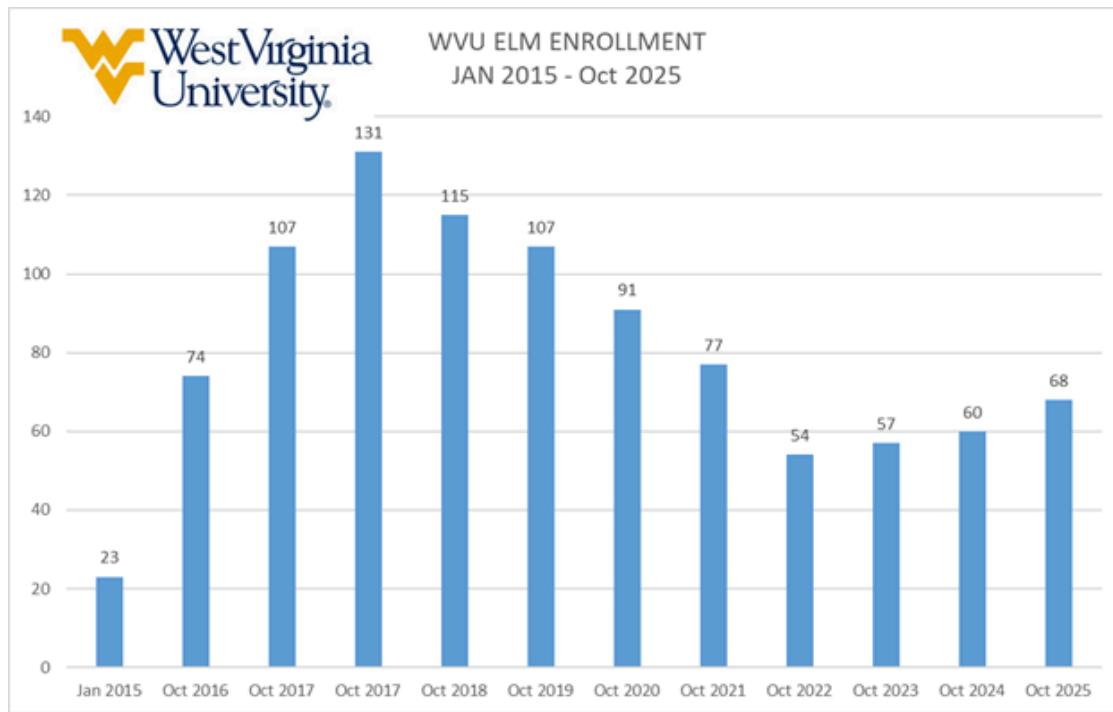
By: Shawn Grushecky, Program Coordinator and
Assistant Professor of Energy Land Management



WVU Energy Land Management: Program Growth and Strategic Review

As we move through the 2025 academic year, the West Virginia University Environmental, Energy, and Land Management (ELM) program continues to evolve to meet the changing demands of our industry. We wanted to provide the MLBC with a brief update on the program's current standing and an overview of the strategic review process currently underway.

Following the challenges of the pandemic years, the ELM program has seen a robust recovery. As of October 2025, we have achieved a 24% increase in enrollment from our 2022 low, bringing our total to 68 undergraduate students. This growth is driven by recruitment and management efforts, including a 60% retention/growth rate from freshman to sophomore years and a 113% increase from the sophomore to junior cohorts. Over 100% shows retention of current students, and the transfer of new students into the program.



The makeup of our student body remains regionally focused, with the majority hailing from West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Virginia, ensuring a workforce that is committed to the Appalachian region. Diversity is also improving, with female enrollment rising to 16% in 2025. Thirty students were placed in internships in 2025, which was a record year!

Most importantly for our industry partners, our student outcomes remain elite. For those entering the workforce, we achieved a 100% job placement rate for Spring 2025 graduates, with 66% entering land-related sectors and 50% of graduates reporting starting salaries over \$65,000.

Continued



Currently, the program is undergoing its mandatory, five-year Board of Governors (BOG) Program Review. This comprehensive audit is a standard university process designed to validate the program's quality and plan for future growth.

For the ELM program, this review focuses on three critical pillars:

1. **Validating Industry Alignment:** We are using this opportunity to demonstrate to the University that our curriculum remains strictly aligned with current employer expectations, emerging technologies, and workforce needs.
2. **Mandatory Quality Assurance:** The review audits our faculty credentials, curriculum rigor, and student outcomes to ensure we meet the highest academic standards.
3. **Strategic Growth Planning:** We are analyzing our data to propose new resource allocations and program evolution. This includes the recent merger with the Environmental and Energy Resources Management (EERM) program, which brought our combined student headcount to over 80 and allow for a broader "Land Management" curriculum.

This review process allows the University to formally reaffirm its commitment to Energy Land Management, and to enhancing the marketability of the degree. We thank our industry partners for your continued support in internships, scholarships, and advisory feedback, all of which are vital components of our success during this review period.



JOIN US FOR

FEBRUARY LUNCH MEETING

February 12, 2026 | 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

The "O" by Oliverios

2036 Anmoore Rd, Bridgeport, WV, 26330

Tickets

\$50 Member Registration

\$80 Non-Member Registration

Corporate Sponsors- please email
abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org to receive your
registration voucher.

[View Meeting](#)

[REGISTER NOW](#)

FERC'S PJM CO-LOCATION ORDER: A TURNING POINT FOR AI DATA CENTER POWER STRATEGY

BY: DAN GARCIA AND KURT KRIEGER



On December 18, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued an order (Order) finding that the tariff administered by grid operator PJM Interconnection (PJM) is unjust and unreasonable as applied to generators serving co-located loads, including large AI data centers. Acting under Section 206 of the Federal Power Act, FERC directed PJM to revise its tariff on an accelerated schedule to establish clear, enforceable rules for these arrangements while preserving reliability and cost-causation principles.

At the center of the Order is a recognition that legacy interconnection assumptions no longer reflect how large, data-driven infrastructure is being developed. FERC confirmed that new generators co-located with large loads may seek interconnection based on their actual net injections to the grid rather than full nameplate capacity. The Order illustrates this with a straightforward example: A 1,000-megawatt generator paired with a 900-megawatt data center may reserve most of its output to serve on-site load and request interconnection rights for only the remaining 100 megawatts. Studying the project at that net injection level can significantly reduce transmission upgrades, compress development timelines, and improve cost certainty.

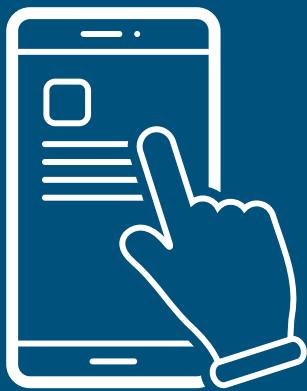
FERC did not stop at conceptual guidance. It directed PJM to operationalize this framework through explicit tariff pathways and imposed unusually short compliance deadlines, including near-term filings addressing interconnection below nameplate capacity, provisional interconnection service, and related tools intended to accelerate the integration of new generation. In practical terms, FERC is signaling that ad hoc solutions are no longer sufficient and that co-located generation serving large loads must be accommodated transparently and expeditiously within the wholesale market.

The Order also squarely addresses jurisdictional concerns raised by commenters. FERC rejected arguments that co-located generation creates a regulatory gap where retail sales to a data center coexist with wholesale sales to PJM. FERC reaffirmed its authority over generator interconnection and wholesale market participation, while preserving state authority over retail sales, franchise rights, and distribution facilities. For developers, the message is clear: These projects fall within an established federal framework, but state laws remain a gating consideration that must be addressed early and deliberately.

For AI data center developers, e.g., engineering, procurement, and construction firms and land developers, the implications are immediate. Pairing new generation with new load is no longer a workaround at the margins of the tariff. It is a planning model FERC expects system operators to support. Projects that integrate power planning early, align interconnection requests with actual system use, and coordinate proactively with utilities and regulators will be best positioned to move quickly as PJM implements this new framework.

Although the Order applies directly to PJM, its reasoning is unlikely to remain isolated. Other organized markets facing similar large-load pressures will be forced to confront the same questions about interconnection assumptions, upgrade obligations, and development timelines. In that sense, this decision is best understood as an early indicator of how regulators intend to respond as data center-driven infrastructure becomes a defining feature of the power system.

For any assistance or questions about this alert, we encourage you to contact the authors.



STAY CONNECTED!

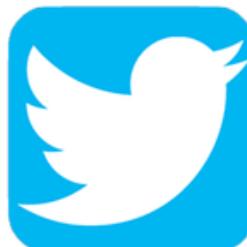
Follow us on our social media channels for news & updates!



[@mlbc-aapl](https://www.linkedin.com/company/mlbc-aapl)



[Michael Late
Benedum Chapter
of AAPL](https://www.facebook.com/mlbc.aapl)



[@mlbc-aapl](https://twitter.com/mlbc_aapl)



[@mlbc_aapl](https://www.instagram.com/mlbc_aapl)



Michael Late Benedum Chapter
American Association of Professional Landmen

www.mlbc-aapl.org

EVENT SCHEDULE

www.mlbc-aapl.org



Date & Time:

February 12, 2026
12:00PM

EDUCATIONAL LUNCHEON

THE "O"
Speaker: **Shawn Grushecky**
"Evolution of Data Management"
BRIDGEPORT, WV

Date & Time:

April 2-3, 2026
8AM-5PM

EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

APPALACHIAN LAND INSTITUTE
CANONSBURG, PA

Date & Time:

May 1, 2026
7:00PM

CHARITY EVENT

CHARITY 5K RUN
MORGANTOWN, WV

Date & Time:

May 7, 2026
6:00PM

SOCIAL EVENT

SUMMER SOCIAL
TROPICS RESTAURANT
MORGANTOWN, WV

Date & Time:

May 29, 2026
8:00AM

CHARITY EVENT

SPRING CHARITY GOLF
QUICKSILVER GOLF CLUB
MIDWAY, PA

Date & Time:

June 11, 2026
6:00PM

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

PETE DYE GOLF CLUB
BRIDGEPORT, WV

Date & Time:

July 9, 2026
12:35PM

SOCIAL EVENT

PIRATES GAME
PIRARES vs. BRAVES
PITTSBURGH, PA

Date & Time:

August 17, 2026
10:00AM

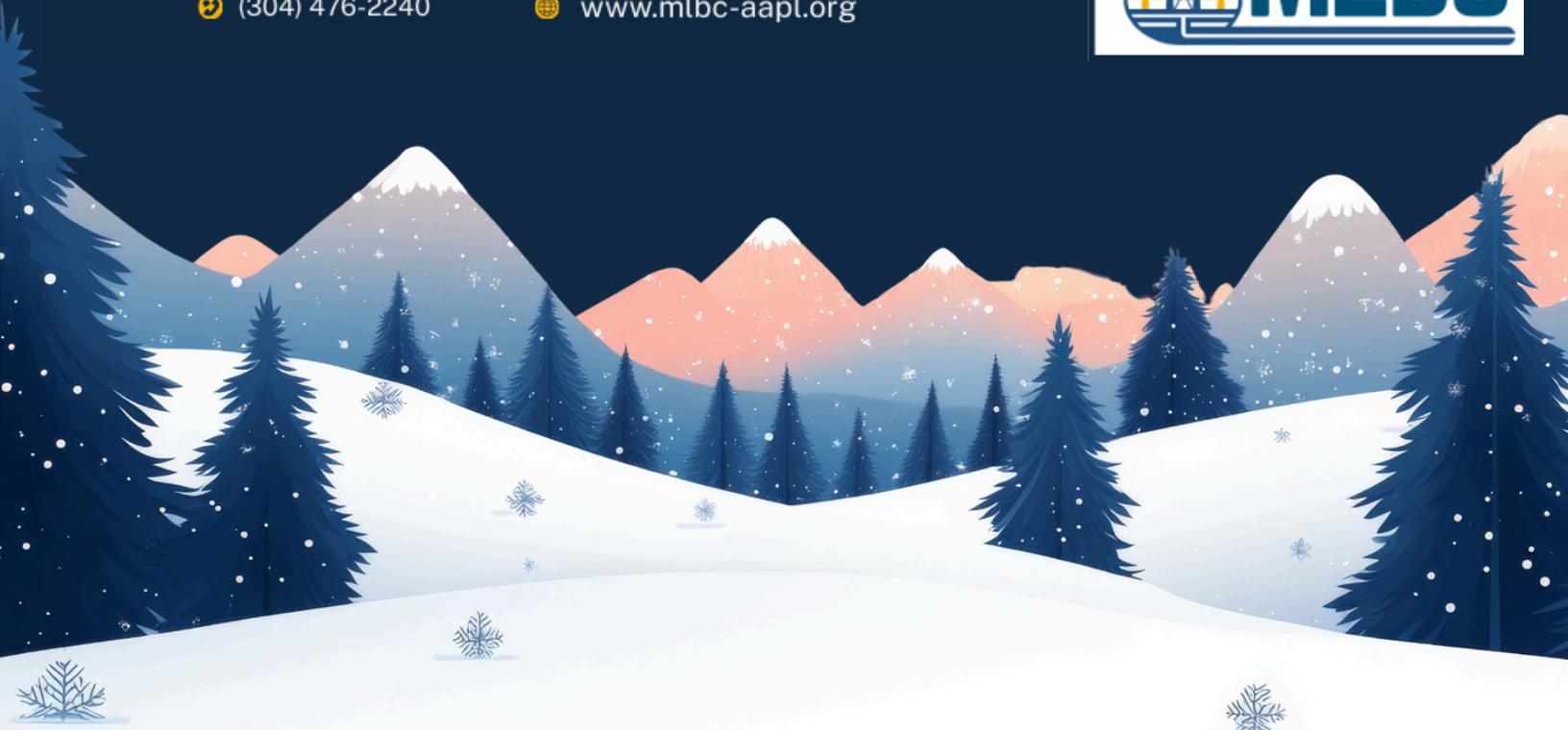
CHARITY EVENT

FALL CHARITY GOLF
BRIDGEPORT COUNTRY CLUB
BRIDGEPORT, WV

NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE! VISIT TODAY!

(304) 476-2240

www.mlbc-aapl.org





2025-2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT



Kevin Pierson

Blue Duck Resources
kp@blueduckres.com

VICE PRESIDENT



Stacy Tichy, CPL

Percheron, LLC
stacy.tichy@percheronllc.com

SECRETARY



Ben McKinney

Steptoe and Johnson
ben.mckinney@steptoe-johnson.com

TREASURER



Daniel Cooper

OGM Partners LLC
daniel@ogmplc.com

SGT. AT ARMS



Chuck Saffer

Babst Calland
CSaffer@babstcalland.com

LOCAL DIRECTOR



Jim Kane

Cassidy Anderson & Kane, P.C.
jkane@cassidypc.com

LOCAL DIRECTOR



Matt White

Steptoe and Johnson
matt.white@steptoe-johnson.com

LOCAL DIRECTOR



Bill O'Brien

Steptoe and Johnson
Bill.O'Brien@steptoe-johnson.com

REGIONAL DIRECTOR



Rob Greiner

OGM Partners LLC
rob@ogmplc.com

PRESIDENT EMERITUS



John Catsonis

Apex Land Corp.
jcatsonis@apexlandcorp.com



2025-2026

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

TECHNOLOGY



JEREMY PRESTON

JPRESTON@EQT.COM

SPONSORSHIP



SHAWN GRUSHECKY

SHAWN.GRUSHECKY@MAIL.WVU.EDU

HISTORIAN



DAVID AMAN

DAVID.W.AMAN@DOMINIONENERGY.COM

SCHOLARSHIP UNIVERSITY LIASON



TYLER COMPSTON

COMPSTON.TYLER@GMAIL.COM

CO-EDUCATION



CHUCK SAFFER

CSAFFER@BABSTCALLAND.COM

CO-EDUCATION



BILL O' BRIEN

BILL.O'BRIEN@STEPTOE-JOHNSON.COM

LEGISLATIVE



NIKOLAS TYSIAK

NTYSIAK@BABSTCALLAND.COM

AWARDS



DAVID STOCKMAN

DAVID STOCKMAN@WESTERNLS.COM

MARKETING



BAILEY MILLER

BAILEYMILLERTEN@GMAIL.COM

WOMEN OF THE MLBC



BROOKE KAMICKER

BROOKE.KAMICKER@STEPTOE-JOHNSON.COM

CLAY SHOOT



TYLER MURRAY

TYLERMURRAY.LAND@GMAIL.COM

MEMBERSHIP



OWEN GRAY

OWEN.GRAY@STEPTOE-JOHNSON.COM

NEWSLETTER



DANIEL COOPER

DANIEL@OGMLLC.COM

ETHICS



THOMAS LONG

THOMASLONG03@GMAIL.COM

FINANCE



JOHN CATSONIS

JCATSONIS@APEXLANDCORP.COM

SPRING GOLF



JIM KANE

JKANE@CASSIDYPC.COM

FALL GOLF



MATT WHITE

MATT.WHITE@STEPTOE-JOHNSON.COM

MLBC MEMBERSHIP REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026



MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

Total Members:	566	Total Active:	360
Active:	328	% Active:	64.75%
Active PP:	32	Associate :	82
Honorary:	10	Student:	105

First Name	Last Name	Employer	Member Type	Sponsoring Member
Terry	Murphy	Honor Resources	Associate	Darryl Griwatz
Mike	Storozyszyn	Topographic	Active	Kevin Pierson
Steven	Buterbaugh	Deedplotter AI	Associate	Curt Horne

New members are approved on a monthly basis. If the need arises to move along membership approval (ex. Ohio Landman Registration), please email Abby Veigel - abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The MLBC membership application is located on the website at www.mlbc-aapl.org. Please check your information on the website prior to submitting your renewal. The MLBC website has an updated version of the membership listing. Please use this resource if you cannot find yours or others information in the directory. Please report any errors or omissions to Abby Veigel at abbyveigel@mlbc-aapl.org.

Application for membership in the Association shall be subject to the approval by a majority vote of the Executive Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting and shall require the signed approval by the acting President of the Executive Committee, as evidence of the Committee's approval.

Notice of the approved application(s) of all potential Association member(s) shall be printed in the next regularly scheduled publication of the Association. Members shall have the opportunity for a period of thirty (30) days following the publication to object to the potential member's application.



Michael Late Benedum Chapter
American Association of Professional Landmen