

NATIONAL PETROLEUM COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM COUNCIL

August 31, 2026

11:00 a.m. (EDT)

MEETING MINUTES

Overview

Having been duly called and noticed in the Federal Register, the National Petroleum Council's (NPC) virtual meeting was held on Monday, August 31, 2026, via Microsoft Teams link, with NPC Chair Ryan Lance and the Honorable Chris Wright, Secretary of Energy, presiding. The NPC is a federal appointed advisory committee chartered by the Secretary of Energy to provide the Department of Energy (DOE) advice and recommendations relating to oil and natural gas and the oil and natural gas industries. There were no public comments during the meeting. The NPC approved and submitted to the Secretary the final report - *American Resources for a Secure Future: A National Cooperative Subsurface Assessment Program*.

Background, Agenda, and Attendees

The Department of Energy requested that the NPC undertake a *Resource Assessment* study to provide advice on the possibility of a government-led national resource mapping effort of all federal lands, and a template that states could follow for best practices in resource mapping. The Department of Energy did not expect the NPC to conduct resource mapping.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the draft report *American Resources for a Secure Future: A National Cooperative Subsurface Assessment Program*.

Ryan Lance, NPC Chair, presided over the meeting. Blair Pasalic, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) from the DOE, was present at the meeting.

The full meeting agenda and attendance are available as separate documents on the NPC Meetings section of the Department of Energy website - <https://www.energy.gov/hgeo/national-petroleum-council-npc>

I. Call to Order and Introductory Remarks

- Ryan Lance, National Petroleum Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. (EDT) and introduced John Dabbar, Executive Director of the NPC's administrative support body, to give the anti-trust statement to the NPC members. Ryan Lance then gave an overview of the development of the study and a brief summary of the study being discussed in the meeting.
- Chair Lance then ceded the floor for Hon. Chris Wright to address the NPC.

II. Remarks by the Honorable Chris Wright, Secretary of Energy

- Secretary Wright addressed the NPC and reiterated the fundamental importance of affordable, reliable, secure energy for the importance of national security and economic stability.
- After the conclusion of his remarks, Secretary Wright introduced U.S. Department of Energy Under Secretary Kyle Haustveit for opening remarks.
- Under Secretary Haustveit spoke on the broad scope of U.S. subsurface resources, including oil, gas, geothermal and nuclear resources and how this study supports a multi-year effort to identify those resources.

III. Consideration of the Proposed Final Report of the NPC Committee on Resource Assessment

- Scott Tinker and Nick Tew, Resource Assessment Study Co-Chairs, and Scott Anderson, co-chair of the coordinating committee that worked on drafting the study, introduced the final report of the *American Resources for a Secure Future: A National Cooperative Subsurface Assessment Program*.
- Mark Shuster, co-chair of the coordinating committee that worked on drafting the report, presented key highlights of the report, included below. The full presentation can be accessed on the [NPC Meetings page on the Department of Energy website](#). Key features of the report included:
 - America's energy future—geothermal, nuclear, wind, solar, hydroelectric, and fossil fuels—is fundamentally tied to the subsurface as demand is rising for secure, domestic energy and mineral resources.
 - The nation needs renewed investment in subsurface resource assessments to identify and de-risk new opportunities.
 - Subsurface resources are national assets and it is important that they are treated as assets, using state-of-the-art technology.

- Public assessments provide foundational value across a wide range of stakeholders by reducing uncertainty, enabling informed decision-making, and supporting safe and efficient resource development.
- The study recommends the creation of a National Cooperative Subsurface Assessment Program with four pillars:
 - Data: High-quality subsurface datasets are essential for assessments. Preserving and expanding these valuable datasets improves assessment accuracy, resolution, and efficiency.
 - Technology: Advancement and deployment of technologies can significantly improve the predictive capability of subsurface assessments, while expanding the resources that can be recovered.
 - Workforce: Subsurface evaluation, data management, and modeling skills are essential to interpret data, integrate large datasets, evaluate uncertainty and risk, and translate technical results.
 - Assessment: Methodologies must keep pace with emerging technologies and resources.

IV. Ryan Lance turned the meeting to Secretary Wright and NPC members for comments.

- Secretary Wright provided brief comments on the report’s findings, asking the NPC for its thoughts on the largest strengths and gaps in resource understanding. Mark Shuster, Mark Myers, and Jay Kalbas provided brief comments, noting emerging resources like geothermal and geological hydrogen show the greatest uncertainty, and that areas of greatest strength are more basin-dependent.
- Under Secretary Haustveit provided brief comments, highlighting the report’s finding that investment in resource assessments can produce a 10x return, and expressing interest in knowing which resources would potentially produce the highest returns on investment.
- Michael Wirth, Vice Chair of the Council, provided brief comments, noting that for companies involved in one or more of the resources mentioned in the study the results were compelling. Mr. Wirth asked about what appropriations would be needed to achieve the report’s recommendations.
- Jose Perez, NPC Member, noted that the way to reach the study’s objectives is through workers, and that 78% of new workers entering the market in the last three years are Hispanic. Mr. Perez highlighted the importance of preparing the workforce.

V. Ryan Lance asked for a floor vote to approve the report. The report was approved by a majority vote.

- Secretary Wright provided brief closing remarks, noting that understanding resource availability and accessibility is an increasingly important issue, and expressed appreciation to the NPC members for developing the study.
- Under Secretary Haustveit and Andrea Travnicek, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, U.S. Department of the Interior, provided brief closing comments on how the Departments of Energy and Interior will approach review and implementation of the recommendations.

VI. Ryan Lance announced there were no public comments submitted.

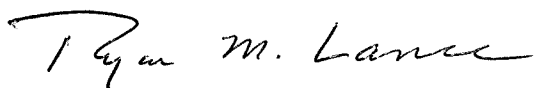
VII. The meeting concluded at 11:47 am EDT by Ryan Lance.

VIII. Adjournment

- The meeting of the National Petroleum Council was adjourned at 11:47 a.m. (EDT).

Signature Page

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.



Ryan Lance
Chair, National Petroleum Council