

*Yup, even those gas-guzzlers (aka ICE or FFV) catch on fire...*

## U.S. auto safety regulator awards over \$24 million to Hyundai Motor whistleblower

SEOUL/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. auto safety regulator announced on Tuesday its first-ever reward to a whistleblower, handing out more than \$24 million to a former Hyundai Motor Co employee who provided key information



about safety lapses at the South Korean carmaker. In 2020, Hyundai and Kia's U.S. units agreed to a record \$210 million civil penalty after NHTSA said they failed to recall vehicles for engine issues in a timely fashion.

**HYUNDAI**

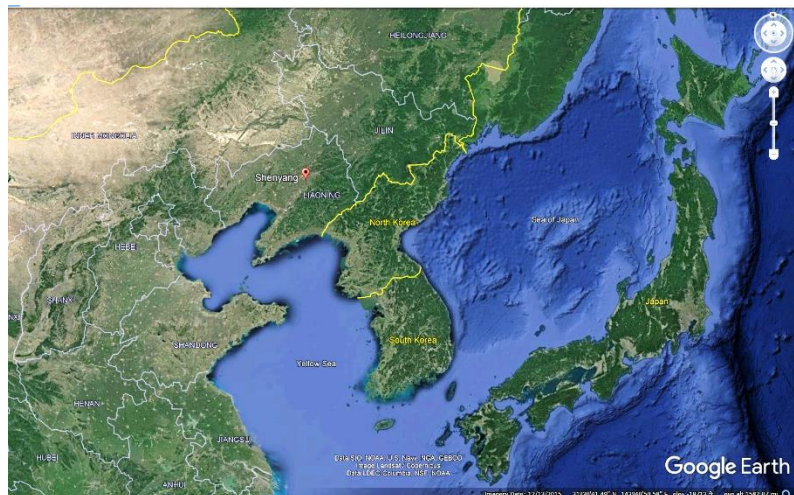
The award to ex-Hyundai Motor engineer Kim Gwang-ho is the biggest ever in a whistleblower case in the auto sector globally, according to law firm Constantine Cannon, which represented Kim. Kim reported to NHTSA in 2016 that Hyundai was failing to address a design flaw linked to its **Theta II engines, which were prone to seizing up and even catching fire.** [Full story](#)

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## Large Methane Plume Spotted Near China Natural Gas Pipeline

Nov. 8 – (Bloomberg) The release was detected in Liaoning province near a China Oil & Gas Pipeline Network Corp. **pipe that runs from the Dalian LNG terminal to Shenyang (Northeast China)** on Oct. 20.

An emissions rate of 107 tons of methane an hour would have been required to generate the plume, according to an estimate from Kayrros SAS, which analyzed European Space Agency data. [Full story](#)



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# Cadillac is dropping hundreds of dealers who aren't ready for electric cars

Nov 8, 2021 (Quartz) - Cadillac dealers must quickly wean themselves off gas-powered vehicles. Rory Harvey, the company's global vice president, told Reuters the General Motors-owned brand expects to have only **560 US dealerships by the end of the year, representing a 40% drop from three years ago.**



More: [2023 Cadillac Lyriq](#)


The loss of Cadillac dealerships comes as GM seeks to make most, if not all, of the brand's offerings electric by 2030. **The transition to EVs is estimated to cost each Cadillac dealership \$200,000 to \$500,000, and GM has spent \$274 million buying out dealers who aren't ready to make the switch.** [Full story](#)

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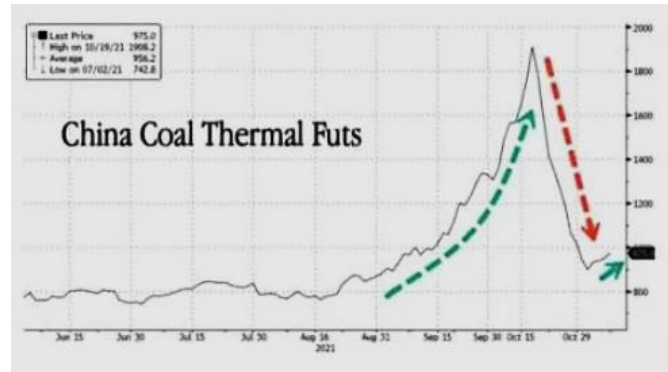


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## China Is Playing with Fire as it Implements Price Controls on Coal

Nov. 8 (OilPrice.com) - SGCC's power grid reaches more than 1.1 billion people over 88% of China's territory. It said thermal coal inventories rebounded to 99.3 million tons, and the available days of inventory now stand at 20. **Increasing inventories come as Beijing imposed price controls on coal.**



China Meteorological Administration recently warned a **La Nina weather event** would unleash a cold blast across the country. This has forced the country to increase fossil fuel power generation that has led to air quality deterioration.



Mean temperatures in Beijing are below freezing this weekend as the capital experienced its first heavy snowfall of the season. Suburbs of Beijing saw the heaviest snowfall, up to 15.8 inches.

[Full story](#)

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## Canada's oil sands tiptoe to record output, but keep a lid on spending

(Reuters) - Canada's oil sands are inching toward record production, as the country's biggest producers squeeze more barrels out of existing assets, but they are holding back on big spending despite some of the highest oil prices in seven years. **The oil sands, which make up the bulk of Canada's production**, are on track to reach 3.5 million barrels per day (bpd) by year-end, surpassing January's record of 3.25 million bpd, said Matt Murphy, analyst at investment bank Tudor, Pickering, Holt. [Full story](#)

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## Why Are Leaves Changing Color So Late This Fall? Experts Explain Why Trees Are Still Green

Better Homes & Gardens / Nov 8, 2021 - "Fall's changing colors have been delayed up to four days per decade in North American forests since the early 1980s," says Andy Finton, a forest ecologist who is the landscape conservation director with The Nature Conservancy in Boston. This year has been particularly pronounced due to a long hot summer in much of the country, followed by an unusually warm fall.

**Unseasonably warm weather keeps the trees from knowing when it's time to trade their green leaves for fall colors.**

"This is a climate-driven phenomenon," Finton says. "We're seeing trees track with the changes that we're seeing in the weather." Peak leaf season now arrives in some areas more than two



weeks later than it did in the 1980s. "It's never been easy to predict peak leaf season, but climate change is making it harder," Finton says. [Full story](#)

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## John Oliver explains the U.S. power grid and the challenge of upgrading it for America's electric future

The U.S. power grids — 600,000 miles of transmission lines and 5.5 million miles of local distribution lines — have been called the

"supreme engineering achievement of the 20th century," Oliver said.

But most power lines are long past their 50-year life expectancies, and climate change has made them more vulnerable. "But one study estimates that's going to require a 40-60 percent in peak electricity consumption," with the shift to electric cars and heating, and "all that electricity is going to have to come from somewhere." [Full story](#) [YouTube video](#) (22:28)



The Power Grid: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (HBO)

2,257,401 views • Nov 8, 2021

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## Electric cars to get more expensive as battery costs soar

Rachel Millard / The Telegraph / Nov 7, 2021 - Technology and scale have been pushing down the costs of batteries and cars, with some studies predicting electric models could become cheaper to purchase by the middle of the decade. But rising battery costs risks slowing that progress.

The price of lithium ion cells has fallen from \$290 [£215] per kWh in 2014 down to \$105 this year, but Benchmark predicts it could climb to \$115 next year.

Investment in new lithium production has been slow following a glut that triggered a price crash in 2018. With demand for electric cars growing as countries move to lessen use of fossil fuels, supply has not kept up, causing a surge in prices.

Benchmark says prices for battery grade lithium carbonate in China have climbed more than 300pc since October 2020, hitting \$28,765 in October. Prices for nickel and cobalt, also key battery ingredients, have also climbed, with Benchmark's cathode price index up by 62.4pc over the year.

It believes the lithium supply shortages are set to deepen next year and continue through the mid-2020s. [Full story](#)

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# Residents urge council to revisit, pass fracking ban in parks

BY HALLIE LAUER / PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE / NOV 10, 2021

With an ordinance to ban fracking in county parks awaiting committee approval, Allegheny County, Pa. residents voiced their support and urged county council members to revisit the legislation.

“This is commonsense legislation which should have already been the law of the land for decades,” said Danielle McGuire, of Lawrenceville, who submitted a statement for the public comment section of Tuesday’s meeting. “Our parks exist for public recreation and enjoyment; our parks do not exist to create profits for out-of-state petrochemical companies.”

The ordinance was introduced to the council on March 23; it was then moved into the Committee on Parks, where it has remained since.

If passed, fracking in **eight of the nine county parks** — Boyce Park, Harrison Hills Park, Hartwood Acres, North Park, Round Hill Park, Settlers Cabin Park, South Park and White Oak Park — would be prohibited.

**Deer Lakes Park** already has drilling leases, which were approved by the council in May 2014, and would not be affected by the new ordinance unless the leases were extended or amended, according to the ordinance.

Another commenter at Tuesday’s meeting said she was “appalled” to hear that fracking was allowed in county parks.

After her re-election last week, Councilwoman Anita Prizio, who is one of three sponsors of the ordinance, said she would “really like to see a ban on fracking in the county parks.”

“I really hope we have a chance to bring it out of committee,” she added.

Many of the residents’ concerns about fracking in county parks were related to possible health and pollution issues.

“The impacts of fracking on public health are well-documented and fracking does not even create lasting jobs or economic benefits,” Ms. McGuire’s statement said. “Fracking is toxic for air quality, water quality and our economy. There is no excuse for it to be allowed in our parks.”

The Committee on Parks has met three times since the ordinance was moved, but members have not addressed it, according to agendas from those meetings. Many of the public comments Tuesday urged the council to move the ordinance along.

The full council can't discuss or vote on the ordinance until it has been moved from the committee back to council for a second reading. [Full story](#)

**Comment:**

*1st and 10*

Washington County, Pa commissioners actually signed a SURFACE LEASE for drilling inside Cross Creek County Park, leading to the new moniker "**Cross Creek Industrial Park.**" There have been two major fracking spills in that park, with one resulting in a DEP fine and **fish kill**. Yet undeterred from their pro-frac stance on behalf of that same driller, they actually recorded YouTube videos to promote that Deer Lakes Park gas lease! **Even a non-surface lease can bring these industrial activities in close to a park, including midstream facilities like compressor stations to move the gas, and a steady stream of 24-7 diesel truck traffic spewing particulate matter, an area where Pittsburgh air quality continues to have failing grades.** It's even more alarming to see the build-out of this shale gas industry **close to schools**, like what we have witnessed near Burgettstown Jr/Sr high school, and many others.

**Remarks: PA DEP report on May 2009 spill & fish kill**

Responded to brine/wastewater spill at the Cross Creek wells #14 (125-23165) and #15 (125-23182). The wells pipeline carries brine/wastewater 3.5 miles to the Lowery impoundment. The pipeline is a 6'' HDPE line and carries the brine/wastewater (from manifolded wells 14&15) at 70 psi. Taken from the evidence and clues at the scene a coupler for the 6'' line became loose and discharged brine/wastewater along with sediments into the creek below. There was an obvious hole from the erosion right underneath the coupler. During the inspection the coupler upstream was also observed to be leaking. The entire creek was walked down to the mouth to Cross Creek Lake. The creek was impacted by sediments all the way down to the lake and there was also evidence of a fish kill as invertebrates and fish were observed lying dead in the creek. The incident was reported by Mark Kiel on 5/26/09 at 5:15pm. The time from when the discharge occurred and when it was reported is unknown. The leak was discovered at 1:30pm by Range employees. An estimated 70 barrels of brine/wastewater (4200 gallons) was lost. During the inspection the pump was shut off and the pipe was drained. The pipe is going to be cleaned and pressure tested before being put back on line. Range is also considering going away from the couplers and welding the pipes together making it one solid piece. The ground that was impacted around the spill was scraped up and placed into a lined 30-yard box (3 boxes on site). The area was being seeded and mulched before we left the site.

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## Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Arkoosh calls for end to fracking in Pennsylvania

*Pennsylvania gas wells produced about 7.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in 2020 — the largest volume of natural gas ever produced in the state in a single year.*

By Julia Zenkevich / WESA / Nov 9, 2021

(Pittsburgh) — In 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection issued 1,017 oil and gas drilling permits for fracking across the state. At a roundtable campaign event on Monday, U.S. Senate candidate **Dr. Valerie Arkoosh** said fracking and its effects, such as pollution, are accelerating climate change and called for a statewide ban on fracking, starting with new fracking permits.

This information is provided by the candidate

Dr. Valerie Arkoosh is a Philadelphia-based physician and health-policy expert, practicing in Philadelphia's teaching hospitals for over 28 years.



Val recently served as [president](#) of the National Physicians Alliance, a physician advocacy non-profit committed to advancing health and social justice priorities, like ensuring quality, affordable health care for all, expanding access for women to all health services and reducing gun violence. As president, Val served an integral role in helping pass the Affordable Care Act.

She continues to advocate for further healthcare reform in Pennsylvania and has appeared in the [New York Times](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Philadelphia Inquirer](#), and serves as a frequent guest on [MSNBC](#).

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Dr. Valerie Arkoosh isn't a career politician. She is a physician, parent of three and community leader. A practicing obstetric anesthesiologist for over two decades, Val has always put the health and well being of our community and local families first. After years



of watching her patients fall through the cracks and working to create genuine change in our health care system, Val is ready to bring her real-world experience and expertise to Congress to make a difference for Pennsylvania families.

Like so many Americans, Val's grandparents came to the United States in search of a better life. Her father worked his way up from a very modest beginning, joined the United States Army, and eventually owned a successful business. He created hundreds of jobs along the way. Growing up hearing the stories of her parents and grandparents taught Val the key values that guide everything she does: hard work, the importance of family, respect for all people, and the critical importance of giving back to community.

Val studied at Northwestern University where she majored in economics and returned to the University of Nebraska to attend medical school. But her career really began when she moved to Philadelphia in 1986. It was here that she began working with patients and families from every walk of life, ultimately caring for thousands of women during labor and delivery. And it was here that she met her husband and is raising her family.

Throughout her medical career, Val has worked tirelessly to ensure high quality, affordable and accessible health care for all Americans. Val believes deeply that everyone in our community should have an equal opportunity to live a healthy life and that good health depends on more than just good health care. Good health happens when people are working and earning a living wage; when our children have access to quality education and when our health care system is able to respond to the needs of all people.

Having experienced firsthand the best and the worst of our health care system, Val decided it was time to take action and fight for real change. While still caring for patients at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania - and raising her three children + she earned a Masters Degree in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health because she knew it would give her the tools she needed to make a difference outside of the exam room.

In 2009, Val put her real-world experience to work during the health care reform debate. As President of the National Physicians Alliance, Val traveled to and from Washington D.C. to fight for progressive change at a time when many Democrats stayed quiet. During that time, Val saw too many politicians willing to cave in to outside pressure rather than standing up for what's right.

In Congress, Val will stand up to the special interests and extreme politicians, and work to ensure that every American has access to the health care, education and economic stability they deserve.

Val lives in Springfield Township with her husband, Jeff Harbison, and their three children. [Source](#)

“Climate change is a public health crisis, and it is upon us. And I continue to see a lack of urgency in Washington around this issue,” Arkoosh said.

Pennsylvania gas wells produced about 7.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in 2020 — the largest volume of natural gas ever produced in the state in a single year.

***“Southwestern Pennsylvania has borne the brunt of decades of coal, the steel factories — all those jobs that went away — and there was never a plan for anything to replace them,” said Arkoosh.***



“And so folks understandably probably looked at fracking coming in and said ‘Hallelujah. Maybe this will replace those good-paying, family-sustaining jobs.’”

**Her proposed plan would start with a ban on new fracking permits.** It also would shut down fracking around homes and schools, and expand “green jobs.” By 2035, she said, she hopes Pennsylvania will have largely phased out fracking.

Arkoosh is running in a four-way race for U.S. Senate, in which fracking has been a dividing line between Democratic candidates. **Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. John Fetterman and U.S. Rep. Conor Lamb**, who are also running, generally have been more sympathetic to the oil and gas industries but have called for stricter

environmental regulations.

**State Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta (photo) and Arkoosh have supported a moratorium on fracking.**

According to Arkoosh, a ban on fracking could open doors to greater investments in more environmentally friendly energy, such as wind and solar, and job training for people who now work in the oil and gas industry.



“It is how we preserve the economic security of Pennsylvania and how we take our future into our own hands,” she said. “We know what will happen when these jobs go away; the southwest has been through this before.”

Some proponents of fossil fuels, including the trade group Marcellus Shale Coalition, argue that natural gas is an “essential” part of the state’s economy. The Marcellus Shale Coalition also said the natural gas industry continues to provide Pennsylvanians with jobs and other opportunities.

Still, a recent poll from the environmental think tank Ohio River Valley Institute found that 55% of respondents think fracking should end.

**The fracking issue has proven divisive for Democrats.** Some unions — a long-time Democratic constituency — have members who work in the oil and gas industries, even as environmentalists decry its detrimental impacts on air and water quality and the environment. Opponents have used the divide as a wedge to split environmentalists and union workers.

Any new manufacturing jobs created to replace jobs in the fracking industry should “unquestionably” be union jobs, said Arkoosh.

“We already have that trained workforce that can do this work, and it should absolutely be manufacturing that employs those union and highly skilled workers,” she said. “That’s how we make it a win for everybody here.” [Full story](#)

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**PEDF (Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation) just filed the attached Brief (PDF) with the Pa. Supreme Court.**



***They are asking the Court to require the Commonwealth Court to hear and determine their constitutional challenges to DCNR's 2016 State Forest Resource Management Plan.***

#### IV. STATEMENT OF QUESTIONS INVOLVED

(a) Does the PEDF Petition state sufficient facts and law to support a claim that the 2016 SFRMP violates the ERA, and that the Appellees DCNR and Secretary Dunn violated their fiduciary duties as trustees under the ERA in approving it?

Suggested Answer: Yes

(b) Did the Commonwealth Court err in failing to apply the principles and findings established by this Honorable Court in *PEDF II* to determine the sufficiency of PEDF's constitutional challenges to the 2016 SFRMP, and PEDF's claims that DCNR and Secretary Dunn violated their constitutional duties as trustees under the ERA by approving administration of our State Forest trust assets, as documented in the challenged 2016 SFRMP provisions, contrary to the ERA trust purposes?

Suggested Answer: Yes

(c) Did the Commonwealth Court err in finding that PEDF does not have the right to request a declaration that DCNR must revise its 2016 SFRMP to comply with its constitutional duties under the ERA as trustee our State Forest public natural resources?

Suggested Answer: Yes

**Donate for Litigation**



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# HOW PENNSYLVANIA HUNTERS AND ANGLERS COULD HELP SHIFT CLIMATE POLICY



Kara Holsopple / The Allegheny Front / Oct 29, 2021

*This story is part of our series, Wild Pennsylvania. Check out all of our stories [here](#).*

World leaders are meeting in Glasgow for the [UN Climate Change Conference](#) to hash out how to keep emissions from rising, even as the latest UN climate report warns of [record global temperatures and an increase in climate-fueled natural disasters](#).

[The National Wildlife Federation](#), one of the oldest and largest environmental nonprofits in the U.S., is hoping to engage a group of people who are seeing these climate impacts firsthand and get them to take some action: hunters and anglers.

The Allegheny Front's Kara Holsopple spoke to NWF's Director of Sporting Advocacy, [Aaron Kindle](#), about [a report they've recently released](#), and how climate change is impacting our region.

**Kara Hoslopple: What are some of the climate impacts that are affecting game species in Pennsylvania?**

**Aaron Kindle:** The two that are probably most synonymous with Pennsylvania are [brook trout](#) and [ruffed grouse](#). Brook trout are the only native trout to Pennsylvania, and they require cold, clean water to persist and survive. As we're seeing warmer temperatures, often what that means for trout species is they have to go higher and higher up in the watersheds to find appropriate habitat. As the climate warms, that gets harder and harder to do.



It's the same for ruffed grouse. We're seeing reports that ruffed grouse, the state bird there, has an opportunity to not even be in Pennsylvania if we continue to see the warming that we're looking at right now. [Full story](#)

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