

# Media Advisory



**Western Energy Alliance**  
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## **Oral Arguments in *Western Energy Alliance v. Ken Salazar* Challenge to Interior and Forest Service Rewrite of the Energy Policy Act**

(Denver) – Oral arguments will take place for *Western Energy Alliance v. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar* on Friday, August 12, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in the U.S. District Court of Wyoming. Chief Judge Nancy D. Freudenthal will hear a second legal challenge by Western Energy Alliance against the Department of the Interior, as well as the U.S. Forest Service, regarding a rewrite of the categorical exclusions (CX) in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The case for Western Energy Alliance will be argued by Ezekiel Williams of Ducker, Montgomery, Lewis & Bess, PC. The [final brief](#) was filed on August 5<sup>th</sup>, and contends that Interior and the Forest Service violated federal law in May 2010 when they issued policies that rejected the clear intent of Congress. Congress mandated the use of CXs to encourage American oil and natural gas development where the impact is minimal and/or where environmental analysis has already been conducted.

Friday's hearing comes one month after the release of the [Blueprint for Western Energy Prosperity](#), a study finding that by 2020 the western oil gas industry could more than double economic investment to \$58 billion and displace oil imports from the Middle East, Venezuela and Russia. The study also finds that government policies making western oil and natural gas development more difficult, time consuming, and expensive threaten the ability of western producers to achieve that full potential. [Click here to view a two-minute summary.](#)

**Kathleen Sgamma, Director of Government & Public Affairs, will be available to answer questions after the hearing.**

**Who:** Ezekiel Williams of Ducker, Montgomery, Lewis & Bess, PC on behalf of Western Energy Alliance

**What:** Oral arguments before the U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming in *Western Energy Alliance v. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar* (Case No. 10-CV-237F)

**When:** 1:30 p.m., Friday, August 12, 2011

**Where:** U.S. District Court of Wyoming, 2120 Capitol Avenue, Courtroom 1, Cheyenne, WY

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### **About Western Energy Alliance**

*Western Energy Alliance, founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 companies engaged in all aspects of environmentally responsible exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the West. More information on Western Energy Alliance and its members is available at [www.westernenergyalliance.org](http://www.westernenergyalliance.org).*