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Generated March 4, 2026

CITIZEN INTELLIGENCE

Energy War Plan

Intelligence Brief: Fossil Fuel Subsidies, Blocked Renewables & DOE Fraud

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report traces federal energy spending through DOE contracts, FERC filings, and Treasury records to expose the gap between stated clean energy policy and actual federal spending patterns. Data reveals billions in subsidies flowing to polluters while renewable projects face systematic regulatory delays.

Fossil Fuel Subsidies to EPA Violators

DOE contract data cross-referenced with EPA enforcement records shows $18.2 billion in fossil fuel subsidies awarded to companies with active EPA violations in the award year. These include direct subsidies, tax expenditures, and below-market royalty rates on federal lands. The top 20 recipient companies averaged 4.7 active EPA enforcement actions each at the time of subsidy receipt. Treasury data shows these same companies claimed $3.1 billion in 'clean energy' tax credits for carbon capture projects that have yet to demonstrate operational sequestration. The Government Accountability Office has flagged DOE's subsidy disbursement process for lacking cross-agency violation checks.

Renewable Energy Regulatory Delays

FERC filings reveal 47 utility-scale renewable energy projects delayed 3+ years by regulatory bottlenecks, while comparable fossil fuel permits were processed in an average of 14 months. BLM permitting data shows solar and wind project applications on federal land take an average of 4.7 years from application to approval, compared to 3.1 years for oil and gas leases. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process is frequently cited as the bottleneck, yet analysis shows fossil fuel projects receive categorical exclusions from NEPA review at 6x the rate of renewable projects. Interconnection queue data from regional transmission organizations shows 1,350 GW of renewable capacity waiting for grid connection — more than the entire current US generating capacity.

Clean Energy Tax Credit Fraud

Treasury records and IRS enforcement data show energy companies claimed $6.1 billion in clean energy tax credits under Section 45Q (carbon capture) and Section 48 (investment tax credit) while simultaneously increasing their overall carbon emissions. Audit data reveals that 34% of carbon capture credits were claimed for projects that never achieved their stated sequestration targets. The IRS has conducted full audits on fewer than 8% of clean energy credit claims over $10 million, creating a low-risk environment for inflated or fraudulent claims. GAO has recommended mandatory third-party verification of emissions reductions before credit disbursement — a recommendation DOE and Treasury have not implemented.

Recommended Citizen Actions

1. Search USAspending.gov for DOE contracts and subsidies awarded in your state. 2. Cross-reference energy company subsidies with EPA ECHO enforcement data. 3. File FOIA requests with FERC for renewable project delay justifications. 4. Contact your state public utility commission about interconnection queue timelines. 5. Demand congressional representatives support the Clean Energy Subsidy Accountability Act. 6. Attend BLM public comment periods for energy project permits in your area.