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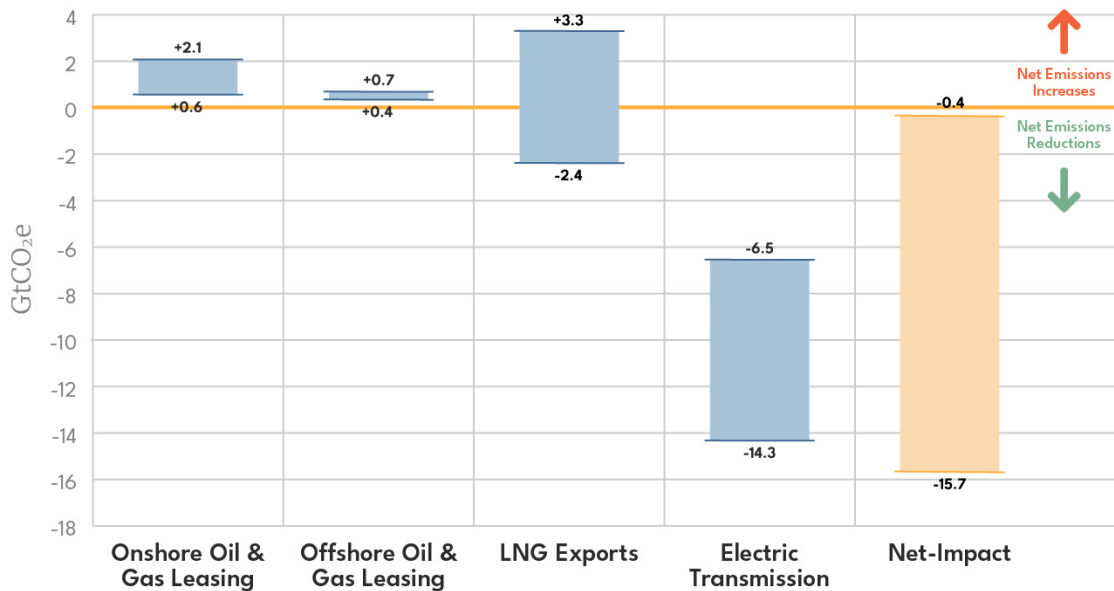
# Quantifying the Emissions Impacts of The Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024

## Takeaways

- The Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 (EPRA) pulls on multiple policy levers to streamline the permitting processes for a variety of energy projects.
- Assessing the emissions impacts of EPRA requires modeling these levers individually, each with a unique set of assumptions and inputs.
- An independent analysis of these modeling efforts suggests that, as a whole, the bill results in net emissions reductions.

Measuring the overall emissions impacts of EPRA requires assessing multiple provisions within the bill, including sections on onshore oil and gas leasing (§201 & §202), offshore oil and gas leasing (§301), liquefied natural gas exports (§601), and electric transmission (§402, §401, §209, §101). This analysis focuses on these sections specifically, but EPRA's other provisions—such as those granting new categorical exclusions and reliability assessments—could also have upward or downward pressure on emissions. While modeling the prescriptive impacts of the bill is challenging, the direction and magnitude of impacts is clear. The chart below places these provisions in scene together, presenting the banded range in which potential emissions impacts could fall.

**Directional Emissions Impacts of Key EPRA Provisions by 2050**



**Note:** Updated September 10, 2024. These estimates provide a bounding analysis to capture the direction and magnitude of emissions impacts EPRA provisions. Please see full studies for detailed methodologies and assumptions.

**Source:** Prest, B. C. How Much Would Expanding Federal Oil and Gas Leasing Increase Global Carbon Emissions? Resources for the Future. 3 Sept. 2024, <https://www.rff.org/publications/issue-briefs/federal-permitting-reform-expand-oil-and-gas-leasing-carbon-emissions>. | Jenkins, J. D. Analysis of Energy Market and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts of Pending US Liquefied Natural Gas Export Terminals. Princeton University ZERO Lab, 4 Sept. 2024, [10.5281/zenodo.13738309](https://zenodo.org/record/13738309). | Teplin, C., Mulvaney, K., Wang, S. The Electricity Transmission and Greenhouse Gas Implications of the EPRA Draft Legislation. RMI. 30 Aug. 2024, <https://rmi.org/insight/the-electricity-transmission-and-greenhouse-gas-implications-of-the-epra-draft-legislation>. | Londagin, S. Estimating the Emissions Impacts of Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Provisions in the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024. 5 Sept. 2024, <https://www.thirdway.org/memo/quantifying-the-emissions-impacts-of-the-energy-permitting-reform-act-of-2024>.

Taken as a whole, **this analysis finds that EPRA results in significant net emissions reductions, in both low and high range scenarios.** Even under a ‘worst-case’ emissions scenario, whereas the highest estimates for fossil fuel-related net emissions increases are juxtaposed with the lowest estimates for transmission deployment, the bill still results in net emissions reductions by 2050.

A series of assumptions were used to build this composite analysis and the ranges presented here should be understood in directional and magnitudinal terms.

- **Onshore oil and gas modeling** did not specifically model EPRA, but rather ‘sustained high levels of federal leasing.’ EPRA provisions are likely to have a more modest impact than the high leasing scenario presented here.
- **LNG export modeling** did not specifically model EPRA. The results reflect a range of potential emissions impacts if all proposed LNG export terminals currently awaiting export permit approval by the Department of Energy (totaling 12.8 billion cubic feet per day of nameplate capacity) are approved and all approved projects are ultimately built and are additional to US export capacity that would otherwise have been built. This is an extreme upper bound on the potential impact of the EPRA. The modeling estimates an annual value range for the 2035–2040 period. That estimate has been extrapolated to 2050 to compare cumulative emissions impacts of other provisions.
- **Electric transmission modeling** estimates a central scenario that reduces grid emissions by 6.5 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>e through 2050. To band this analysis, we use a ‘high attribution’ scenario from the study that places EPRA alongside other recent federal action on transmission expansion. In practice, multiple sensitivities and assumptions are at play, and emissions estimates could fall outside of the range displayed here.

### Directional Emissions Impacts of Key EPRA Provisions by 2050

EPRA Provisions	Emissions Impacts by 2050 (Gts)	
	Low	High
Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing	+0.6	+2.1
Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing	+0.4	+0.7
LNG Exports	-2.4	+3.3
Electric Transmission	-14.3	-6.5
<b>Net-Impact</b>	<b>-15.7</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

**Note:** Updated September 10, 2024. These estimates provide a bounding analysis to capture the direction and magnitude of emissions impacts EPRA provisions. Please see full studies for detailed methodologies and assumptions.

**Source:** Prest, B. C. How Much Would Expanding Federal Oil and Gas Leasing Increase Global Carbon Emissions? Resources for the Future. 3 Sept. 2024, <https://www.rff.org/publications/issue-briefs/federal-permitting-reform-expand-oil-and-gas-leasing-carbon-emissions>. | Jenkins, J. D. Analysis of Energy Market and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts of Pending US Liquefied Natural Gas Export Terminals. Princeton University ZERO Lab, 4 Sept. 2024, 10.5281/zenodo.13738309. | Teplin, C., Mulvaney, K., Wang, S. The Electricity Transmission and Greenhouse Gas Implications of the EPRA Draft Legislation. RMI. 30 Aug. 2024, <https://rmi.org/insight/the-electricity-transmission-and-greenhouse-gas-implications-of-the-epra-draft-legislation>. | Londagin, S. Estimating the Emissions Impacts of Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Provisions in the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024. 5 Sept. 2024, <https://www.thirdway.org/memo/quantifying-the-emissions-impacts-of-the-energy-permitting-reform-act-of-2024>.

## Contributing Studies

This independent analysis pulls from new scholarship by leading energy system modelers at Resources for the Future (RFF), Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), and Jesse Jenkins of Princeton University. Detailed methodologies can be found in the studies hyperlinked below.

- **Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing** modeling by RFF can be found [here](#).
- **Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing** modeling can be found [here](#).
- **LNG Export Terminal modeling** by Jesse Jenkins can be found [here](#).
- **Electric Transmission modeling** by RMI can be found [here](#).