

HEI Energy Program Description

A scientific program on potential community exposures and health effects associated with unconventional oil and gas development

Answering Key Questions

HEI Energy is a trusted source of science needed to support decisions about how best to protect public health in the oversight and implementation of unconventional oil and gas development (UOGD). HEI Energy funds high-priority research on the potential community exposures and health effects associated with UOGD across the United States.

How HEI Energy Works

to Provide Impartial Science for Decision Making and Public Understanding



Environmental Exposure & Health Research: The research process starts with reviewing the state-of-science and soliciting recommendations from stakeholders to define the highest priority research. After extensive oversight and peer review, the research and underlying data are made freely available to the public.

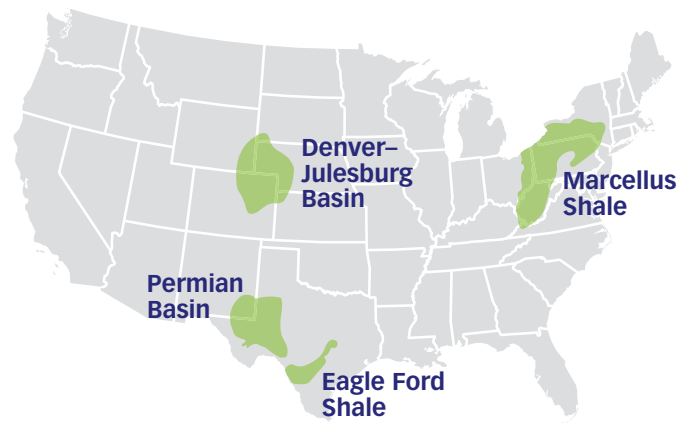
Independent Oversight: Two independent committees of scientists work with HEI Energy staff to select, oversee, peer review, and write a commentary summarizing all research. The two committees work independently of the other, and HEI Energy’s sponsors play no role in the selection, oversight, and review of research.

Stakeholder Engagement: HEI Energy’s research draws the interest of a broad range of stakeholders, including community members in study locations, officials at all levels of government, nongovernmental organizations, and researchers. HEI Energy engages with them to solicit research priorities and continues to engage through all phases of research.

Early and Longer-Term Products



Current Study Locations



Stay Abreast of the State of Science

Webinars: HEI Energy hosts an educational webinar series on priority and emerging topics

Literature Reviews: HEI Energy updates literature reviews to stay current with the scientific understanding of potential exposures and health effects

Decision Making and Engagement

Impartial Science Relevant to Decision Making

The HEI Energy research program is structured after HEI's well-established model for providing impartial scientific information about the health effects of air pollution through:

- **Independent governance** of the research program with leadership by an independent board of directors not affiliated with sponsors
- **Joint funding** from the oil and gas industry, governmental agencies, and, occasionally, foundations
- **High-quality science** with research oversight by committees of knowledgeable scientists that have been vetted for bias and conflict of interest
- **Open and extensive communication** of all results, in the context of other relevant research
- **Science targeted** to make better informed decisions without advocating policy positions.

Research under this new program will be:

- Selected, overseen, and reviewed by experts who are independent of HEI Energy's sponsors
- Carefully designed and of the highest quality
- Coordinated with past and ongoing research efforts for efficiency
- Informative on a regional and national scale
- Responsive to technological innovation, changing industry practice, regulation, and market conditions



Participants at an HEI Energy Research Planning Workshop

Effective Engagement and Communication of Results

The success of the effort depends strongly on cooperation among government, industry, and other stakeholders to create an environment of trust in which literature reviews and research can be relied on to support sound decision making.

HEI Energy has developed [Guiding Principles for Research and Stakeholder Engagement](#).

Key components of the plan are to:

- **Identify and engage** with regulators, communities, and other stakeholders at the federal, state, and local levels during research program planning
- **Engage periodically** at important programmatic intervals, with opportunities for review and comment
- **Use a variety of communication vehicles** and forums to engage with the broadest possible audience



HEI Energy

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Sponsors: This program is supported with joint funding from HEI Energy's government, oil and gas industry, and foundation sponsors. All research is selected, overseen, and reviewed independently of HEI Energy's sponsors.