

One Of The Largest Recipients Of Lease Suspensions Is Samson Resources, An Oil Company An Unstable Past And Close Ties To Donald Trump's Interior Department

Samson Resources Is A Former Lobbying Client Of Interior Secretary David Bernhardt

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt Used To Lobby For The Oil Company Samson Resources

Samson Resources Federal Lobbying Disclosure Forms Listed David Bernhardt As Their Lobbyist. [Samson Resources Lobbying Registration, [03/20/12](#)]

- **Samson Resources Is An Oklahoma Oil Company.** "Samson Resources Corp operates as an oil and gas company. The Company explores, develops, and produces oil and natural gas. Samson Resources serves customers in the State of Oklahoma." [Bloomberg, accessed [06/08/20](#)]
- **Samson Resources Has Substantial Oil and Gas Assets in Wyoming.** "The investments in Wyoming's Powder River basin are paying off for Tulsa's Samson Resources II. The company announced production of two major wells in the Frontier formation of Converse County, Wyoming—both with production of more than 3,400 barrels a day. [...] Joseph A. Mills, President and CEO of the Company stated, 'The Bohlander and Allemand Frontier formation well results further illustrate the target rich nature of Samson's 154,000 net acres in the Powder River Basin.'" [OK Energy Today, [11/12/19](#)]

Samson Resources Is One Of The Biggest Beneficiaries Of Interior's Bailout To Public Lands Oil And Gas Drillers

BLM Has Offered A Pandemic Bailout To Public Lands Oil Producers Through Lease Suspensions And Royalty Relief. "In all, more than 1,000 applications for royalty relief or lease suspensions have flooded Western BLM state offices following Interior guidance last month that promised rapid processing during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the documents. Interior officials have not released full information about those requests amid scrutiny of what critics have deemed a bailout to industry, prompting frustrated House Democrats to push for hard numbers." [E&E, [05/20/20](#)]

Samson Resources Has Received 54 Separate BLM Lease Suspensions Covering 23,673. Acres Of Public Land In Wyoming. [BLM LR2000 Lease Suspension And Royalty Relief Database, [06/01/20](#)]

- **Of All The Companies Receiving Lease Suspensions, Only One Has Received More Than Samson Resources.** Only Chesapeake Exploration has received more lease



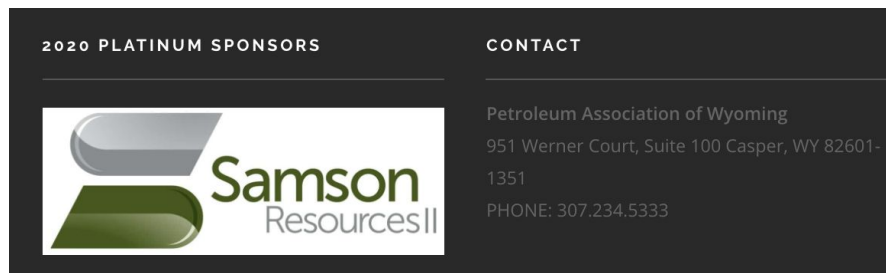
suspensions than Samson Resources.[BLM LR2000 Lease Suspension And Royalty Relief Database, [06/01/20](#)]

Samson Also Has Ties To William Perry Pendley, The Acting Director Of The Agency Granting Lease Suspensions

William Perry Pendley, The Acting Director Of The BLM, Is Recused From Participating In Matters Related To The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming Until July 15, 2021 Under EO 13770, Paragraph 6. [William Perry Pendley Recusal List, accessed [06/02/20](#)]

- **William Perry Pendley Is Also Recused From Participating Personally and Substantially In Particular Matters Involving Specific Parties That Are Directly and Substantially Related to the Petroleum Association of Wyoming Under 5 C.F.R 18 § 2635.502 and 5 C.F.R 18 § 2635.101(b)(14).** [William Perry Pendley Recusal List, accessed [06/02/20](#)]

Samson Resources Is A Platinum Sponsor Of The Petroleum Association Of Wyoming.



[Petroleum Association Of Wyoming, [accessed 06/02/20](#)]

Samson Resources, Which Has A History Of Environmental Violations, Was In Financial Trouble Long Before The COVID-19 Pandemic

Samson Resources's Financial Problems Aren't Due To The Pandemic-- The Company Declared Bankruptcy In 2015

Samson Resources Filed For Bankruptcy In 2015 After Accumulating \$3.25 Billion In Debt. "KKR & Co.'s Samson Resources Corp. filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Wednesday with a plan to wipe out more than \$3.25 billion in debt from its books as low oil and gas prices continue to hammer producers. The Tulsa, Okla.-based oil and gas company's move to shore up its finances comes as energy companies across the U.S. deal with the fallout of crude-oil prices fetching less than half what they did a year ago and natural-gas prices in a prolonged slump." [Wall Street Journal, [09/17/15](#)]

- **Samson Cited Low Oil Prices As A Reason For Its Bankruptcy When Oil Was Still Above \$40 Per Barrel.** “Samson enters bankruptcy as fears of a prolonged price slump spread through the oil and gas industry, after what had been seen as a worst-case scenario begins to play out. At the start of this year, as investors worried that oil prices could fall below \$40 a barrel, Standard & Poor’s analyst Thomas Watters predicted that low prices persisting into the second half of 2015 would hurt companies more than a short but severe dip.” [*Wall Street Journal*, [09/17/15](#)]

Samson Resources Emerged From Bankruptcy In 2017 After Discharging \$4 Billion In Debt And Nearly \$300 Million In Annual Interest. “Samson Resources Corporation (‘SRC’) announced today that the Company and its subsidiaries have emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, after satisfying all of the conditions required under its Plan of Reorganization (the ‘Plan’), which was confirmed by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware on February 13, 2017. Under the Plan, substantially all of SRC’s remaining assets, including its subsidiaries, were transferred to Samson Resources II, LLC (‘Samson II’ or the ‘Company’). The majority of the equity in Samson II was distributed to SRC’s second lien lenders, both on account of their claims in the bankruptcy and in connection with a \$60 million rights offering. In addition, Joseph A. Mills has been officially appointed by the new Board of Directors as Samson II’s President and Chief Executive Officer, succeeding Andrew Kidd, who accepted the position in February 2016, having previously served as General Counsel. Samson II features a substantially improved financial position, having discharged approximately \$4 billion of debt and nearly \$300 million of annual interest expense under the Plan. Samson II’s post-emergence debt financing consists of a first lien revolving credit facility with an initial borrowing base of \$280 million, of which \$245 million was outstanding on the effective date.” [Samson Resources Press Release, [03/01/17](#)]

Samson Resources Has A Lengthy Environmental And Safety Rap Sheet

Samson Resources Agreed To Pay Penalties Of \$75,000 For Environmental Violations To The EPA In 2013. EPA says that Samson Resources failed to obtain a permit before building a facility in Colorado and “numerous other violations” in 2013. “RESPONDENT FAILED TO OBTAIN A PSD PERMIT FOR THE FACILITY BEFORE BEGINNING CONSTRUCTION; FAILED TO SUBMIT NOTICE OF SUBPART ZZZZ; FAILURE TO SUBMIT A NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE; AND NUMEROUS OTHER VIOLATIONS.” [EPA Civil Enforcement Case 08-2013-0137, accessed [06/08/20](#)]

Samson Resources Had To Pay Civil Penalties Of \$12,100 After It Was Caught Spilling Produced Water In Colorado. [EPA Civil Enforcement Case 08-2015-0108, accessed [06/08/20](#)]

- **Samson’s Spill Resulted In Discharges Of Pollutants Into The Beaver Creek On The Southern Ute Reservation.** “On October 20, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received a report from the National Response Center of a produced water spill on the Southern Ute Reservation from a pipeline owned and operated by Samson Resources. Samson Resources reported a discharge of approximately 100 barrels of produced water as a result of a corroded pipeline. Approximately 15 barrels of the



spilled produced water went into Beaver Creek in the Southern Ute Reservation. Copies of photos provided to the EPA by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Environmental Programs Division, suggest discharges of pollutants into the Beaver Creek may have occurred in connection with the spill resulting from the corrosion of a pipeline." [EPA Civil Enforcement Case 08-2015-0108, accessed [06/08/20](#)]

Samson Resources Had To Pay \$19,800 In Penalties After OSHA Found Four "Serious" Safety Violations At Its Oil & Gas Wells In Wyoming. [OSHA, accessed [06/08/20](#)]

Samson Resources Had To Pay \$7,000 In Penalties After OSHA Found A "Serious" Safety Violations At One Of Its Worksites In Colorado. [OSHA, accessed [06/08/20](#)]