The Center Square: Energy Department reports sinking U.S. fuel, diesel demand

September 14, 2026

Eric Smith, professor of practice and associate director of the Tulane Energy Institute, was interviewed by The Center Square about the Trump administration's efforts to increase domestic refining capacity.

> “This is speculation, but with the Midterm elections approaching we might see an announcement by the federal government that it would simplify things for California—we're going to mandate production of offshore oil and the utilization of the existing refineries, and there would be nothing the state could do to resist this,” Smith said.

To read the story in its entirety, visit thecentersquare.com:

https://www.thecentersquare.com/national/article_fa48ab33-cb87-4592-ab13-29f5d3384200.html