The Trump administration partnered with **North American Blue Energy Partners (NABEP)** because traditional American oil giants like **ExxonMobil** and ConocoPhillips refused to invest in Venezuela. [1]

When Trump declared Venezuela "open for business" after capturing Nicolás Maduro, U.S. officials were blindsided to find that major American oil companies viewed the country as highly unstable and uninvestable. Desperate to find a proven operator who could rapidly pump oil, keep out Chinese and Russian rivals, and hand equity to the U.S. government, Washington turned to **Alejandro Betancourt López**—the billionaire head of NABEP. [1, 2, 3]

The primary individuals and entities benefiting from this multi-billion dollar arrangement include:

1. Alejandro Betancourt López (The Immediate Benefactor)

The single biggest winner of this arrangement is **Alejandro Betancourt**. [1]

- **The Quid Pro Quo:** Prior to the 2026 intervention, Betancourt was a primary target of **U.S. Department of Justice money laundering and corruption investigations** regarding how he built his fortune through Venezuelan energy contracts. [1]
- **The Deal:** In the lead-up to the military raid that ousted Maduro, Betancourt acted as a crucial, secret intermediary and strategist for the United States government. Within weeks of the political transition, **the Trump administration quietly paused and closed its criminal probes into Betancourt**. [1, 2]
- **The Windfall:** With his legal troubles effectively cleared by Washington, his company, NABEP, has been handed a 100-year lease on 17 oil fields, positioning him to amass unprecedented wealth and power as the Pentagon's primary energy partner. [1, 2]

2. Interim President Delcy Rodríguez and Her Inner Circle

The U.S. chose not to dismantle the existing Venezuelan administrative structure completely. Instead, they backed **Interim President Delcy Rodríguez**. [1]

- Betancourt maintains close personal and political ties to Rodríguez. By routing the country's oil operations through Betancourt's NABEP, the political faction now leading Venezuela secures a projected **$200 billion in long-term tax and royalty revenues**. [1, 2]
- While the cash is held in U.S.-supervised trust accounts in Qatar, it gives Rodríguez's interim government the heavy financial backing it needs to fund public infrastructure and solidify its control over the country. [1]

3. The U.S. Military and Political Goals

While critics question whether Trump's personal associates or political donors are tied to NABEP's complex web of offshore holding companies, the primary *explicit* American beneficiary is the **United States Government itself**.

- The **Pentagon's Office of Strategic Capital (OSC)** was handed a **35% corporate equity stake** in NABEP for free.
- The **U.S. Department of State** gets a guaranteed right to buy **20% of the oil at raw production cost**. This structure allows Trump to campaign on a massive foreign policy victory, claiming he is directly using Venezuelan resources to refill the depleted U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) and force down domestic energy costs without using taxpayer money. [1, 2]