PUBLIC AFFAIRS - American Embassy
Sylvie VACHERET
Tel: 01 43 12 29 28
E Mail: vacheretsr@state.gov

ENERGY-ON-LINE
A SELECTION OF DOCUMENTS RECENTLY PUBLISHED ON THE WEB

No 18 – February-March-April 2011

GENERAL INTEREST

President Barack Obama
America's Energy Security
Speech and fact sheet - March 30 – 1 pages
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/03/30/remarks-president-americas-energy-security
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/03/30/fact-sheet-americas-energy-security

"And today, I want to announce a new goal, one that is reasonable, one that is achievable, and one that is necessary. When I was elected to this office, America imported 11 million barrels of oil a day. By a little more than a decade from now, we will have cut that by one-third. That is something that we can achieve. We can cut our oil dependence -- we can cut our oil dependence by a third."

Department of Energy Policies and Priorities
House Committee on Appropriations – Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies - Hearings – March 2011
http://appropriations.house.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=AboutTheCommittee.Events&SubcommitteeId=4

All these presentations at the budget hearings detail priorities of the U.S. administration concerning energy issues.
Dr. Steven Chu, Secretary of Energy (Testimony)
Dr. Steven Koonin, Under Secretary for Science (Testimony)
Henry Kelly, Acting Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (Testimony); Patricia Hoffman, Assistant Secretary for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (Testimony); Dr. Victor Der, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy (Testimony)
Dr. Arun Majumdar, Director, ARPA-E (Testimony); Jonathan Silver, Director, Loan Guarantee Program (Testimony)
Dr. Peter Lyons, Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy (Testimony); Gregory Jaczko, Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Testimony)
Ines Triay, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (Testimony); David Geiser, Acting Director, Office of Legacy Management (Testimony)

President Obama's Plan to Win the Future by Making American Businesses More Energy Efficient Through the "Better Buildings Initiative"
Executive Office of the President - February 03, 2011.
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/02/03/president-obama-s-plan-win-future-making-american-businesses-more-energy

The President is proposing new efforts to improve energy efficiency in commercial buildings across the country. Last year, commercial buildings consumed roughly 20 percent of all energy in the U.S. economy. Improving energy efficiency in our buildings can create jobs, save money, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and make our air cleaner. The President's Better Buildings Initiative will make commercial buildings 20 percent more energy efficient over the next decade by catalyzing private sector investment through a series of incentives to upgrade offices, stores, schools and other municipal buildings, universities, hospitals, and other commercial buildings. This initiative builds on our investments through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and our continued commitment to passing the President's proposed "HOMESTAR" legislation to encourage American families to make energy saving upgrades in their homes.

Lynn J. Cunningham and Beth A. Roberts
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Incentives: A Summary of Federal Programs
Congressional research service – Report - March 22, 2011 – 58 pages
http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R40913.pdf

"Energy is crucial to the operation of a modern industrial and services economy. Recently, there have been growing concerns about the availability and cost of energy and about environmental impacts of fossil energy use, especially global climate change. Those combined concerns have rekindled interest in energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the development and commercialization of renewable energy technologies"

Carl Johnston, Lynne Kiesling
Turning on the Lights 2011: The Consumer Benefits of Electric Power Competition
National Center For Policy Analysis – Report – April 2011 - 44 pages
http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/st332.pdf

Today, the production, delivery and use of electric power is undergoing revolutionary changes not seen since the era of Thomas Edison. These developments promise to be as profound as those that transformed the 1960s-era standard black rotary-dial telephone into today's broadband access mobile phone. Residential, commercial and industrial consumers will benefit from lower electricity costs, innovative services and increased quality, reliability and security.

AMERICAN ENERGY INITITIATIVE

Harnessing American Resources to Create Jobs and Address Rising Gasoline Prices: Domestic Resources and Economic Impacts
House Committee on Natural Resources – Hearing - March 17, 2011
http://naturalresources.house.gov/Calendar/EventSingle.aspx?EventID=227640

Witnesses:
Richard G. Newell, Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Administration
Brenda Pierce, Energy Resources Program Coordinator, U.S. Geological Survey
Gene Whitney, Manager, Energy Research, Congressional Research Service
Dr. Michelle Michot Foss, Chief Energy Economist and Head, Bureau of Economic Geology, Jackson School of Geosciences, The University of Texas
Guy Caruso, Senior Adviser, Energy and National Security, Center for Strategic and International Studies
Frank Rusco, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office

Harnessing American Resources to Create Jobs and Address Rising Gasoline Prices: Impacts on Businesses and Families
House Committee on Natural Resources – Hearing - March 31, 2011

http://naturalresources.house.gov/Calendar/EventSingle.aspx?EventID=228017

Witnesses:
The Honorable Bill Graves, President & CEO, American Trucking Association
Karen Alderman Harbert, Chief Executive Officer, Institute for 21st Century Energy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Don Shawcroft, President, Colorado Farm Bureau
Mr. Michael J. Fox, Executive Director, Gasoline & Automotive Service Dealers of America

House Republicans' American Energy Initiative
House Natural Resources Committee – March 2011
http://naturalresources.house.gov/Issues/Issue/?IssueID=34108

House Republicans introduced the American Energy Initiative, an ongoing effort to address rising gasoline prices and expand American energy production. This initiative will lower energy costs, grow our economy and create jobs. House Natural Resources Committee Republicans are committed to finding sensible solutions to America's rapidly rising energy costs and help boost our economy by actively producing our own American energy resources.

The American Energy Initiative
House Committee on Energy and Commerce – Hearing – March 17, 2011
http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearings/hearingdetail.aspx?NewsID=8331

Today's hearing is the first in a series entitled "The American Energy Initiative". Over the next weeks and months, we will closely examine domestic energy resources of all stripes that will diversify our energy portfolio, strengthen our national security, create jobs, and, perhaps most importantly, make energy more affordable for all Americans… Today's hearing specifically will focus on the Gulf of Mexico's relation to energy production, energy security, oil prices, and jobs. Over the past several years, 30 percent of our total domestic oil production has come from the Gulf. Recent world events and market conditions have caused a sudden surge in oil prices. It is in this context that we must thoroughly evaluate this nation's current energy policy.

The American Energy Initiative: China's energy portfolio and the implications for jobs and energy prices in the United States
House Committee on Energy and Commerce – Hearing - April 4, 2011
http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearings/hearingdetail.aspx?NewsID=8418

This hearing focused on China's energy portfolio and the implications for jobs and energy prices in the United States.

The American Energy Initiative: Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation Act
House Committee on Energy and Commerce – Hearing - April 7, 2011
http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearings/hearingdetail.aspx?NewsID=8423

"Unfortunately, in the United States, the use of coal and other cheaper fuel sources are being threatened by the Environmental Protection Agency who have issued a number of rules that require a large investment from the energy and manufacturing sectors, without fully understanding the economic impact and the potential benefits of their rules. Because of the uncertainty that the EPA is causing with these regulations many of which were issued as a result of court cases, I am pleased that my colleagues on the subcommittee, Representatives Sullivan and Matheson, have drafted the Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation Act

(TRAIN Act), which would require a cumulative analysis of certain rules and actions that are either issued or planned by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)."

The American Energy Initiative: Jobs and Energy Permitting Act
House Committee on Energy and Commerce – Hearing - April 13, 2011
http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearings/hearingdetail.aspx?NewsID=8454

This is our 4th in a series of hearings on the American Energy Initiative, which seeks to comprehensively address high gasoline prices and other energy challenges facing the nation. Today's hearing focuses on one part of the American Energy Initiative, the "Jobs and Energy Permitting Act of 2011"... The overall goal of the American Energy Initiative is to best utilize all the tools available to us to address our energy challenges. First and foremost, that means increasing production of domestic energy, and the subject of the Jobs and Energy Permitting Act is the state with far and away the greatest untapped domestic oil potential – Alaska.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Energy Savers: Your Home
http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/

Energy-saving activities are on the rise in the United States and around the world, and the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Savers for "Your Home" website provides helpful guidance to apartment dwellers and homeowners. The Department of Energy believes that all energy-saving efforts make an impact, so they encourage visitors to look for those changes that are feasible for their living situation and income level, rather than opting to do nothing, because it seems small. Visitors will find that the website divides energy-saving measures into several categories, including "Appliances & Electronics", "Insulation & Air Sealing", "Landscaping", and "Windows, Doors & Skylights".

Legislation
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources – Hearing - March 10, 2011
http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=737ab0a6-a123-8df7-46f0-992ccd071a5b

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S.398, a bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to improve energy efficiency of certain appliances and equipment, and for other purposes, and S.395, the Better Use of Light Bulbs Act.

Advancing Energy Efficiency in Arkansas: Opportunities for a Clean Energy Economy
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy – Report - March 28, 2011 – 258 pages
http://www.aceee.org/research-report/e104

"This report examines the potential electricity, natural gas, and fuel savings that could be realized in Arkansas through the implementation of a suite of eleven energy efficiency and nine transportation policies and quantifies the growth in gross state product and employment that would result from these investments. Arkansas is currently transitioning from its two-year "Quick Start" utility energy efficiency program phase towards a "comprehensive" phase that will pursue more aggressive savings and increased funding as stipulated by the 10 Orders issued by the Arkansas Public Service Commission in December 2010… At stake is the economic vitality of a state that is both heavily industrialized and rural, and is also one of the more energy-intensive: Arkansas is ranked the 11th highest in the nation in energy consumption per dollar of gross state product."

John A. "Skip" Laitner
Energy Efficiency Investments as an Economic Productivity Strategy for Texas
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy – Report - March 22, 2011 – 34 pages
http://www.aceee.org/research-report/e112

"Texas, among the fastest growing states in the country, has a significant opportunity to improve its productivity by quadrupling its investments in energy efficiency over the next two decades. This assessment reviews and updates a 2007 study competed by ACEEE and provides a new assessment of the potential for energy efficiency and combined heat and power to reduce current projections of electricity sales by 20 to 30 percent by the year 2030. The net electricity bill savings could be substantial, ranging from $12 to $14 billion over the period 2012 through 2030. At the same time, the cost-effective investments would direct spending within the state that might boost employment by a net of 50,000 to 100,000 jobs."

CARS

One Million Electric Vehicles By 2015
Department of Energy - Status Report - February 2011 – 11 pages
http://www.energy.gov/news/documents/1_Million_Electric_Vehicle_Report_Final.pdf

"President Obama's goal of putting one million electric vehicles on the road by 2015 represents a key milestone toward dramatically reducing dependence on oil and ensuring that America leads in the growing electric vehicle manufacturing industry. Although the goal is ambitious, key steps already taken and further steps proposed indicate the goal is achievable. Indeed, leading vehicle manufacturers already have plans for cumulative U.S. production capacity of more than 1.2 million electric vehicles by 2015, according to public announcements and news reports."

John Podesta, Carl Pope, Gene Karpinski
Cleaner Cars, Less Foreign Oil
Center for American Progress - March 2011 – 16 pages
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/03/pdf/oilsavingsagenda.pdf

"America is suffering from another oil price shock less than three years after prices hit a record of $147 per barrel in July 2008… It's time to get control of volatile oil prices that are hurting our economy, our security, and the everyday budgets of American families. These measures are crucial for long term economic growth, more jobs, and less dependence on foreign oil."

Amy Kaleita
How Federal Policy Can Help, Not Hinder, the Greening of the Automobile
Pacific Research Institute - Report - January 2011 – 29 pages
http://www.pacificresearch.org/docLib/20110214_cartastrophe_final(2).pdf

"With the upcoming introduction of plug-in vehicles such as the Chevy Volt and the Nissan Leaf, interest and enthusiasm for electric vehicles (either fully electric, or plug-in electric with a supplemental internal combustion engine) are gaining steam. A March 2010 Consumer Reports poll indicated that more than a quarter of consumers are likely to consider a plug-in electric car the next time they are shopping for a new vehicle (7 percent claimed they were "very likely") – a surprisingly high number given the fact that these vehicles were not even readily available at the time of the poll. In a 2009 Rasmussen poll, 40 percent of those surveyed indicated they are at least somewhat likely to actually buy an all-electric car within the next decade, while 21 percent said it was somewhat likely that the next car they buy will be all-electric."

Peter W. Huber, Robert Bryce, James Manzi

Broadband Electricity and the Free-Market Path to Electric Cars
Manhattan Institute for Policy Research – Report - March 7, 2011 - 24 pages
http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/eper_07.pdf

"Batteries big enough to give an electric car significant range remain heavy and expensive. Many policymakers seem to be staking the electric car's future on the development of much cheaper batteries. The wishful battery future has also been the path of least regulatory and political resistance, particularly when it leads to tax breaks and direct subsidies, directed mainly at the development of technology that might end up in the cars or at the drivers who might buy them."

ELECTRICITY

Richard W. Caperton, Kate Gordon, Bracken Hendricks, and Daniel J. Weiss
Helping America Win the Clean Energy Race Innovating to Meet the President's Goal of 80 Percent Clean Electricity by 2035
Center for American Progress – February 2011 – 11 pages
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/02/pdf/ces_brief.pdf

"President Obama's 80-percent clean energy standard and our proposed "35 by '35" renewable energy goal, if developed properly, can usher in a new era of American innovation, entrepreneurship, and competitiveness. This paper outlines key concerns for ensuring that a national clean energy standard builds on innovative policies that have already created more dynamic energy markets in the states and in other countries. Hewing to the design principles outlined here can help American businesses, workers, and consumers navigate the fundamental transitions in energy and technology deployment that our country faces today. Successfully meeting this challenge will improve the competitive footing of the entire U.S. economy."

Levelized Cost of New Electricity Generating Technologies
Institute for Energy Research - Report - February 1, 2011 – 6 pages
www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/.../levelized-cost-of-new-generating-technologies/

"To meet electricity demand, the EIA (The Energy Information Administration) represents the existing generating plants, retires those that have come to the end of their economic life, and builds additional plants to meet projected demand from the residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation sectors. As a result, EIA must represent a slate of technologies, their capital and operating costs, their availability and capacity factors, the financial structure and subsidies, the time to construct the plant, the utilization of the plant, and expected future cost changes, including fuel input for fossil and nuclear plants."

Firming Renewable Electric Power Generators: Opportunities and Challenges for Natural Gas Pipelines
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) - Study - March 16, 2011 - 220 pages
http://www.ingaa.org/File.aspx?id=11499

"The increased use of renewable electric power generation, particularly wind, will require electric power systems to provide back-up power to firm the generation from these intermittent sources of electricity. Natural gas-fired generation is a logical, low-cost choice for providing this back-up firming capability. This study evaluates the implications of the increased use of natural gas-fired generation for firming renewable resources for natural gas transportation infrastructure planning and pricing."

Bill Peacock
Competition in the Texas Electricity Market: A Texas Success Story

Texas Public Policy Foundation - Center for Economic Freedom – Policy Perspective - March 2011 – 12 pages
http://www.texaspolicy.com/pdf/2011-03-PP02-CompetitionTexasElectricityMarket-bp.pdf

"Introducing competition into Texas' retail and wholesale electricity markets has made Texas the greatest success story in the United States—if not the world—by moving away from the model of heavily regulated public utilities, i.e., government-mandated monopolies. That success is largely due to policymakers' willingness to let markets work and not manipulate prices or other policies for political reasons."

COAL

Paul R. Epstein, Jonathan J. Buonocore, Kevin Eckersley, Michael Hendryx, Benjamin M. Stout III, Richard Heinberg, Richard W. Clapp, Beverly May, Nancy L. Reinhart, Melissa M. Ahern, Samir K. Doshi, and Leslie Glustrom
Full Cost Accounting for the Life Cycle of Coal
Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences – Ecological Economics Reviews - 2011 -26 pages
http://solar.gwu.edu/index_files/Resources_files/epstein_full%20cost%20of%20coal.pdf

"Each stage in the life cycle of coal—extraction, transport, processing, and combustion—generate a waste stream and carry multiple hazards for health and the environment. These costs are external to the coal industry and are thus often considered "externalities."We estimate that the life cycle effects of coal and the waste stream generated are costing the U.S. public a third to over one-half of a trillion dollars annually. Many of these so-called externalities are, moreover, cumulative. Accounting for the damages conservatively doubles to triples the price of electricity from coal per kWh generated, making wind, solar, and other forms of no fossil fuel power generation, along with investments in efficiency and electricity conservation methods, economically competitive."

OIL

How Much Oil Can We Save? A Survey of Recent Policy Assessments
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy – Fact Sheet - March 2011
http://www.aceee.org/node/9640

This fact sheet describes the results of ACEEE's recent survey of estimates of oil savings potential and bills that address petroleum energy efficiency.

Jon Basil Utley
The Case for Increasing Domestic Oil Production
Reason - Article - March 30, 2011
http://reason.com/archives/2011/03/30/the-case-for-increasing-domest

"Oil is the world's most critical and scarce energy resource. Only oil is easily divisible, transportable, and vital for most transportation. Japan's shuttered nuclear plants mean new demand for more millions of barrels of fuel oil to generate electricity for its cities and factories. Libyan oil production will now be shut down for months or years. There is almost no spare capacity in world production."

Oil and Gas Bonds
Government Accountability Office - February 2011 – 58 pages
http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11292.pdf

"The number of oil and gas wells on leased federal land has increased dramatically. To help manage the environmental impacts of these wells, the Department of the Interior's (Interior) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requires oil and gas operators to reclaim disturbed land in a manner it prescribes."

Improving Oil Spill Prevention and Response, Restoring Jobs, and Ensuring our Energy Security: Recommendations from the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling
House Committee on Transportation – Hearing – February 11, 2011 – 27 pages
http://republicans.transportation.house.gov/Media/file/TestimonyCGMT/2011-02-11%20Boesch%20and%20Garcia.pdf

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling… The Commission's investigation concludes that these failures were preventable. Errors and misjudgments by at least three companies – BP, Halliburton and Transocean – contributed to the disaster. Federal regulations did not address many of the key issues… We reach these conclusions, and make necessary recommendations, in a constructive spirit: we aim to promote changes that will make American offshore energy exploration and production far safer, today and in the future.

Offshore Drilling
House Science Committee - Subcommittee on Energy and Environment - Hearing – April 6, 2011
http://science.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-energy-and-environment-hearing-offshore-drilling

Offshore drilling holds incredible promise to help deliver on this goal… We must pursue exploration and production of these valuable resources. But we all realize we must do it safely and be prepared with effective well containment and response if an accident does occur. To this end, through this hearing we aim to examine the status of safety-related drilling and response technologies and standards, with an emphasis on progress made since last year's accident. We also want to hear how best to structure and prioritize Federal programs in these areas, particularly those at the Department of Energy but also interagency response efforts authorized by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990."

Lucija Anna Muehlenbachs, Mark A Cohen and Todd Gerarden
Preliminary Empirical Assessment of Offshore Production Platforms in the Gulf of Mexico
Resources for the Future (RFF - Discussion Paper - January 2011 - 38 pages
http://www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/RFF-DP-10-66.pdf

This paper reports on a preliminary analysis of performance indicators on 3,020 platforms operating in the Gulf of Mexico between 1996 and 2010. Statistical analysis reveals that company-reported incidents (such as blowouts, fires, injuries, and pollution) increase with water depth, controlling for platform characteristics such as age, quantity of oil and gas produced, and number of producing wells. In addition to company-reported incidents, the authors examine government inspections and the type of enforcement action (warning, component shut-in, facility shut-in, or civil penalty review) following an inspection… The authors provide a preliminary analysis of the effect of prior findings of noncompliance, suggesting that noncompliance is persistent. They also find significant variability in both self-reported incidents and noncompliance across leaseholders.

Alan J. Krupnick, Sarah Campbell, Mark A Cohen and Ian W.H. Parry
Understanding the Costs and Benefits of Deepwater Oil Drilling Regulation
Resources for the Future (RFF) - Discussion Paper - January 2011 - 64 pages
http://www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/RFF-DP-10-62.pdf

The purpose of this paper is to provide a conceptual framework for understanding how analysis of costs and benefits might be incorporated into an assessment of regulatory policies affecting deepwater drilling. The authors begin by providing a framework for analyzing the life-cycle impacts of oil drilling and its alternatives, including onshore drilling and importing oil from abroad. They then provide background estimates of the different sources of oil supplied in the United States, look at how other oil supply sources might respond to regulations on deepwater drilling, and consider the economic costs of these regulations."

Mark A Cohen, Madeline Gottlieb, Joshua Linn and Nathan Richardson
Deepwater Drilling: Law, Policy, and Economics of Firm Organization and Safety
Resources for the Future (RFF) - Discussion Paper - January 2011 - 55 pages
http://www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/RFF-DP-10-65.pdf

Although the causes of the Deepwater Horizon spill are not yet conclusively identified, significant attention has focused on the safety-related policies and practices -- often referred to as the safety culture -- of BP and other firms involved in drilling the well. This paper defines and characterizes the economic and policy forces that affect safety culture and identifies reasons why those forces may or may not be adequate or effective from the public's perspective."

GAS

Robert Bryce,
Ten Reasons Why Natural Gas will Fuel the Future
Manhattan Institute for Policy Research – Report - April 8, 2011 – 22 pages
http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/eper_08.pdf

"For decades, drillers were unable to extract profitable quantities of natural gas from low-permeability shale, coal beds, and tights sands deposits. In recent years, however, drillers have perfected two techniques that have long histories in the oil and gas industry: horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing. The combination of these techniques ushered in what is known as the "shale gas revolution." The results of that revolution are only now coming into focus. This paper provides ten reasons why natural gas continues to gain market share and why it will be a key fuel of the future.''

Henry A. Waxman, Edward J. Markey, Diana DeGette
Chemicals Used In Hydraulic Fracturing
United States House of Representatives Committee On Energy And Commerce Minority Staff – Report – April 2011 – 32 pages
http://democrats.energycommerce.house.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Hydraulic%20Fracturing%20Report%204.18.11.pdf

"Hydraulic fracturing has helped to expand natural gas production in the United States, unlocking large natural gas supplies in shale and other unconventional formations across the country. As a result of hydraulic fracturing and advances in horizontal drilling technology, natural gas production in 2010 reached the highest level in decades. According to new estimates by the Energy Information Administration (EIA), the United States possesses natural gas resources sufficient to supply the United States for approximately 110 years."

NUCLEAR

Daniel Kaufmann, Veronika Penciakova
Preventing Nuclear Meltdown: Assessing Regulatory Failure in Japan and the United States
The Brookings Institution – Report - April 01, 2011
http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0401_nuclear_meltdown_kaufmann.aspx

"Many wonder whether Japan's nuclear disaster could have been averted. The embattled operator of the Fukushima nuclear plant, Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), has borne the brunt of criticism; its numerous failures over the years are certainly well known. However, Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA), responsible for regulating the nuclear industry, also ought to be subject to particular scrutiny for allowing TEPCO to operate despite its past safety and disclosure violations. We thus ask what types of regulatory failure may have contributed to Japan's nuclear crisis and assess whether the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is at risk of committing similar errors."

CLEAN ENERGIES

Research for Renewable Energy Development
N.O.A.A. – Earth System Research Laboratory
http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/research/renewable_energy/

"There is considerable uncertainty about the impacts of renewable energy farms on the environment, weather and climate across a range of spatial and temporal scales. Similarly, the affects of natural variability and human-caused climate change on renewable energy potential need to be assessed. NOAA is uniquely qualified to perform the research needed and to develop products that address these areas to help inform decision makers."

Legislation
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources – Hearing - March 31, 2011
http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=de0ddb23-e7e1-4378-9c84-dbf42094df75

The purpose of the hearing will be to hear testimony on three items: S. 629, to improve hydropower, and for other purposes. S. 630, to promote marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy research and development, and for other purposes.

H. Sterling Burnett and Wesley Dwyer
Will Green Energy Make the United States less Secure?
National Center for Policy Analysis, February 10, 2011-2 pages
http://www.ncpa.org/pub/ba739

"Environmentalists have long cited the environmental harms caused by fossil fuels as evidence of the need to move to green sources of energy such as wind and solar power. Recently, some conservatives have joined their cause, citing national security concerns…The intensifying push to adopt renewable energy technologies that require rare earths will require tradeoffs, including swapping one form of dependence for another, much more restrictive one...As America relies more on green technology, it will be increasingly dependent on China's good will…China is increasing domestic consumption of rare earth elements and rare minerals, and has already demonstrated a willingness to use its near monopoly of the market for these critical resources to force geopolitical concessions from other countries. As a result, the push for green energy is likely to reduce U.S. economic and geopolitical security rather than enhance it."

Richard W. Caperton, Kate Gordon, Bracken Hendricks, and Daniel J. Weiss
Helping America Win the Clean Energy Race
Center for American Progress – February 2011 – 11 pages
http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/02/pdf/ces_brief.pdf

"Today America faces a wide range of energy challenges: to our economic security, our global competitiveness, to homeowners' pocketbooks, and to the health of our communities…Encapsulating this challenge is President Obama's call for a "clean energy standard" to produce 80 percent of our nation's electricity from cleaner energy sources by 2035… This paper outlines key concerns for ensuring that a national clean energy standard builds on innovative policies that have already created more dynamic energy markets in the states and in other countries."

U.S. Geothermal Power Production and Development Report
Geothermal Energy Association – Report - April 2011 – 59 pages
http://www.geo-energy.org/

"With new developments and pioneering technology, geothermal energy is spreading throughout the United States. The Annual GEA U.S. Geothermal Power Production and Development Report shows that in 2011, the geothermal industry is producing clean power in nine states and developing 146 projects across 15 states, with the total number of geothermal projects and prospects under development increasing 12 percent. The United States ranks No. 1 in geothermal energy production and continues to be one of the leading countries in geothermal growth."

BIOFUELS

Department of Energy Biofuel Programs and Biofuel Infrastructure Issues
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources – Hearing – April 7, 2011
http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=0da80cc0-9eef-f7db-20e0-86be1a208b4d

The purpose of the hearing is to review Department of Energy biofuel programs and biofuel infrastructure issues, and to consider S. 187, the Biofuels Market Expansion Act of 2011
Witnesses:
Bill Brady - CEO, Mascoma Corporation, Lebanon, NH
Shane Karr - Vice President for Federal Affairs, Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, Washington, D.C.
Bob Dinneen - President & CEO, Renewable Fuels Association, Washington, D.C.
John Eichberger - Vice President, Government Relations, National Association of Convenience Stores, Alexandria, VA
Dr. Henry Kelly - Acting Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C.

John M. Urbanchuk
Contribution of the Ethanol Industry to the Economy of the United States
Cardno ENTRIX – Remarks - February 2011 – 11 pages
http://ethanolrfa.org/page/-/Ethanol%20Economic%20Contribution%202010%20Final%20Revised%20010411.pdf?nocdn=1

"2010 was a year of continued growth for the ethanol industry. Ethanol demand was boosted by a combination of stimulated gasoline demand as the economy recovered from the most severe recession in the post-war period and implementation of the Renewable Fuels Standard . However, the year was not without its challenges to the industry. Rising feedstock prices put pressure on ethanol profitability."

Evaluating High Gas Prices and How New Rules and Innovative Farming Can Help
Senate Agriculture Committee – Hearing - March 30, 2011
http://ag.senate.gov/site/calendar.html (go to March calendar)

"The growth in biofuels contributes to a gradual reduction in the role played by imported oil in meeting U.S. energy needs. Assuming no changes in existing laws and regulations, the net import share of U.S. liquid fuels supply, which was 60 percent in 2006 and 49 percent in 2010, is projected to decline to 43 percent in 2035."

Domestic Renewable Fuels: From Ethanol to Advanced Biofuels
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works - Oversight Hearing - April 13, 2011
http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=2cc48ffc-802a-23ad-4290-8792773a3e82

Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture, United States Department of Agriculture
Regina McCarthy, Assistant Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency
Dr. Henry Kelly, Acting Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, D.O.E.
Michael McAdams, President, Advanced Biofuels Association
Jan Koninckx, Global Business Director for Biofuels, DuPont
Kris Kiser, Executive Vice President, Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
Scott Faber, Vice President, Federal Affairs, Grocery Manufacturers Association
Brooke Coleman, Executive Director, Advanced Ethanol Council

Brian Wallheimer, Wally Tyner
U.S. Does Not Have Infrastructure to Consume More Ethanol
Purdue University News Service – Article – April 4, 2011
http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/research/2011/110104TynerWall.html

"The United States doesn't have the infrastructure to meet the federal mandate for renewable fuel use with ethanol but could meet the standard with significant increases in cellulosic and next-generation biofuels, according to a Purdue University study."

Battery Technologies for Transportation: From Scientific Discovery to Marketplace
The Brookings Institution – Event – February 8, 2011
http://www.brookings.edu/events/2011/0208_battery_technology.aspx

On February 8, the Energy Security Initiative at Brookings hosted a discussion on vehicle battery technology, specifically the status of technology development, the major challenges in moving the various designs to the marketplace, and what policies and incentives are needed to commercialize the technologies and expand electrification of vehicle transportation. Eric Isaacs, director of Argonne National Laboratory, gave a keynote address and David Sandalow, assistant secretary for policy and international affairs, U.S. Department of Energy, delivered closing remarks. After the presentations, the speakers took audience questions.

MISCELLANEOUS

DOE Needs a Comprehensive Strategy and Guidance on Computer Models that Support Environmental Cleanup Decisions
Government Accountability Office – Report - February 2011- 40 page
http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11143.pdf

"We provided a draft of this report to DOE for its review and comment. In its written comments, DOE (The Department of Energy's) agreed with our recommendations and stated that modeling is an important component of management analysis and decision making for the department. DOE noted that it is committed to continuous improvement in model development and application and commented that our recommendations will strengthen its modeling efforts."

Andrew N. Kleist
A Pennsylvania Power Authority?
Regulation Magazine - Spring 2011 – 7 pages
http://www.cato.org/pubs/regulation/regv34n1/regv34n1-6.pdf

"In the last two decades, several states liberalized their electricity markets, ending government price-setting. Now, some of those states are considering reestablishing the government's role through the creation of state-sanctioned power authorities… This article considers the arguments of power authority advocates from the point of view of the debate in Pennsylvania… The initial argument made by power authority advocates is that restructuring has "failed."This is based on studies that claim that electricity prices are higher in restructured states than in regulated states. However, higher prices alone do not demonstrate failure and this argument is misleading."

Si vous ne le savez pas…

Le Service Scientifique du Consulat français de San Francisco est actuellement dédié à l'étude du secteur de l'énergie, et plus particulièrement à tout ce qui a trait aux énergies renouvelables et à l'efficacité énergétique. Il publie une lettre, un blog…

Plus d'infos sur : http://www.consulfrance-sanfrancisco.org/spip.php?article1857
Lettre : http://frenchsciencesf.wordpress.com/in-the-news-2/