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Subject: March 11 -- E&E Daily is ready
Date: Friday, March 11, 2011 7:51:00 AM

E&E Daily



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E&E DAILY -- FRI., MARCH 11, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **POLITICS:** Democrats cry foul over GOP's attempts to tie fuel prices to EPA

House Republicans' move to join the two most politically volatile threads in the Washington, D.C., energy debate -- gas prices and U.S. EPA rules -- sparked Democratic charges of deception yesterday and silence so far from the Obama administration. Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) amplified the GOP gambit as he laid out a new project, dubbed the American Energy Initiative, calling for more domestic fossil-fuel production, new nuclear power plants and an end to EPA's authority over greenhouse gases. While the Republican message had percolated all week, Boehner's decision to spotlight the anti-EPA bill now sailing through the House Energy and Commerce Committee gave the gas-price charge a far broader platform.

ON THE HILL

2. **ENERGY POLICY:** Obama's CES may not include efficiency measures
3. **CLIMATE:** House GHG bill could strike down tailpipe standards -- Waxman
4. **NATURAL GAS:** Shale caucus to shine a light on Marcellus drilling
5. **FOREST SERVICE:** Lawmakers probe agency's recurring management problems
6. **BIOFUELS:** USDA, EPA back ethanol in face of lawmaker pressure
7. **WATER:** Industry presses for more tax-free financing to invest in wastewater systems
8. **CONSUMER PROTECTION:** Facing intense GOP criticism, consumer database launches today
9. **CLEAN TECH:** String of bills address energy critical elements

BUDGET HEARINGS

10. **SCIENCE:** EPA, NOAA decry 'devastating' research cuts
11. **NATIONAL PARKS:** NPS director defends federal land acquisitions,

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budget priorities

12. **WATER:** Reclamation chief says agency doing its best given financial pressure

THIS WEEK'S MARKUPS AND HEARINGS

CALENDAR: Activity for March 7 - March 11, 2011

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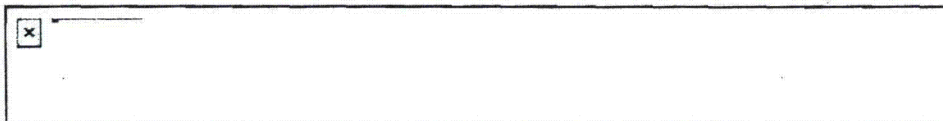
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E&E DAILY -- MON, MARCH 14, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. NUCLEAR ENERGY: Japan nuclear fears to dominate House hearings

Key lawmakers and regulators this week will dig into unfolding details surrounding the nuclear emergency Japan declared in the wake of a massive 8.9 magnitude earthquake and tsunami and how U.S. officials are safeguarding the domestic nuclear fleet. Rep. Fred Upton (R-Mich.), chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and a proponent of nuclear power, said he will use a Wednesday hearing to question the head of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission about the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, as well as domestic operations.

IN THE HOUSE

2. CLIMATE: Energy and Commerce panel to vote on bill to hamstring GHG regs
3. APPROPRIATIONS: Three-week stopgap measure likely, but long-term budget in doubt
4. DOE: Chu faces tough GOP questions on spending request
5. ENERGY POLICY: House panels to discuss need to tap U.S. reserves
6. GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT: Senate subpanel to consider bill giving president line-item veto
7. OFFSHORE DRILLING: House panel to probe BOEMRE budget request
8. DOE: Science director to champion budget boost to House appropriators
9. TRANSMISSION: Power administrations' funding requests may spark clash at House hearing
10. NOAA: House appropriators to mull funding boosts, climate agenda
11. INTERIOR: FWS head to defend proposed budget increase at House hearing

AK/2

12. **INTERIOR:** USGS director to face House appropriators' questions on budget priorities
13. **WATER POLLUTION:** Ag subpanel to examine EPA's Chesapeake Bay cleanup, national plans
14. **ENERGY MARKETS:** Appropriators to weigh U.S. futures commission request for more funding

IN THE SENATE

15. **AIR POLLUTION:** With toxics rules expected, EPW panel to probe Clean Air Act's job effects
16. **EPA:** Jackson to make budget pitch to Senate allies
17. **GULF SPILL:** Senate panel to take hard look at presidential commission report
18. **GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT:** House GOP to take aim at DOE stimulus spending
19. **CLEAN TECH:** Senate ENR panel to look at 'green bank,' foreign strategies to lure investment

E&TV'S ONPOINT

20. **SMART GRID:** GridWise Alliance's Shapard discusses effects of transmission cost debate

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E&E DAILY -- TUE., MARCH 15, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

**1. QUAKE AFTERMATH -- POLITICS: Nuclear crisis sharpens
GOP's go-slow disaster message**

As President Obama prepared to take office, his then-chief of staff famously summed up the new era by vowing to never let a "crisis go to waste." But as the third energy disaster in one year unfolds before Americans' eyes, Republicans are uniting behind a different kind of policymaking strategy for turbulent times: Don't rush to judgment.

**2. QUAKE AFTERMATH -- ENERGY POLICY: Will Japanese crisis
affect nuclear, CES discussions?**

Nuclear energy advocates are optimistic the ongoing Japanese nuclear crisis will not affect energy policy discussions on Capitol Hill, including talks of a possible "clean energy" standard, but they concede nuclear energy will receive more careful scrutiny moving forward. "I think any incident like this, we ought to take the opportunity to learn from. If we find there are any changes we can make in any nuclear facilities, we have to make them safer," Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) said last night in the Capitol. "We should incorporate that, but I don't think this is a death knell to nuclear generation in the future."

CAMPAIGN 2012

**3. WHITE HOUSE CANDIDATE PROFILE: The resurgence of
'conservationist' Gingrich**

ON THE HILL

**4. CLIMATE: Bill to hamstring GHG regs set for Energy and Commerce vote
today**

**5. SENATE: GOP vows to block Commerce secretary nominee until trade
deals clinched**

6. DOE: House GOP widens probe into federal loans to Solyndra

7. CHEMICAL SECURITY: House panel to question DHS on emergency

AK/3

preparedness

8. **AGRICULTURE:** Farm state lawmakers to hold markup of USDA budget letter

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

9. **OIL AND GAS:** CAP's Weiss discusses politics of rising prices

THIS WEEK'S MARKUPS AND HEARINGS

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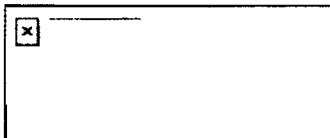
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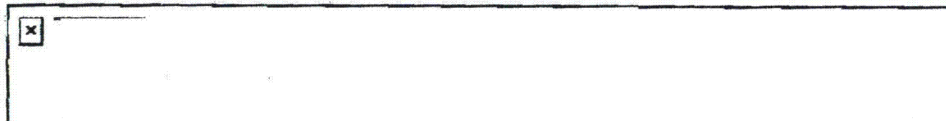
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E&E DAILY -- WED., MARCH 16, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. MINING: Hardrock mining reform a tough sell despite activist outcry

Efforts by President Obama to overhaul federal oversight of the hardrock mining industry may fall short despite bipartisan agreement that some reforms are overdue. The president's budget blueprint would enact a new fee on hardrock mineral production to help pay for reclamation of abandoned hardrock mines. It also requires royalties from companies mining certain minerals, including gold, copper, lead and uranium. Obama's proposal is a nod to environmentalists and other advocates who say the 1872 General Mining Act is in desperate need of an overhaul.

ON THE HILL

2. **NUCLEAR WASTE**: Yucca supporters see new hope for repository
3. **CLIMATE**: House panel passes anti-EPA bill, but Senate not likely to do so
4. **OIL AND GAS**: State Department orders extra review of proposed pipeline
5. **WATER**: House Republicans lament cost of fish protections to Western consumers
6. **NATURAL GAS**: House, Senate Dems reintroduce the 'FRAC Act'
7. **RAIL**: Legislators form high-speed rail caucus
8. **COAL**: Lawmakers demand hearing into forthcoming stream rule
9. **PESTICIDES**: House panel to mark up double-permitting bill
10. **AGRICULTURE**: Farm state lawmakers make plea to Budget Committee to keep programs intact

IN THE STATES

11. **OFFSHORE DRILLING**: Appeals court halts judge's order for action on deepwater permits

AK/4

12. **CHEMICALS:** Nev. lawmaker introduces bill to ban candles, fragrance from public places

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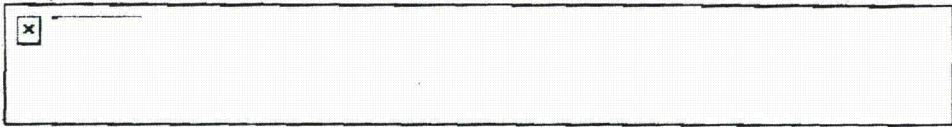
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E&E DAILY -- THU.. MARCH 17, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. NUCLEAR CRISIS: Official warns of worsening Japanese disaster as Democrats chide U.S. precautions

A top federal nuclear official last night warned that the ongoing crisis in Japan has grown more serious, but he defended the safety of U.S. nuclear power plants, including those similar in design to the crippled Fukushima Daiichi plant in Japan. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory Jaczko told reporters last night that the situation at the plant is likely more dire than originally thought. He said the plant's Unit 4 spent fuel pool could be empty and the Unit 3 pool may have a crack. Without proper cooling – which is typically provided by the water in the pools – spent fuel rods can ignite, emitting radioactive elements.

POLITICS

- 2. NUCLEAR CRISIS: Ex-Rep. Hall 'still the one' fighting nuclear energy
- 3. GAS PRICES: As GOP ratchets up attacks on EPA, Dems blast oil speculators
- 4. LOBBYING: U.S. Chamber works to stir Congress' interest in paring regs

IN THE SENATE

- 5. CLIMATE: Senate Dems push back EPA votes to today
- 6. OFFSHORE DRILLING: Admin disputes GOP charges over pending permits
- 7. REGULATIONS: Republican bill seeks probe into cost of EPA rules
- 8. OIL AND GAS: Bipartisan group of senators pushes for Keystone XL approval
- 9. OFFSHORE DRILLING: Murkowski scolds Jackson over delayed Arctic permit
- 10. OIL AND GAS: Schumer urges sale of petroleum reserve

AK/5

11. **GULF SPILL**: Democratic senators seeking more compensation for spill victims

IN THE HOUSE

12. **CHESAPEAKE BAY**: Lawmakers accuse EPA of steamrolling states, farmers in massive cleanup

13. **ENERGY AND COMMERCE**: Harman's departure leads to committee reordering

14. **INTERIOR**: FWS chief pitches cooperative conservation and ESA spending limits

15. **DOE**: Science office budget cuts would be targeted, not broad-based -- official

E&TV'S ONPOINT

16. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Former CEQ Chairman Frampton says Japanese disaster worse than Three Mile Island

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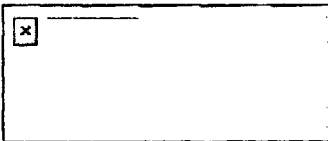
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1. **ENERGY POLICY: World events spur flurry of bills, but are they too partisan to pass?**

A perfect storm of skyrocketing gasoline prices and a nuclear crisis in Japan has spurred lawmakers to action on energy policy, but so far, most of their proposals are sunk in partisan disagreement. Republicans and Democrats in both the House and Senate this week offered or promised to introduce a handful of energy bills, as their constituents are reeling from elevated gas prices and the world has been shocked by the worsening nuclear crisis in Japan.

ON THE HILL

2. **ENERGY POLICY:** Conservative groups, watchdogs, press for an end to all subsidies
3. **AIR POLLUTION:** Senators agree on EPA's past success, but not on its future
4. **NUCLEAR WASTE:** Was NRC's decision to close Yucca legal?
5. **DOE:** House Republicans cast doubts on stimulus spending
6. **OIL AND GAS:** 'FRAC Act' sponsors take aim at air pollution from drilling
7. **HOMELAND SECURITY:** Lawmakers raise doubts about DHS's emergency preparedness
8. **PUBLIC LANDS:** Pair of bills would require U.S. to sell 3.3M acres
9. **INNOVATION:** Clean-tech comparison with China is 'apples to oranges' -- Murkowski
10. **INTERIOR:** House appropriators' criticisms of USGS budget cross party lines
11. **ENERGY MARKETS:** Appropriators grill U.S. futures commission on requested 82% budget increase

AK/6

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1. **NUCLEAR CRISIS: Japanese reactors, U.S. safety to take center stage on Capitol Hill**

Top U.S. nuclear regulators, scientists and industry leaders will flesh out details of the nuclear crisis unfolding in Japan and its implications for nuclear safety in the United States for key Senate and House energy committees this week. A series of hearings will kick off tomorrow when Nuclear Regulatory Commission Executive Director of Operations Bill Borchardt updates the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee about the status of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactors on Japan's northeastern coast.

IN THE SENATE

2. **ENERGY POLICY:** Senate panel to take up hydropower, water use measures
3. **MINE SAFETY:** Main says new legislation is crucial
4. **TOXICS:** Erin Brockovich to headline Senate hearing on environmental contaminants
5. **NUCLEAR:** Congress to probe int'l security measures, cleanup of Cold War sites
6. **WORKFORCE:** Senators focus on challenges facing federal agencies' senior execs
7. **NATIONAL PARKS:** Panel to review proposed land purchases, construction cuts
8. **AGRICULTURE:** Lawmakers will consider rising gas prices' effect on farmers
9. **ARMY CORPS:** Agency budget to undergo scrutiny, as some lawmakers push for WRDA
10. **GSA:** Senators to probe green building standards, sale of federal properties

AK 1

IN THE HOUSE

11. **CLIMATE:** Head of controversial warming project to star at House hearing
12. **DOE:** GOP to grill agency officials over proposed hefty spending boosts
13. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** House Resources to review BOEMRE budget, permitting plans
14. **RESEARCH:** Appropriators face tough decisions on R&D spending
15. **TRANSPORTATION:** Lawmakers gear up to grill DOT over funding for reauthorization proposal
16. **OIL AND GAS:** House Resources panel to continue probe of price spikes
17. **TRANSPORTATION:** Before beer, pizza and bill writing, T&I panel to hear from key groups
18. **NOAA:** Proposed cuts to tsunami warning systems may heat up House hearings
19. **REGULATIONS:** House GOP to continue attempt to unravel red tape
20. **WATER:** Lawmakers to weigh reform of nearly broke flood insurance program
21. **CHEMICAL SECURITY:** House panel to weigh extending DHS program
22. **OIL AND GAS:** Hearing to encourage Canadian oil amid wait on Keystone XL permit
23. **INNOVATION:** Small business programs hit spotlight as authorization clock ticks down
24. **CONSUMER PROTECTION:** House appropriators target CPSC budget amid criticism from GOP
25. **ENERGY POLICY:** House panel to explore energy potential on Indian lands

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

26. **EPA:** Bracewell & Giuliani's Segal says agency overstepping authority with 'Utility MACT' plan

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E&E DAILY -- MON., APRIL 11, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **BUDGET**: With round one done, clashes on enviro and energy limits to rekindle

The Obama administration may have won its first major environmental battle of 2011 only to give ground in the broader budget war, thanks to a spending deal that is set to avert a shutdown this week while handing House Speaker John Boehner's (R-Ohio) party a palpable political win. In a bipartisan agreement reached hours before a shutdown deadline Friday night, lawmakers agreed to slash \$38.5 billion in spending over the remaining half of the fiscal year -- more than half the total cuts pushed for by House Republicans. Democrats won their bid to excise a dozen-plus environmental policy limits added to the GOP's original spending bill, but it remains unclear how deeply the agreed-upon cuts would affect U.S. EPA, the Energy Department and other agencies.

IN THE SENATE

2. **ENERGY POLICY**: Panel to vote on efficiency, hydropower bills and nuclear nomination
3. **NATURAL GAS**: House, Senate committees dig into fracking
4. **NUCLEAR**: Future of energy source under scrutiny
5. **ENDANGERED SPECIES**: Wolf delisting survives budget fight, as settlement crumbles
6. **BIOFUELS**: Agency, advocacy witnesses line up to debate ethanol, subsidies
7. **POLITICS**: Democrats' campaign finance bill to get airing
8. **TRANSPORTATION**: EPW panel continues work on reauthorization bill
9. **WATER**: Senate appropriators to review Army Corps, Reclamation funding proposals

IN THE HOUSE

AKF8

10. **EPA:** New rules for coal ash, air pollution, offshore drilling to get House scrutiny
11. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** Trio of Hastings bills poised to advance
12. **NUCLEAR:** Waxman scolds Shimkus on Yucca Mountain tour
13. **FEDERAL WORKFORCE:** House eyes tweaks to workers' comp system
14. **PROPERTY RIGHTS:** Eminent domain bill up for review
15. **GREEN JOBS:** Panel to probe clean energy programs' employment results
16. **TRANSPORTATION:** Lawmakers to weigh renewal of hazmat regs
17. **WATER:** Fresno hearing to feature farmers vs. fish
18. **PUBLIC LANDS:** GOP focuses on impact of environmental rules on border security
19. **AGRICULTURE:** Lawmakers continue oversight of financial reform rules
20. **TSUNAMI:** Panel to probe U.S. readiness for a disaster like Japan's
21. **NANOTECHNOLOGY:** House lawmakers set to weigh \$2.1B interagency budget

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

22. **NATURAL GAS:** AGA's McCurdy discusses new vehicle legislation

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E&E DAILY -- THU., APRIL 14, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **OFFSHORE DRILLING: GOP scores early victory in energy initiative**

In a grueling nine-hour markup, the House Natural Resources Committee approved a trio of bills yesterday aimed at increasing production of domestic oil and gas off the nation's coasts. The advance of bills by Chairman Doc Hastings (R-Wash.) to accelerate and expand offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico as well as the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans is an early victory in the House GOP's "American Energy Initiative." The proposals could receive House votes as early as next month.

ON THE HILL

2. **BUDGET:** House Dems pack cash for energy, environment in 2012 spending plan
3. **POLITICS:** Was Snowe's EPA vote linked to tea party challenges?
4. **BIOFUELS:** Senators spar over ethanol, renewable fuels
5. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** Alaska lawmakers, Shell call for haste on EPA air permits
6. **GREEN JOBS:** Dems, GOP again clash over stimulus benefits
7. **ENERGY MARKETS:** House panel has a litany of concerns over proposed reform rules
8. **NOAA:** Agency chief defends budget requests as Congress prepares scalpel
9. **PENTAGON:** DOD's alt-energy technologies should be American-made, lawmakers say
10. **MINING:** Bill would expand radiation compensation program
11. **WATER POLICY:** Senators decry Obama budget's lack of cash for waterways, ports
12. **FEDERAL WORKFORCE:** House considers revisions to workers' comp

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E&TV'S ONPOINT

13. **AIR POLLUTION:** Air expert Bill Becker assesses impact of EPA's budget cuts on states

THIS WEEK'S MARKUPS AND HEARINGS

CALENDAR: Activity for April 11 - April 15, 2011

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Subject: E&ETV -- Carbon Markets: IETA's Hunter discusses rebuilding dialogue on climate
Date: Friday, March 11, 2011 10:06:22 AM

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Originally aired: March 8, 2011

CARBON MARKETS: IETA's Hunter discusses rebuilding dialogue on climate

Today's OnPoint



After the collapse of cap-and-trade talks in Congress last year, can the dialogue on climate change and emissions regulation be rebuilt in the United States? During today's OnPoint, David Hunter, U.S. Director of the International Emissions Trading Association, explains why carbon market discussions are still

relevant in the United States. He also discusses how a clean energy standard would affect existing carbon markets.

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TRANSPORTATION: APTA's Millar discusses budget proposal, reauthorization bill

American Public Transportation Association's Bill Millar discusses impact of gas prices on public transport.

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ENERGY POLICY: Exelon's Rowe calls on Congress to allow EPA to move forward on emissions regulation

Exelon CEO John Rowe says Congress should not act on energy policy.

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OIL AND GAS: CAP's Weiss discusses politics of rising prices

Today's OnPoint



Can the United States quickly and significantly lower gas prices by tapping into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve? During today's OnPoint, Daniel Weiss, a senior fellow and director of climate strategy at the Center for American Progress, explains what the U.S. government can do to ease the impact of rising gas prices on consumers and create a long-term energy strategy that will reduce the country's dependence on oil. He also discusses the short-term outlook for prices.

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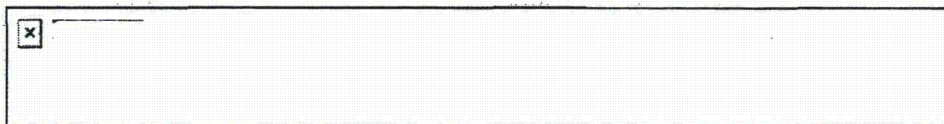
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To: Schmidt, Rebecca
Subject: E&ETV -- Transmission: ITC's Welch says cost allocation legislation could block new construction



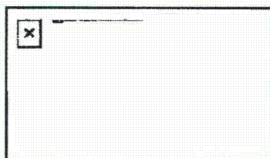
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TRANSMISSION: ITC's Welch says cost allocation legislation could block new construction

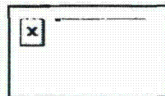


As the discussion on transmission cost allocation heats up in Washington, what are the impacts of legislation that would curb the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's reach? During today's OnPoint, Joseph Welch, president and CEO of ITC, the largest independent electricity transmission company in the

United States, explains how legislation recently introduced in the Senate would affect independent operators. He also discusses why he believes the legislation could block new transmission construction.

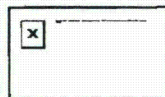
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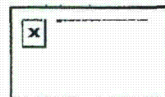
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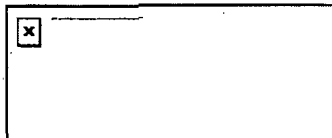
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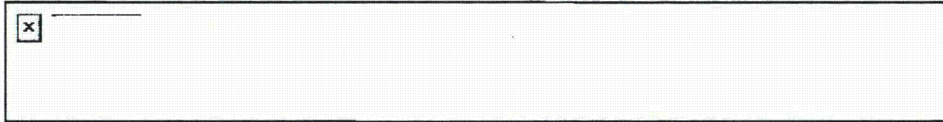
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NUCLEAR CRISIS: Former CEQ Chairman Frampton says Japanese disaster worse than Three Mile Island

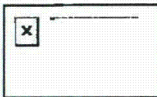


How does Japan's Fukushima nuclear event compare to the United States' Three Mile Island incident? During today's OnPoint, George Frampton, the deputy director and chief of staff for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's special inquiry group

into the Three Mile Island accident, explains why Fukushima is a more serious event than Three Mile Island. Frampton, also the former chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and currently senior of counsel and a member of the clean energy and climate industry group at Covington & Burling, also explains how Fukushima will affect the U.S. nuclear industry.

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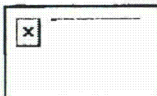
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ITC's Joseph Welch says attempts to curb FERC's reach on cost allocation could affect renewable energy targets.

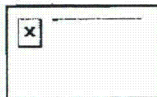
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Subject: E&ETV -- OIL AND GAS: CAP's Weiss discusses politics of rising prices



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Three Mile Island investigator George Frampton discusses severity of Fukushima event.

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Subject: E&ETV -- Efficiency: Alliance to Save Energy's Callahan weighs in on light bulb debate



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EFFICIENCY: Alliance to Save Energy's Callahan weighs in on light bulb debate



Are the United States' energy efficient lighting standards an example of government overreach? During today's OnPoint, Kateri Callahan, president of the Alliance to Save Energy, weighs in on the debate brewing on Capitol Hill over the use of incandescent light bulbs. She also discusses the prospects for

efficiency measures in a Clean Energy Standard or other energy package.

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AN E&ETV ENCORE PRESENTATION

Originally aired: March 17, 2011

NUCLEAR CRISIS: Former CEQ Chairman Frampton says Japanese disaster worse than Three Mile Island



How does Japan's Fukushima nuclear event compare to the United States' Three Mile Island incident? During today's OnPoint, George Frampton, the deputy director and chief of staff for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's special inquiry group into the Three Mile Island accident, explains why Fukushima is a

more serious event than Three Mile Island. Frampton, also the former chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and currently senior of counsel and a member of the clean energy and climate industry group at Covington & Burling, also explains how Fukushima will affect the U.S. nuclear industry.

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Alliance to Save Energy's Kateri Callahan discusses prospects for efficiency measures in energy legislation.

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Subject: E&ETV -- EPA: Clean Energy Group's Bradley discusses 'Utility MACT' proposal



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EPA: Clean Energy Group's Bradley discusses 'Utility MACT' proposal



Do the costs of U.S. EPA's recent toxic emissions rules for power plants outweigh the benefits? During today's OnPoint, Michael Bradley, executive director of the Clean Energy Group, reacts to the "Utility MACT" proposal and explains why he believes the rules are within EPA's regulatory authority. He also discusses

how Utility MACT will fit in with other air rules coming out of EPA in the short term.

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To: Riley (OCA), Timothy
Subject: E&ETV -- Energy Policy: Former Mich. Gov. Granholm makes case for clean energy standard



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ENERGY POLICY: Former Mich. Gov. Granholm makes case for clean energy standard



Can the United States revitalize its manufacturing sector through clean energy policies? During today's OnPoint, former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm (D) makes the case for a clean energy standard, saying it will boost the United States' competitiveness and manufacturing base. Granholm, now a spokeswoman for the

Pew Charitable Trusts, also explains why she believes industry can continue to grow under U.S. EPA's air rules. She also explains how she plans to lobby members of Congress on the clean energy issue.

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EPA: Clean Energy Group's Bradley discusses 'Utility MACT' proposal

The Clean Energy Group's Michael Bradley discusses costs and benefits of toxic emissions rules.

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NUCLEAR CRISIS: Former CEQ Chairman Frampton says Japanese disaster worse than Three Mile Island

Three Mile Island investigator George Frampton discusses severity of Fukushima event.

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EFFICIENCY: Alliance to Save Energy's Callahan weighs in on light bulb debate

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Subject: E&ETV -- EPA: Clean Energy Group's Bradley discusses 'Utility MACT' proposal



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Originally aired: March 23, 2011

EPA: Clean Energy Group's Bradley discusses 'Utility MACT' proposal



Do the costs of U.S. EPA's recent toxic emissions rules for power plants outweigh the benefits? During today's OnPoint, Michael Bradley, executive director of the Clean Energy Group, reacts to the "Utility MACT" proposal and explains why he believes the rules are within EPA's regulatory authority. He also discusses how Utility MACT will fit in with other air rules coming out of EPA in the short term.

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ENERGY POLICY: Former Mich. Gov. Granholm makes case for clean energy standard

Former Michigan governor Jennifer Granholm lays out blueprint for revitalizing manufacturing sector.

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Subject: March 11 -- E&ENews PM is ready



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E&ENEWS PM -- FRI., MARCH 11, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. CONTINUING RESOLUTION: New House GOP proposal includes another \$6B in cuts

House Republicans introduced this afternoon a three-week continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government that includes an additional \$6 billion in spending cuts, including \$238 million from U.S. EPA. The current measure to fund the government expires March 18. The new measure, House Joint Resolution 48, would run through April 8 and ensure that the government does not shut down while the House and Senate continue to debate on a resolution that would fund the government for the rest of the fiscal year.

THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

2. **JAPAN QUAKE:** Aftershocks continue, death toll rises, waves wash four to sea in Calif.
3. **JAPAN QUAKE:** Utility to 'vent' troubled plant in bid to relieve pressure
4. **POLITICS:** Amid partisan bickering, Obama calls for consensus energy solution
5. **WATER POLLUTION:** Fla. Democrat asks EPA to suspend his state's new discharge limits
6. **ENERGY POLICY:** Co-sponsor of EPA-reg bill doesn't blame agency for high gas prices
7. **POLITICS:** Does Rand Paul believe environmental regulations work?
8. **FOREST SERVICE:** House chairman blasts amendment to halt agency's OHV planning
9. **FOREST SERVICE:** Chief warns budget impasse could affect wildfire planning
10. **HIGH-SPEED RAIL:** White House program has 'credibility' problem -- Mica
11. **JAPAN QUAKE:** Tsunami warning doesn't deter energy operations on

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U.S. West Coast

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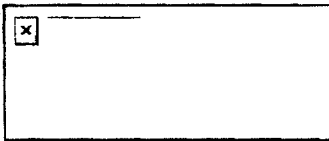
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E&ENEWS PM -- MON., MARCH 14, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. CLIMATE: States ask Supreme Court to dismiss utility-emission case

Connecticut and five other states seeking to persuade the Supreme Court to allow greenhouse gas emissions to be regulated via federal common law have suggested the justices should avoid deciding the case and instead send it back to a lower court. In their final brief filed in *American Electric Power v. Connecticut*, the states maintain their position that greenhouse gas emissions can be regulated as a "public nuisance" under federal common law.

THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

2. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: U.S. remains committed to developing nuclear power -- DOE official
3. **JAPAN QUAKE**: U.S. 7th Fleet moves after crew members exposed to radioactivity
4. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Regulators' assurances provide little solace
5. **WATER POLLUTION**: Consol to pay \$6M for alleged violations at W.Va. mines
6. **PUBLIC LANDS**: More time allowed for Utah, counties to challenge BLM wilderness order
7. **GULF SPILL**: Airborne benzene levels rose slightly during spill -- NOAA

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

8. **SMART GRID**: GridWise Alliance's Shapard discusses impact of transmission cost debate

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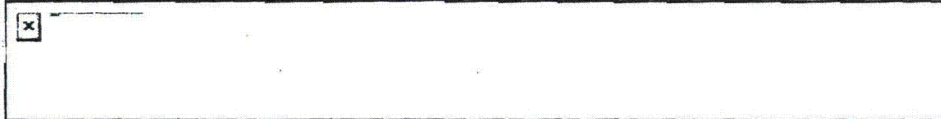
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E&ENEWS PM -- TUE., MARCH 15, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. CLIMATE: Moderates add amendment to anti-EPA GHG bill

The House Energy and Commerce Committee added language to a bill by its chairman this afternoon that states that Congress should seek to curb greenhouse gas emissions "by developing policies that do not adversely affect the American economy, energy supplies and employment." A committee vote on the full bill is expected later today.

THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

2. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Chu, industry oppose U.S. licensing halt; lawmakers launch reviews
3. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Chu ranks Japanese disaster maybe worse than Three Mile Island .
4. **BUDGET**: House passes another short-term CR
5. **AGRICULTURE**: Court delivers mixed bag for EPA, agribusinesses on CAFO permitting
6. **CHESAPEAKE BAY**: Farm pollution not as bad as previously thought -- USDA
7. **INFRASTRUCTURE**: Senators propose \$10B bank for energy, transportation projects
8. **WOLVES**: FWS won't appeal court decision on Wyo. management plan
9. **MINING**: Massey exec pleads 'not guilty' to charges related to W.Va. blast
10. **WATER POLLUTION**: Coalition decries House bid to slash restoration budgets

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

11. **OIL AND GAS**: CAP's Weiss discusses politics of rising prices

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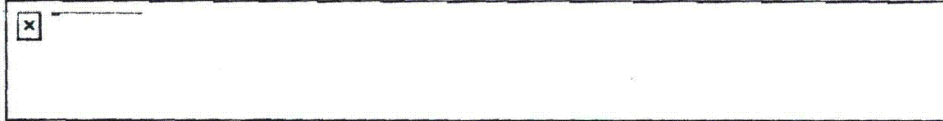
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E&ENEWS PM -- WED., MARCH 16, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. NUCLEAR CRISIS: Radiation levels 'extremely high' at Fukushima plant -- NRC chairman

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission chairman painted a grim picture of the nuclear crisis at Japan's crippled Fukushima Daiichi power plant for a House subcommittee today. While conceding his agency has "limited information" about what is happening at the plant, Chairman Gregory Jaczko told lawmakers the commission believes "core cooling is not safe at" Unit 2 and is concerned about falling water levels in the spent fuel pool. At Unit 3, he said, the spent fuel "integrity has been compromised." And at Unit 4, the situation was more dangerous following a hydrogen explosion, Jaczko told the Energy and Power Subcommittee.

THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

2. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** U.S. urges Americans near Japan plant to evacuate
3. **CLIMATE:** Senate Dems still mulling a way forward on EPA amendments
4. **CLIMATE:** Issa throws more dirt on cap and trade's grave
5. **OCEANS:** Navy sonar may still be too high for whales -- study
6. **PESTICIDES:** House panel approves bill to bar EPA double-permitting
7. **FISHERIES:** Court upholds U.S. scallop management plan
8. **AUTOS:** Two-thirds of Americans favor higher fuel standards -- report
9. **WATER POLLUTION:** Groundwater in Calif. farm belt tainted by fertilizer, animal wastes -- report

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E&ENEWS PM -- THU., MARCH 17, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. NUCLEAR CRISIS: Obama orders 'comprehensive review' of U.S. reactors

President Obama tried today to calm fears that nuclear radiation from the ongoing disaster in Japan might reach American shores. In his statement -- the president didn't take questions from reporters -- Obama offered an update on the crisis in Japan where authorities are battling to prevent a full reactor meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. The president also used the opportunity to reiterate his commitment to making safe nuclear power a part of the United States energy program.

THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

2. CLIMATE: Baucus adds a new EPA amendment to the mix
3. BUDGET: Senate joins House in kicking tough spending decisions to April
4. OFFSHORE DRILLING: New deepwater permits imminent, but staffing concerns on the horizon -- DOI
5. NUCLEAR CRISIS: Watchdog criticizes American safety standards
6. NOAA: GOP budget cuts could hurt tsunami, weather warning systems -- Locke
7. WHITE HOUSE: Got an idea for improving NEPA? CEQ wants to hear it
8. BIOFUELS: USDA accounting skews food vs. fuel debate -- governors
9. ENDANGERED SPECIES: Obama admin needs more time on expanded protection for sea turtles

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

10. NUCLEAR CRISIS: Former CEQ Chairman Frampton says Japanese disaster worse than Three Mile Island

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NUCLEAR CRISIS: JAPAN & THE FUTURE OF ENERGY POLICY



The devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan has spawned a major nuclear disaster. E&E examines the implications for energy the environment, security and public health. [Click here](#) to go to the report.

E&ENEWS PM -- FRI., MARCH 18, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. ENDANGERED SPECIES: DOI, enviros reach settlement to delist gray wolf

The Interior Department today said it has reached a settlement with 10 environmental groups to temporarily remove Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in Montana and Idaho while continuing efforts to recover the species throughout the Rocky Mountains. For now, federal protections would remain in Wyoming, Oregon, Washington and Utah, and settling groups would agree not to challenge a regional delisting plan for at least five years as long as certain conditions are met.

THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

2. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** Interior approves third deepwater permit
3. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** Interior deputy advocates reform of Oil Pollution Act
4. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Calls grow to halt new licenses for Indian Point
5. **NUCLEAR ENERGY:** NRC sets Japan staff briefing, scraps meeting on restart of Fla. plant
6. **BIOFUELS:** Collins, Bingaman point different directions on ethanol
7. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Akaka, Carper offer global reactor safety bill

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NUCLEAR CRISIS: JAPAN & THE FUTURE OF ENERGY POLICY



The devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan has spawned a major nuclear disaster. E&E examines the implications for energy the environment, security and public health. [Click here](#) to go to the report.

E&ENEWS PM -- MON., MARCH 21, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. AIR POLLUTION: Texans create task force to fight EPA intervention

Angry with U.S. EPA for rejecting several Texas air quality programs and pushing the state aside on greenhouse gas emissions, Rep. Joe Barton (R-Texas) and other top lawmakers from the Lone Star State have created a new task force to strike back. For the past two years, EPA officials and their Texas counterparts have been locked in a power struggle over conventional air pollution, as well as the federal climate change regulations that took effect in January.

THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

2. ENERGY POLICY: Bingaman, Murkowski request input on CES specifics
3. OFFSHORE DRILLING: Interior approves first deepwater exploration plan since BP spill
4. NUCLEAR CRISIS: Japan disaster exposed outdated int'l response network, U.N. nuclear chief says
5. NUCLEAR ENERGY: NRC renews license for Vermont Yankee
6. NUCLEAR: House Dems probe FDA on safety of Japanese imports
7. CALIFORNIA: Former utilities commissioner joins law firm; state climate expert to WRI

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

8. EFFICIENCY: Alliance to Save Energy's Callahan weighs in on light bulb

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debate

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E&ENEWS PM -- TUE., MARCH 22, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **NUCLEAR CRISIS: Polls show dropoff in support for new reactors**

Public support for increased nuclear power is waning in the wake of the crisis in Japan, according to two new polls out this week. Instead, more Americans favor development of renewable energy resources, increased energy efficiency and more oil and gas drilling, the national surveys show.

THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

2. **COAL:** Interior announces lease sales for 4 sprawling Wyo. tracts
3. **NATURAL GAS:** Texas regulators reject EPA claims of well contamination
4. **ARCTIC:** Begich proposes Alaska drilling coordinator
5. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** Interior issues 4th deepwater permit
6. **WATER POLICY:** U.S., World Bank agree to cooperate on water management
7. **APPROPRIATIONS:** Senate Dems link high fuel prices to GOP cutting oil-futures regulators
8. **POLITICS:** United Mine Workers endorses W.Va. House speaker for governor

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E&ENEWS PM -- FRI., MARCH 25, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **UTILITIES:** Ga. nuclear proposal passes environmental review, awaits NRC vote

Southern Co. passed the environmental review for its two proposed reactors in Georgia, the latest sign that the accident at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi plant is not slowing the nuclear industry in the United States. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission must still vote on the license.

THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

2. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Groups question U.S. evacuation recommendation
3. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Disaster spurs call to strengthen int'l atomic agency
4. **HIGH-SPEED RAIL:** DOT finalizes review of Vegas-Calif. line, pushing it closer to construction
5. **ADVOCACY:** Turn out the lights, it's Earth Hour!
6. **ENERGY MARKETS:** Senators urge FTC to crack down on speculators
7. **GREAT LAKES:** Army Corps says electrical barriers are holding back Asian carp
8. **COAL:** BLM clarifies lease sale revenue claims

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E&ENEWS PM -- THU., APRIL 7, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **CLIMATE:** House passes anti-EPA bill, but it faces an uncertain future

The House today gave overwhelming approval to a bill that would prevent U.S. EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions from a variety of sources, with significant bipartisan support. The House vote was 255-177, with 19 Democrats crossing the aisle to vote for it while no Republicans voted against it. But despite the strong House showing, the bill is headed for choppy waters in the Senate, where opponents and skeptics of EPA authority have already demonstrated they will have difficulty channeling their concerns into support for a single EPA-pre-emption bill.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

2. **FEDERAL AGENCIES:** No immediate furloughs at DOE; EPA to continue air monitoring
3. **INTERIOR:** 76% of department employees facing shutdown furloughs
4. **RESEARCH:** 2011 budget war bodes ill for R&D next year -- analyst

THIS AFTERNOON'S STORIES

5. **RENEWABLE ENERGY:** Wind on even playing field with gas, wind industry declares
6. **AIR POLLUTION:** Judges let EPA's new SO2 standards take effect
7. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** NRC officials offer panel few answers on Japan disaster
8. **PUBLIC LANDS:** Court hands victory to BLM in Ore. off-highway vehicle case
9. **ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Court allows gold prospecting to proceed in Klamath National Forest
10. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** Fla. Republican calls for unlimited liability

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11. **OFFSHORE DRILLING**: Interior issues 9th deepwater drilling permit
12. **OIL AND GAS**: Senate Judiciary panel approves OPEC antitrust bill
13. **COAL**: 2 new House bills take aim at EPA ash rules

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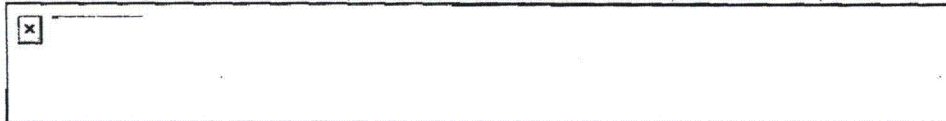
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GREENWIRE -- MON., MARCH 14, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. JAPAN QUAKE: Parsing terms, fears in the Fukushima nuclear crisis

When considering the current troubles at three nuclear reactors of Japan's Fukushima Daiichi power plant, two words must be promptly defined: radiation and meltdown. The former carries fears of spreading, invisible poison; the latter seems one step away from an atomic blast. Neither is quite what it seems.

2. JAPAN QUAKE: Beyond headlines, some see 'inherent robustness' of reactors

Televised explosions at nuclear plants in Japan are quickly deflating the concept of a "nuclear renaissance" in the United States. But some close observers say the earthquake points to the durability, rather than the fragility, of nuclear power plants. After all, the reactor that experienced a blast over the weekend is a 40-year-old nuclear plant that was hit with a quake much bigger than anything recorded in California. And what actually failed were the batteries and diesel generators.

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

3. **NUCLEAR**: Second reactor explosion leaves technicians scrambling
4. **NUCLEAR**: U.S. industry likely to feel financial impact of Japan disaster
5. **NUCLEAR**: Whitman touts technology, says Japan will 'be a very good lesson'
6. **NOAA**: Advocates intensify push for tsunami center in Puerto Rico
7. **INTERNATIONAL**: Germany, Switzerland suspend nuclear plans
8. **DEVELOPMENT**: Seawalls offered little protection against tsunami's waves
9. **UNITED NATIONS**: Japan becomes first industrialized nation to receive U.N. disaster relief
10. **FOOD SAFETY**: Asian officials will monitor Japanese imports for radiation

AK/30

11. **SCIENCE:** Earthquake moves Japan eastward, alters Earth's rotation

TOP STORIES

12. **AIR POLLUTION:** White House gets an earful on power plant rules
13. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** Interior approves second deepwater permit for Gulf
14. **RENEWABLE ENERGY:** Calif. Legislature expected to replace RPS order with law this week

ENERGY

15. **OIL AND GAS:** Durbin joins Dems who differ with Obama over petroleum reserve
16. **NATURAL GAS:** Pittsburgh foundation provides grants to study fracking impacts
17. **OIL AND GAS:** PG&E pipeline safety standard is insufficient, federal officials say

CLIMATE CHANGE

18. **CLIMATE:** N.J. withdraws from lawsuit seeking to limit utility emissions
19. **SCIENCE:** Va. Supreme Court will hear Cuccinelli appeal over climatologist's documents

FEDERAL AGENCIES

20. **EPA:** Agency to take more time to publish new cooling water intake rule
21. **MINING:** Obama admin plows ahead on safety agenda in face of industry protests
22. **EPA:** Labor unions join chorus of opposition

TRANSPORTATION

23. **HIGH-SPEED RAIL:** States line up for rejected Fla. funds

WASTES & HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

24. **TOXICS:** Honeywell fined \$11.8M for illegally storing hazardous waste
25. **TOXICS:** EPA criticizes NYC timeline for PCB cleanup

STATES

26. **NATURAL GAS:** W.Va. session ends without Marcellus Shale regulations

INTERNATIONAL

27. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** Norway limits oil production in sensitive waters

SOCIETY

28. **OBITUARY:** Former Westmoreland CEO dies

E&TV'S ONPOINT

29. **SMART GRID:** GridWise Alliance's Shapard discusses impact of transmission cost debate

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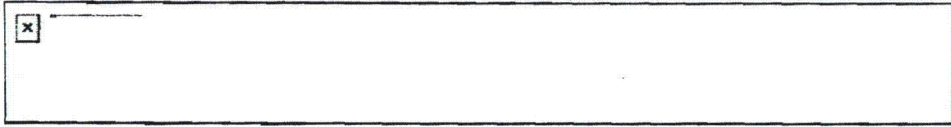
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AN E&E PUBLISHING SERVICE

GREENWIRE -- TUE., MARCH 15, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. CLIMATE: Dems offer pro-EPA amendments to anti-EPA bill; McConnell pushes Senate amendment

With House Energy and Commerce Committee passage of a bill to repeal U.S. EPA's greenhouse gas program a foregone conclusion, committee Democrats today launched a last-ditch effort to reinstate the agency's position that man-made emissions are the main cause of global warming. Meanwhile, a debate erupted in the Senate this morning over climate and EPA regulations as the upper chamber was considering a small-business bill. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) introduced an amendment to the bill that is identical to the bill Energy and Commerce is considering -- as well as the equivalent of a stand-alone bill introduced by Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.).

TOP STORIES

2. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Failures in storage pools, battery backups point to problems in U.S. fleet
3. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Could Calif. reactors be next?
4. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Radiation fears spur U.S. sales of potassium iodide pills

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

5. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Weighing fears of radiation doses in Japan
6. **JAPAN**: Death toll rises, stocks plunge, foreigners flee as nuclear crisis escalates
7. **GERMANY**: Seven pre-1980s nuclear plants will be shuttered
8. **ELECTRICITY**: Japan crisis unlikely to derail developing nations' nuclear plans
9. **NUCLEAR**: GE defends design of Japanese reactors
10. **HEALTH**: Emergency workers in Japan face radiation exposure

AK/31

11. **STATES:** Texas nuclear expansion halted while Ga. moves ahead

12. **CALIFORNIA:** Crescent City draws tsunamis like a magnet

CONGRESS

13. **APPROPRIATIONS:** Japanese nuclear crisis dominates DOE budget hearing

14. **POLITICS:** Christian Coalition visits Hill for energy discussion

15. **CLEAN TECH:** New Senate bill would reinstate manufacturing credit

POLITICS

16. **WHITE HOUSE:** CEQ counsel defends climate report against GOP attacks

17. **CAMPAIGN 2012:** Haley Barbour scorches Obama's economic and energy policies

ENERGY

18. **OIL AND GAS:** Petroleum trade group stresses its safety role

19. **NUCLEAR WASTE:** DOE lacks strategy for modeling cleanups – GAO

20. **NATURAL GAS:** Ark. quakes quiet following injection well shutdowns

21. **COAL:** Ill. governor blocks gasification plant

22. **NATURAL GAS:** Marcellus Shale 'is a huge gift,' N.Y. geologist says

LAW AND LOBBYING

23. **REGULATIONS:** U.S. rail agency has NEPA authority, court rules

AIR AND WATER

24. **WATER POLLUTION:** EPA, S.F. Bay cities agree on stemming sewage discharges

TRANSPORTATION

25. **TRANSIT:** Strapped systems gird for crowds as gasoline prices surge

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

26. **OIL AND GAS:** CAP's Weiss discusses politics of rising prices

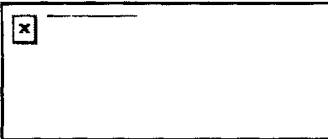
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GREENWIRE -- WED., MARCH 16, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. AIR POLLUTION: EPA proposes toxic emissions rules for power plants

After two decades of delays and false starts, U.S. EPA unveiled a plan today to require coal- and oil-fired power plants to reduce emissions of mercury and 83 other toxics by 2016. The proposed rules would limit the amount of toxic pollution that can be released into the air for every unit of electricity that is generated. In total, the plan would reduce mercury and acid gas emissions from the U.S. power sector by 91 percent while cutting soot-forming sulfur dioxide (SO₂) pollution by 53 percent, the agency said today.

TOP STORIES

2. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Japan disaster sparks message battle in Washington
3. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** Pair of bills from GOP, Dems seek to spur production
4. **CLIMATE:** Inhofe vows to keep pushing if anti-EPA amendment fails today

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

5. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Military scraps cooling plan amid possible new rupture
6. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Obama admin maintains its support for nuclear power
7. **NUCLEAR POWER:** NRC puts hold on Vermont Yankee license extension
8. **NOAA:** House bill would put tsunami center in Puerto Rico
9. **EPA:** More radiation monitors to be deployed in the West
10. **CHINA:** Beijing freezes nuclear approvals
11. **INTERNATIONAL:** Europe will conduct stress tests on plants; Venezuela halts nuclear plans
12. **POLITICS:** So far, 2012 Republicans line up behind nuclear

AK/32

13. **ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Tsunami killed thousands of birds at Pacific refuge
14. **JAPAN:** Government to foot most of bill for damages
15. **PUBLIC HEALTH:** Precautions likely to stave off radiation effects
16. **DISASTERS:** Homeland Security preps for tsunamis, earthquakes -- Napolitano

CONGRESS

17. **POLITICS:** House Republicans stick to jobs theme
18. **BUDGET:** Byrd's legacy invoked as Senate panel considers line-item veto

POLITICS

19. **CALIFORNIA:** GOP lawmakers want enviro laws changed in exchange for budget votes

ENERGY

20. **ENERGY MARKETS:** FERC passes rule providing demand-response incentives
21. **COAL:** Company behind planned Wash. port withdraws permit
22. **NUCLEAR:** Russia to build \$9.4B plant in Belarus
23. **NATURAL GAS:** Texas bill on fracking disclosure gets broad support

LAW AND LOBBYING

24. **AIR POLLUTION:** Cement industry keeps up fight against EPA rules
25. **COAL:** Trial begins in suit alleging Massey coal dust in school

AIR AND WATER

26. **AIR POLLUTION:** Federal judge dismisses clean air suit against Alabama Power
27. **AIR POLLUTION:** TVA to pay \$450K for violations at Ala. plant

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GREENWIRE -- THU., MARCH 17, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. CLIMATE: Congress emits half-truths in spin war over *Mass. v. EPA*

In the continuing political battle over the Obama administration's efforts to regulate greenhouse gases, Democrats and Republicans rarely take aim at the most deserving target: the Supreme Court. As Democrats are fond of noting, it wasn't the Obama administration but the Supreme Court that decided in its 2007 *Massachusetts v. EPA* ruling that greenhouse gases could be regulated under the Clean Air Act. The court told U.S. EPA to conduct the analysis that led to the so-called endangerment finding – in which EPA concluded that greenhouse gases were harmful – that triggered rules that Republicans in particular are now railing against.

TOP STORIES

2. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Cases of radiation sickness confirmed by U.N.
3. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Fukushima's radiation risks minimal to U.S.
4. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Japan disasters drive U.S. sales of disaster kits

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

5. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Higher radiation hinders Japanese emergency work
6. **URANIUM**: Will plunging prices dent miners' plans for U.S. expansion?
7. **NUCLEAR**: Japan crisis highlights danger lurking in int'l agreements, panel says
8. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: N.Y. governor orders safety review at Indian Point
9. **UTILITIES**: Exelon reconsidering plan to add capacity
10. **AUTOS**: Quake could hurt supply of hybrids
11. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: More foreign governments advise citizens to leave Japan

AK/33

12. **JAPAN:** Nuclear industry has history of mismanagement, cover-ups

CONGRESS

13. **CLIMATE:** Senate Dems push back vote on EPA amendments again

14. **PUBLIC LANDS:** Increased domestic production not likely to lower gas prices – economists

POLITICS

15. **AIR POLLUTION:** EPA toxics report sparks fight over diesel emissions

ENERGY

16. **COAL:** Georgia Power to close 2 units

17. **NATURAL GAS:** Wyo. drilling plan doesn't sufficiently protect groundwater -- EPA

FEDERAL AGENCIES

18. **EPA:** Insufficient oversight, potential fraud plagues stimulus spending – IG

LAW AND LOBBYING

19. **GULF SPILL:** Feds query BP officials over possible insider trading

AIR AND WATER

20. **DRINKING WATER:** Calif. regulators protest utility's record rate hike

NATURAL RESOURCES

21. **INVASIVE SPECIES:** Canadians catch live carp being smuggled across border

INTERNATIONAL

22. **HAITI:** Cholera epidemic will be 'far worse than expected,' experts warn

E&TV'S ONPOINT

23. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Former CEQ Chairman Frampton says Japanese disaster worse than Three Mile Island

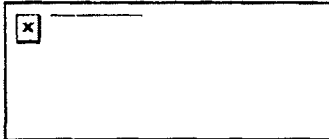
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NUCLEAR CRISIS: JAPAN & THE FUTURE OF ENERGY POLICY



The devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan has spawned a major nuclear disaster. E&E examines the implications for energy, the environment, security and public health. [Click here](#) to go to the report.

GREENWIRE -- FRI., MARCH 18, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. NUCLEAR CRISIS: Humans 'wired' for terror over remote radiation threats

It's long been a vexing issue in the scientific community, spurred in large part by public panic over nuclear power, waste and radiation: Why the terror? Compared to notorious killers like driving, smoking or drinking, nuclear risks -- though objectively carrying little danger in their modern deployments -- stir the deepest fears in Americans, a terror that is surfacing again as engineers strive to contain the crisis at Japan's crippled Fukushima Daiichi power station.

TOP STORIES

2. NUCLEAR CRISIS: Former NRC member says renaissance is dead, for now
3. EPA: Former top officials decry 'incredible partisan divide' on environmental issues
4. CLIMATE: First round of emissions reports now due in September

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

5. NUCLEAR CRISIS: Japan raises severity level as workers struggle to repair crippled plant
6. NUCLEAR: Seismic risk assessment for reactors prioritized in wake of quake
7. AUTOS: Quake disrupts supply chain, forcing GM to close La. plant

AK/34

8. **NUCLEAR WASTE**: Spent fuel rods pose greater danger than reactors
9. **PUBLIC HEALTH**: Chernobyl study shows contamination risks linger
10. **RADIATION**: Scientists watch West Coast monitors for first signs of plume

CONGRESS

11. **FEDERAL AGENCIES**: Lawmakers introduce bills aimed at expanding transparency

POLITICS

12. **OIL AND GAS**: Industry, lawmakers push back against proposed leasing fees

ENERGY

13. **OFFSHORE DRILLING**: Industry to launch safety institute
14. **OIL AND GAS**: Pentagon overpaid oilman by as much as \$200M -- audit

CLEAN TECH

15. **SMART GRID**: Entrepreneurs look to software, IT services for early edge
16. **SOLAR**: First Solar unveils plans for \$300M plant in Ariz.

LAW AND LOBBYING

17. **MINING**: Battle over Alaska project heads to Washington
18. **COAL**: Judges to try seven claims that Massey harmed residents

AIR AND WATER

19. **WATER POLLUTION**: Pa. man charged with dumping millions of gallons of wastewater
20. **DRINKING WATER**: Delaware proposes tighter limits on 3 toxins

INTERNATIONAL

21. **OIL AND GAS**: Congolese government stops exploration in national park

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The devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan has spawned a major nuclear disaster. E&E examines the implications for energy, the environment, security and public health. [Click here](#) to go to the report.

GREENWIRE -- MON., MARCH 21, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. SUPREME COURT: Justices decide -- narrowly -- against hearing enviro search case

The Supreme Court declined today to take up the question of whether an environmental inspection of a private property can be viewed as an unconstitutional search and seizure. It was a close call, with four of the nine justices expressing considerable interest in the issue. Only four votes are needed for the court to hear a case, so they had the power to have forced that outcome if they had wanted to.

TOP STORIES

2. **BIOFUELS**: Brazil, U.S. to expand aviation partnership
3. **BIOFUELS**: Marines trying to get Afghan farmers hooked on energy crops
4. **SUPERFUND**: EPA, NYC brace for grueling cleanups of 2 industrial waterways

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

5. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: New repairs delay work at hobbled Japanese plant
6. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: NRC sees signs of stability in Japan, plans review of U.S. reactors
7. **COAL**: Int'l demand rises as nuclear concerns linger
8. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Japanese plant has history of accidents
9. **SAFETY**: TEPCO failed to carry out scheduled inspections at crippled plant

AK/35

10. **FOOD SAFETY:** Japan finds contaminated milk, spinach
11. **NUCLEAR WASTE:** Spent-fuel storage plan near Lake Michigan comes under scrutiny
12. **NUCLEAR:** Three Mile Island neighbors flush with memories

CONGRESS

13. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** House Resources chairman blasts Obama's Brazilian energy comments
14. **CLIMATE:** Energy subpanel to hold Texas field hearing on EPA regs

POLITICS

15. **CAMPAIGN 2012:** Pawlenty to take first step in White House run

ENERGY

16. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** NRC plans meetings to discuss reactors in N.Y., S.C.
17. **NUCLEAR:** U.S., Chile sign energy accord

LAW AND LOBBYING

18. **AGRICULTURE:** Food group challenges USDA's modified alfalfa approval

FEDERAL AGENCIES

19. **WORK FORCE:** GOP promotes Senate bill to end defined benefit pensions

AIR AND WATER

20. **DRINKING WATER:** DuPont reaches settlement over chemical detected in N.J. wells

NATURAL RESOURCES

21. **OCEANS:** Gulf goop is likely river sediment -- Coast Guard
22. **GULF SPILL:** Flooding farmland didn't keep birds away from oily marshes -- state expert
23. **GULF OF MEXICO:** Recreational fishermen vie for larger share of red snapper harvest

WASTES & HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

24. **CHEMICALS:** Bayer ends MIC production at W.Va. plant

SOCIETY

25. **MINING:** Drilling, panning are top skills in this college tourney

E&TV'S ONPOINT

26. **EFFICIENCY:** Alliance to Save Energy's Callahan weighs in on light bulb debate

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The devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan has spawned a major nuclear disaster. E&E examines the implications for energy, the environment, security and public health. [Click here](#) to go to the report.

GREENWIRE -- TUE., MARCH 22, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. WATER POLLUTION: Ocean dumpers sail home leaving EPA agents in their wake

To hear Rick Stickle tell it, John Karayannides was the mastermind behind the dumping of 440 tons of oil-soaked grain from a U.S. cargo ship into the South China Sea in 1999. Though Stickle owned the Iowa-based Sabine Transportation Co., Karayannides ran the company's shipping operations. And when a problem on a cargo vessel led to the contamination of a shipment of relief supplies bound for Bangladesh, Stickle said Karayannides came up with the plan and gave orders to throw the ruined grain overboard. But a federal jury did not buy his story. Stickle was convicted in 2005 of ordering the illegal dumping and in obstructing an investigation by the U.S. Coast Guard. Stickle said in a recent interview that he dreams of the day he will cross paths with Karayannides. And that is one area where Stickle and U.S. EPA are in agreement.

TOP STORIES

2. **NUCLEAR WASTE:** Court hints Yucca lawsuit may be premature
3. **BUDGET:** Congress' failure to pass spending bill creates chaos in agencies
4. **DEFENSE:** Marine Corps unveils plan to cut frontline energy use

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

5. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Japan disaster creates new hurdles for Midwest reactor plans
6. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Tokyo Electric is no stranger to power-supply problems

AK/36

7. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: A turning point and setbacks at crippled Japanese plant
8. **RADIATION**: Plume detected over East Coast and as far as Iceland
9. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Japanese regulators extended reactor's life despite safety warnings
10. **UTILITIES**: Japanese nuclear operator slammed for lack of openness
11. **BUSINESS**: Japan quake sends ripples through global industries

POLITICS

12. **MINING**: MSHA 'a different agency' in wake of W.Va. disaster -- Main

ENERGY

13. **COAL**: Interior, Wyo. expected to announce Powder River Basin deal
14. **RENEWABLE ENERGY**: BLM, Colo. ink agreement on geothermal leasing
15. **NATURAL GAS**: Utilities must embrace long-term contracts, market forces -- report
16. **NATURAL GAS**: Haynesville may have surpassed Barnett as top shale play
17. **NUCLEAR**: Changes expected at N.Y.'s Indian Point
18. **NUCLEAR**: Texas plant stalled while NRC investigates Japan accident
19. **NUCLEAR SAFETY**: Court requires Exelon, NRC to review licensing of Oyster Creek plant
20. **MINING**: Resurrected Australian deal is rare bright spot for uranium markets
21. **NATURAL GAS**: Industry poised for resurgence after nuclear, oil crises

LAW AND LOBBYING

22. **CHEMICALS**: 5 pesticide industry groups support Obama admin in ESA lawsuit
23. **BIOTECH**: Bayer ordered to pay \$136M for rice contamination

AIR AND WATER

24. **WATER**: Amid international tumult, World Water Day struggles to make a splash
25. **WATER**: Most Americans clueless about water sources -- poll
26. **WATER**: Mauritania, Kuwait, Jordan have least secure supplies -- report

STATES

27. **TRANSPORTATION:** N.C. strikes deal with freight company to advance passenger rail

SOCIETY

28. **SPORTS:** Northwest pro teams form green alliance

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1. **NUCLEAR CRISIS: NRC chairman takes center stage as U.S. eyes reactor security**

The March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan that triggered widespread fears over nuclear security have thrust an unfamiliar face into the national spotlight: Gregory Jaczko, head of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. And the chairman will only grow in prominence as he leads a nationwide security check on the country's 104 nuclear reactors at the behest of President Obama.

TOP STORIES

2. **ENDANGERED SPECIES: Obama plan to cap funding for ESA petitions angers litigants**
3. **WILDERNESS: Utah counties file lawsuit over BLM policy**
4. **EPA: Watchdog sinks teeth into nuclear crisis, Hill budget brawl**

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

5. **DRINKING WATER: Tokyo's tap water not safe for infants**
6. **NUCLEAR CRISIS: FDA orders halt to Japanese imports of dairy and produce**
7. **NUCLEAR WASTE: U.S. storage sites are at full capacity**
8. **NUCLEAR: TVA says its reactors could withstand earthquake**
9. **NUCLEAR SAFETY: Russia touts reactors made safer by Chernobyl**

POLITICS

10. **REGULATIONS: Bush's rulemaking czar blasts EPA's use of 'guidance'**
11. **ENERGY POLICY: As Ill. senator, Obama balanced nuclear views with Exelon contributions**

AK/37

ENERGY

12. **ETHANOL:** Small-engine groups ask EPA to continue sales of 10% fuel blends
13. **OIL SPILL:** Houston company accepts responsibility for new Gulf slick
14. **NUCLEAR:** N.Y. governor pushes to close Indian Point reactors
15. **NATURAL GAS:** Permit for site near Cowboys Stadium approved

FEDERAL AGENCIES

16. **INTERIOR:** NPS scientist 'acted improperly' in review of Calif. oyster farm - audit
17. **WORK FORCE:** Budget experts offer sympathy but little else for federal employees

LAW AND LOBBYING

18. **CLIMATE:** Court sets schedule for litigation over EPA emission rules
19. **MINING:** Former Upper Big Branch foreman charged with faking credentials
20. **NATURAL GAS:** Judge approves \$22M Marcellus Shale settlement

AIR AND WATER

21. **WATER POLLUTION:** GenOn Power faces millions in fines over Pa. discharges

NATURAL RESOURCES

22. **OIL SPILL:** South Atlantic slick threatens endangered penguins

STATES

23. **CALIFORNIA:** Brown picks former bank exec for utilities post

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

24. **EPA:** Clean Energy Group's Bradley discusses 'Utility MACT' proposal

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GREENWIRE -- THU., MARCH 24, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **CLIMATE:** Calif. regulators scramble in wake of court ruling on emissions law

California's climate change law is not in danger of outright reversal following a court decision this week that suspended it, but the deadline for approving a cap-and-trade carbon market later this year is in doubt, according to state government and legal experts following the process. If that deadline, which requires the state's Air Resources Board to vote on cap and trade in October, slips even one day into November, a ripple effect could delay greenhouse gas regulations set to go live on Jan. 1, 2012.

TOP STORIES

2. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Psychological risks loom in Tokyo water warning
3. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Japan disaster raises questions about backup power at U.S. plants
4. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Earthquake risks must be reanalyzed for U.S. reactors

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

5. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Radiation fears prompt stockpiling; 2 plant workers injured
6. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Japan spawns a fresh look at disaster planning on U.S.-Mexico border
7. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Japanese power demand can't be met without reactors, official says
8. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Politics, radiation levels will dictate return to Fukushima
9. **AUTOS:** Production of hybrids, electric vehicles hurt by Japan disaster
10. **FISHERIES:** Radiation fears slow Japanese seafood exports

CLIMATE CHANGE

AK/38

11. **REGULATIONS:** EPA to tell Congress cutting black carbon is a 'win-win'

POLITICS

12. **CHEMICALS:** Uneasy industry awaits release of new EPA reporting rules

13. **CLIMATE:** Greenpeace TV ads target Upton

14. **ENERGY POLICY:** Home heating advocates ask Obama to release emergency funds

CLEAN TECH

15. **RARE EARTHS:** Countries jockey for critical elements leadership

16. **ETHANOL:** N.D. team visits Denmark for tips on building cellulosic refinery

ENERGY

17. **NUCLEAR:** NRC requests public comment on new GE reactor design

18. **NATURAL GAS:** Eagle Ford Shale landowners prepare for battle against Texas National Guard

19. **NATURAL GAS:** Palomar pipeline canceled for now

20. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY:** Ohio regulators revive failed light bulb campaign

FEDERAL AGENCIES

21. **EPA:** Enviro groups protest Jackson on visit to Calif. farms

22. **BLM:** Utah man fined for fiery 'fundraiser' on public lands

TRANSPORTATION

23. **HIGH-SPEED RAIL:** N.C. lawmakers line up against federal funds

AIR AND WATER

24. **AIR POLLUTION:** EPA science advisers repeat call for stricter smog standard

25. **DRINKING WATER:** EPA launches S. Calif. perchlorate probe

NATURAL RESOURCES

26. **EVERGLADES:** Court lets Fla. off the hook for planned reservoir

27. **NATIONAL PARKS:** Wildfire ignited by volcano threatens Hawaiian rainforest

28. **INVASIVE SPECIES:** Ark. senator wants money for fish farmers hurt by carp transport ban

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

29. **ENERGY POLICY:** Former Mich. Gov. Granholm makes case for clean energy standard

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GREENWIRE -- FRI., MARCH 25, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **OIL AND GAS: Industry sitting on 7,200 drilling permits**

The oil and gas industry has nearly 7,200 permits to drill on public lands that it has yet to use, according to Bureau of Land Management data obtained by *Greenwire*. The unused, but still valid, drilling permits paint a starkly different picture from what industry and some in Congress have argued is a concerted effort by the Obama administration to lock up federal lands to energy production, said Dave Alberswerth, senior policy adviser on energy issues for the Wilderness Society and a former Interior Department official in the Clinton administration.

TOP STORIES

2. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Japan disaster refuels liability debate in U.S.-India pact
3. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Devil's in the details for drinking water accident scenarios
4. **CLIMATE:** 2 Democrats press White House to ease industry's regulatory pain

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

5. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Likely breach in No. 3 reactor raises radiation risk
6. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Japan encourages more to evacuate after possible breach discovered
7. **COAL:** Japanese disaster may change global production, prices
8. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Information about Fukushima accident still under wraps
9. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Pets suffer in wake of disasters
10. **CHINA:** Officials plot nuclear plants without fuel rods

CONGRESS

11. **REGULATIONS:** Ruckelshaus, Whitman bemoan 'siege' on EPA, Clean

AK/39

Air Act

12. **LOBBYING:** Coal group launches ads targeting EPA climate regs

POLITICS

13. **OIL AND GAS:** BLM leasing reforms draw cheers, jeers, lawsuits

14. **RENEWABLE ENERGY:** Cash grants more effective than tax incentives -- study

15. **TRANSPORTATION:** Miles-traveled tax an effective supplement to gas tax -- CBO

ENERGY

16. **COAL:** Salazar may have overstated lease earnings

17. **NUCLEAR:** NRC finds safety breaches at S.C. plant

18. **NUCLEAR SAFETY:** Report highlights 'key shortcomings' in U.S. weapons protection

19. **NATURAL GAS:** API president pushes for domestic drilling to create jobs

20. **ALASKA:** Oil company tax breaks appear dead in state Senate

21. **ALABAMA:** Motivations for environmental award called into question

FEDERAL AGENCIES

22. **DOE:** IG faults oversight of solar-grant recipients

23. **ARMY CORPS:** Conflicting demands, shrinking budgets create unsustainable mission -- report

24. **CHEMICALS:** EPA declassifies 42 industry studies on possible toxins

NATURAL RESOURCES

25. **NATIONAL PARKS:** Interior acquires long-sought tract along Gettysburg battlefield

26. **WILDLIFE:** Ted Turner's bison donation rescues historic herd

27. **FORESTS:** Calif. group raises \$7.5M to save redwoods

28. **MINING:** BHP Billiton to put \$10B into Australian operations

29. **WOLVES:** Conservation groups ask judge to lift Mont. and Idaho protections

LAW AND LOBBYING

30. **PIPELINES:** Calif. regulators propose reduced fine for San Bruno blast

that killed 8

31. **BUSINESS:** GE avoids taxes through lobbying, overseas investment

CLEAN TECH

32. **SMART GRID:** Calif. utility offers opt-out plan for smart meters

33. **WIND:** First DOE-backed renewables project goes online in Hawaii

INTERNATIONAL

34. **EARTHQUAKE:** Severe earthquake rocks Myanmar

35. **ENERGY MARKETS:** BP seeks to salvage Arctic exploration deal

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1. **CLIMATE**: Enviro lawyers tied in knots over Calif. emissions ruling

A California court ruling suspending the implementation of the state's landmark climate change law came with a large dose of irony. That's because San Francisco County Superior Court Judge Ernest Goldsmith found that the state had failed to comply with another landmark law, one that is beloved by some of the same environmental groups that are critical of the ruling, the California Environmental Quality Act. Essentially, a major environmental initiative is under threat because the state failed to correctly carry out the appropriate environmental analysis.

TOP STORIES

2. **NATIONAL PARKS**: Supreme Court stays out of Joshua Tree landfill dispute
3. **DOE**: Raise for senior employees rescinded after rule violation
4. **POLITICS**: Ad campaigns take EPA debate to the airwaves

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

5. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Japan disaster sparks push by Calif. port for federal dredging project
6. **DRINKING WATER**: High levels of contamination found in pipe leading out of plant
7. **NUCLEAR**: German companies plan suit over idled plants
8. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Japan struggles to keep public updated
9. **NUCLEAR POLICY**: Ties between regulators and industry criticized
10. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Reliance on old data left Japan's industry unprepared for disaster

AK/40

CONGRESS

11. EPA: Rust Belt voters support EPA carbon rules -- poll

POLITICS

12. GERMANY: Nuclear fears cost Merkel control of a key state

ENERGY

13. SMART GRID: N. Calif. protesters stake out, stalk meter installers

14. OFFSHORE DRILLING: BOEMRE approves 6th deepwater permit

15. NATURAL GAS: Pa. governor won't budge on gas tax

LAW AND LOBBYING

16. CLIMATE: Court considers delaying Texas challenge to EPA takeover

17. ENDANGERED SPECIES: 9th Circuit upholds fish protection in Calif. water battle

18. URANIUM: Ohio lawsuit over processing plant settled after two decades

19. GULF RECOVERY: Ex-FEMA supervisor indicted on fraud related to Katrina relief contract

20. COAL: Massey wins case over coal dust at W.Va. school

BUSINESS

21. FINANCE: Clean-tech developers fret over witching hour for DOE grants

22. MARKETING: 7 companies leave forest-certification program over 'greenwash' claims

AIR AND WATER

23. COAL: Scrubbers set to slash FirstEnergy plant's emissions

24. WATER POLLUTION: A little burst of energy helps germs break down pollutants

WASTES & HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

25. TOXICS: Uptick in disease clusters spurs calls for TSCA reform

NATURAL RESOURCES

26. ENDANGERED SPECIES: Indian tiger population climbs amid habitat lost to development

27. **PARKS:** Burt's Bees founder plans to donate land for national park

INTERNATIONAL

28. **LEAD:** Chinese plant manager faces environmental charges over poisoning

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

29. **EPA:** Bracewell & Giuliani's Segal says agency overstepping authority with 'Utility MACT' proposal

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GREENWIRE -- TUE., MARCH 29, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **BIOFUELS**: As algae bloom fades, photosynthesis hopes still shine

Few stories in the energy business are as seductive as that of algae biofuels. Using sunlight, CO2 and little else, many varieties of fast-growing pond scum, when starved of nutrients, quickly build up oil in their cells. They need no external sugar from corn or cane to grow, so they don't compete with food crops. Farmed in ponds or translucent reactors, microalgae can be raised on cheap, sun-splashed land that is unsuitable for crops or much of anything else. That was the idea, anyway, of a host of startups that launched into algae fuels over the past half decade. Often ignorant of algae's biology, these companies stumbled into major physical and engineering hurdles that can derail most of their lofty goals, industry and government experts say. Even the most promising approaches are a decade or more away, experts say. By then, many firms will have failed.

TOP STORIES

2. **CLIMATE**: EPA votes expected tomorrow morning
3. **CLIMATE**: Drafter of California cap and trade stands by analysis
4. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Japan lessons might spur call for immediate U.S. reactor changes -- NRC official

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

5. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: New concerns for emergency workers as plutonium detected in soil
6. **ELECTRICITY**: Reduced generating capacity in Japan requires rolling blackouts
7. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: U.S. plants face risk of core damage from extended blackouts
8. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: Tokyo Electric executive's whereabouts stoke confusion, anger

AK/41

CONGRESS

9. **POLITICS**: Republicans' EPA fight could create problems later, insiders say
10. **OFFSHORE DRILLING**: Hastings offers bills to spur oil and gas development
11. **PESTICIDES**: GOP criticism of salmon bi-ops draws enviro rebuke
12. **RENEWABLE ENERGY**: CEOs urge continued funding for loan guarantee program
13. **LOBBYING**: Former House Science chairman joins law firm

CLEAN TECH

14. **NATIONAL LABS**: New DOE program seeks 'next top energy innovator'
15. **WIND**: Turbine is a teaching tool at Va. school

ENERGY

16. **UTILITIES**: EPA cooling-water proposal disappoints enviro groups

LAW AND LOBBYING

17. **OBITUARY**: Federal judge is remembered for vigorous dissent in mountaintop case
18. **GULF SPILL**: BP managers could face manslaughter charges
19. **OIL AND GAS**: New judge panel appointed to reconsider Chevron suit
20. **OIL AND GAS**: API adds former TV reporter to media shop

FEDERAL AGENCIES

21. **DOE**: Decision to rescind pay raises affected 220 senior executives

AIR AND WATER

22. **AIR POLLUTION**: Calif. court rejects shipping industry challenge of offshore rules
23. **WATER**: Calif. governor to declare drought is officially over

WASTES & HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

24. **PESTICIDES**: Court extends deadline for EPA water permitting

NATURAL RESOURCES

25. **ENDANGERED SPECIES**: Judge reverses Interior's decision to delist

flying squirrel

26. **FISHERIES:** U.S. blue crab importers agree to size restrictions to curb overfishing

INTERNATIONAL

27. **BIOTECH:** E.U. scraps ban on food from clones

28. **WILDLIFE:** Mexican police net 4,725 wild animals, plants in trafficking bust

E&ETV'S SPECIAL REPORT

29. **ENERGY POLICY:** Lawmakers, analysts discuss challenges to crafting and passing a CES

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1. **ENERGY POLICY: Obama urges expanded U.S. energy production, expresses confidence in nuclear**

In a speech packed with pleas to move past Capitol Hill gridlock, President Obama outlined "reasonable, achievable and necessary" plans today for reducing imports of foreign oil. "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," Obama declared at Georgetown University.

TOP STORIES

2. **CLIMATE:** As Senate prepares to vote, Stabenow adds EPA amendment to the mix
3. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Move U.S. spent fuel out of pools -- Feinstein
4. **EPA:** New director plans shakeup of laggard chemical-risk system

CONGRESS

5. **BUDGET:** Democratic senators plead with White House to fight EPA riders
6. **ENERGY POLICY:** Bingaman optimistic about CES despite limited time for Senate action
7. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** Lawmakers spar over pace of development, funding request
8. **MINING:** Celebrity chefs serve up Bristol Bay salmon to protest Alaska project

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

9. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** National Academies warn against earthquake complacency
10. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** High radiation detected in seawater near Japan plant

AK/42

11. **NUCLEAR:** Ariz. plant details disaster preparedness plans

12. **UTILITIES:** Japan considers nationalizing Tokyo Electric

ENERGY

13. **OIL AND GAS:** Industry sends regulatory wish list to Interior

14. **ELECTRICITY:** February cold shut down a quarter of Texas power units

LAW AND LOBBYING

15. **ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Only Indians can use eagle feathers for religious practices, court rules

16. **TOXICS:** Battle over PCBs in NYC schools appears headed for court

17. **AGRICULTURE:** Farmers sue Monsanto over threat of GM crop contamination

AIR AND WATER

18. **AIR POLLUTION:** Mont. to revise oil and gas permitting rules

WASTES & HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

19. **CHEMICALS:** Eliminating packaged food can lower BPA levels by 60% -- study

NATURAL RESOURCES

20. **GRAND CANYON:** BLM extends comment period for proposed mining moratorium

21. **GULF SPILL:** Observed dolphin deaths just tip of iceberg -- study

TRANSPORTATION

22. **ELECTRIC CARS:** Tesla sues BBC over alleged fake 'Top Gear' scene

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

23. **ENERGY POLICY:** Pew's Cuttino discusses new research on G-20 clean energy investments

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1. **ENERGY POLICY:** Hill 'gangs' regroup as Obama speech, soaring fuel prices spur talks

An energy buzz has settled over Capitol Hill this week as fuel prices are surging and President Obama is calling for reducing imports of foreign oil. Lawmakers from both sides of the aisle are talking energy policy, floating independent measures and launching discussions of more comprehensive bills.

TOP STORIES

2. **EPA:** Enviros urge Obama, Democrats to protect climate regs in budget talks
3. **AIR POLLUTION:** Has cap and trade created toxic hotspots? A new study says no
4. **REGULATIONS:** State environmental chiefs protest EPA's use of 'guidance'

CONGRESS

5. **CLIMATE:** Study of temperature data confirms warming trend, scientist tells House panel
6. **HOUSE:** Boehner criticizes Obama's energy security speech
7. **SENATE:** Bipartisan bill would streamline confirmation process

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

8. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Spent fuel pools just as safe as dry casks -- NRC chief
9. **NUCLEAR:** U.S. parts makers see big profits in export industry
10. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Plant had minimal plans for worst-case scenarios
11. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** High cesium levels detected 25 miles from troubled reactors
12. **NUCLEAR SAFETY:** Calif. plant operators propose advanced fault study

AK/43

13. **NUCLEAR SAFETY:** France, Japan pledge to strengthen int'l standards

CLIMATE CHANGE

14. **CALIFORNIA:** Talks between enviro justice groups, regulators on emissions law break down

LAW AND LOBBYING

15. **COAL:** Judge blocks Kan. power plant project

16. **MINING:** Federal review panel upholds fines against Massey coal mine

CLEAN TECH

17. **OFFSHORE WIND:** Underwater 'backbone' would connect Atlantic farms

18. **CLEAN TECH:** Report outlines how DOD can spur energy innovation

ENERGY

19. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** Shell permit starts waiting game for likely lawsuits

20. **NATURAL GAS:** Pa. enviro chief must approve all Marcellus Shale drilling citations

21. **NUCLEAR WASTE:** New technologies, long-term storage certainty key to DOE cleanup -- report

22. **NUCLEAR WASTE:** Plant operators recoup \$776M as spent fuel sits idle

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

23. **CLEAN ENERGY:** National Hydropower Association's Munro discusses Senate action on hydro

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1. **GULF SPILL**: Transocean rejects agency subpoenas for Macondo probe

The owner of the Deepwater Horizon rig that exploded and sank last April, causing the worst oil spill in U.S. history, rejected official requests yesterday to have company employees testify at federal hearings investigating the disaster. Steven Roberts, counsel for the Houston-based Transocean Ltd., told the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement that the company is unable to compel employees James Kent and Jay Odenwald to testify and that they would instead be represented by their personal attorneys.

TOP STORIES

2. **SENATE**: No GOP environmental riders allowed in budget deal -- Reid
3. **CLIMATE**: House to vote next week on EPA bill as Senate dithers
4. **WHITE HOUSE**: Obama touts partnership to clean commercial fleets

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

5. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: TEPCO will review radiation data after disclosing analysis problem
6. **NUCLEAR CRISIS**: U.S. officials assure that West Coast milk with radiation is safe
7. **NUCLEAR SAFETY**: NRC steps up inspections at 3 reactors

ENERGY

8. **MINING**: Company to open Ore. chromite mine as project foes press lawsuit
9. **NATURAL GAS**: Pa. violation approval policy is only temporary -- state officials
10. **NUCLEAR POWER**: Vt. utility pulls back from power purchase over safety concerns

AK/44

FEDERAL AGENCIES

11. **EPA:** Environmental justice panel dives into Gulf Coast restoration

AIR AND WATER

12. **AIR POLLUTION:** High levels of lead detected outside of Chicago school
13. **AIR POLLUTION:** EPA to require Pa. plant to curb emissions reaching N.J.
14. **WATER POLLUTION:** Mich. city accepts \$26.5M contamination settlement
15. **WATER POLLUTION:** W.Va. judge allows suit against coal companies to continue

NATURAL RESOURCES

16. **NATIONAL PARKS:** Watchdog presses NPS over religious displays at parks
17. **AGRICULTURE:** Death of bats could mean billions in losses for farmers

WASTES & HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

18. **E-WASTE:** N.Y. launches sweeping, mandatory recycling program
19. **CHEMICALS:** Jury says Calif. plant contaminated air, water

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GREENWIRE -- WED., APRIL 6, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **BUDGET:** Shutdown would mean 800K furloughs, EPA permitting halt -- White House

With two days left for Congress to make a budget deal, the White House today began painting a picture of what life would be like under a government shutdown. Among the details offered by a senior administration official on a conference call late this morning was the furloughing of somewhere around 800,000 federal employees, the closure of all national parks, the Smithsonian museums and the canceling of the National Cherry Blossom festival and parade in Washington, D.C.

TOP STORIES

2. **CLIMATE:** Tea party, wonky White House messaging sunk cap and trade -- Van Jones
3. **REGULATIONS:** European study finds noise can kill, as EPA lies dormant
4. **AIR POLLUTION:** EPA overturns Ala. rule on smokestack soot

CONGRESS

5. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** NRC model reveals U.S. meltdown risks -- Waxman
6. **CLIMATE:** Dems blast anti-EPA bills, riders as House vote looms
7. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** Industry proponents, skeptics debate Hastings' OCS bills
8. **ENERGY POLICY:** Cantor, in op-ed, renews call for drilling off Va. coast

POLITICS

9. **LOBBYING:** Koch's clout extends far, both publicly and privately
10. **GRAND CANYON:** American Indians urge Interior, Congress to block new hardrock claims

AK/45

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

11. **NUCLEAR:** Regulators propose 'lessons learned' approach for Oyster Creek
12. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Report details mounting U.S. concerns; radioactive leak stopped
13. **JAPAN:** Tsunami washed pollutants, debris over northeastern coast

CLIMATE CHANGE

14. **ADAPTATION:** Defense engineer opens his playbook for climate planners
15. **NEGOTIATIONS:** Kyoto Protocol stymies U.N. climate talks

ENERGY

16. **NUCLEAR:** Areva signs MOU for planned Calif. 'clean energy park'
17. **OIL AND GAS:** Alberta conservation plan would revoke some oil sands leases

FEDERAL AGENCIES

18. **CHEMICALS:** EPA shifts to electronic reporting of new materials
19. **ARMY CORPS:** Obama nominates new chief engineer and commanding general

BUSINESS

20. **GULF SPILL:** Transocean execs donate safety performance bonuses
21. **OCEANS:** Richard Branson plots undersea adventure

LAW AND LOBBYING

22. **GULF SPILL:** BP wants fines based on duration of spill, not amount of oil leaked

TRANSPORTATION

23. **AUTOS:** Toyota sells 1M Priuses in U.S.

AIR AND WATER

24. **AGRICULTURE:** Groups petition EPA to regulate ammonia as a criteria pollutant
25. **WATER POLLUTION:** 3 utility officials get fines, probation for Ind. wastewater discharges

26. **WATER POLLUTION:** Bodies of 2 wastewater treatment plant employees found in Tenn.

NATURAL RESOURCES

27. **WILDLIFE:** Mont. reaches agreement to let bison roam free

WASTES & HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

28. **CHEMICALS:** Board faults Tesoro in deadly Wash. refinery blast

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GREENWIRE -- THU., APRIL 7, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **LOBBYING:** Former Hill stars add muscle to nuclear industry's post-Japan push

As a congressman, Rep. Robert Walker extolled the safety of nuclear power, arguing that technology prevented radiation poisoning during the meltdown at Three Mile Island. He's buttressing nuclear again today, this time working from the inside. Retired from the House, the Pennsylvania Republican provides strategic advice to the trade group Nuclear Energy Institute. Walker is one of more than 240 lobbyists for companies with nuclear interests who came through the government-to-industry revolving door.

TOP STORIES

2. **BUDGET:** Environmental cutbacks at heart of Hill shutdown drama -- Reid
3. **BUDGET:** Shutdown plans take shape at EPA, DOE, Interior
4. **DOE:** 'No home run yet' for ARPA-E, but chief says 'motivated' team's on track

CONGRESS

5. **CLIMATE:** Industry, enviro groups rush to spin EPA votes as victory
6. **BUDGET:** Prepare for shutdown, Va. Democrat tells federal workers
7. **AUTOS:** Bills would authorize battery-charging stations at Capitol

POLITICS

8. **HIGH-SPEED RAIL:** Freight railroad chief says he won't support Obama plans

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

9. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** New earthquake hits Japan as evacuation zone reconsidered
10. **WATER:** Experts unsure what to do with Japanese plant's contaminated

AK/46

water

CLIMATE CHANGE

11. **CLIMATE:** Calif., E.U. plan to link carbon markets

ENERGY

12. **TRANSMISSION:** FERC to probe hurdles facing long-distance projects

13. **ENERGY MARKETS:** Power feud between CFTC, FERC lingers on

14. **OFFSHORE WIND:** N.J. takes first steps toward Atlantic City farm

15. **BIOFUELS:** Rush to reach renewable energy goals is driving up food prices

16. **GULF SPILL:** Blowout preventer did not receive recommended overhaul

FEDERAL AGENCIES

17. **INTERIOR:** Probe finds unsafe conditions at Indian Affairs' detention centers

LAW AND LOBBYING

18. **AIR POLLUTION:** Court weighs EPA role in approval of Ky. power plants

19. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** La. judge rules in favor of new permit requirements in Gulf

20. **HAZARDOUS WASTE:** Chromium manufacturer pledges to clean up contaminated N.J. property

BUSINESS

21. **SOLAR:** GE plans largest U.S. PV panel plant

AIR AND WATER

22. **WATER POLLUTION:** Enviro groups protest White House review of EPA mining guidance

HEALTH AND SAFETY

23. **GULF SPILL:** Emotional impacts may be worse than health effects -- study

INTERNATIONAL

24. **AMAZON:** Brazil to push for dam despite pressure from human rights groups

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1. **EPA: Agency would send 90% of its workers home**

About nine out of every 10 U.S. EPA employees will be furloughed if Congress and the president can't reach an eleventh-hour budget deal, according to contingency plans released by the agency this morning. Of the 17,721 full- and part-time employees, the agency estimates 804 would be considered essential because they fall under emergency exceptions that allow for employees to carry out activities like protecting life and property. Another 856 employees would be deemed "exempted" from the shutdown and allowed to work because their programs are funded through unexpired appropriations or their funding comes from fees or payments. The vast majority of "exempted" employees work in the agency's various regional offices.

TOP STORIES

2. **BUDGET:** EPA riders said to be off the table as negotiators scurry to avert shutdown
3. **NUCLEAR:** DOE found not responsible for spent fuel expenditures
4. **CHEMICALS:** NAS reviewers slam EPA's formaldehyde assessment

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

5. **NOAA:** Shutdown could stymie critical agency research
6. **POLITICS:** Government shutdown idea sparks spat of 140-character vitriol
7. **NATIONAL PARKS:** Local sheriff promises to keep the Rocky Mountains open during shutdown

CONGRESS

8. **CLIMATE:** Barrasso, Bingaman reintroduce CCS prize bill

CLIMATE CHANGE

9. **DEFENSE:** Melting ice prompts Pentagon to reassign Arctic responsibility

AK/47

ENERGY

10. OIL AND GAS: ConocoPhillips chief says changes are needed in Alaska tax structure

CLEAN TECH

11. BIOFUELS: Obama under-promising on advanced biofuels, industry says
12. BIOFUELS: Shell shifts from algae to Brazil sugarcane waste for fuel
13. ETHANOL: USDA to offer grants for blender pumps

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

14. ELECTRICITY: 950,000 remain without power after Japan aftershock
15. NUCLEAR CRISIS: As work continues at Fukushima, engineers plan its decommissioning
16. NUCLEAR POWER: Public not confident U.S. could respond to crisis -- AP poll

AIR AND WATER

17. WATER POLLUTION: Pa. will begin testing for contamination caused by natural gas
18. WATER POLLUTION: Cause of basin collapse at Tenn. wastewater plant still unknown
19. WATER: Calif. settlement would increase supplies for farms

NATURAL RESOURCES

20. MINING: Company to start Wyo. uranium project
21. AGRICULTURE: Global food prices dip slightly but hover at record highs
22. SALMON: Calif. fishermen expect 'mediocre' season
23. GREAT LAKES: Army Corps to turn on third electric barrier for Asian carp
24. GULF OF MEXICO: Oil found on dead dolphins linked to BP spill
25. GULF RECOVERY: Skepticism surrounds Miss. River canal proposal

STATES

26. OFFSHORE WIND: Md. shelves key legislation for turbine construction

SOCIETY

27. COAL: Reality show earns citations for W.Va. mine

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GREENWIRE -- MON., APRIL 11, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **NUCLEAR CRISIS: Hiroshima and Nagasaki cast long shadows over radiation science**

The collected medical histories from the survivors of the atomic bombings at Hiroshima and Nagasaki have never been more visible, as another radiation crisis has gripped Japan. With few exceptions, each invocation of the possible cancer risk -- or lack of risk -- poised by the failed reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant has its origins in the lives of atomic bomb survivors. A disaster caused by man has resulted in one of the longest and largest health studies ever conducted, led by Japan's Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF). Similar efforts could follow for Fukushima. The science, it seems, has come home to roost.

TOP STORIES

2. **ENERGY POLICY: Shale gas isn't cleaner than coal, Cornell researchers say**
3. **DOE: Data shortfalls make tracking efficiency grants a tough slog -- GAO**
4. **MARKETING: Forest-certification group battles 'greenwashing' charges**

POLITICS

5. **TRANSPORTATION: DOT chief touts transit programs squeezed by budget deal**
6. **LOBBYING: Law firm snags former senior Energy and Commerce member**

ENERGY

7. **TRANSMISSION: Lines for importing Canadian hydropower draw opposition in N.H.**
8. **JAPAN: Aftershock hits coast, forcing suspension of cooling at plant**
9. **NUCLEAR POWER: Fresh questions about turning weapons plutonium into fuel**

AK/48

10. **NUCLEAR POWER:** Radioactive water leaks in U.S. plants go unchecked
11. **OIL AND GAS:** Canadian firm eyes Utah oil sands extraction
12. **NUCLEAR POWER:** Mo. bill would allow utilities to charge customers for permitting costs
13. **NUCLEAR POWER:** French-owned company must find U.S. partner for Md. project

CLEAN TECH

14. **CLEAN TECH:** Rare earths mining company, DOE lab team up

FEDERAL AGENCIES

15. **GULF SPILL:** Coast Guard was unprepared for cleanup -- report

NATURAL RESOURCES

16. **ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Alaskan waters designated critical habitat for beluga whales
17. **GREAT LAKES:** Chicago pushes Army Corps to speed up Asian carp study

WASTES & HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

18. **TOXICS:** Katrina relief groups will gut, rebuild homes with Chinese drywall

STATES

19. **GULF SPILL:** Some BP funds used for expenses distantly connected to cleanup
20. **PENNSYLVANIA:** New development czar spent years fighting enviro regs
21. **FLOODS:** Sandbags seeing competition in flood-prone Fargo

SOCIETY

22. **PEOPLE:** Goldman prize recipient pushed refineries toward cleaner practices

E&TV'S ONPOINT

23. **NATURAL GAS:** AGA's McCurdy discusses new vehicle legislation

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1. **NATURAL GAS: Fracking with diesel violated law, EPA says**

Oil and gas drillers who injected diesel fuel during hydraulic fracturing without a permit broke the law, a U.S. EPA official said today. The assertion by Deputy Administrator Bob Perciasepe means some companies that have acknowledged injecting diesel could be subject to sanctions under the Safe Drinking Water Act. It is a technical but politically charged question in the ongoing debate about regulation of the fracturing process.

TOP STORIES

2. **EPA:** Budget deal slams state, regional programs
3. **DOE:** Budget deal maintains funding for loan guarantee program
4. **HIGH-SPEED RAIL:** Slashed funding puts program's future in doubt

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

5. **INTERIOR:** Surprise move leaves wilderness policy on cutting-room floor
6. **NOAA:** Spending deal guts climate service, cap-and-trade fisheries policy
7. **MINING:** Spending compromise spares oversight agencies
8. **ARMY CORPS:** Agency escapes further cuts in budget deal

CONGRESS

9. **ENERGY POLICY:** Senate CES action unlikely before recess -- Bingaman
10. **ENERGY POLICY:** New group will debate DOE organization, policy leadership

ENERGY

11. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Japan's Fukushima disaster on par with Chernobyl
12. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Avoid 'emotional reaction' to Japan disaster, French

AK/49

reactor builder tells U.S.

13. **NATURAL GAS:** PG&E pipeline pressure data might never be found, state admits
14. **NUCLEAR POWER:** Calif. utility wants more time for seismic tests at Diablo Canyon
15. **ELECTRICITY:** Rolling blackouts in Texas a 'familiar' story
16. **NATURAL GAS:** Database discloses ingredients of fracking fluids

AIR AND WATER

17. **WATER:** Wet year boosts drought-stricken Lake Mead
18. **DRINKING WATER:** Radioactive iodine in Pa. was present before Japan disaster
19. **WATER:** Tribes join fight over Okla. reservoir
20. **AIR POLLUTION:** Ariz. program targets Mexican trucks' dirty exhaust

WASTES & HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

21. **HAZARDOUS WASTE:** Public agencies took contaminated soil to unpermitted facility

HEALTH AND SAFETY

22. **PUBLIC HEALTH:** Black lung continues to kill coal miners -- study

NATURAL RESOURCES

23. **COASTAL EROSION:** Beaches from Maine to Va. are deteriorating -- report

STATES

24. **NUCLEAR POWER:** 3 workers exposed to radiation at Neb. plant

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

25. **ENERGY POLICY:** E.U. Commissioner Hedegaard discusses U.S. action on clean energy, carbon markets

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1. **CLIMATE:** European regulators propose ambitious carbon tax

The European Union today proposed a stark restructuring of the bloc's taxes on fuels and heating oil, including fees tied to greenhouse gas emissions. The plan, which faces multiple hurdles, likely will draw steep opposition from E.U. countries wary of rising gasoline prices. For years, Europe has pondered whether to bolster its existing cap-and-trade system -- which places limits on CO2 emissions from sources such as power plants and factories -- with a carbon tax on oil and fuels used in home heating, including coal. Several European nations, like Sweden and Finland, have long employed carbon taxes. But last year France, facing social unrest, abandoned similar plans.

TOP STORIES

2. **AIR POLLUTION:** Fate of old coal plants may hinge on new toxic-cutting technology
3. **BUDGET:** House GOP, federal unions spar over workforce cuts
4. **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:** EPA wears many hats in sprawling initiative

CONGRESS

5. **OFFSHORE DRILLING:** House panel adds lease extensions to GOP bill with backing of 2 Dems

POLITICS

6. **ENERGY POLICY:** Fake press release has GE donating tax refund to Treasury
7. **STIMULUS:** 99% of grant recipients have submitted spending reports -- audit

ENERGY

8. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Japanese officials under fire for failing to disclose

AK/50

radioactive releases

9. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Japan considers fewer, more efficient reactors
10. **OIL AND GAS:** OPEC plans to boost supply
11. **COAL:** A mining town vanishes among the falling W.Va. mountaintops

CLEAN TECH

12. **BIOFUELS:** Europe's renewable energy directive is unethical -- investigation

WASTES & HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

13. **CHEMICALS:** OSHA issues 'hazard alert' for hair product
14. **CHEMICALS:** Maine Legislature sends BPA ban to governor

NATURAL RESOURCES

15. **ENDANGERED SPECIES:** SoCal water agencies threaten lawsuit over federal fish protections
16. **FISHERIES:** E.U. countries agree to tougher common fishing rules
17. **GULF SPILL:** Lingering effects of BP oil could be unknown for years
18. **GULF SPILL:** Effects on wildlife greatly underestimated -- enviro group
19. **SALMON:** Bycatch cap proposed in Gulf of Alaska
20. **AGRICULTURE:** Erosion on the rise as farmers chase high commodity prices

CORRECTIONS

21. **CORRECTION:**

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1. AIR POLLUTION: TVA to retire 18 coal boilers in landmark pact

In a move that will transform one of the nation's largest coal-burning utilities, the federally run Tennessee Valley Authority has agreed to shut down 18 of its oldest coal-fired boilers and to spend \$3 billion to \$5 billion more on air pollution controls for its remaining coal plants. The 10-year plan, which will resolve claims from states and environmental groups that 11 TVA power plants in Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee violated federal air pollution laws, was approved by the utility's board at a meeting today in Chattanooga, Tenn.

TOP STORIES

2. POLITICS: EPA supporters work to snag women with focus on family health
3. CLIMATE: Greens prepare for the next EPA battle
4. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: Initiative offers 'opportunity,' not a burden, DOJ tells wary industry

POLITICS

5. CAMPAIGN 2012: Congresswoman enters Nev. Senate race

ENERGY

6. NUCLEAR CRISIS: Questions, challenges surround Japan's cleanup plans
7. GULF SPILL: BP payouts created new class of 'spillionaires'
8. NATURAL GAS: Some permits get only minutes of review, Pa. regulators say
9. OFFSHORE DRILLING: Salazar, Bromwich tour first rig to receive permit after moratorium
10. NUCLEAR CRISIS: High radiation levels at reactor No. 4 likely from outside debris

AK/51

11. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY:** Air conditioner gaps cost millions in wasted fuel -- report

12. **OIL AND GAS:** Gulf protesters barred as BP shareholders convene

CLIMATE CHANGE

13. **CLIMATE:** Bloomberg, Clinton team up groups to cut emissions

LAW AND LOBBYING

14. **ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Judge considers 'elephant in the room' on polar bear case: greenhouse gases

15. **CHEMICALS:** Appeals court dismisses claims against DuPont over C8 pollution

TRANSPORTATION

16. **AUTOS:** Teams announced for second round of DOE's EcoCar competition

17. **HIGH-SPEED RAIL:** China to slow down its bullet trains amid safety concerns

AIR AND WATER

18. **AIR POLLUTION:** States divided on need for stricter carbon monoxide rules

NATURAL RESOURCES

19. **MINING:** Army Corps tries to assess impacts of sprawling phosphate operations

20. **FISHERIES:** Pacific Coast salmon fishing is back after 3 years

E&TV'S ONPOINT

21. **EPA:** Air expert Bill Becker assesses impact of EPA's budget cuts on states

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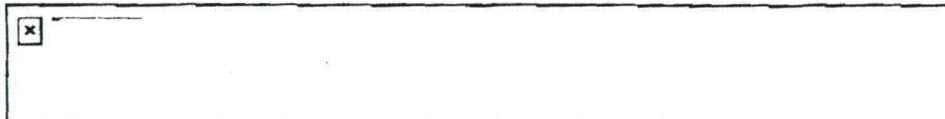
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LAND LETTER – THU., MARCH 17, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. PARKS: NPS pressured to bend rules for Colo. monument bike race

A proposal to route a professional bicycle race through Colorado National Monument has pitted the National Park Service against some powerful congressional and state leaders who argue that running a stage of the 600-mile road race through the monument would provide an economic boon to the region.

NEW THIS WEEK

2. **RENEWABLE ENERGY:** Interior chooses 19 'priority projects' for 2011
3. **OIL AND GAS:** Enviros petition BLM over McCullough Peaks drilling project
4. **MINING:** Ariz. issues permits for Grand Canyon uranium projects
5. **WOLVES:** Northern Rockies population plateaus at roughly 1,700, officials say
6. **WOLVES:** FWS won't appeal court decision on Wyo. management plan
7. **PUBLIC LANDS:** Energy, conservation issues loom as BLM revises SW Wyo. plan
8. **PUBLIC LANDS:** Utah, counties have more time to challenge 'wild lands' policy
9. **FORESTS:** USFS software helps reveal urban trees' ecosystem services
10. **BISON:** Lawmakers seek USDA support for state-run brucellosis programs

NEWS ROUNDUP

11. **OIL AND GAS:** EPA seeks greater protections for Wyoming Range drilling project
12. **OIL AND GAS:** Drilling permit approvals on the rise, Salazar says

AK/52

13. **COAL**: Landowners, enviros prepare appeals of Powder River Basin lease

14. **FORESTS**: Economist suggests cuts to USFS firefighting budget

15. **FORESTS**: USFS suspends Idaho timber sale to study effects on wildlife

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1. **RIVERS:** Tea party's Bachmann finds plenty to like in \$690M bridge proposal

The National Park Service is caught in the middle of a political fight between elected leaders in Minnesota who are pushing for a new highway bridge over a federally protected portion of the lower St. Croix River and critics who say that authorizing the bridge project would violate the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

NEW THIS WEEK

2. **OIL AND GAS:** McCullough Peaks drilling permits withdrawn by Bill Barrett
3. **OIL AND GAS:** Industry sitting on 7,200 drilling permits
4. **OIL AND GAS:** Industry sends regulatory wish list to Interior
5. **MINING:** Phosphate project near Idaho's Blackfoot River moves forward
6. **FORESTS:** New cohesive wildlife strategy gets high marks
7. **WILDLIFE:** Tsunami took heavy toll on Pacific island shorebirds -- FWS
8. **ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Judge reinstates protections for West Virginia flying squirrel
9. **PARKS:** Dam removals will restore century-old salmon runs in Olympia NP
10. **PARKS:** NPS land acquisition agenda meets scrutiny from GOP lawmaker
11. **SALMON:** Fittest species will adapt to climate change, scientists say

NEWS ROUNDUP

12. **GRIZZLIES:** Northwest population expanding 3 percent annually
13. **WOLVES:** FWS moves closer to approving culling rule in Bitterroot
14. **FORESTS:** Pine beetle epidemic easing slightly, surveys show
15. **WILD HORSES:** BLM pledges \$40 million to establish 'eco-sanctuaries'

AK/53

16. OHVS: Snowmobiles will not be governed as off-road vehicles, USFS rules

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CLIMATEWIRE -- THU., MARCH 17, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. POLICY: A nuclear shock felt around the world could resonate for years

The ongoing nuclear power disaster in Japan could slow or stop nuclear development in several countries, set back Europe's plans to cut climate-related emissions by 2050, drive up the cost of electricity and fossil fuels and, ironically, delay ongoing plans for a generation of safer nuclear reactors, according to industry analysts. "This will be a difficult decision for Japan," explained Akira Tokuhiko, a professor of nuclear engineering at the University of Idaho, who noted that about 50 percent of the nation's electricity comes from nuclear power.

2. NUCLEAR: Fukushima crisis worsens as U.S. warns of a large radiation release

The top U.S. nuclear regulator, Gregory Jaczko, gave a dire assessment of Japan's nuclear crisis yesterday, saying that lethal radiation from uncovered spent fuel above one of the reactors could force emergency workers to abandon their fight to prevent meltdowns of damaged reactor cores at the Fukushima Daiichi plant. Jaczko, chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, said his staff in Tokyo had been told by Japanese utility officials that cooling water that normally covers spent fuel was nearly or totally gone from an uncovered concrete pool above reactor Unit 4.

TODAY'S STORIES

3. MARKETS: Japan nuclear disaster spurs heavy trading in energy

AK/54

alternatives

4. **ARCTIC:** NOAA strategy warns of 'widespread' climate change
5. **WATER:** Carbon nanotubes may offer a solution for more affordable desalination
6. **TRANSPORTATION:** Car shoppers' 'tipping point' may come in March or April
7. **SCIENCE:** Canada's boreal forest under threat
8. **BIOMASS:** Company pulls plans to build Wash. plant
9. **NATURAL GAS:** After Japan crisis, concerns over nuclear may lead to Australian LNG boom
10. **NUCLEAR:** Duke wants \$459 million to build plant in N.C.
11. **OFFSHORE WIND:** Wind energy will 'likely' raise utility rates

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

12. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Former CEQ Chairman Frampton says Japanese disaster worse than Three Mile Island

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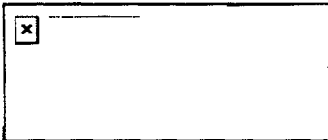
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CLIMATEWIRE -- FRI., MARCH 18, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. POLICY: U.S. nuclear plants to get new safety reviews in wake of Fukushima 1

President Obama responded to Japan's nuclear reactor crisis yesterday by asking the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to make a comprehensive safety review of U.S. nuclear plants to assess their ability to withstand natural calamities. Speaking at the White House, NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko said yesterday the study would be made. He repeated his statements this week that the commission considered the 104 U.S. nuclear plants to be secure, but the evidence from Japan's devastating reactor damage would be the basis for a new review.

2. PUBLIC HEALTH: The daily news in Tokyo -- radiation levels

Television watchers and newspaper readers in Tokyo now have an addition to their daily weather reports. It is the daily radiation level, as measured in various parts of this sprawling city, which, according to the United Nations, is the most populated area in the world with more than 36 million people. Just 150 miles to the northeast are the smoldering ruins of Fukushima No. 1, which was one of the world's largest complexes of nuclear power plants. The radiation levels there appear to have occasionally spiked to life-threatening levels, but so far the radiation readings in and around Tokyo have remained fairly close to normal background levels.

TODAY'S STORIES

3. POLITICS: EPA rules battle, stalled in Senate, could reappear on the campaign trail

AK/55

4. **EMISSIONS TRADING:** Japan could suspend Kyoto targets in wake of calamity
5. **NATIONS:** China's climate diplomacy becomes more potent -- report
6. **BUSINESS:** Decks still stacked against venture capital for U.S. clean energy
7. **BUDGET:** Locke warns GOP budget will lead to missed data
8. **EMISSIONS:** IPCC, EPA overestimate greenhouse gas levels from septic tanks, says study
9. **LABOR:** Report urges Calif. to go slow on new worker training programs for green jobs
10. **SCIENCE:** 'Mega' heat waves to become more frequent -- study
11. **ENERGY POLICY:** Cutbacks on nuclear could spike global warming levels
12. **GERMANY:** Country considers accelerating phase-out of nuclear energy
13. **RENEWABLE ENERGY:** First-ever major tidal power station to be installed off Scottish coast
14. **UTILITIES:** Democrats criticized for accepting financing from energy company

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CLIMATEWIRE -- MON., MARCH 21, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **REGULATION:** U.S. nuclear plants are safer than Japan's, but operational quality needs work

Are U.S. nuclear reactors safe? The short answer is "yes," Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory Jaczko tried to convey to anxious, impatient senators at a congressional hearing last week. The nation's chief nuclear regulator could give no other answer -- an unsafe reactor would have to be shut down and fixed, or closed. Taken as a whole, the 104 U.S. commercial nuclear reactors have significantly improved their operating reliability and are more closely watched by on-site NRC inspectors and regional staff than in any other time in the industry's half-century history, according to NRC. From the 2005 to 2009 fiscal years, NRC recorded no "abnormal occurrences" -- accidents or deficiencies that caused a major reduction in the protection of public health and safety.

TODAY'S STORIES

2. **ADAPTATION:** Japan's plight, a teaching moment for both rich and poor nations

AK/56

3. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Two plants at Fukushima are reconnected to power grid
4. **ENERGY:** Nuclear revival plans continue in some states
5. **PUBLIC OPINION:** Experience in floods makes more climate change believers -- study
6. **NATURAL GAS:** Demand for LNG expected to surge in Japan, China
7. **NATIONS:** India poised to become fastest-growing renewable energy market
8. **SOLAR:** Nuclear fears give temporary bump to photovoltaic shares, analysts say
9. **OFFSHORE WIND:** Projects start at snail's pace in Germany
10. **RENEWABLE ENERGY:** E.U. climate chief says wind power will be cheaper than nuclear
11. **AGRICULTURE:** Sharing of plant genetic material is essential for creating climate-ready crops

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

12. **EFFICIENCY:** Alliance to Save Energy's Callahan weighs in on light bulb debate

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CLIMATEWIRE -- TUE., MARCH 22, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **POLICY:** British Columbia survives 3 years and \$848 million worth of carbon taxes

As it nears its third anniversary, British Columbia's carbon tax is loved by some, hated by others, and yet forgotten by many Canadians. As North America's only large-scale carbon tax approaches its birthday, many economists say the tax is too small at this point for a full economic assessment. Yet there are early signs that the tax is changing behavior. Heavy greenhouse gas emitters such as cement manufacturers are warning that they are on the verge of "disastrous" layoffs and shutdowns, while businesses with a small carbon footprint seem happy with the tax.

TODAY'S STORIES

2. **CALIFORNIA:** Judge blocks state's global warming law, putting 2012 start date in doubt
3. **POLITICS:** Bingaman and Murkowski open discussion on Obama's clean energy standard

AK/57

4. **NUCLEAR:** NRC staff finds no reason to shut down any U.S. reactors and no U.S. risk from Japanese radiation
5. **RENEWABLES:** Former opponent of Cape Wind hopes to launch 'eco-tours' to it
6. **TECHNOLOGY:** New structure allows lithium-ion batteries to get a quicker charge
7. **BIOFUELS:** Coalition launches sustainable label, puts aside land-use argument
8. **NATIONS:** Despite Japan's nuclear disaster, Vietnam confirms plans to build reactor
9. **FISHERIES:** Warmer Antarctic water prompts encroachment by predator crabs
10. **COAL:** Future Wyo. plant finds buyer for its CO2 emissions
11. **RENEWABLE ENERGY:** Germany may increase pace of grid projects

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CLIMATEWIRE -- WED., MARCH 23, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. ENERGY EFFICIENCY: As more commercial buildings go green, a few go 'net-zero'

A few years ago in central Florida, John Santarpia had an idea. He was the president and CEO of a credit union and felt he needed to do something to improve its image. He and his colleagues had found a lot in Lakeland, a city of about 100,000 residents, with an ice cream shop on it. Knowing the community wouldn't be in favor of losing the ice cream shop, Santarpia decided to build a flagship building for his credit union around it. Whatever it was, he wanted to make it green. What resulted was the state's first commercial net-zero-energy building.

TODAY'S STORIES

- 2. COAL:** Interior opens federal land for mining coal that could be exported to Asia
- 3. NATURAL GAS:** Stable price remains the key to shifting power sector from coal to natural gas

AK/58

4. **NUCLEAR**: Engineers still struggle to manage Fukushima 1, radiation spread and rotating blackouts
5. **WATER**: U.N. ponders how to expand businesses that bring clean water to Africa's slums
6. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**: DOE finds U.S. steel industry highly efficient; EPA sees room for more
7. **EFFICIENCY**: Texas can gain billions by trimming energy waste -- study
8. **CARBON MARKETS**: Indian investors are ditching credits for renewable energy incentives
9. **RENEWABLE ENERGY**: Wind energy faces uncertainty and sales tax in Idaho
10. **WATER**: Critical shortages loom in Peru's capital
11. **ENDANGERED SPECIES**: Feds seek to double number of nesting areas for endangered bird

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CLIMATEWIRE -- THU., MARCH 24, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **WHEAT:** Continuing turmoil in the Middle East reflects global anxiety over wheat production

Underlying the wave of unrest across North Africa and the Middle East is the fact that some of the cries for democracy are coming from mouths in need of food. Media outlets around the world were quick to make the link between food and the protests in Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria, pointing to one specific grain: wheat. Egypt is the largest importer of wheat in the world, with Algeria not far behind. Together, they import more of the grain than all of South America.

TODAY'S STORIES

2. **NUCLEAR:** Radiation dangers, engineering challenges confront technicians trying to regain control of Fukushima reactors
3. **MARKETS:** Rising commodity prices threaten energy market stability
4. **SCIENCE:** National lab challenges skeptics of carbon capture and storage technology

AK/59

5. **TECHNOLOGY:** Former Mich. governor launches national campaign for clean energy
6. **RESOURCES:** Experts downplay rare earth 'crisis'
7. **REGULATION:** EPA to phase out potent refrigerant
8. **HOUSE:** Kalamazoo, Mich., residents press Upton on climate change
9. **WIND POWER:** Large Wis. wind farm plan gets axed
10. **OFFSHORE WIND:** Ambitious Md. wind plan may turn into study
11. **NATIONS:** Italy imposes 1-year nuclear moratorium

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CLIMATEWIRE -- FRI., MARCH 25, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. NUCLEAR: U.S. experts blame Fukushima 1 explosions and radiation on failed venting system

The hydrogen explosions that shattered the tops of two reactor buildings at the Fukushima 1 nuclear complex followed the venting of hydrogen and steam by plant operators desperate to prevent a far greater disaster: a high-pressure explosion of the primary reactor containment shell and radioactivity release, a former senior U.S. nuclear official concludes.

2. WHEAT: Going back into the wild to build a stronger, more climate-resilient crop

A genetic archaeologist of sorts, Cary Fowler works to save the wild species threatened by crop domestication. Fowler is the executive director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, an organization that seeks to preserve the genetic diversity of plants in seed banks. By providing a backup of wild varieties for their domesticated crop cousins, seed banks provide insurance in the case of a devastating blow to yields.

AK/60

TODAY'S STORIES

3. **POLICY:** Grants are more effective and cheaper than tax credits for spurring clean energy -- report
4. **WATER:** Southern Co. to reveal more to investors about climate-related water risks
5. **PUBLIC OPINION:** Climate adaptation for hometown is not always top priority, researcher finds
6. **ADAPTATION:** Experts learn the bottom-up approach to financing protective measures
7. **SCIENCE:** Researchers find ocean wind speeds rising, creating rougher seas
8. **OFFSHORE WIND:** Interior moves on offshore project in Del.
9. **BIOFUELS:** Food for fuels is starving millions, says Nestlé head
10. **NATIONS:** Australian prime minister suffers carbon tax setback
11. **ENERGY MARKETS:** Enercon loses its entire Indian subsidiary
12. **NUCLEAR CRISIS:** Germany plans more rapid nuclear phaseout

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CLIMATEWIRE -- MON., MARCH 28, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **WHEAT:** Companies begin a difficult search for a climate-hardy variety

In 2009, Monsanto, the biggest agricultural company in the world, did something that had been unthinkable just five years before. It made a major investment in wheat. This wasn't the company's first foray into developing more advanced wheat cultivars. In the 1990s, it had begun research in developing Roundup Ready wheat to add to its suite to herbicide-resistant crops. But economics reared its ugly head. Acreage in spring wheat had declined dramatically, and Monsanto ended the research in 2004.

TODAY'S STORIES

2. **NUCLEAR:** Technicians continue to struggle with high radiation levels at crippled plant
3. **POLITICS:** Christie suggests he might take N.J. out of regional greenhouse gas control program
4. **FINANCE:** World Bank will give China's provinces a grant for energy

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efficiency programs

5. **TECHNOLOGY:** Will the car of the future be made from coal ash?
6. **RELIGION:** Climate change is not 'act of God,' survey says
7. **EMISSIONS:** Ships may enter European carbon trading scheme
8. **SOLAR:** Home developer offers solar arrays
9. **RENEWABLE FUELS:** E.U. may promote green fuels, restrict higher-polluting energy sources

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10. **EPA:** Bracewell & Giuliani's Segal says agency overstepping authority with 'Utility MACT' proposal

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CLIMATEWIRE -- TUE., MARCH 29, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. **WHEAT:** Where will 'amber waves of grain' grow in a climate-changed world?

Giving new meaning to toasted wheat, a team of agricultural researchers has spent the past three years and almost a million dollars installing electric heaters over wheat fields in the desert of Maricopa, Ariz. Called the "Hot Serial Cereal" project, the experiment is not a move to tempt breakfast-eaters in the morning, but rather to simulate a temperature rise of 2 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit -- the predicted global average increase for the next 50 years.

TODAY'S STORIES

2. **CANADA:** Looming election puts climate policies in a 'holding pattern'
3. **NUCLEAR:** Leakage of radioactive water slows Fukushima recovery efforts
4. **FINANCE:** China continues to lead U.S. in clean energy investment
5. **RENEWABLE ENERGY:** Artificial 'leaf' could provide easy, mobile energy

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6. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY:** 60 percent of U.S. homes use some energy-efficient light bulbs -- study
7. **JAPAN:** Tokyo braces for a 20% gap between electricity supply and demand
8. **GREEN BUILDING:** Sydney's 'Central Park' will boast efficient buildings
9. **CHINA:** New targets to control carbon emissions based on GDP growth
10. **RENEWABLE ENERGY:** U.K. factory to be powered by municipal waste

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

11. **ENERGY POLICY:** Lawmakers, analysts discuss challenges to crafting and passing a CES

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1. POLITICS: Obama to focus on clean energy, daring Republicans to call it 'froufrou'

The White House is collecting options for a clean energy standard from outside groups, sharpening the president's effort to make low-carbon electricity a key piece of his re-election campaign, if not a passable piece of legislation in the current Congress. The meetings have solicited input on some of the thorniest elements of President Obama's goal to impose national fuel requirements on electricity providers. Top among them is the policy's potential impact on different regions, some of which have fewer energy resources like wind or nuclear to comply with a national standard.

TODAY'S STORIES

- 2. FINANCE:** World Bank plans to ban future loans to more than 80 nations for coal-fired power plants
- 3. TRANSPORTATION:** European Commission proposes to push gasoline- and diesel-powered cars out of cities by 2050

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4. **SCIENCE**: Huge chunk of the Amazon affected by 'once-in-100-year drought'
5. **POLITICS**: EPA votes in Senate tomorrow expected to 'get rid' of issue one way or another -- Reid
6. **REGULATION**: NRC outlines its post-Fukushima scrutiny of U.S. nuclear power plants
7. **NUCLEAR**: Workers perform a dangerous balancing act at Fukushima Daiichi
8. **EMISSIONS**: Study finds curbing auto pollution in developing countries could have short-term climate impact
9. **MARKETS**: N.J. chases Calif. in race to develop solar energy
10. **NUCLEAR**: China may cut back plans for atomic power
11. **CITIES**: Urban areas are causing 70 percent of world's GHG emissions, says U.N.
12. **PUBLIC HEALTH**: Warmer climate changing Alaskan villages
13. **STATES**: S.C. joins in on light bulb debate

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

14. **ENERGY POLICY**: Pew's Cuttino discusses new research on G-20 clean energy investments

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CLIMATEWIRE -- THU., MARCH 31, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. NUCLEAR: U.S. response to Japan's crisis should be a new spent fuel strategy, Senate panel is told

The nuclear crisis in Japan provides an impetus for Congress to confront a failed national policy on dealing with spent fuel from U.S. reactors, witnesses told a Senate subcommittee yesterday. Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Ernest Moniz called for an accelerated transfer of spent nuclear fuel rods from storage in water-covered pools at reactor sites to concrete and steel "dry" casks. Two other witnesses before the subcommittee, representing the nuclear industry and one of its frequent critics, differed on the implications of the reactor crisis on the safety of spent reactor fuel stored at the 104 U.S. nuclear power plants. But both agreed it was time to confront the stalemated issues surrounding the spent fuel.

2. POLITICS: Obama, steering for the center, draws dissent from both sides

President Obama is trying to find the political center of the nation's energy issues. His speech yesterday, in steering the nation back to the domestic economy, appeals to a broad section of political -- and geographic -- positions. He stood fast by nuclear power,

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promised swifter access for oil companies and prioritized climate change. Yet he got little credit from either side.

TODAY'S STORIES

3. **AUSTRALIA:** China and Australia in climate dialogue as coal exporters gear up
4. **SCIENCE:** Navy plans to rebuild waning Arctic research programs
5. **MARKETS:** Traders expect Calif. cap-and-trade system to start on schedule
6. **FORESTS:** Study finds Russia's vast boreal forests changing, adding fuel to climate change
7. **FOOD SECURITY:** East Africa's drought drives up food aid needs by 25%
8. **RENEWABLE ENERGY:** Wave farm on Calif. coast allowed for feasibility study
9. **TRANSPORTATION:** Jet plane contrails may be more damaging than CO2 emissions -- study
10. **ELECTRIC CARS:** Wash. may tax electric vehicles
11. **SMART METERS:** Detroit's metering program to bring in more accurate, efficient devices

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12. **CLEAN ENERGY:** National Hydropower Association's Munro discusses Senate action on hydro

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CLIMATEWIRE -- FRI., APRIL 1, 2011 -- [Read the full edition](#)

1. LOBBYING: State legislatures pile onto anti-EPA climate rule effort

As members of Congress consider whether to block U.S. EPA regulation of greenhouse gases, many state legislators across the country are cheering them on. Eight states ranging from Michigan to Virginia have adopted formal resolutions this year pressing Capitol Hill lawmakers to block what they term the agency's regulatory "train wreck." Some 14 other state legislatures have parallel measures that are working their way through committees in state chambers.

2. SCIENCE: Experts heat up over Berkeley Lab scientist's quest to 'calm' climate change debate

The scientist heading up a controversial review of land-surface temperature records has a simple goal. "What I really hope to do is calm the debate" over climate change, said Richard Muller, a physicist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the director of the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature study. But that appears to be a tall order, judging by reaction yesterday to the group's preliminary findings, which drew suspicion from climate skeptics and mainstream climate scientists alike.

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TODAY'S STORIES

3. **CLEAN TECH**: China may have grounds to defeat U.S. WTO case over wind turbine subsidies -- experts
4. **GLACIERS**: Glacial lake floods will threaten Himalayan hydropower, says expert
5. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**: Consumers are having trouble with high-tech thermostats, study says
6. **RESEARCH**: DOE program courts Republican appropriators with tougher accounting actions
7. **NEGOTIATIONS**: U.S., China have a rematch over verification issue
8. **AGRICULTURE**: Gradual climate change will have 'disastrous' effect on food security
9. **ENERGY**: EIA reports 5.8 percent decline in greenhouse gas emissions in 2009
10. **ENERGY POLICY**: Chu says support for the sciences is as crucial now as it was during the Cold War
11. **RENEWABLE ENERGY**: Global offshore wind could generate \$273B a year by 2050
12. **TECHNOLOGY**: Danish company reveals 7-MW wind turbine
13. **INDIA**: Government launches initiative to study black carbon
14. **BIOMASS**: Wis. DNR gives biomass plant the go-ahead

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1. **NATIONS:** China's ambitious, high-growth 5-year plan stirs a climate debate

Derek Scissors is a late-night number cruncher at a conservative policy shop that tends to be among the last places the Obama White House goes for advice. Among the small band of U.S. analysts who occupy the nexus of the Chinese economy and global climate change policy, Scissors, an economist at the Heritage Foundation's Asian Studies Center, is a dyed-in-the-wool contrarian. Lately, as Congress thrashes about trying to understand China's nature as an economic competitor, Scissors has been pushing back against the U.S. environmental community's top China experts.

2. **WORLD BANK:** Developing countries denounce restrictions on coal loans

The World Bank is taking a biased approach to coal development in its forthcoming energy strategy, one of the bank's top executives told *ClimateWire*. Rogério Studart, the World Bank executive director for Brazil, seven other Latin American and Caribbean countries and the Philippines, called the agency's plan to prevent middle-income countries from accessing loans to build new coal plants, but still grant them to the poorest nations, a dangerous precedent.

TODAY'S STORIES

3. **NUCLEAR:** Industry experts say 'never again' to Japan reactor disaster
4. **SCIENCE:** No winners among penguins as Antarctic warms

AK/bb

5. **WETLANDS:** Degraded coastal deltas, mangroves boost carbon emissions
6. **CLEAN ENERGY:** Chinese leaders say green industry will propel economy
7. **ELECTRIC CARS:** Ore. lawmakers consider EV, plug-in hybrid tax
8. **HUMAN RIGHTS:** Bolivia set to grant nature equal rights to humans

E&ETV'S ONPOINT

9. **ENERGY POLICY:** E.U. Commissioner Hedegaard discusses U.S. action on clean energy, carbon markets

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1. **EPA:** State GHG program funds hit hard under budget deal

While the spending bill Congress and the White House etched out late last week did not handcuff U.S. EPA's ability to regulate greenhouse gases, the agency's climate program still took a hit. The continuing resolution that lawmakers are expected to vote on this week quietly zeroed out proposed funding states hoped to use to implement new climate regulations.

TODAY'S STORIES

2. **OIL:** Gas for nearly \$4 a gallon to stick through 2011, EIA says
3. **CONGRESS:** Divisions emerge about budget's impact on clean energy loan program
4. **TRANSPORTATION:** High-speed rail hit in budget, but supporters await their next shot
5. **GRID:** The smart grid is a hit with many utilities, but not yet with consumers
6. **MARKETS:** Calif. claims British Columbia, Quebec as 2012 trading partners; British Columbia not so sure
7. **BIOFUELS:** World's first commercial cellulosic ethanol plant built in Italy
8. **ADAPTATION:** Bolivians forced to flee when crops fail
9. **COAL:** Wash. legislators advance on goal to shut down plant by 2025

AKH 67

10. **NUCLEAR:** Fukushima disaster motivates Germany to shift to renewables

11. **SOLAR:** Google invests \$168 million in solar plant

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March 18, 2011 Headlines

U.S. Utilities Pledge Fresh Review Of Nuke Plant Readiness

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INGAA: Gas Can 'Firm' Renewables, But Cost An Issue

Natural gas pipeline industry officials Wednesday said a new report on the implications of using gas-fired generators to back up intermittent renewable energy generation has found that only a trickle of surging U.S. gas supplies is required to "firm up" renewables, adding that the total capital costs of building new gas facilities and firming-support services could range from about \$2 billion to \$15 billion over 15 years. The new report, "Firming Renewable Electric Power Generators: Opportunities and Challenges for Natural Gas Pipelines," authored by ICF International for the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA)—the national trade group for gas pipelines—generally downplays those costs, but noted such capital requirements could be a heavy lift for some regions. Of more immediate concern, said the ICF report, is that gas-fired generation built specifically to back intermittent renewables likely will need new types of flexible, stop-and-start gas delivery contracts...

ExxonMobil Says Its Gas Reserves Top Oil

In a sea change for the nation's largest oil company, ExxonMobil said last month that it has more natural gas than oil in its base of proved reserves, a development driven largely by ExxonMobil's acquisition of XTO Energy Inc. but also by the oil-major's increasing difficulty in discovering new oil to replace what it sends to market. In its annual financial report, released February 15, ExxonMobil said its 10-year average reserves replacement ratio for oil is 95 percent, meaning that for every 100 barrels the company produces it is finding

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only 95 barrels of new oil. In contrast, the replacement ration for natural gas is 158 percent. ExxonMobil's proved reserves base at the end of 2010 stood at 24.8 billion oil-equivalent barrels, with 47 percent liquids and 53 percent gas. The company said its new added proved reserves of 3.3 billion oil-equivalent barrels was the highest since Exxon and Mobil merged a decade ago. Some 2.8 billion of those barrels came from the acquisition of XTO...

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With fast-paced development of the nation's prolific shale gas basins swiftly changing natural gas market dynamics, Williams recently announced it is considering a plan to separate into two stand-alone, publicly traded corporations—a large-scale, oil and gas exploration and production business and a tax-advantaged midstream pipeline operator. Under a plan approved last month by its board of directors, Williams—an integrated natural gas company focused on exploration and production, midstream gathering and processing, and transportation—would separate its oil and gas drilling business through an initial public offering (IPO) in the third quarter of this year of up to 20 percent of its interest and, in 2012, a tax-free spinoff to Williams...

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INGAA: Gas Can 'Firm' Renewables, But Cost An Issue

BY JOHNATHAN RICKMAN

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Not surprisingly, ExxonMobil is becoming increasingly bullish on natu-

ral gas, predicting in a January 27 global energy outlook that gas will become the leading fuel for electricity generation globally by 2030 and the second leading fuel for all energy production after oil.

While coal and nuclear will continue to play a robust role in world electricity generation, gas will triumph because advancements in technology used to unlock rich shale gas deposits have sparked a surge in global gas supplies that will continue over the next two decades, the report said.

"The forecasts...show a shift toward natural gas as businesses and governments look for reliable, affordable and cleaner ways to meet energy needs," ExxonMobil Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Rex Tillerson said in a

(Continued on p. 2)

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Under a plan approved last month by its board of directors, Williams—an integrated natural gas company focused on exploration and production, midstream gathering and processing, and transportation—would separate its oil and gas drilling business through an initial public offering (IPO) in the third quarter of this year of up to 20 percent of its interest and, in 2012, a tax-free spinoff to Williams shareholders of its remaining interest, the Tulsa-based company said in a statement February 16.

"Following the spinoff, Williams shareholders will own a stake in: Williams, a premier owner/operator of North American midstream infrastructure and natu-

ral gas pipeline assets; and, separately, a large-scale, independent North American diversified exploration and production company (New E&P)... with interests in South America," said Williams.

"Williams' largest component will be its ownership interests in Williams Partners LP," one of the largest energy master limited partnerships in the country, added Williams.

Williams owns approximately 75 percent of Williams Partners, including the controlling general partner interest. Williams Partners operates three major interstate natural gas pipelines systems, including the 3,900-mile, bi-directional Northwest Pipeline system, serving the U.S. Pacific Northwest and Intermountain regions; the massive, 10,000-mile Transco system, extending from South Texas to New York City; and Gulfstream, a 745-mile pipeline linking Gulf of Mexico gas hubs with gas-hungry markets in South Florida.

Williams said its New E&P "will be one of the largest independent producers

of natural gas in the United States," with proved reserves of approximately 4.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas equivalent (tcf) and 15.9 tcf of "proved, probable and possible" reserves.

Williams said it has "new, relatively undeveloped acreage positions" in the Marcellus Shale and the Bakken oil play in North Dakota, as well as "large, established positions" in the Rockies, including the Piceance, Powder River, San Juan and Green River basins.

Williams also has positions in Texas' Barnett Shale and the Arkoma Basin in Oklahoma.

Williams said under the plan it will maintain its top leadership, but that board and management positions for New E&P will be announced in conjunction with the IPO.

The company cautioned, however, that any future "structural change is dependent on numerous factors," including gas prices, which have fallen in response to recent robust, steady development of U.S. unconventional gas reserves.

ExxonMobil Says Its Gas Reserves Top Oil... (Continued from p. 1)

press release accompanying the outlook. "Newly unlocked supplies of shale gas and other unconventional energy sources will be vital in meeting this demand."

In addition, because gas emits less carbon dioxide (CO₂)—the main greenhouse gas—than coal, utilities and manufacturers increasingly will choose to build gas-fired plants rather than coal in response to government actions to impose a price on carbon emissions, ExxonMobil said.

While electricity produced from coal currently costs an average of about 5.2 cents per kilowatt-hour, compared to the approximately 6.2 cents per kwh for gas-fired power, putting a price on carbon changes the economics of the fuel in favor of gas, ExxonMobil said.

"Today, about 40 percent of the world's power comes from coal, while about 20 percent comes from natural gas," the report said. "However, many governments are seeking to limit greenhouse gas emissions by enacting policies that put a cost on CO₂ emissions. As CO₂ costs go up, economics shift. Coal—which emits far more CO₂ than other fuels—becomes less economically attractive.

"ExxonMobil anticipates that, by 2020, adoption of these policies will be equivalent to adding CO₂ costs of about \$30 per ton in the [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)]. At this level, natural gas becomes a lower-cost source of electricity than coal, while nuclear and wind will become increasingly competitive. This shift becomes even more pronounced if CO₂ costs rise to \$60 per ton, which is where we anticipate policies in the OECD will drive costs by 2030."

ExxonMobil's analysis could be viewed as somewhat self-serving, given the company's \$31 billion purchase of XTO Energy—at the time the nation's third largest gas producer and the

most advanced in using horizontal drilling and other production techniques to wring gas from shale formations. The purchase instantly gave ExxonMobil the largest unconventional gas acreage portfolio in the industry.

While it is too soon to call ExxonMobil a gas company, rather than an oil company, clearly the XTO acquisition ties ExxonMobil's future to gas more than at any time in the company's history.

The outlook also had discouraging words for the likely pace of commercialization of coal-fired generation equipped with carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies, which capture and compress CO₂ and pump the gas deep below ground in saline aquifers and other geologic formations.

"While ExxonMobil believes CCS has the potential to be an effective technology for curbing emissions, we expect that through 2030, most CCS projects will require government support," the company said.

ExxonMobil said it expects demand for natural gas for power generation to rise about 85 percent from 2005 to 2030, by which time gas "will be providing more than 25 percent of the world's electricity needs and be well-positioned to become the top source for electricity production."

ExxonMobil's gas projections are substantially different than those of the Energy Information Agency (EIA), the statistical branch of the Energy Department. In recent testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, EIA Administrator Richard Newell said the agency's upcoming International Energy Outlook for 2011 projects that electricity production from gas would rise by 37 percent from 2007 levels by 2035—an impressive increase but well short of the 80 percent jump projected by ExxonMobil.

U.S. Pledge Fresh Review Of Nuke Plant Readiness... (Cont'd from p. 1)

during severe floods.

While some of the steps merely confirm compliance with existing Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) rules, others will safeguard plants for events more severe than NRC rules contemplate, said NEI Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer Tony Pietrangolo.

"What the chief nuclear officers agreed to do this week was focus more on beyond design-basis events," said Pietrangolo, with "design basis" referring to the set of threats plant operators must typically show they can handle.

"At least the initial feedback we're getting from the Fukushima events is that these were beyond design-basis events," he said.

The NEI announcement came as President Obama late Thursday announced that he has asked the NRC to undertake a "comprehensive review of our nuclear plants" in light of the unfolding disaster in Japan.

The U.S. industry response came on the sixth day of the crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi site, which has been rocked by cooling system failures, explosions and—increasingly—dangerous levels of radioactivity releases after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami knocked out key safety systems.

Japanese emergency-response concerns now are focused on spent fuel pools at the plant's Unit 3 and Unit 4 reactors that now contain little or no water, leaving spent fuel rods at least partially exposed and releasing dangerous levels of radiation.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) officials reported Thursday that a previous hydrogen explosion blew away one side wall of the spent fuel pool at Unit 4, although a steel liner remains intact to contain at least some level of cooling water.

Late Thursday, International Atomic Energy Agency officials said Unit 4's spent fuel pool "remains a major safety concern", adding that "no information is available on the level of water in the spent fuel pool."

In a desperate attempt to re-stock the cooling pool on Unit 3, Japanese officials say they dropped four multi-ton loads of water from helicopters Thursday morning.

As of early evening Thursday Japan time, Japanese officials reported extremely high radiation levels between 100 and 400 millisieverts per hour around the plant's Units 3 and 4 reactors.

At those exposure levels, emergency responders in hotter regions of the site could work only for a total of 40 minutes before departing the site for good, according to the World Nuclear Association.

That poses severe manpower problems for TEPCO and emergency response agencies as they face the need for round-the-clock cooling of the spent fuel pools and at least three damaged reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi site.

Since the Japan crisis began, U.S. nuclear officials have maintained their plants' designs and emergency response plans make a similar crisis unlikely here.

In particular, they point to new plant protections enacted after the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Nevertheless, industry watchdogs say the Japan disaster illuminates key vulnerabilities at U.S. reactors, including 10-mile "emergency planning" zones they say may be far too small to protect populations living and working near a compromised reactor.

NEI officials insisted Thursday that the current 10-mile emergency planning zones remain appropriate for U.S. plants, and that NRC regulations provide for expanding the zones if conditions warrant.

NEI officials also suggested yesterday they do not entirely agree with an NRC decision Wednesday to recommend that U.S. citizens in Japan evacuate a 50-mile radius of the crippled plant, rather than the 12.5-mile radius ordered by Japanese officials.

NEI Senior Director of Radiation Safety and Environmental Protection Ralph Andersen said the NRC evacuation decision was based on "preliminary, highly conservative evaluations with a very limited set of information...."

NRC officials have said little about how the Japanese experience might change regulation of the U.S. nuclear industry, saying they want first to understand exactly what occurred at Fukushima Daiichi.

However, several experts this week identified areas that NRC is most likely to re-examine as lessons from the Japan crisis become clear:

- **Plant back-up power.** Most U.S. plants have one extra, final level of backup power that the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant did not—so-called "red-shirt" power sources like portable diesel generators. But David Lochbaum, director of the Nuclear Safety Project for the Union of Concerned Scientists, said NRC should consider requiring U.S. plant operators to stockpile batteries with operating lives longer than the four hours that he said is standard at most U.S. plants today. He said only about eight U.S. plants have batteries that run longer than four hours.
- **Earthquake risk.** NRC says U.S. plants are designed to withstand the largest historical earthquake for a given region, with a substantial additional margin of safety. The NRC says it routinely evaluates updated seismological information, including recently for the Midwest and central United States. But critics say the risk should be updated, particularly for reactors on the earthquake-active West Coast. On Wednesday, Calif. Sens. Barbara Boxer (D) and Dianne Feinstein (D) wrote Jaczko urging that the safety of two plants in that state be re-evaluated given the relatively recent discovery of new fault lines near the plants. An NRC spokesman was not immediately available Thursday to comment on NRC requirements for backup power or earthquake protections. NRC has limited comment in recent days mostly to the chairman's public statements.

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While the State Department declined to identify the issues it intends to explore in supplemental review of Keystone XL, the move is likely to please Democrats in Congress whom have called for additional analyses of the project's potential lifecycle impacts on global greenhouse gas emissions.

Keystone XL, designed to ship up to 900,000 barrels per day (bpd) from

Hardisty, Alberta, to planned terminals in Cushing, Okla., Houston and Port Arthur, Texas, would double the capacity of TransCanada's 590,000 bpd Keystone oil sands pipeline system.

Oil sands development is hotly opposed by green groups, who say it is an outsized contributor to climate change—due to the large amounts of natural gas used in extraction—and poses associated ecological and human health hazards.

However, Canada's oil sands industry says its oil resources provide a reliable, cost-efficient source of crude oil to the United States from a friendly neighbor. The State Department elevated that point in its draft analysis of Keystone XL, issued last spring. The draft analysis also said the project would result in few

adverse environmental impacts.

Since then some congressional Republicans and oil and gas industry groups have urged the agency to speed up permitting for the project, saying it is crucial for U.S. job creation.

In a statement Tuesday, the American Petroleum Institute called the State Department's latest announcement "unwelcome news," noting Keystone XL has already undergone 32 months of review by 10 federal agencies and various state and local agencies.

The State Department, which must approve projects crossing international borders, said it "expects to make a decision on whether to grant or deny" a presidential permit for the project "before the end of 2011," said the agency.

Gas Can 'Firm' Renewables, But Cost An Issue... (Continued from p. 1)

mittent renewables likely will need new types of flexible, stop-and-start gas delivery contracts, which may prove too costly for some renewable power producers.

In addition, the utilization rate of such specifically designed infrastructure is expected to be unusually low, around 15 percent or less, implying that service from those pipelines could be six times more expensive than from a full pipeline.

"Current pipeline transportation services and nominating cycles for natural gas transportation may not be adequate to meet the needs of firming generators," said the report.

"Backup generators will have to secure reliable natural gas supply and transportation capacity to meet generating demands on short notice. Traditional interruptible transportation service may not be adequate in most cases," the report continued.

"Pipelines may develop new storage and on-demand delivery services... that are tailored to meet the generators' needs. However, there is no certainty that generators will subscribe to such typically higher-cost services unless they are required to do so."

INGAA President Don Santa said Wednesday that the cost concerns, as well as unanswered questions on how gas-fired backup will be priced and reflected in electricity rates, are likely to be raised during rate proceedings at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which regulates interstate natural gas pipelines.

Santa said most of the new gas-fired generation supporting intermittent renewables most likely will be linked to those gas pipelines rather than smaller local distribution lines.

Santa declined to express support for any particular policy on those matters, but did not rebut the report's recommendation that "natural gas facilities supporting firming generation... be placed on equal footing with other firming facilities with respect to the manner in which costs are reflected in electricity rates."

The report added: "Unless all costs incurred in connection with firming generation are recognized, the costs related to firming intermittent renewables generation will be understated."

Further, the report said, "whether pipelines develop firming gas delivery services or rely on existing tariff rate schedules, the costs of providing additional flexibility for a subset of customers will raise questions with other customers about cost sharing and allocation."

The new report comes as wind developers have steadily added about 7 gigawatts of wind-generation capacity to the U.S. power grid each year and amid projections that by 2025 an additional 88 GW of new wind generation capacity could be built in the United States.

Most of that buildout is driven by renewable energy standards and goals adopted by 42 states and the District of Columbia designed to increase the generation of electricity from renewable resources.

At the same time, ICF estimates that nearly 70 GW of new gas-fired combustion turbine and high-efficient combined cycle gas turbine capacity also could come online through 2025.

Surging supplies of cheaply produced shale gas partly explain that scenario. However, many power producers also are replacing their older coal-fired plants with gas generation in response to federal regulations aimed at lowering U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

The report says, however, that "more work, including site and system-specific analysis will be required to understand fully the natural gas system requirements and costs to integrate intermittent renewables generation sources into a reliable energy system."

In quantifying those concerns, the report concludes the natural gas-fired generation needed to firm up wind generation "could be" approximately 33 GW, generating some 45,500 gigawatt-hours of electricity.

"The total annual gas use associated with firming intermittent generation could grow to about 440 [billion cubic feet (bcf)] by 2025," said the report.

"This is roughly about 2 percent of current annual U.S. gas use," which the report said in 2010 amounted to roughly 22,300 bcf.

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March 21, 2011 Headlines

CPUC Slams PG&E On Pipeline Records, Threatens Heavy Fines

Saying the utility has "materially failed" to ensure safe operating pressures on its natural gas transmission system as ordered, California regulators Thursday said pipeline records produced by Pacific Gas & Electric Co. since a September 9 rupture on an aging gas line killed eight people and torched numerous homes in San Bruno, Calif., are incomplete and warned the utility could face up to \$20,000 per day in fines until they provide all the records sought by the regulators. The warning by the California Public Service Commission (CPUC) came in a draft "show-cause" order the panel threatened PG&E with in response to the utility's submission late Tuesday of records of pressure tests or historical operating pressure on more than 90 percent of its 1,805 miles of transmission pipelines located in so-called "high-consequence" heavily populated areas. CPUC said in a statement "it may consider" adding the order to the agenda for a meeting the four-member board had previously...

Some NRC Staff 'Incredulous' At Yucca Work Halt

Recently released internal memos show three Nuclear Regulatory Commission managers as being deeply frustrated with NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko's October directive to halt work on the Yucca Mountain project license review, with one NRC manager describing some staff as "incredulous" at Jaczko's directive not to release as planned a key safety evaluation of the Nevada repository. The documents show increasing frustration among managers in NRC's Nuclear Materials Safety & Safeguards (NMSS) division following the October 4 stop-work directive, which cited a lack of budgetary authority to continue Yucca licensing work given Congressional inaction on a new budget for fiscal 2012, which began October 1. The October 4 stop-work memo was from NRC Chief Financial Officer J.E. Dyer and Executive Director for Operations R.S. Borchardt. However, Jaczko has acknowledged the decision was his and says it is backed by NRC's general counsel. But growing staff frustration with the decision became...

Japanese Officials Hopeful, But Won't Rule Out Sand Dump

Heading into the second weekend of Japan's acute nuclear crisis, Tokyo Electric Power Co. officials said Friday they hoped to have offsite power restored by Saturday at two damaged reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi—a step that could help in cooling the units—although government officials acknowledged they have not fully ruled out the more drastic step of encasing the entire radioactive site in sand if conditions deteriorate further. Asked at a

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press conference if the company has...

API Backs Industry Deepwater Offshore Safety Institute

The American Petroleum Institute announced Thursday that its board of directors has formally endorsed efforts to establish an industry-backed offshore safety institute, a key recommendation of the national commission on offshore drilling and the BP plc oil spill. API said in a statement the Center for Offshore Safety will be based in Houston and draw on "successful, existing safety programs, applying the best elements of these programs to accommodate the unique challenges..."

Bingaman: Middle East Unrest, Not Federal Regs, Driving U.S. Gas Prices

In unusually blunt rebuttal of Republican and industry claims that federal regulations and delays in offshore drilling permitting are primarily responsible for the recent sharp spike in U.S. gasoline prices, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman said Thursday rising gas prices primarily are due to surging global crude oil prices as political unrest continues in the Middle East and North Africa. House and Senate Republicans and industry officials have castigated the offshore drilling moratorium that the Obama administration imposed in the wake of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill caused by the April 2010 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig, which ruptured a BP plc well sending millions of barrels of crude into the Gulf. While the administration recently has begun to issue its first permits for Gulf drilling projects since the catastrophic spill—approving a third such permit Friday—Republicans and the U.S. oil industry have blasted the Interior Department...

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(Continued on p. 3)

Japanese Officials Hopeful, But Won't Rule Out Sand Dump

Heading into the second weekend of Japan's acute nuclear crisis, Tokyo Electric Power Co. officials said Friday they hoped to have offsite power restored by Saturday at two damaged reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi—a step that could help in cooling the units—although government officials acknowledged they have not fully ruled out the more drastic step of encasing the entire radioactive site in sand if conditions deteriorate further.

Asked at a press conference if the company has ruled out the "Chernobyl solution," a Japanese government official said, "That solution is in the back of

our minds, but we are focused on cooling the reactors right now," according to several Japanese media accounts.

After the 1986 Chernobyl accident—which released more radiation than appears to have thus far escaped the Japan complex following the March 11 tsunami—an exploded Russian reactor was covered in sacks of sand, lead and boron, then encased in cement.

However, TEPCO officials showed no apparent signs of adopting that plan Friday, as workers continued to pump seawater through the Units 1, 2 and 3 reactors at the site and to spray water with fire

hoses into at least one damaged and overheating spent fuel pool.

Also Friday, Japan's nuclear safety agency raised its severity rating of core damage at two of the Fukushima Daiichi reactors from 4 to 5 on a seven-step International Atomic Energy Agency scale, indicating a higher level of safety concern.

That ranks the Japanese disaster alongside the 1979 accident at the U.S. Three Mile Island plant, although U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu on Wednesday described the Japanese incident as the more serious of the two incidents.

In a joint statement late Friday, the Energy Department and Environmental Protection Agency said that radiation monitors have sensed "no radiation levels of concern" in the United States.

API Backs Industry Deepwater Offshore Safety Institute

The American Petroleum Institute announced Thursday that its board of directors has formally endorsed efforts to establish an industry-backed offshore safety institute, a key recommendation of the national commission on offshore drilling and the BP plc oil spill.

API said in a statement the Center for Offshore Safety will be based in Houston and draw on "successful, existing safety programs, applying the best elements of these programs to accommodate the unique challenges of offshore oil and natural gas operations, and will rely on independent auditing and review" by the American National Standards Institute.

The industry group, which represents more than 470 oil and gas companies, said the focus of the safety institute will be based on API's so-called "Recommended Practice 75" covering safety and environmental management systems for offshore deepwater drillers.

API said the standard "was recently incorporated into federal regulations by [the Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement]," the agency's offshore leasing unit.

The decision to support the institute follows extensive review and development by oil and gas industry officials, said API President

and Chief Executive Officer Jack Gerard.

"While many of the center's structure and operating details have yet to be resolved, the program will be run by the separately funded standards and certification arm of the American Petroleum Institute," added Gerard.

The National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling in its final report called for the creation of an industry-backed offshore safety institute. However, it said such an entity was needed because existing industry best practices needed to be better defined and to replace API's benchmark offshore safety standards.

Some NRC Staff 'Incredulous' At Yucca Work Halt... (Cont'd from p. 1)

knowledgeed the decision was his and says it is backed by NRC's general counsel.

But growing staff frustration with the decision became public in three "non-concurrences" released March 11 at the request of three managers who refused to agree with a March 1 update to NRC commissioners on the staff's recent Yucca work.

Consistent with the October 4 directive, staff's recent Yucca work has been confined to "orderly closure" of the Yucca license review, and capturing knowledge gleaned from pre-licensing work.

In one non-concurrence, NMSS Senior Project Manager Janet Kotra said the March 1 update improperly "appears to imply that the NMSS staff voluntarily, or worse still, on its own volition, sought to terminate NRC staff's independent review of the Yucca Mountain License application...."

Instead, Kotra said NMSS staff has conducted a "fair, independent and technically sound safety review" and "stood down from that duty only with enormous reluctance."

Taken together, the strong staff unhappiness will increase anger among backers of Yucca, which had been the nation's sole strategy for disposal of spent fuel and radioactive waste until the Obama administration moved to cancel it in 2009.

Many Yucca backers think the decision fulfilled a political promise President Barack Obama made to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), who loathes the Yucca project in his home state, when Obama was running for president and needed Reid's support.

Yucca backers suspect Jaczko also wants to sink the project out of allegiance to Reid, who was responsible for elevating Jaczko from a position as Reid's science advisor to NRC chairman.

In another non-concurrence, NRC staffer King Stablein, who calls himself Kotra's direct supervisor, describes staff unhappiness in even stronger terms. Stablein says some staff were "incredulous" at a directive from Jaczko not to release a key evaluation of Yucca's likely safety performance, know as Safety Evaluation Report Volume 3, or SER 3.

Before the October 4 stop-work order, SER 3 had been set for release in November and would have been a substantial step in NRC's license review process. Instead, Jaczko ordered the analysis released as a less formal technical evaluation report

that won't affect Yucca licensing.

"When the chairman met with [Yucca license review] staff on October 12, 2010, it was pointed out to him that allowing the staff to finish the SER volumes would be by far the most efficient and effective use of ...resources and at the same time would give the nation the benefit of an independent regulator's evaluation of the Yucca Mountain project," said Stablein in his non-concurrence.

Jaczko "made it clear during the meeting that, although he recognized he could choose that path, his view was that it looked even more political to publish the SER volumes with findings than to issue them as technical evaluation reports.

"Despite his audience's incredulity regarding this position, the chairman said the decision was solely his and that he chose to derail the SER development process while directing the staff to begin orderly shutdown of the Yucca Mountain program," Stablein continued.

"As a supervisor in this program, I am keenly aware of the agony experienced by [Yucca license review] staff as they dutifully followed the chairman's direction.

"To not be allowed to finish the SER, the culmination of those years of pre-licensing and licensing activity, because of what appears to be the arbitrary decision of one person, was wrenching for the staff," said Stablein, whose title is chief of Project Branch B in NRC's division of high-level repository safety.

NRC officials were not immediately available to comment Friday on the three non-concurrences.

NRC released a heavily redacted version of SER 3 last month in response to a Freedom of Information Act request.

Jaczko came under fire Thursday from House Republicans, who questioned whether Jaczko's October stop-work order was legally sound.

In a joint hearing of two House Energy and Commerce Committee panels, Jaczko said the stop-work order "was consistent with my legal authority as a chairman of the commission and the decision was fully consistent with appropriate law."

Jaczko noted the Energy Department has appointed a "blue-ribbon" panel of experts to find a new national nuclear waste management plan to replace Yucca.

CPUC Slams PG&E On Pipeline Records... (Continued from p. 1)

scheduled for March 24.

PG&E, the regulated utility of PG&E Corp., submitted the documents as part of an ongoing scrub of its records ordered by the CPUC to ensure its pipeline system is operating as expected so that its transmission lines' maximum allowable operating pressures (MAOP) are set accurately.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the lead federal agency investigating the San Bruno disaster, in January urged all U.S. gas pipeline operators and regulators to double-check their pipeline records in response to the accident.

The deadly accident also has led the Obama administration and congressional Democrats to propose tough new federal pipeline integrity standards and safety regulations.

The NTSB action follows recent admissions by PG&E that the segment of its aging Line 132 that ruptured last year was not included on the utility's list of its 100 riskiest pipeline segments—even though the segment was located in a residential suburb of San Francisco.

Further, NTSB investigators found that PG&E's as-built drawings and other system records showed Line 132 was built using 30-inch diameter seamless steel pipe, but the ruptured pipe segment in fact was constructed with longitudinally seam-welded pipe.

NTSB recommended PG&E use "traceable, verifiable, and complete records" to determine the valid MAOP "based on the weakest section of the pipeline or component" identified in the records search to ensure safe operation of its gas transmission system.

The CPUC on January 3 ordered PG&E to fully comply with NTSB's recommendations.

In a statement Tuesday acknowledging it has fallen short of CPUC's directives, PG&E said it turned over records to support its MAOP for 92 percent of its transmission system located in high-consequence areas installed prior to 1970—before pressure testing was first required under federal law—based on "historical" high operating pressures.

CPUC said Thursday it also received "pressure test records of historical maximum pressure data to support [PG&E's] MAOP for... 93 percent of its post-1970 pipelines."

PG&E said Tuesday that "while current regulations permit operators to establish MAOP for pre-1970 pipelines based on historical operating pressures," it supports efforts to "raise the bar" on existing federal and state pipeline testing standards industry-wide.

However, the utility said such support was contingent on "a reasonable transition period... to avoid potentially significant impacts" to its California customers.

"While we have made good progress on our records validation, we are not satisfied with the results to date and will continue to search for and review our files for additional pressure test records and provide regular updates on our efforts," PG&E President Chris Johns said.

However, the utility's response failed to appease CPUC Executive Director Paul Clanon, who asserted in a statement late Wednesday that PG&E's noncompliance was "willful."

"PG&E's willful noncompliance of our direct order may put public safety at risk," said Clanon, alleging PG&E intends to rely on grandfathering methods to set MAOP for some pipes rather than compare installed pipes to as-built drawings, ostensibly to save money.

"PG&E must do its part by fully and timely complying with our orders, or face penalties," said Clanon.

PG&E spokesman Joe Molica declined to directly respond to Clanon's comments but said that "in some instances, there may not be pressure-testing records for some lines."

Johns' comments also failed to assure Wall Street credit rating agency Standard & Poor's, which Wednesday downgraded both PG&E and PG&E Corp.'s credit rating to negative from stable, citing the threat of "heavy fines" following Clanon's comments.

CPUC's draft show-cause order upped the ante for potential penalties. The commission said it may impose a penalty of up to \$20,000 per offense on a public utility that "fails or neglects to comply with any part or provision of" a commission order, and that state law provides that each day of a continuing offense constitutes a "separate and distinct offense."

The commission said that "after a multi-month search effort, PG&E is currently operating 8 percent of its natural gas transmission system without documents supporting the purported MAOP," adding that "it appears that PG&E's interpretation is contrary to the NTSB's safety recommendations and the commission order because PG&E relies on historical highest operating pressure as a substitute for actual pipeline component analysis. PG&E has provided no evidence that these historical pressure levels are the functional equivalents of [NTSB's recommendations]."

"Similarly, PG&E's reports shows no evidence that it conducted an 'aggressive and diligent search for as-built drawings' or that it attempted to determine a valid maximum allowable operating pressure based on the weakest component in each pipeline segment.

"Therefore, we conclude that PG&E appears to have materially failed to comply with" the commission's orders, the CPUC said.

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Bingaman: Middle East Unrest, Not Federal Regs, Driving U.S. Gas Prices

BY CHRIS HOLLY

In unusually blunt rebuttal of Republican and industry claims that federal regulations and delays in offshore drilling permitting are primarily responsible for the recent sharp spike in U.S. gasoline prices, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman said Thursday rising gas prices primarily are due to surging global crude oil prices as political unrest continues in the Middle East and North Africa.

House and Senate Republicans and industry officials have castigated the offshore drilling moratorium that the Obama administration imposed in the wake of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill caused by the April 2010 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig, which ruptured a BP plc well sending millions of barrels of crude into the Gulf.

While the administration recently has begun to issue its first permits for Gulf drilling projects since the catastrophic spill—approving a third such permit Friday—Republicans and the U.S. oil industry have blasted the Interior Department for not moving fast enough.

Republicans also have asserted that the Environmental Protection Agency's greenhouse gas tailoring rule and other proposed or looming regulations have helped drive up gasoline prices. During House debate on Republican legislation to strip EPA of its Clean Air Act authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, some GOP members argued that enacting the legislation—which cleared the House last week—would immediately help lower prices.

But in a Thursday evening Senate floor speech, Bingaman said a recent briefing with current and former federal officials on the causes of the sharp increases in gasoline prices has reinforced his conviction that global crude oil prices—which also have spiked due to political unrest in Egypt, Tunisia and most recently, Libya and Bahrain—are the main contributor to surging U.S. gas prices.

Bingaman and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (Alaska), the Senate energy panel's senior Republican, hosted a March 15 Senate briefing to discuss the causes of the price spikes with Energy Information Administration Administrator Richard Newell, former Bush administration energy advisor Bob McNally, and Frank Verrastro,

who leads the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Energy and National Security program.

"While they each highlighted different factors that are important in explaining how we've come to find oil prices at levels that we haven't seen since 2008, it struck me that there were two factors in particular that none of them highlighted as important to current prices," Bingaman said. "First, none of these experts highlighted the administration's permitting process in the Gulf of Mexico as being a significant factor in world oil markets."

Bingaman said the three officials also discounted the effect on global crude and U.S. gasoline of anticipated EPA regulations to require power plants and oil refineries to meet Clean Air Act new source performance standards for greenhouse gases.

"...[A]ny anticipated EPA regulation of greenhouse gas refineries was not included in any of the presentations as a driver behind the current increase in prices," Bingaman said. "In fact, more broadly, neither the EPA nor any kind of U.S. regulatory actions was discussed as important to understanding world oil prices."

Bingaman said the bulk of the discussion in the Tuesday briefing was about the unrest in the Middle East and North Africa.

"It should be obvious that this is the major force driving oil prices, but there seems to be some question about it at the moment, so let me be clear what we were told," Bingaman said. "When the world's key oil producing and exporting region, which is the Middle East and North Africa, is unstable, world oil markets are also unstable. When political unrest threatens major chokepoints in the world oil transit routes, world oil prices react, as they have."

"When a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) stops exporting oil, which has virtually occurred in the case of Libya, world oil markets react. When there are fears that a nearby neighbor and close ally of Saudi Arabia, home to the world's largest spare oil production capacity, might begin a series of political upheavals in the Persian Gulf region, world oil

markets react as well."

Bingaman noted that while these events helped push oil prices to their highest level since 2008, global crude prices on Thursday briefly dropped back below the \$100 per barrel mark, reflecting the fact that the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan in all likelihood will reduce oil demand in Japan, the world's third-largest economy.

While saying he agreed that the United States "need[s] to keep drilling" and that "it is helpful to have more supplies on the world market," Bingaman said "the key to reducing [U.S.] vulnerability to world oil prices and volatility is for us to find ways to use less oil."

He noted that the EIA's latest annual energy forecast shows that U.S. reliance on imported oil probably peaked in 2005, in large part due to bipartisan legislation approved by Congress in 2007 requiring stronger motor vehicle fuel efficiency standards and strengthening a mandate for the production of alternative fuels for blending in gasoline.

The EIA forecast said that the 26 billion barrels of reduced U.S. oil demand attributable to the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) exceeds total U.S. proven oil reserves of 23 billion barrels.

"I hope we can all agree that this is a significant success," Bingaman said.

Bingaman said he hopes the Senate in the coming weeks will focus on three keys issues he said would help further reduce U.S. oil imports: increasing the expansion of the renewable fuels sector that currently is facing infrastructure and financing constraints; accelerating the timeline for electric vehicle market penetration; and making sure that natural gas vehicles are used in as many applications as appropriate for that technology.

"Every barrel of oil we displace from the transportation sector, and that we therefore do not need to consume in the United States, makes our economy stronger, not to mention our personal pocketbooks, and less vulnerable to the volatility of the current marketplace," he said. "The bipartisan path that we laid out in [the EISA] is the right approach. As part of any bipartisan approach we take to energy in the weeks and months ahead, we need to continue moving in that direction."

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March 22, 2011 Headlines

Senate Energy Leaders Signal Mandatory CES In The Works

Leaders of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Monday rolled out a white paper laying out key design questions on the form and structure of a clean energy standard proposed by President Obama in January, suggesting in the paper that the standard would be mandatory and would include a crediting mechanism to ensure flexible compliance options for utilities. The white paper, released by committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) and Sen. Lisa Murkowski (Alaska), the panel's ranking Republican, seeks comment from stakeholders on "a threshold question of what the general policy goals for the electric sector are and whether a clean energy standard (CES) would most effectively achieve them." In his January State of the Union address, Obama called for a CES of 80 percent by 2035, saying the standard could include renewables, natural gas, nuclear and coal with carbon capture and sequestration (CCS). A White House "fact sheet" on the proposal indicated that the standard would allow...

Obama Outreach To Brazil On Biofuels Skirts U.S. Tariff

President Obama this weekend called for deepening U.S.-Brazilian cooperation on biofuels and promised to resolve "whatever challenges stand in the way," but he skirted the politically sensitive issue of U.S. tariffs on ethanol imports—the biggest such barrier facing Brazil's ethanol industry. Speaking at a business summit in Brazil Saturday, Obama also expressed keen interest in sharing emerging offshore drilling "technology and support" with Brazil to help the country better exploit the vast reserves recently discovered off its coast. "We want to work with you" on boosting oil and gas production from offshore Brazilian oil and gas fields, Obama said at the summit, held in the Brazilian capital City of Brasilia. "At a time when we've been reminded how easily instability in other parts of the world can affect the price of oil, the United States could not be happier with the potential for a new, stable source of energy," he added. The comments irked U.S. oil and natural gas...

NRC Eyeing Safety Impact Of 'Beyond Design Basis' Events

Amid apparent progress in restoring power to cooling systems at the stricken Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan, Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials Monday expressed confidence that U.S. reactors have effective emergency plans in place to cope with dangerous earthquakes and floods, but the agency already is moving to review plants' ability to withstand "beyond design-basis" natural disasters exceeding worst-case scenarios used to design plant safety

AK/70

systems. And at a public hearing held by the commission Monday on the Japanese accident and response actions taken by the NRC and the U.S. nuclear industry to date, NRC officials acknowledged that they already are reviewing new earthquake risk analyses recently done by the U.S. Geological Survey for the eastern and central United States to see if they raise any safety issues. The new seismic analyses underline concerns raised by some nuclear critics that the Japanese accident shows that earthquake risks at some older U.S. reactors may be...

CPS Suspends Talks With NRG On New Reactor Power Purchase

In an apparent casualty of the ongoing nuclear disaster in Japan, CPS Energy President and Chief Executive Officer Doyle Beneby said Monday that the municipal utility is suspending indefinitely discussions with NRG Energy Inc. on purchasing power from two new nuclear reactors at the South Texas Project proposed to be built by an international consortium led by NRG. The consortium, the Nuclear Innovation North America LLC, includes Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO), which owns the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power complex that was...

BOEMRE Issues First Deepwater Exploration Permit Since Gulf Spill

Amid persistent industry pressure on the Obama administration to speed the pace of permitting for deepwater drilling projects, the Interior Department Monday gave permission to a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell plc to move forward on exploration plans at its Auger field 130 miles offshore Louisiana, marking the first new deepwater exploration plan approved since the Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill last April. In approving a permit for Shell Offshore Inc. to act on a supplemental exploration plan proposing activities that were not included in an original exploration...

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BY JOHNATHAN RICKMAN

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“We want to work with you” on boosting oil and gas production from offshore Brazilian oil and gas fields, Obama said at the summit, held in the Brazilian capital City of Brasilia.

“At a time when we’ve been reminded how easily instability in other parts of the world can affect the price

(Continued on p. 4)

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BY CHRIS HOLLY

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(Continued on p. 3)

NRC Eyeing Safety Impact Of ‘Beyond Design Basis’ Events

Amid apparent progress in restoring power to

BY GEORGE LOBSENZ

cooling systems at the stricken Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan, Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials Monday expressed confidence that U.S. reactors have effective emergency plans in place to cope with dangerous earthquakes and floods, but the agency already is moving to review plants’ ability to withstand “beyond design-basis” natural disasters exceeding worst-case scenarios used to design plant safety systems.

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accident and response actions taken by the NRC and the U.S. nuclear industry to date, NRC officials acknowledged that they already are reviewing new earthquake risk analyses recently done by the U.S. Geological Survey for the eastern and central United States to see if they raise any safety issues.

The new seismic analyses underline concerns raised by some nuclear critics that the Japanese accident shows that earthquake risks at some older U.S. reactors may be larger than previously believed—and larger than reactors are

designed to withstand.

The commission acknowledged such concerns for some U.S. reactors in a fact sheet issued Saturday on earthquake

risks.

The fact sheet said new data and computer models on earthquake risk “suggest that the probability for earthquake ground motion above the seismic design basis for some nuclear plants in the central and eastern United States, although...still low, is larger than previous estimates.”

And the commission Friday released an information notice to U.S. reactor operators clearly stating that NRC inspectors would be looking at beyond design-basis accidents in response to the

(Continued on p. 2)

NRC Eyeing Safety Impact Of Events... (Continued from p. 1)

Japanese accident, which was triggered by the largest earthquake in Japan's history March 11.

"NRC assessment of the implications of beyond design-basis natural phenomena is continuing as more information [about the Japanese accident] becomes available," the information notice said.

"The NRC staff is currently developing a temporary instruction to guide staff in performing independent assessments of nuclear power plant readiness to address beyond design-basis natural phenomena under the reactor oversight process.

"The NRC is considering...additional action, including requesting operating plants to provide specific information relating to their facilities to enable the NRC staff to complete a regulatory assessment of beyond design-basis phenomena."

President Obama last week directed the NRC to conduct a full review of U.S. nuclear plant safety in response to the Japanese accident, but the commission has not yet detailed the exact parameters of that review.

At the public meeting Monday, NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko said a "proposal" was circulating at the agency, but provided no other details.

As for the concerns about beyond design-basis events, Bill Borchardt, executive director for operations at the NRC, told the NRC commissioners at the meeting that while the Japanese accident clearly illuminated the threat of big earthquakes, NRC staff experts to date had seen no evidence of heightened earthquake risks imperiling the safety of any U.S. reactor.

Further, he emphasized that U.S. nuclear plant operators had in recent years significantly upgraded their emergency response capabilities due to new NRC safety rules put in place following the September 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City and at the Pentagon. Those rules generally required plant operators to install new backup equipment to ensure that cooling capability for reactors and spent fuel pools could be maintained in the event of a large-scale terrorist attack that disabled plant systems.

But under questioning by NRC commissioners, NRC staff at the meeting appeared to give somewhat conflicting answers about whether the commission looked at possible safety impacts from multiple events happening at once—such as the earthquake and tsunami that knocked out cooling systems and backup power systems at the six-unit Fukushima Daiichi site. Some staff at the meeting said NRC analyses looked at each event individually, as opposed to examining possible cumulative effects. However, other officials said U.S. reactors in coastal areas were reviewed for both earthquake and flooding risks such as those that damaged the Fukushima reactor.

Borchardt and other NRC staff also sought to address concerns about the design of the General Electric Mark I boiling water reactors used at the Japanese plant—in particular, possible safety implications for the 23 Mark I reactors in the United States.

The concern focuses on hydrogen explosions that have destroyed secondary containment buildings at two of the Fukushima reactors and possibly damaged primary containment structures at a third. Borchardt said the explosions likely were due to buildup of hydrogen gas from overheating fuel in the reactors and possibly from uncovered spent fuel in cooling ponds.

However, he said NRC had addressed such hydrogen risks at the Mark I reactors years ago by requiring operators of those plants to install upgraded venting systems designed to safely release any similar buildup of gases during accident scenarios in those reactors.

He also said NRC regulations required containment structures at U.S. Mark I reactors to be filled with inert nitrogen gas, making it impossible for hydrogen to mix with oxygen to create explosion risks.

Borchardt rejected any suggestion that the U.S. response to the Japanese accident was lacking given the actions of other countries, especially Germany, which shut down its reactors to assess safety risks. He said that while he did not know the basis for Germany's actions, he was confident that the NRC had taken appropriate action on U.S. reactor safety.

The NRC hearing came as Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) reported progress Monday in restoring power to cooling systems at several of the Fukushima reactors and spent fuel ponds.

The World Nuclear Association reported Monday that new cables were successfully transmitting grid power to Fukushima's Units 5 and 6, allowing them to operate their residual heat removal systems. It said those units had been brought to cold shutdown status and that their spent fuel ponds were being cooled.

TEPCO said restoration operations at the plant were interrupted Monday when light grey smoke was seen coming from the reactor building of Unit 3, forcing the evacuation of plant workers to a safe location. However, TEPCO said monitors showed no change in temperature or pressure in the reactor vessel and that no increase in radiation levels was detected. The amount of smoke decreased as the day went on.

While tensions at the plant site appeared to abate somewhat, international concern about the spread of radioactivity from the Fukushima plant increased when Japanese officials reported test results showing elevated contamination levels in milk and vegetables produced in areas around the plant. Some contamination levels exceeded Japanese safety limits, prompting officials to bar sale of the tainted food.

In remarks to the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Monday about the Japanese accident, IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano noted the growing international concerns about radioactive contamination from the Japanese accident, and said he had asked Japanese authorities to improve the flow of information about conditions at the Fukushima plant.

Amano said that in meetings with top Japanese government officials last week, "I stressed that people all over the world are concerned about the possible consequences of the accident. I encouraged the Japanese authorities to further improve the provision of information to the [IAEA]."

Amano said the Japanese accident also made clear that "the current international emergency response framework needs to be reassessed.

He added: "The agency's role in nuclear safety may need to be re-examined, along with the role of our safety standards. It is already clear that arrangements for putting international nuclear experts in touch with each other quickly during a crisis need to be improved."

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In an apparent casualty of the ongoing nuclear disaster in Japan, CPS Energy President and Chief Executive Officer Doyle Beneby said Monday that the municipal utility is suspending indefinitely discussions with NRG Energy Inc. on purchasing power from two new nuclear reactors at the South Texas Project proposed to be built by an international consortium led by NRG.

The consortium, the Nuclear Innovation North America LLC, includes Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO), which owns the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power complex that was crippled by a tsunami triggered by a massive earthquake offshore northeastern Japan earlier this month.

TEPCO was expected to increase its investment in the STP reactors if the consortium won an Energy Department loan guarantee for the expansion, and the consortium was also counting on loan guarantees from the Japanese government in support of the project.

However, with TEPCO facing major cleanup costs at its damaged Fukushima plant and the Japanese government stagered by an estimated \$250 billion-plus effort to rebuild communities and restore industrial facilities wiped out by the earthquake and tsunami, it seems increased Japanese investment at the South Texas Project (STP) nuclear plant is unlikely for

the foreseeable future.

Owned by the city of San Antonio, CPS at one time held a 40 percent stake in the STP expansion, but it cut back its ownership under pressure from city officials worried about the project's escalating costs and from consumer groups urging the utility to pursue renewable energy. Last year, CPS and NRG reached a court-approved settlement that allowed the muni to recoup up to \$90 million of its investment in the new reactor initiative while retaining a 6.7 percent stake in the project.

CPS recently had signaled interest in increasing the amount of electricity it could buy from the new reactors, but the project has been coming under increasing stress from low gas prices, and the still-unfolding crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi site appears to be another blow to its prospects.

Senate Energy Leaders Signal Mandatory CES... (Continued from p. 1)

with CCS to generate "partial" credits, while other technologies would generate full credits.

Bingaman has authored several bills to establish a renewable electricity standard (RES) that would require most electric utilities to obtain a specified percentage of their power from wind, solar, biomass and other qualifying renewable energy resources. In his last bill on the subject, Bingaman proposed allowing utilities to meet roughly 25 percent of the RES via energy-efficiency improvements, a major concession to utilities operating in states that lack abundant wind or solar resources.

In the past, Bingaman has expressed skepticism about previous CES proposals proffered primarily by Republicans, saying, for example, that such proposals would be extremely difficult to design. CES critics have argued that—among other issues—a CES could provide a perverse incentive to fossil-fuel and nuclear generation technologies that would enable these technologies to strengthen their collective stranglehold on the U.S. generation market at the expense of fledgling non-hydro-power renewables.

Indeed, Bingaman's full-throated support for an RES lies in his conviction that such a mandate would give renewables a fighting chance to compete against conventional generation technologies and help U.S. renewable energy companies capture a healthy share of the rapidly growing global clean energy market.

The white paper clearly reflects Bingaman's and Murkowski's concerns about what goal the CES is supposed to achieve and what CES design elements are therefore required.

"Is the goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower electricity costs, spur utilization of particular assets, diversity supply, or a combination thereof?" the senators asked. "Depending on the goals, is a CES the right policy for the nation at this time? If so, is 80 percent by 2035 the right target? If not, should alternatives to reach similar goals be considered?"

Judging by the range of questions they posed in the white paper, the only design point on which Bingaman and Murkowski appear to have reached a clear decision is that a potential CES would include a credit system as proposed by the White House.

"How should the crediting system and timetables be designed?" the lawmakers asked, in a phrasing that also implies the CES would be mandatory rather than voluntary.

Among many "key" questions posed by the white paper are:

- What technologies should qualify as "clean," and should this definition account only for greenhouse gas emissions or should other environmental issues be accounted for, such as conventional air pollutants, nuclear waste and siting issues related to solar, wind and biomass plants? Should efficiency be included? Also, should the qualifying technologies be expressly listed or based on a general emissions threshold?
- Should the compliance timetable include interim targets? Should the president's proposal to give partial credit to CCS coal and gas be included in a CES?
- How should a federal CES be meshed with renewables mandates in place in at least 30 states?
- What are the likely impacts of a CES on local, state and regional power prices? Should the CES include a cost cap to ensure ratepayers won't face sharp price spikes as a result of the mandate?
- How should CES legislation address the need for new transmission to accommodate the flood of new generation expected to result from the mandate, and how should the costs of new transmission be allocated?
- To what extent should a CES interact with other federal policies such as U.S. climate change policy? Would a CES be sufficient for each qualifying technology to overcome its individual challenges, such as—in the case of CCS—who should bear final legal liability for carbon dioxide permanently stored in a geologic formation?

Bingaman and Murkowski asked that all responses to these and other questions posed in the paper be delivered to the committee by April 11, a tight timetable that underscores the widely held belief that a CES bill must at least be introduced—if not also approved by the energy committee—by the July 4 congressional recess if it is to clear Congress before the 2012 presidential campaign heats up in earnest and makes action on controversial bills all but impossible.

BOEMRE Issues First Deepwater Exploration Permit Since Gulf Spill

Amid persistent industry pressure on the Obama administration to speed the pace of permitting for deepwater drilling projects, the Interior Department Monday gave permission to a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell plc to move forward on exploration plans at its Auger field 130 miles offshore Louisiana, marking the first new deepwater exploration plan approved since the Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill last April.

In approving a permit for Shell Offshore Inc. to act on a supplemental exploration plan proposing activities that were not included in an original exploration plan for the same lease—which was first approved in 1985—Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation

and Enforcement (BOEMRE) said Shell had shown in a recent site-specific environmental assessment that it could respond effectively if its drilling activities triggered a blow-out similar to the one that devastated the Deepwater Horizon.

"The successful completion of this environmental assessment, and the resulting approval of Shell's exploration plan, unmistakably demonstrates that oil and gas exploration can continue responsibly in deep water," said BOEMRE Director Michael Bromwich in a written statement.

"Shell's submission has satisfied the heightened environmental standards that we are now applying and I am confident that other [Gulf] operators can satisfy the same standards."

Interior officials said Shell's exploration plan satisfied requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and superseded the need for a full draft environmental review.

The approval follows on the heels of industry announcements that they had developed underwater spill containment systems capable of handling a massive deepwater oil spill.

On a call with reporters Monday describing the approval process, Bromwich said BOEMRE officials applied "an analytic tool developed by [the agency] and in conjunction with industry" to determine if Shell's containment resources were sufficient.

He also expressed "a high level of confidence" that the approval—a key step advancing Shell's efforts to gain final permits allowing it to drill three new deepwater wells in the Gulf of Mexico—would withstand litigation if challenged in court.

Obama Outreach To Brazil On Biofuels Skirts Tariff... (Cont'd from p. 1)

of oil, the United States could not be happier with the potential for a new, stable source of energy," he added.

The comments irked U.S. oil and natural gas industry officials and key Republicans in Congress, who have heavily criticized the Obama administration for its recent moratorium on U.S. offshore drilling. They called on Obama to focus his calls for expanded offshore drilling stateside, where such activity has been slow to revive in the wake of BP plc Gulf oil spill.

Obama's comments coincided with the launch of a new U.S.-Brazil "Strategic Energy Dialogue," which the White House said in a statement commits the trading partners to support economic policies that assist both in the "transition to a clean energy economy."

On biofuels, the White House said Obama and Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff agreed to commit \$3 million to extend a memorandum of understanding between the countries first signed in March 2007 that recognized Brazil's success in using ethanol produced from sugarcane to greatly reduce the amount of gasoline used by its motor vehicle fleet.

The two leaders also launched a new initiative targeting aviation biofuels, providing for bilateral research and development to spur commercial-scale development of such fuels.

In his speech before U.S. and Brazilian business leaders, Obama said the new initiatives were important because both nations were keenly interested in transitioning to biofuels for both environmental and economic development reasons.

"...that's why the United States and Brazil are deepening our cooperation on biofuels... because we know that the development of clean energy is one of the best ways to create new jobs and industries in both our nations," said Obama.

"And I know Brazil has issues with certain policies in the

United States," added Obama, referring to the 54-cent-per-gallon tariff on imported ethanol currently protecting U.S. ethanol industry interests.

"But I also know that there's no country that has more to gain than Brazil from expanded trade and open markets. And we want to help you resolve whatever challenges stand in the way of this goal," said Obama.

Unica, the Sao Paulo-based group that represents Brazil's sugarcane industry, Monday characterized Obama's comments as "encouraging," noting that two U.S. energy companies—Amyris Inc. and General Electric—and Brazilian jet manufacturer Embraer SA are currently partnering on developing aviation jet fuels using sugarcane feedstocks.

However, Unica President and Chief Executive Officer Marcos Jank said in a statement maintaining the import tariff on foreign ethanol "works against everyone's best interests."

The ethanol industry and Republicans and Democrats from the Midwest—where most U.S. biofuel and its feedstocks are produced—say the import tariff is critical to increasing domestic fuel production, thus reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

However, the tariff and ethanol tax credits have been the focus of increasingly outspoken criticism in recent weeks from Republicans and Democrats in Congress alike. They say the tax credit is too costly and no longer needed by the large corn-based ethanol producers that already are the prime beneficiaries of federal renewable fuel use mandates.

The critics charge the tariff hurts U.S. consumers and the environment by blocking cheaper sugarcane ethanol from Brazil, which also has significantly lower life-cycle greenhouse emissions than U.S. corn-based ethanol.

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March 24, 2011 Headlines

Low-Cost Gas Slams Adage's Plans For U.S. Biopower Plants

Saying low natural gas prices and weak state renewable electricity mandates have undermined the marketability of their projects, Adage LLC, formed by French nuclear giant Areva and Duke Energy, this week quietly revealed it has dropped plans to build and operate a series of plants in various U.S. markets using wood waste as fuel to produce electricity. In a statement Wednesday, Adage spokesman Tom DePonty said the joint venture has no immediate plans to dissolve, but "for the time being will not be investing in development. "In general, low gas prices are driving down demand for these kinds of projects," he said. DePonty added that uncertainty surrounding a clean energy standard (CES) proposed by President Obama in January, as well as ineffective renewable electricity mandates in the states in which Adage was to operate also has "hindered" the overall outlook for new biomass power. While proponents of biopower generally back federal renewable energy incentives, the CES plan proposed...

UK Proposes World's First Carbon Floor Price For Generators

In a move aimed at accelerating investment in United Kingdom clean energy technologies, Britain's coalition government announced in a budget proposal Wednesday that beginning in 2013 it will require electricity generators to pay the government about \$26 for every metric ton of carbon dioxide they emit, with the minimum price rising gradually over time to nearly \$50 per ton by 2020. The fee—the world's first mandated price floor for carbon emissions—will be linked to allowance prices in the European Union greenhouse gas Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), such that if ETS allowance prices fall below the UK floor price, generators operating in the UK would have to pay the difference—in essence a tax—to the government. The carbon floor price is meant to provide an incentive to non-emitting generation technologies such as wind, solar and nuclear, while punishing carbon-heavy coal generation. It also will provide new revenues to the UK that, like many other European nations, is struggling...

NRC Task Force To Review Safety; 27 Reactors Are Seismic Priorities

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AK 71

27 U.S. nuclear reactors for priority earthquake safety reviews, but they emphasized the move was being made due to new seismic data known since 2008—not in response to any concerns raised by the accident at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. An NRC spokesman said the 27 reactors had been identified for priority evaluation last fall as part of the agency's regular periodic review of earthquake risks to nuclear plants. The plants all are located in the eastern and central regions of the United States where new studies by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have found potentially higher seismic risks than previously believed. The...

South Korea Enters U.S. Shale in Anadarko Deal

In South Korea's first foray into U.S. shale, Anadarko Petroleum Corp. Monday announced a joint venture with Korea National Oil Corp. under which the state-owned oil firm will acquire about one third of Anadarko's interest in the company's liquids-rich Eagle Ford Shale assets in South Texas for about \$1.55 billion. Anadarko said in a statement an unnamed affiliate of Korean...

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BY CHRIS HOLLY

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(Continued on p. 2)

Low-Cost Gas Slams Adage's Plans For U.S. Biopower Plants

BY JOHNATHAN RICKMAN

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In a statement Wednesday, Adage spokesman Tom DePonty said the joint venture has no immediate plans to dissolve, but “for the time being will not be investing in development.

“In general, low gas prices are driving down demand for these kinds of projects,” he said.

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(Continued on p. 3)

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BY GEORGE LOBSENZ

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An NRC spokesman said the 27 reactors had been identified for priority evaluation last fall as part of the agency's regular periodic review of earthquake risks to nuclear plants. The plants all are located in the eastern and central regions of the United States where new studies by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have found potentially higher seismic risks than previously believed.

The spokesman said the plants were

not publicly identified by the NRC at that time, except in response to specific media inquiries.

With the Fukushima accident, the commission this week received new media inquiries about earthquake risks—particularly in regard to the Indian Point nuclear plant near New York City—and at that time released the names of all the plants slated for priority seismic reviews.

The NRC spokesman stressed that all U.S. nuclear plants will undergo seismic reviews in the coming months as part of agency's regular earthquake risk assessment process, but that the 27 plants in the eastern and central United

(Continued on p. 4)

South Korea Enters U.S. Shale in Anadarko Deal

In South Korea's first foray into U.S. shale, Anadarko Petroleum Corp. Monday announced a joint venture with Korea National Oil Corp. under which the state-owned oil firm will acquire about one third of Anadarko's interest in the company's liquids-rich Eagle Ford Shale assets in South Texas for about \$1.55 billion.

Anadarko said in a statement an unnamed affiliate of Korean National Oil (KNOC) will get approximately 80,000 net acres in Anadarko's Maverick Basin

assets in exchange for funding 100 percent of Anadarko's share of development costs in 2011, and 90 percent of these costs thereafter, with an estimated completion of all obligations by year-end 2013.

In addition, KNOC can elect to buy a 25 percent share of Anadarko's associated gathering systems and facilities "by paying its share," said the Houston-based driller.

Wall Street applauded the deal Monday, with Anadarko's stock shooting up on reports that KNOC under the

deal paid premium prices for Anadarko's assets. Analysts said Monday the South Korean firm paid as much as \$15,000 per acre, which they said represented prices that have yet to be matched in the fast-growing oil and gas play.

The joint venture deal with KNOC follows a similar deal Anadarko made with an affiliate of Japan's Mitsui & Co. Ltd. in February 2010, under which the companies agreed to jointly develop Anadarko's Marcellus Shale assets in Pennsylvania for about \$1.4 billion.

UK Proposes World's First Carbon Floor Price... (Continued from p. 1)

coal generation. It also will provide new revenues to the UK that, like many other European nations, is struggling with severe budget deficits and reduced tax revenues due to the recent global recession.

In a budget presentation to Parliament, UK Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne said the new carbon fee—which will gradually replace a levy imposed by a Labor Party government on all forms of energy—will help finance investment in the UK's "dilapidated" energy infrastructure.

"First, as I have long-argued, investment in green energy will never be certain unless we bring some stability to the price of carbon," Osborne said in an allusion to pronounced swings in ETS allowance prices seen over the past few years. "Today we become the first country in the world to introduce a carbon price floor for the power sector."

Since non-emitting generation technologies would not have to pay the new carbon tax, the new policy "will provide the incentive for billions of pounds of new investment in our dilapidated energy infrastructure," Osborne said.

Documents posted on the UK Treasury's website said the carbon floor price would raise some \$5.2 billion over three years beginning in 2013.

The budget appears to suggest that Parliament would have to approve each year the annual increases in the carbon price floor, a structure that critics said would undermine investor confidence that carbon prices in fact would steadily increase over time.

In a report released earlier this month, Climate Change Capital, a respected London-based environmental investment management and advisory firm, said the policy could actually lead to reduced investments in renewables over the long term.

Instead of requiring annual approvals by Parliament of the increases in the carbon price floor, the government instead should embed the commitment in a contractual arrangement in which the UK Treasury would underwrite the value of the price support and then sell these guarantees to investors for a

nominal fee, the firm said.

"A policy to reduce uncertainty must itself be certain," Rupert Edwards, head of policy and market analysis at Climate Change Central, said in a March 11 press release. "To ensure that certainty, a contractual obligation could be created with no costs to government if the Treasury keeps to its carbon price floor commitments."

The coalition government led by Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron also came in for criticism for its proposal to delay the ability of the UK Green Investment Fund to borrow funds for investment in clean energy projects at least until 2015 and the government meets its debt-reduction targets.

That policy, critics said, would slow the flow of investments from the fund and reduce the amount of new clean energy generation. The government already has provided \$1.6 billion for the fund, and in the budget pledged to raise another \$3.2 billion through the sale of unspecified government assets.

The budget also includes a new \$3.2 billion windfall profits tax on North Sea oil production to offset a small reduction in gasoline taxes paid by UK motorists at the pump, and delays for one year a planned increase in the gasoline tax to help consumers and small businesses recover from the recession. The budget also delays for one year a planned hike in an existing green tax on airline travel.

UK green groups said these policies would encourage more driving and air travel and the resulting emissions would offset, at least in part, emission reductions expected to occur from the carbon price floor for generators.

Finally, the budget reaffirmed a previous government commitment to spend \$1.63 billion for a power plant carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration project. But the budget also changes the way the government would support three additional planned CCS projects, proposing to pay for these through regular government funds rather than a CCS tax on consumer electricity bills.

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The Southern Co. affiliate said its request to decertify units 1 and 2 at Plant Branch in south-central Georgia will be included in Georgia Power's updated integrated resource plan, which the company plans to file with the commission in late summer. The commission is expected to vote on the request

in spring 2012.

Georgia Power said it will ask for the units to be decertified by the end of 2013, when a Georgia rule imposing new limits on emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and mercury takes effect. The 250 MW Branch Unit 1 was built in 1965, while the 319 MW Unit 2 was built two years later.

"After an extensive analysis of the cost to comply with environmental regulations, we have determined the continued operation of these units would be uneconomical for our customers," Georgia Power President and Chief Executive Officer Paul Bowers said in a March 16 press release.

The Environmental Protection Agency on March 16 proposed regula-

tions to control emissions of mercury and other hazardous air pollution from coal- and oil-fired power plants. EPA said it expects the rule to lead to the retirement of about 2 percent of the nation's coal fleet by the end of 2015. Industry and Wall Street analyses project the EPA rules will lead to far more shutdowns than EPA predicts.

Georgia Power and other utilities with coal plants also face looming rules that could require construction of expensive cooling towers and tighten requirements for the management of coal ash and gypsum.

Georgia Power currently operates 9,686 MW of coal-fueled generation at 10 plants across the state. The company said it will continue to evaluate existing and expected federal rules to determine whether installing controls throughout its coal fleet—including two other coal units at the Branch plant—is economic.

Low-Cost Gas Slams Plans For Biopower Plants... (Continued from p. 1)

While proponents of biopower generally back federal renewable energy incentives, the CES plan proposed by Obama also proposes to include power plants using natural gas, clean coal and nuclear as eligible to meet CES requirements.

While allowing those technologies to qualify to meet CES requirements would broaden political support for Obama's initiative in Congress, some environmentalists and other critics have expressed concern that broad eligibility might squeeze out renewable resources such as solar, wind and biomass power—all of which are far more expensive than gas-fired plants given low U.S. gas prices.

Chadds Ford, Pa.-based Adage was established in 2008 to develop a series of biomass-fueled power plants in the United States, with a 65-megawatt plant planned for Mason County, Washington, and a 50 MW plant planned for Hamilton County, Florida, to be first out of the gate.

DePonty said that while the Florida plant recently obtained its essential land use and air permits, that project is "in the process of being wound down."

He added that Adage is "finalizing plans to end the permit process" for the Washington plant.

In addition to low gas prices, DePonty said Adage's decision to kill the Florida project was due to the state's lack of a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) requiring Florida utilities to get a certain percentage of their electricity from renewable energy sources.

He also said Washington's tiered RPS program factored into the firm's decision to drop its project in that state. Of the more than 35 state RPS programs currently in place, Washington's is less robust than others, requiring incremental increases to 15 percent renewable electricity by 2020.

Biomass is seen as a cleaner substitute for coal as a fuel for baseload power plants, particularly in regard to greenhouse

emissions, with biomass considered carbon-neutral by state governments.

However, a steady spate of low natural gas prices prompted by booming development of U.S. shale gas resources has begun to shift energy market dynamics more in favor of using natural gas for baseload, round-the-clock power.

And gas producers, eager to push up prices by getting more gas use by electric utilities, is increasingly looking to enter in longer-term supply contracts with generators at favorable prices.

Further complicating matters for developers of biopower projects was an initial decision by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to count carbon dioxide emissions from biomass power plants and other biogenic sources in the same way it counts emissions from fossil fuel plants under the agency's greenhouse gas permitting rules for stationary sources.

EPA subsequently announced March 14 that it will not subject biomass plants to its greenhouse gas tailoring rule for three years to conduct additional study on the contribution of biomass to global warming, the biomass power industry is worried new federal rules targeting its sector will impose billions of dollars in additional capital costs and scare off investors.

However, DePonty said those concerns were less of a factor for Adage, backed as it is by well-capitalized energy companies with investments in various renewable energy sectors.

The Portland, Maine-based Biomass Power Association (BPA) describes the sector as a \$1 billion industry with 80 facilities in 20 states that provides some 14,000 jobs nationwide.

BPA says it supports the establishment of a federal renewable energy standard at 25 percent by 2025, saying anything less would not represent a "meaningful" commitment to clean energy, the environment and efforts to grow green jobs.

Senate Dems To GOP: CFTC Budget Cuts Will Worsen Oil Speculation

Senate Democrats this week criticized Republicans for proposing substantial budget cuts for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, saying it would seriously weaken the agency's ability to monitor speculation in oil futures markets that Democrats charge is contributing significantly to rising U.S. gasoline prices.

In a Tuesday letter to Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and 45 other Senate Democrats charged that the fiscal year 2011 spending bill recently passed by the GOP-controlled House would slash the agency's budget by one-third, forcing it to lay off staff and reduce its market monitoring.

"At a time when gas prices are rising and squeezing American families, we have a responsibility to provide our watchdogs the resources they need to fulfill their important oversight and regulatory responsibilities," the Democrats wrote in the letter, which was also signed by Sens. Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.) and Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.). "We stand ready to work with you to come to a responsible budget compromise that will not do anything to make our gas price problem worse...."

The letter echoes concerns expressed by several members of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) that

looming budget cuts would make it virtually impossible for the agency to fulfill expanded regulatory and commodity market oversight duties assigned by Congress in the financial reform bill it passed last year.

One of the key drivers for the CFTC's new responsibilities was the spike in oil prices seen in 2008, which sent gasoline prices soaring and sparked charges primarily by Democratic lawmakers that hedge funds and other large investors were bidding up oil prices with a flood of speculative bids in futures markets. At the same time, the CFTC and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission accused the now-defunct Amaranth hedge fund of seeking to manipulate natural gas markets.

In once again raising allegations that speculation is fueling the current increase in gasoline prices, Democrats appear to be trying to blunt GOP attacks on President Obama over rising gasoline prices, which are widely seen as a major vulnerability for the president as he heads into his re-election campaign.

While providing no formal response to the Democrats' letter, Senate Republican sources scoffed that Democrats appeared to be trying to blame Republicans for gasoline price increases and speculation occurring on Obama's watch at the White House.

Republicans have accused Obama

of worsening gasoline price increases by reducing domestic energy production through excessive environmental restrictions on offshore drilling and coal, oil and natural gas development on federal lands.

The president has denied those charges, pointing to recent increases in U.S. oil production and saying increased environmental protections were needed in light of the recent BP plc oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

However, some analysts have suggested Obama is wrongly taking credit for U.S. energy production increases that actually flowed from efforts by Republicans and former President George W. Bush several years ago to speed drilling offshore and on federal lands by reducing environmental reviews—policies criticized by Obama and other Democrats.

Meanwhile, the role of speculation in current oil and gasoline price increases remains murky. Most analysts have said rising oil prices have predictably reflected market anxiety about unrest in oil-producing Middle East countries and Libya. However, others have suggested price increases might be overdone considering ample oil supplies and substantial spare oil production capacity in Saudi Arabia and among other producers.

Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) has led the charge in the Senate on oil speculation, saying earlier this month that speculators in oil futures markets had in recent weeks increased their bets by 35 percent that prices will continue to rise. He called on the CFTC to raise margin requirements on oil speculators to dampen the trend.

NRC Task Force To Review Safety; Seismic Priorities... (Cont'd from p. 1)

States will be looked at first because the new USGS studies indicated changes in seismic risks in those regions.

The spokesman also said that in response to concerns expressed about Indian Point by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko had been in touch with the governor's office to assure him that Indian Point would be on the NRC's priority list for earthquake reviews.

California Sens. Barbara Boxer (D) and Diane Feinstein (D) also have urged the NRC to give priority to assessing earthquake safety at the Diablo Canyon and San Onofre nuclear plants in their state.

NRC said the 27 reactors scheduled for priority earthquake reviews at this point are Progress Energy's Crystal River 3 in Florida; Exelon's Dresden 2 and 3 in Illinois; NextEra Energy's Duane Arnold in Iowa; Southern Co.'s Farley 1 and 2 in Alabama; Entergy's Indian Point 2 and 3; Exelon's Limerick 1 and 2 in eastern Pennsylvania; Dominion's North Anna 1 and 2 in Virginia; Duke Energy's Oconee 1, 2 and 3 in South Carolina; FirstEnergy's Perry 1 in Ohio; Exelon's Peach Bottom 2 and 3 in eastern Pennsylvania; Entergy's River Bend 1 in Louisiana; NextEra Energy's Saint Lucie 1 and 2 in Florida; Tennessee Valley Authority's Sequoyah 1 and 2 in Tennessee; NextEra Energy's Seabrook in New Hamp-

shire; V.C. Summer in South Carolina, operated by South Carolina Electric & Gas; TVA's Watts Bar 1 in Tennessee; and Wolf Creek in Kansas, owned by three Kansas utilities.

The NRC set no specific priorities for the task force it is forming to review safety implications of the Japanese accident for U.S. reactors, saying only that the task force would provide formal updates to the commission on any necessary short-term safety upgrade measures within 30, 60 and 90 days of formation.

"This work will help determine if any additional NRC responses, such as orders requiring immediate action by U.S. plants, are called for, prior to completing an in-depth investigation of the information from events in Japan," said NRC Executive Director for Operations Bill Borchardt.

The task force's longer-term review will inform any permanent NRC regulation changes determined to be necessary. The commission said it hopes the task force can begin the long-term evaluation within 90 days, and added that the task force should provide a report with recommended actions within six months of the beginning of that effort.

Meanwhile, ministers from European Union countries this week agreed to conduct safety reviews of Europe's 143 nuclear reactors in response to the Fukushima accident.

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March 25, 2011 Headlines

DOE To DNFSB: Drop 'Witness Tampering' Probe On WTP Safety

In an unprecedented and surprisingly heated confrontation over what the agency has characterized as "witness tampering" allegations, the Energy Department is pressuring the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board to drop its investigation into testimony delivered by DOE and its contractors at an October 2010 hearing held by the federal oversight board on safety issues at the massive radioactive waste cleanup plant being built at the department's Hanford site. The inter-agency dispute is particularly sensitive because some of the key safety issues being explored by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) on the \$12 billion Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) project were raised last July by Walter Tamosaitis, a senior contractor official on the project and respected technical expert on nuclear waste who says he was retaliated against by project managers after raising safety concerns about design of the plant. Tamosaitis's charges are mainly aimed at Bechtel National Inc., DOE's...

Texas High Court Reverses PUCT On Stranded Costs

In a sweeping decision on a long-lived stranded cost recovery dispute, the Texas Supreme Court ruled last week that state utility regulators erred in determining the value of generation assets CenterPoint Energy Inc. was required to sell to comply with Texas' electric restructuring law, a ruling that means the Texas retail electric company has an opportunity to recover at least \$922 million in stranded costs above what the regulators had allowed in a 2004 order. The March 18 ruling by the Texas high court confirmed in part and reversed in part a 2004 decision by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) that allowed CenterPoint to recover about \$2.3 billion of the \$4.25 billion the company had requested in stranded costs and interest associated with the company's transition to Texas' deregulated electricity market nine years ago. The PUCT must now issue a new order in the stranded cost case to address the high court's concerns. The highly complex case stems from the 1999 Texas...

Jordan Taking The Lead On Oil Shale Development

Jordan, looking to lessen its near total dependence on energy imports from neighboring Middle East nations, recently signed a major accord with a UK company to accelerate an ambitious program to develop its massive oil shale reserves, considered the world's fourth largest at about 42 million metric tons. The \$1.8 billion, 30-year exploration and development deal for Karak International Oil, a subsidiary of Kent, UK-based Jordan Energy and Mining

AKH72

Ltd. (JEML), is the latest in a string of concession agreements Jordan has entered into with at least eight international companies over the last five years to help the kingdom reach a goal of getting 14 percent of its energy from indigenous deposits of oil shale resources by 2020. Jordan's agreement with JEML—the first to use so-called "Alberta Taciuk Processing" surface retorting technology, an above ground dry thermal technology also used in oil sands development—anticipates commercial production to begin sometime in 2014. The deal...

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Texas High Court Reverses PUCT On Stranded Costs

BY CHRIS HOLLY

In a sweeping decision on a long-lived stranded cost recovery dispute, the Texas Supreme Court ruled last week that state utility regulators erred in determining the value of generation assets CenterPoint Energy Inc. was required to sell to comply with Texas' electric restructuring law, a ruling that means the Texas retail electric company has an opportunity to recover at least \$922 million in stranded costs above what the regulators had allowed in a 2004 order.

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(Continued on p. 2)

DOE To DNFSB: Drop 'Witness Tampering' Probe On WTP Safety

BY GEORGE LOBSENZ

In an unprecedented and surprisingly heated confrontation over what the agency has characterized as "witness tampering" allegations, the Energy Department is pressuring the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board to drop its investigation into testimony delivered by DOE and its contractors at an October 2010 hearing held by the federal oversight board on safety issues at the massive radioactive waste cleanup plant being built at the department's Hanford site.

The inter-agency dispute is particularly sensitive because some of the key safety issues being explored by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) on the \$12 billion Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) project were raised last July by Walter Tamosaitis, a senior contractor official on the project and respected technical expert on nuclear waste who says he was retaliated against by project managers after raising safety concerns about design of the plant.

Tamosaitis's charges are mainly aimed at Bechtel National Inc., DOE's prime contractor on the WTP project, and URS Corp., a sub-
(Continued on p. 3)

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The \$1.8 billion, 30-year exploration and development deal for Karak International Oil, a subsidiary of Kent, UK-based Jordan Energy and Mining Ltd. (JEML), is the latest in a string of concession agreements Jordan has entered into with at least eight international companies over the last five years to help the kingdom reach a goal of getting 14 percent of its energy from indigenous deposits of oil shale resources by 2020.

Jordan's agreement with JEML—the first to use so-called "Alberta Taciuk Processing" surface retorting technology, an above ground dry thermal technology also used in oil sands development—anticipates commercial production to begin sometime in 2014.

The deal, signed March 9, sets in motion a bullish timetable that, if met,

would far outpace current U.S. efforts to commercialize production of massive oil shale resources on federal land in three western states.

The Energy Information Agency, the statistical branch of the U.S. Energy Department, says it doesn't expect research, demonstration and development (RD&D) activity on the unconventional oil resource in Wyoming, Colorado and Utah until at least 2017 due to the technical immaturity and cost of extraction technology.

Royal Dutch Shell plc, ExxonMobil Corp. and a host of other energy companies of varying size are conducting oil shale research on public lands in those states on leases first offered by the Interior Department's Bureau of Land

(Continued on p. 2)

Texas High Court Reverses PUCT On Stranded Costs... (Cont'd from p. 1)

stranded cost case to address the high court's concerns.

The highly complex case stems from the 1999 Texas electric restructuring law, which required the state's vertically integrated investor-owned utilities by 2002 to split into separate units providing generation, transmission, and retail services.

The statute allowed utilities to recover prior investments in generation that the state's move to electric competition rendered uneconomic, and laid out procedures for determining the level of stranded costs and other costs borne by utilities as a result of the restructuring and for recovering those costs in various rate adjustments.

The procedures for determining stranded costs in general required utilities to submit estimates of what they were entitled to recover and the PUCT to make a final determination of what costs the companies could recover.

A central dispute in the case, which began in 2004 and slowly worked its way through the state judicial system, was the way the PUCT determined the level of stranded costs for CenterPoint, which served the Houston area as a regulated utility prior to deregulation.

The law directed Texas utilities to provide estimates of their stranded costs to the PUCT using one of four methods—assets sales, stock valuation, partial stock valuation and asset transfers.

CenterPoint chose to estimate its stranded costs by using the partial stock valuation method, which requires the sale through a stock exchange to public investors of at least 19 percent of shares in a spun-off generation company.

CenterPoint, however, distributed slightly more than 19 percent of the generation spinoff's stock to its shareholders in the form of a dividend, rather than an initial public offering (IPO), deciding at the time that market conditions were unfavorable for an IPO.

The PUCT, however, ruled that CenterPoint could not legally employ the partial stock valuation method, saying that "there

was no public involvement in valuing the distribution of the generation company's shares" and that "a distribution of stock is not a sale of stock."

Upon determining that none of the other methods allowed by the statute was appropriate for valuing CenterPoint's stranded costs, the commission estimated the market value of the generation shares using a variety of data points, ultimately determining that CenterPoint was entitled to about \$253 million less in stranded cost recovery than CenterPoint had asserted it was owed.

The high court reversed the PUCT decision and ordered the commission to try again, saying the commission "should not have used the extra-statutory method it employed for determining market value."

The court also reversed a PUCT order that prevented CenterPoint from recovering about \$440 million associated with reconciling certain capacity auction results, which means the company could recover that much when the PUCT takes up the case again.

Similarly, the court reversed a PUCT decision to reduce stranded costs by \$378 million related to depreciation. It also upheld a variety of PUCT decisions in the 2004 order addressing recovery of certain costs that were disputed by industrial and other consumers.

"Today's ruling by the Texas Supreme Court clears up much of the remaining uncertainty associated with the 1999 electric restructuring law," CenterPoint Energy President and Chief Executive Officer David McClanahan said in a March 18 statement.

"Following the PUC's true-up decision in 2004, we were required to write off \$950 million after taxes. The court's opinion reverses a number of the [PUCT] decisions that cause the write-off. We look forward to working with the [PUCT] and the other interested parties to implement the court's final decision."

CenterPoint Energy's stock shares rose sharply Monday on the news of the decision, closing at \$17.10, a 52-week high and an increase of 2.5 percent from Friday's closing price.

Jordan Taking The Lead On Oil Shale Development... (Cont'd from p. 1)

Management (BLM) in 2007.

However, some of those leaseholders, most notably Shell, have reined in their oil shale development plans in recent years, citing slowing progress on technology development.

In addition, many oil companies are pursuing more readily accessible unconventional oil resources recently discovered in western states, particularly oil trapped in underground shale formations, which can be tapped through horizontal drilling and other new techniques.

In contrast, industry is still trying to develop cost-effective technology to tap oil shale, a sedimentary rock that, when heated, releases petroleum-like liquids. Experts estimate that there could be up to 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil in U.S. shale rock, but industry officials say much more work still must be done to reduce production costs to commercially viable levels.

In addition, legal challenges to federal oil shale rules brought by environmentalists are expected to spur future changes to the U.S. oil shale program's land-use provisions. And BLM under the Obama administration has slowed research efforts, requiring leaseholders to submit to reporting requirements regarding impacts to water and climate.

JEML Chief Executive Officer Chris Morgan said in a recent statement the company's development deal with Jordan followed on five years of research into the liquids-rich Al Lajjun desert oil shale deposit, one of the country's most extensively explored deposits.

JEML anticipates its Al Lajjun project to produce some 15,000 barrels per day (bpd) initially, with plans to increase production to as much as 60,000 bpd over the long-term.

Capital costs for the project's initial production phase are projected to reach \$1.8 billion.

That equates to a cost of about \$120,000 per barrel of capacity, according to a recent analysis by IHS Global Insight Inc. IHS said that compares favorably to other similar Jordanian oil shale development plans by Estonia's Eesti Energia AS, Shell and others.

Meanwhile, Enefit, a subsidiary of Eesti Energia, announced last week it has purchased 100 percent interest in Oil Shale Exploration Co. (OSEC), a Mobile, Ala.-based company that owns some 30,600 contiguous acres in Utah's Uinta Basin comprising three oil shale properties. BLM in June 2007 awarded OSEC the only oil shale RD&D lease in Utah.

The combined properties represent the largest, non-governmentally owned oil shale reserves in Utah and are estimated to contain 2.1 billion barrels of recoverable resources.

Enefit said in a March 16 statement it plans to build an oil shale production plant with a capacity of 57,000 barrels of oil per day. The company said production at the plant is not expected to begin for another eight years, citing compliance with U.S. environmental reviews and adapting the company's technology to western U.S. oil shale characteristics.

DOE To DNFSB: Drop 'Witness Tampering' Probe... (Cont'd from p. 1)

contractor to Bechtel, but they also potentially implicate officials at DOE's Office of River Protection at Hanford. That office oversees the WTP project, which is being built to dispose of some 50 million gallons of highly radioactive waste that have been stored for decades at Hanford, a former nuclear weapons production plant near Richland, Wash.

In addition to suing Bechtel, Tamosaitis also wrote the DNFSB in July 2010 to complain that Bechtel was suppressing safety concerns on the WTP project, routinely retaliating against him and any other workers who raised issues.

Bechtel has strongly denied Tamosaitis' allegations, saying he was moved from his job as a senior technical expert on the WTP because his work on the project was completed. The contractor also has said it does not discourage workers from raising safety issues.

DOE largely declined to investigate, citing Tamosaitis' litigation and his filing of a whistleblower complaint at the Labor Department. The department instead issued a report last fall saying Bechtel's safety culture at the ETP project was appropriate, but could be improved.

However, DNFSB Chairman Peter Winokur expressed alarm about Tamosaitis' allegations of a "chilled" safety culture on the WTP project, noting the first-of-its-kind project raised significant worker and public safety concerns due to the huge amount of highly radioactive material that it is to convert into glassified waste form.

The board held a hearing at Hanford last fall to take testimony from DOE, Bechtel and independent experts about various safety concerns raised by the board about the WTP's design—some of which were also raised by Tamosaitis.

Among those issues, witnesses at the hearing generally told the board that DOE and Bechtel had adequately addressed concerns raised by both the DNFSB and Tamosaitis about whether the WTP design would adequately mix wastes during processing to avoid potential nuclear criticality incidents or generation of explosive hydrogen gas.

Despite that testimony, the DNFSB in December effectively validated Tamosaitis' concerns about whether DOE and Bechtel had effectively addressed the waste-mixing issue. The board issued a formal recommendation to DOE that it conduct additional testing of WTP design to assure adequate waste mixing during processing.

DOE largely agreed to the recommendation last month, but the DNFSB continued to investigate Tamosaitis' allegations about a chilled safety culture at the WTP—including whether witnesses at the board's October hearing felt comfortable about raising safety concerns, according to the DNFSB's Winokur.

The board's continuing investigation into testimony delivered by DOE, Bechtel and independent witnesses clearly has rubbed DOE officials the wrong way.

Former DOE General Counsel Scott Harris—who recently left the department—and one of his subordinates wrote two strongly worded letters to the DNFSB last month urging the board to end its probe into unspecified issues about witnesses who testified before the board.

In the letters, Harris contended that the DNFSB—established by Congress some 20 years ago to provide independent oversight of nuclear safety at DOE sites—has neither the authority nor the expertise to investigate issues that Harris said "can only be fairly characterized as... witness tampering."

Harris added in his initial February 11 letter: "Our concerns about the board's lack of jurisdiction and expertise have been amplified by the manner in which the board's investigation has been conducted. An investigation into witness tampering is extremely serious and requires significant expertise and experienced judgment. The investigation con-

ducted on the board's behalf has been, at best, inept.

"Even if the board was to conclude there was inappropriate conduct of some kind, no one with authority to take remedial action (and, significantly, the board has no such authority) could rely on its findings or the record it has created."

Harris also said DOE already had conducted a review of whether there was "any credible evidence of witness tampering," and that the department had concluded that "no one at the Department of Energy or at one of its contractors took improper actions."

Harris provided the DNFSB with a confidential report on DOE's investigation into the matter, saying he hoped it would persuade the DNFSB to "cease its current witness tampering investigation."

"If not, the board should promptly report the matter to the department's inspector general—who has both the jurisdiction and expertise necessary to investigate such matters—and turn over to him all of the board's investigative materials."

However, the board responded to Harris' letter with a February 16 letter to Energy Secretary Steven Chu in which it said it clearly had authority to investigate Tamosaitis' allegations of a chilled safety culture at the WTP. The board cited a statutory provision giving the board the duty to investigate "any event or practice at a Department of Energy defense nuclear facility which the board determines has adversely affected, or may adversely affect, public health and safety."

In an interview with *The Energy Daily* Thursday, Winokur rejected DOE's statement that the DNFSB was investigating "witness tampering" by DOE or its contractors at its October hearing at Hanford.

Rather, he said: "What we want to assure ourselves of is that everybody who testified felt comfortable raising safety-related issues. That's part of the safety culture—people feel comfortable with raising safety-related issues."

Asked whether the board felt that DOE or Bechtel pressured any witnesses to make safety assurances about the WTP's design that they did not believe, Winokur demurred, saying only: "That's an inference you can make, clearly, if we are looking at whether people were comfortable raising safety concerns if they had them."

Winokur also rejected DOE suggestions that the DNFSB was going to bat for Tamosaitis on his retaliation allegations.

"We are just looking at safety culture at the project," he said. "I don't think the board has any vested interest in backing anybody up. We received an allegation from a credible individual" about a chilled safety culture.

As for DOE, Tamosaitis' attorneys claimed this week they had unearthed internal e-mails indicating that Dale Knutson, the former DOE manager of the WTP project, was involved in Bechtel's decision last July to remove Tamosaitis as deputy chief process engineer and research and technology manager for the project. DOE officials this week strongly denied that Knutson had any role in the action against Tamosaitis, noting that Knutson has made the same assertion in sworn testimony he has submitted in court proceedings on the lawsuit filed by Tamosaitis against Bechtel.

Tamosaitis has alleged that Bechtel took action against him because he raised safety concerns that could have prevented the contractor from earning a multi-million dollar fee offered by DOE for timely progress on the WTP.

The DNFSB has irritated DOE officials over the years by raising numerous safety issues about the design of the WTP. While DOE has acknowledged the legitimacy of the board's concerns and taken action to fix them, the DNFSB's actions have added delays and costs to a project already way over budget and behind schedule, which has prompted strong criticism of DOE by Congress and other outside groups.

USEC Strikes New Uranium Supply Deal With Russia

In a key deal bolstering the outlook for the struggling U.S. uranium enrichment company, USEC Inc. late Wednesday announced a multi-year contract with Techsnabexport to continue receiving low-enriched uranium from the Russian uranium firm for 10 years starting in 2013 and to possibly collaborate on a new enrichment plant in the United States that would use TENEX's centrifuge technology.

With USEC squeezed by high electricity prices at the aging Kentucky enrichment plant it leases from the Energy Department, the new contract with Tenex ensures that the Maryland-based company will retain access to Russian uranium, which now constitutes about one-half of USEC's supply source.

USEC has been getting Russian uranium since 1993 under a U.S.-Russian nonproliferation agreement to blend down Russian weapons-grade uranium into low-enriched uranium (LEU) to be sold into the U.S. reactor fuel market by USEC.

Tenex balked at extending that agreement because it wanted direct access to the U.S. market. However, that has been difficult due to U.S. restrictions on Russian uranium imports stemming from unfair trade practice complaints filed in the past by U.S. uranium producers alleging Russia was dumping its uranium at low, subsidized prices.

To get around limitations on imports of Russian enriched uranium into the United States through 2020, USEC said that under the new contract it will deliver only a portion of the Russian enriched uranium to U.S. utilities. It said most of the Russian uranium would be sold to USEC's customers outside of the United States in both existing and emerging markets.

TENEX will begin supplying LEU to USEC in 2013 and will increase the

supply until it reaches a level in 2015 that is approximately one-half the level currently supplied by TENEX to USEC under the expiring nonproliferation agreement, known as Megatons to Megawatts. USEC said the companies would both have the option to increase the quantities of Russian LEU up to the same level as provided under Megatons to Megawatts.

However, unlike that program, the Russian LEU supplied under the new contract will come from Russia's commercial enrichment activities rather than from downblending of excess Russian weapons material, USEC said.

USEC Chief Executive Officer John Welch underlined the importance of the new deal with TENEX, saying: "After safety, one of USEC's top priorities is to meet our customers' long-term needs for enriched uranium, and our decision to enter into this contract with TENEX is further evidence of our commitment and ability to meet those needs.

"We believe this new contract will further strengthen our important relationship with TENEX. Over the past two decades this relationship has supported our efforts to provide long-term reliable supplies of enriched uranium to our customers while maintaining a strong domestic production capacity based on U.S. technology."

USEC said that it remained "fully committed" to deploying its American Centrifuge technology at a planned new plant in Ohio and extending its operations at its leased plant at Paducah, Ky.

"This contract complements those ongoing activities as we maintain our market position during this important transition period," Welch said.

"USEC continues to make progress in obtaining a \$2 billion loan guarantee from the U.S. Department of Energy and additional financing to support the deployment of the American Centrifuge

Plant," the company said in a press release. "However, by supplementing its domestic capacity with continued access to Russian LEU, USEC can assure customers that its supply mix will remain sufficiently robust to meet their needs throughout the transition to the American Centrifuge Plant."

USEC said Russian LEU deliveries are expected to continue through 2022, and that it will purchase the separative work units (SWU) contained in the LEU and deliver natural uranium to TENEX for the LEU's uranium component. The company said the pricing terms for SWU under the contract are proprietary, but are based on "a mix of market-related price points and other factors."

USEC said the deal was subject to approval by the Russian State Corporation for Atomic Energy (ROSATOM) and completion of administrative arrangements between the U.S. and Russian governments under their agreement for cooperation in nuclear energy. The company anticipates that those arrangements will be completed in 2011.

As for possibly building a new U.S. enrichment plant using Tenex's centrifuge technology, USEC said that studies on such cooperation would only proceed after ROSATOM gave its approval of the supply deal. It also said no such plant would be built until USEC had completed its American Centrifuge Plant in Ohio.

USEC said the companies expect to conduct a feasibility study to explore the possible enrichment plant using Russian technology.

"As part of the feasibility study, ROSATOM, USEC and TENEX will review international agreements, government approvals, licensing, financing, market demand and commercial arrangements," USEC said in its press release. "Any decision to proceed with such a project would depend on the results of the feasibility study and would be subject to further agreement between the parties and their respective governments."

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