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April 20, 2011 Headlines

NRG Bails Out Of STP Project, Cites Japan Disaster

Citing the ongoing nuclear catastrophe in Japan, NRG Energy Inc. late Tuesday pulled out of its planned new nuclear reactor project partnership at the South Texas Project nuclear plant, saying it will invest no new additional capital in the project and write off \$481 million in losses. "The tragic nuclear incident in Japan has introduced multiple uncertainties around new nuclear development in the United States which have had the effect of dramatically reducing the probability that [the two planned units at the South Texas Project] can be successfully developed in a timely fashion," NRG President and Chief Executive Officer David Crane said in a press release. Crane said "the extraordinary challenges facing U.S. nuclear development in the present circumstance and the very considerable financial resources expended by NRG on the project over the past five years make it impossible for us to justify to..."

FERC Backs PJM, Blocks New Jersey Power Plant Law

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission last week solidly backed most rule changes proposed by mid-Atlantic grid operator PJM Interconnection LLC aimed at blocking New Jersey plans to subsidize new natural gas plants for in-state use and to bar the plants' participation in PJM capacity markets. Taken together, the rule changes would prevent certain New Jersey generators from effectively opting out of PJM capacity markets, in which mid-Atlantic utilities purchase generation capacity years in advance to ensure customers are adequately supplied. Signed by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) in January, the law offers incentives to in-state generators to build in New Jersey and is crafted to ensure the output is used by state ratepayers and not auctioned off into PJM's capacity markets, which cover 13 states and the District of Columbia. New Jersey officials say PJM's capacity markets, which are designed to provide generators money to build new plants years before they are needed, have failed...

One Year After Gulf Oil Spill, Questions Remain About BOPs

One year after the failure of BP plc's deepwater Macondo well killed 11 and caused the largest oil spill in U.S. history, experts still cannot agree on why BP's blowout preventer—the wellhead apparatus designed to shut off uncontrolled surges of oil and natural gas—failed to work as designed. Blowout preventers (BOP), devices critical to keeping high-pressure wells under control and long heralded by the oil industry as "failsafe", have come under intense scrutiny in the wake of the April 20, 2010, explosion at the Deepwater Horizon

AK/87

rig in the Gulf of Mexico that triggered the massive spill. However, Michael Bromwich, director of the Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), recently told Congress "there were questions" about BOPs' ability to contain blowouts even before the rig exploded and sent millions of barrels of crude oil into the Gulf. "We have been proceeding since I came on board [at BOEMRE] in June that BOPs are...

Salazar Issues Cape Wind Construction Plan

In the latest regulatory milestone advancing the nation's first offshore wind farm, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar Tuesday announced that the department's offshore leasing agency has approved a construction and operation plan for the Cape Wind project off the coast of Massachusetts, clearing a path for the project's developers to start building later this year. The decision comes seven months after Salazar signed the lease for the 468 megawatt, 130-turbine project planned by Boston-based developer, Cape Wind Associates LLC. The time frame included in the construction plan submitted by the...

Firms Ink Deal To Build First-Ever Industrial-Scale Biobutanol Refinery

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FERC Backs PJM, Blocks New Jersey Power Plant Law

BY JEFF BEATTIE

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New Jersey officials say PJM's capacity markets, which

(Continued on p. 4)

NRG Bails Out Of STP Project, Cites Japan Disaster

BY JEFF BEATTIE

Citing the ongoing nuclear catastrophe in Japan, NRG Energy Inc. late Tuesday pulled out of its planned new nuclear reactor project partnership at the South Texas Project nuclear plant, saying it will invest no new additional capital in the project and write off \$481 million in losses.

"The tragic nuclear incident in Japan has introduced multiple uncertainties around new nuclear development in the United States which have had the effect of dramatically reducing the probability that [the two planned units at the South Texas Project] can be successfully developed in a timely fashion," NRG President and Chief Executive Officer David Crane said in a press release.

Crane said "the extraordinary challenges facing U.S. nuclear development in the present circumstance and the very considerable financial resources expended by NRG on the project over the past five years make it impossible for us to justify to our shareholders any further financial participation in the development of the

(Continued on p. 3)

One Year After Gulf Oil Spill, Questions Remain About BOPs

One year after the failure of BP plc's deep-water Macondo well killed 11 and caused the largest oil spill in U.S. history, experts still cannot agree on why BP's blowout preventer—the wellhead apparatus designed to shut off uncontrolled surges of oil and natural gas—failed to work as designed.

Blowout preventers (BOP), devices critical to keeping high-pressure wells under control and long heralded by the oil industry as "failsafe", have come under intense scrutiny in the wake of the April 20, 2010, explosion at the Deep-

BY JOHNATHAN RICKMAN

water Horizon rig in the Gulf of Mexico that triggered the massive spill.

However, Michael Bromwich, director of the Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE), recently told Congress "there were questions" about BOPs' ability to contain blowouts even before the rig exploded and sent millions of barrels of crude oil into the Gulf.

"We have been proceeding since I came on board [at BOEMRE] in June that BOPs are not failsafe," Bromwich

told the House Natural Resources Committee March 30.

"A substantial amount of work by industry and the government still needs to be done" to address BOP technology and overall capability, he added.

And at a discussion on the Deepwater Horizon incident in Washington at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Tuesday, Bromwich said that in the wake of the Gulf spill, BOEMRE engineers have "trained our people... to do... more searching examination of BOPs than they have before.

"But this will be a long-term process in progress like everything else," he added.

A top official with Royal Dutch

(Continued on p. 2)

Salazar Issues Cape Wind Construction Plan

In the latest regulatory milestone advancing the nation's first offshore wind farm, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar Tuesday announced that the department's offshore leasing agency has approved a construction and operation plan for the Cape Wind project off the coast of Massachusetts, clearing a path for the project's developers to start building later this year.

The decision comes seven months after Salazar signed the lease for the 468 megawatt, 130-turbine project planned by Boston-based developer, Cape Wind Associates LLC. The time frame included in the construction plan submitted by the developer suggests that construction could begin as early as this fall.

The signing of the 28-year lease for the Cape Wind project ended an eight-year struggle by its developer to get

needed federal and state permits and overcome opposition from some environmental, native peoples and homeowner groups on Cape Cod who objected to the erection of towering turbines on Horsehoe Shoal in Nantucket Sound.

In a nod to those lingering concerns, Salazar said Tuesday that Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement "has taken extraordinary steps to fully evaluate Cape Wind's potential impacts on environmental and cultural resources of Nantucket Sound. By signing the construction and operations plan today, we are even closer towards ushering in our nation's first offshore wind energy facility while creating jobs."

Moving to address problems clearly illustrated by the Cape Wind project, the Interior Department has proposed

streamlining its offshore wind leasing process by identifying high-priority "wind energy areas" in the Atlantic Ocean seen by the department as less likely to pose environmental issues or conflicts with defense or other maritime activities.

Interior said in a statement the agency approved construction plans "substantially the same as analyzed" in its final environmental review of the project issued in January 2009.

However, the agency said project developers must follow various "terms and conditions" in addition to those established in the lease agreement that build upon some 160 public comments gathered by Interior earlier this year. Those comments concern, among other things, conflicts with fishing use, migratory birds and oil within wind turbine generators.

After Gulf Oil Spill, Questions Remain About BOPs... (Cont'd from p. 1)

Shell plc said industry is also moving to address the apparent shortcomings of BOPs. Charlie Williams, chief scientist for well engineering and production technology at Shell and a member of Interior's newly established Ocean Energy Safety Advisory Committee, told the CSIS forum that industry leaders are working to make recommended practices for BOP equipment into strict standards.

"This has a lot of benefits, but one of them is... you remove this discussion about which option should you choose" regarding pressure controls and maintenance, Williams said.

A forensic analysis of BP's failed BOP conducted by Norwegian consultancy Det Norske Veritas (DNV) found that high-pressure forces from beneath the well likely caused the drill pipe to buckle within the wellbore, realigning it such that the BOP's blind shear rams could not cut or crush the pipe as designed and stem a massive outpouring of hydrocarbons.

The consultancy's analysis, requested by Interior and released by the agency last month, largely absolves BP's BOP as a causal factor in the Gulf spill.

However, the report recommended industry "review and revise as necessary" requirements and procedures for periodic testing of BOP back-up control systems after finding that some of those components of BP's device "did not perform as intended."

However, that assessment has since been disputed by a BP consultant and a senior official with Cameron, the Houston-based company that built and designed BP's BOP.

Ralph Linenberger, who represented BP in the technical working group that analyzed the device at NASA's Michoud facility in New Orleans after it was raised from the sea floor, told federal investigators April 8 that it was "not evident" to him that the failure of the blind shear rams to close around the drill pipe was due to repositioning of the drill pipe.

However, in testimony before a hearing held by BOEMRE and the U.S. Coast Guard in Metairie, La., Linenberger said his conclusion was based on limited data provided to the work-

ing group by DNV, whom he said "were the ones that were reading the [BOP] gauges.

"We were not allowed to get that close to the equipment due to safety issues," he said.

However, Linenberger added: "It was only about a [four-foot, two-inch] section of pipe and it looked fairly straight to me."

Linenberger also said DNV investigators failed to consider whether insufficient maintenance of the BOP may have been a key factor in the device's failure.

Comments from a high-ranking Cameron official the same day also failed to clarify matters.

David McWhorter, Cameron's vice president and also a member of the BOP technical working group, said that the BOP was never tested to see if it would cut through an off-center drill pipe, adding that he was unwilling to "hazard an opinion" about such a test.

However, when asked for an opinion as to why the BOP failed to operate as designed, McWhorter, an engineer, said: "I don't have any specific knowledge about that, no."

Perhaps the comments that muddled matters the most came from DNV officials.

Neil Thompson, a U.S. DNV representative, testified April 4 that DNV engineers did not actually test the failed BOP's blind shear rams, but instead used only computer modeling, casting further doubt about the report's conclusions.

Interior is conducting its own study of BP's failed BOP that the agency will issue in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced April 5 that Interior plans soon to propose new technical requirements for BOPs. However, in announcing the rulemaking plans on a call with reporters, Salazar said little about what the requirements might entail.

Salazar said BOP blind shear rams most likely will be scrutinized under the proposal, adding that Interior is currently "looking at what else might be needed" in the new rule.

Firms Ink Deal To Build First-Ever Industrial-Scale Biobutanol Refinery

In a major biofuels advance, Cobalt Technologies and American Process Inc. announced Tuesday they have struck a deal to build the world's first industrial-scale cellulosic biorefinery to produce biobutanol, a valuable and versatile chemical with a broad array of energy and industrial applications—particularly as a potential substitute for petroleum-based fuels and chemical products.

Under the agreement, the two firms will integrate Cobalt's patent-pending continuous fermentation and distillation technology for biobutanol into API's Alpena biorefinery, currently under construction at the site of a Decorative Panels International (DPI) hardboard manufacturing facility in Alpena, Mich.

Funded in part by an \$18 million Energy Department grant and a \$4 million grant from the state of Michigan, the API Alpena biorefinery originally was designed to demonstrate API's Greenpower+ process for making cellulosic ethanol

from woody biomass extract produced at the DPI plant.

As a result of the agreement announced Tuesday, the Alpena biorefinery also will demonstrate the commercial viability of Cobalt's biobutanol production process. The plant is slated to begin ethanol production in early 2012 and switch to biobutanol production in mid-2012. The facility will produce 470,000 gallons of biobutanol annually, which will be pre-sold to chemical partners.

API's Greenpower+ technology is a proprietary process for extracting hemicelluloses sugars from woody biomass using steam or hot water and converting them to fermentable sugars in a cost-effective and technically robust process. The extracted biomass is returned—with consistent low-moisture composition—to the biomass boiler for the production of steam and/or electricity.

The process significantly increases the overall profitability of the site by con-

verting woody biomass into fermentable sugars that can then be converted to high-value biofuels and biochemicals. The Greenpower+ technology is applicable to any industry employing biomass boilers or having organic effluent, API said.

Cobalt's technology converts sugars from non-food feedstock, such as forest waste and mill residues, into biobutanol. Cobalt's continuous biobutanol production system is based on advancements in biocatalyst selection, bioreactor design and process engineering, resulting in a highly productive, capital-efficient, low-cost method for producing biobutanol. In addition, the process is scalable, and reduces lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by up to 90 percent compared to gasoline production.

Biobutanol is a versatile product that can be sold as is for use in paints, coatings and other chemical products; blended with gasoline, diesel or ethanol; or converted into bio-based plastics or full-performance jet fuel and diesel. Cobalt said it is making biobutanol and its derivatives a cost-effective substitute for petroleum-based materials.

NRG Bails Out Of STP Project, Cites Japan Disaster... (Cont'd from p. 1)

[South Texas Project] project."

In a call with analysts, Crane said the Japanese crisis meant the South Texas Project (STP) faced "a period of almost total regulatory uncertainty for an unknown and potentially indefinite period of time."

As a result, the project is "not dead, but equally can not be effectively advanced," Crane said.

NRG said it expects its primary partner in the project—Toshiba America Nuclear Energy (TANE)—to continue seeking regulatory approvals for the STP expansion. TANE officials were not immediately available for comment Tuesday.

While nuclear companies across the world are watching with alarm the continuing crisis at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, the STP project has always been particularly dependent upon Japanese public and private sector support that now seems highly unlikely.

The NRG-led partnership developing the STP project, known as Nuclear Innovation North America (NINA), has long said they need both the support of a U.S. Energy Department loan guarantee as well as aid from Japanese credit export agencies.

NRG owns 88 percent of NINA, with another Japanese company, Toshiba Corp., holding a 12 percent stake.

The municipal utility of San Antonio, Texas, owns a small stake in the reactor project but has no investment in NINA. The

Shaw Group last year inked a deal to buy a small stake in NINA, but that now looks unlikely.

NINA was also counting on investment from Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) which owns the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power complex and is highly unlikely to invest in new nuclear overseas given its enormous financial and public relations problems at home.

TEPCO had struck a deal to buy 10 percent of NINA once the project received a DOE loan guarantee and to double that pending further milestones, but neither investment has yet been triggered.

Even while announcing it is pulling out of the STP project and NINA, NRG said Tuesday that NINA will continue to pursue an NRC license for the project as well as a DOE loan guarantee.

It is not clear how the project can advance, however, with such a dominant partner having withdrawn and with the continued commitment of remaining project partners decidedly uncertain.

NRG said "TANE will be responsible for funding ongoing costs to continue the licensing process," but said NRG will leave a one-time contribution of up to \$20 million with NINA on the way out of the project to support ongoing staffing.

In all, NRG said it will book a pretax charge of approximately \$481 million, "for the impairment of all of the net assets" of NINA.

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IBC, Purdue, Texas A&M To Research Beryllium Oxide Fuel

Vancouver-based IBC Advanced Alloys Corp. announced last week it has signed collaborative research agreements with Purdue University and Texas A&M University to further develop an advanced beryllium oxide nuclear fuel the company says is safer and more efficient than existing nuclear fuels.

Nearly all commercial nuclear plants use uranium-based nuclear fuel, although

there long has been industry interest in developing thorium-based fuel, which experts say poses a smaller proliferation risk than uranium fuel.

In an April 12 press release, IBC said the new research agreements would provide for “mechanistic modeling, normal and transient modeling with Nuclear Regulatory Commission thermal-hydraulics, fuel performance and severe ac-

cident codes and experimental validation of thermal models.”

The ongoing nuclear crisis at Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi plant has increased interest in developing different types of nuclear fuel, as much of the radiation release has come from hot spent fuel rods in the plant’s core and from spent fuel in wet fuel pools.

“The events in Japan graphically illustrate why IBC remains committed to nuclear technology and to supporting efforts to improve the safety and efficiency of the nuclear industry,” said Jim Malone, IBC’s vice president of nuclear fuel.

FERC Backs PJM, Blocks NJ Power Plant Law... (Continued from p. 1)

are designed to provide generators money to build new plants years before they are needed, have failed to produce new generation in New Jersey. Partly for that reason, New Jersey utilities pay far higher capacity prices than do utilities in other parts of PJM.

To encourage new in-state power plant construction, the law provides relatively high, fixed capacity payments of \$233 per megawatt-day for up to 2,000 megawatts of new generation selected by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU).

It also requires the selected generators to bid zero into PJM capacity markets which, under existing PJM rules, ensures their capacity would not be purchased in the auction, leaving the generators free to serve New Jersey customers exclusively.

But PJM and many generators say that would artificially pull down capacity prices, discourage new plant construction across the mid-Atlantic and cost generators more than \$2 billion annually in capacity revenue.

To a lesser degree, PJM and merchant generators also are concerned about a January proposal from the Maryland Public Service Commission that would direct the state’s utilities to build up to 1,800 megawatts of regulated generation or buy the same amount of power from competitive generators under long-term contracts. As in New Jersey, Maryland officials say they are frustrated that PJM capacity markets have not solved their state’s power supply problems.

PJM’s rule changes approved last week would block New Jersey generators from bidding zero by making them subject to a “minimum price offer” required of most generators in PJM capacity auctions.

PJM’s existing policy says generators may be exempted from minimum price offer requirements if the generators are seeking to comply with state requirements designed to achieve specific policy goals.

FERC ended that waiver in last week’s order, saying “the mounting evidence of risk from what was previously only a theoretical weakness in the [minimum price offer] rules that could allow uneconomic entry has caused us to reexamine our acceptance of the existing state exemption....

“For these reasons, we accept as just and reasonable PJM’s proposal to eliminate the current state exemption,” FERC said.

The minimum price offer requirement bars generators from offering power into capacity auctions at rates below 90 percent of the so-called “cost of new-entry,” or the cost of building a new power plant.

Not surprisingly, New Jersey officials tore into FERC’s ruling last week, pledging to pursue all options to spur the construction of new in-state generation.

BPU President Lee Solomon said FERC’s ruling “does not address the failure of the PJM market to deliver new capacity which is desperately needed to reduce New Jersey’s energy prices....

“There are other options available to us that are outside of FERC’s jurisdiction,” Solomon continued in an April 13 press release.

“At this time, it appears that we will be forced to pursue those options.”

New Jersey officials have not ruled out challenging FERC’s action in court, but Solomon also appears to be referring to a more conciliatory stakeholder process aimed at spurring in-state plant construction that the BPU has been directing for several months.

In December, when the New Jersey legislature was considering the legislation that ultimately became the new generation incentives statute—Solomon said the BPU would continue to hold technical conferences and stakeholder meetings in hopes “of addressing the need for new base load and mid-merit generation, and plans to continue with its efforts regardless of the outcome of pending state legislation.”

FERC’s order last week has drawn a more complicated reaction from the merchant generator community, which is split on the New Jersey law.

Most mid-Atlantic generators bitterly oppose the new law, with P3—a coalition that represents them—the most vocal critic.

However, the law could also be very lucrative for those few generators chosen by the BPU to receive its special treatment.

Last month, the BPU selected three such projects which would provide a total of about 1,950 MW of capacity.

They are a 625 MW combined-cycle gas plant proposed by Hess Corp. in Newark; a 660 MW gas unit proposed by NRG Energy Inc. in Old Bridge; and a 663 MW unit proposed in Woodbridge by Competitive Power Ventures.

A spokesman for Princeton-based NRG said the company is still assessing the impact of FERC’s order, saying it was “continuing to move forward with the development” of NRG’s Old Bridge plant, which is scheduled to come on-line in 2016.

Because none of the three plants selected by the BPU will come on line before 2015, none will take part in PJM’s next capacity auction set for May 2.

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April 19, 2011 Headlines

Entergy Asks U.S. Court To Keep Vermont Nuke Plant Running

Dramatically escalating a fight with Vermont officials over the fate of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, Entergy Corp. asked a federal court Monday to block state officials' from closing the 650-megawatt unit next March on the grounds that the state's shutdown efforts encroach on federal jurisdiction over commercial nuclear plants and wholesale power markets in the region. In a lawsuit filed with the U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont, Entergy also for the first time offered an explanation for why it should not be held to a 2002 agreement, signed in conjunction with buying the plant, to abide by a Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) decision on whether to let Vermont Yankee run past March 2012. Entergy said it was no longer bound by that deal because Vermont violated it in 2006, by passing a law effectively taking the decision from the PSB and giving it instead to state lawmakers. The 2006 law bars the PSB from re-certifying Vermont Yankee without approval from Vermont's...

House Democrats Raise Heat On 'Fracking' Fluids

Amid a renewed push by some congressional Democrats to increase regulation of shale gas development, Democrats on the House Energy and Commerce Committee Saturday released a new report showing that 14 oil and gas services firms between 2005 and 2009 used massive amounts of drilling fluids containing 29 chemicals including possible or known human carcinogens or hazardous pollutants. The report, which stems from a committee probe launched during the last Congress into the practice of hydraulic fracturing in the United States, summarizes data provided to the committee by Halliburton Co., BJ Services Co. and other drilling services companies showing they injected more than 2,500 "fracking" products containing 750 substances underground to fracture rock formations and more easily extract natural gas. The Democrats' report says most of the components used by the companies, such as salt and citric acid, are largely benign and pose no threat to human health or the environment. However, the report...

Report Sees Big Benefits From Growing Texas CHP

In eye-opening findings, a new report by an Energy Department regional agency concludes that boosting combined heat and power generation's share of total Texas electricity generation from the current 20 percent to 35 percent by 2025 would yield substantial reductions in carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide emissions while lifting natural gas consumption by 533 billion cubic feet per year, boosting gas producer revenues by \$2.3 billion at current gas prices.

While Texas boasts the largest amount of wind capacity in the nation, the report by DOE's Gulf Coast Clean Energy Application Center (GCCEAC)—released March 31—notes that the roughly 80 million kilowatt-hours (kwh) produced by combined heat and power (CHP) systems in the states is four times the amount of Texas electricity produced by wind power. Texas currently has 125 CHP plants in operation, with most located at industrial facilities with significant heating needs, such as chemical plants and oil refineries. A number of the state's...

NY AG Threatens To Sue Feds Over 'Fracking'

Saying the federally chartered panel has been too lax on the hot-button issue, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman Monday pledged to sue the Obama administration unless it agreed to commit within 30 days to conduct a full environmental review of rules proposed by the Delaware River Basin Commission that would allow for natural gas drilling in the drainage basin of the Delaware River and...

U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Fell 6.1 Percent In 2009—EPA

Total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2009 fell by 6.1 percent compared to 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency announced Monday in the 16th annual U.S. greenhouse gas inventory. EPA said...

Duke Plans 36 MW Battery Storage System For Texas Wind Farm

In what the utility is touting as one of the world's largest battery-powered electricity storage systems, Duke Energy announced Thursday week it will store electricity produced at its 153 megawatt Notrees Windpower Project in west Texas using an energy storage and power management system developed by Austin, Texas-based Xtreme Power. Duke in November announced plans to match a \$22 million...

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House Democrats Raise Heat On 'Fracking' Fluids

BY JOHNATHAN RICKMAN

Amid a renewed push by some congressional Democrats to increase regulation of shale gas development, Democrats on the House Energy and Commerce Committee Saturday released a new report showing that 14 oil and gas services firms between 2005 and 2009 used massive amounts of drilling fluids containing 29 chemicals including possible or known human carcinogens or hazardous pollutants.

The report, which stems from a committee probe launched during the last Congress into the practice of hydraulic fracturing in the United States, summarizes data provided to the committee by Halliburton Co., BJ Services Co. and other drilling services companies showing they injected more than 2,500 "fracking" products containing 750 substances underground to fracture rock formations and more easily extract natural gas.

The Democrats' report says most of the compo-

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Entergy Asks U.S. Court To Keep Vermont Nuke Plant Running

BY JEFF BEATTIE

Dramatically escalating a fight with Vermont officials over the fate of the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, Entergy Corp. asked a federal court Monday to block state officials' from closing the 650-megawatt unit next March on the grounds that the state's shutdown efforts encroach on federal jurisdiction over commercial nuclear plants and wholesale power markets in the region.

In a lawsuit filed with the U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont, Entergy also for the first time offered an explanation for why it should not be held to a 2002 agreement, signed in conjunction with buying the plant, to abide by a Vermont Public Service Board (PSB) decision on whether to let Vermont Yankee run past March 2012.

Entergy said it was no longer bound by that deal because Vermont violated it in 2006, by passing a law effectively taking the decision from the PSB and giving it instead to state lawmakers.

The 2006 law bars the PSB from re-certifying Vermont Yankee without approval from Vermont's House and Senate; the Senate voted

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Report Sees Big Benefits From Growing Texas CHP

In eye-opening findings, a new report by an

BY CHRIS HOLLY

Energy Department regional agency concludes that boosting combined heat and power generation's share of total Texas electricity generation from the current 20 percent to 35 percent by 2025 would yield substantial reductions in carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide emissions while lifting natural gas consumption by 533 billion cubic feet per year, boosting gas producer revenues by \$2.3 billion at current gas prices.

While Texas boasts the largest amount of wind capacity in the nation,

the report by DOE's Gulf Coast Clean Energy Application Center (GCCEAC)—released March 31—notes that the roughly 80 million kilowatt-hours (kwh) produced by combined heat and power (CHP) systems in the states is four times the amount of Texas electricity produced by wind power.

Texas currently has 125 CHP plants in operation, with most located at industrial facilities with significant heating needs, such as chemical plants and oil refineries. A number of the state's universities also get their power, and steam for

heating, from CHP systems, which employ the sequential production of heat and electricity from a single fuel source.

CHP systems typically are much more energy efficient than traditional fossil-fueled sources. A gas-fired CHP, the report said, is more than 20 percent more efficient than the average gas-fired generator, and nearly twice as efficient as the average coal-fired power plant.

The CHP industry experienced strong growth between 1995 and 2002, due to strong policy drivers put in place by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT), the birth of wholesale electric competition in the 1990s, and the state's full restructuring of the electric utility industry in 2009.

However, for the last 10 years

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NY AG Threatens To Sue Feds Over 'Fracking'

Saying the federally chartered panel has been too lax on the hot-button issue, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman Monday pledged to sue the Obama administration unless it agreed to commit within 30 days to conduct a full environmental review of rules proposed by the Delaware River Basin Commission that would allow for natural gas drilling in the drainage basin of the Delaware River and the New York City watershed.

Schneiderman's pledge to sue the administration, included in a letter to

four federal agencies that provide policy input to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), comes as New York oil and gas regulators have halted new drilling activity to allow more time to review the potential ecological and human health impacts of hydraulic fracturing.

The DRBC, alarmed by growing water use associated with the natural gas boom in the Marcellus Shale, in May 2009 notified drillers they must obtain an approved water management plan from the panel before beginning a

gas extraction project within the basin's drainage area. The panel—consisting of governors from four northeastern states and the North American commander of the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers—in December proposed regulations allowing for gas drilling in some cases.

In his letter, Schneiderman (D) urged the commission to immediately suspend consideration of its proposed rules and conduct a complete review of all health and safety risks associated with gas drilling in the basin under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Report Sees Big Benefits From Growing Texas CHP... (Cont'd from p. 1)

growth in CHP adoption in the state has leveled off due to financial instability, volatile fuel prices and regulatory uncertainty, the report said. Even so, "substantial opportunity exists to implement additional CHP in Texas," it said.

Texas boasts about 17,000 megawatts of CHP today, but a 2007 PUCT report estimated that adding an additional 13,400 MW of CHP capacity by 2023 was economically feasible.

The GCCEAC, created by DOE to promote clean energy technology through the use of CHP, waste heat recovery and district energy in Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma, said the trend in new CHP deployment is toward smaller systems that better match the thermal requirements of smaller industrial, commercial and institutional sites. Implementation of substantial amounts of new CHP capacity "will likely require consideration of a wider range of industrial host sites, and more focus on commercial and institutional sites," the report said.

While some CHP units in Texas operate with reciprocating engines, fuel cells or a boiler-turbine configuration and use industrial waste gases, waste heat, petroleum coke and even coal, natural gas remains the predominant fuel for CHP and is expected to remain the fuel of choice for new CHP in the state. Of the nearly 17,000 MW of CHP currently operating in Texas, nearly 16,500 MW use natural gas, with more than 12,000 MW using combined cycle gas turbines.

The report modeled two business cases—a business-as-usual (BAU) case and one in which state policy is designed to push development of gas-fired CHP to enable 35 percent of Texas electricity to be generated by CHP units. Achieving that goal would make CHP the largest producer of electricity among all technologies currently in use, including coal, non-CHP gas, and nuclear.

Under the grow-CHP policy, total capacity would rise from 16,900 MW to 31,000 MW—an amount larger than but within range of the 2007 PUCT estimate—and lead to an increase in electricity production from the current 80,000 megawatt-hours

(mwh) to nearly 17,500 mwh.

"This will require a large number of additional host sites and a significant investment in new facilities, possibly including expansion of CHP beyond the traditional industrial location at large refining and chemical sites to smaller process and manufacturing plants as well as commercial and institutional applications," the report said.

"Many of the smaller projects would be under the 1 MW threshold, including potential projects at nursing homes, condominiums, high schools and similar facilities that may be in the 100-1,000 kilowatt range."

Meeting the 35 percent target would increase natural gas consumption from power production in Texas from about 1,500 billion cubic feet (bcf) today to about 2,250 bcf by 2025. Compared to the BAU case, the 35 percent CHP case would increase gas consumption by about 3.3 trillion cubic feet between 2012-2025, nearly all of which would arise from additional gas used by CHP projects.

At the current price of about \$4.25 per million cubic feet, the value of this increase in gas use would be about \$14 billion, some \$2.3 billion more than projected in the BAU case.

Achieving the 35 percent target would trim annual emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, from power production from 300 million tons to 250 million tons. In the BAU case, CO2 emissions increase by 12 percent by 2025. By 2025, annual CO2 emissions would be trimmed by about 81 million tons, an amount equivalent to the annual CO2 emissions of about 13.5 million cars, the report said.

Achieving the 35 percent goal would trim sulfur dioxide emissions from Texas generators by some 54 percent; in 2025, annual emissions would be reduced relative to the BAU case by about 384,000 tons, equivalent to the emissions reduction that would be achieved by retiring twenty-one 500 MW coal-fired power plants. Achieving the 35 percent goal also would result in similarly impressive reductions of nitrogen oxides.

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U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Fell 6.1 Percent In 2009—EPA

Total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions in 2009 fell by 6.1 percent compared to 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency announced Monday in the 16th annual U.S. greenhouse gas inventory.

EPA said emissions fell in 2009 primarily due to the economic slowdown, which cut energy consumption throughout the U.S. economy, and a reduction in the carbon intensity of electricity

generation as coal prices rose and natural gas prices fell sharply.

Total emissions in 2009 of the six main greenhouse gases—carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride—were 6.633 billion metric tons. Total U.S. emissions have increased by 7.3 percent from 1990 to 2009, EPA said.

Entergy Asks Court To Keep Nuke Plant Running... (Cont'd from p. 1)

last year to shut the plant and lawmakers have said little this year to indicate a change of heart.

"This is not what we signed up for in 2002," said Richard Smith, president of Entergy's wholesale commodities business in a press conference call Monday.

Smith said the 2006 law took the decision away from an "expert decision maker, independent of legislative control," and instead put it in the hands of politicians who could shut the plant down "for unsupported or arbitrary reasons."

Led by Gov. Peter Shumlin (D), Vermont officials want to close Vermont Yankee because of a string of operation problems in recent years, although none that NRC has deemed a safety threat.

Vermont officials also believe that Entergy officials misled a state panel in 2009 over the potential for the plant to leak tritium, less than a year before a large tritium leak was discovered at the Vernon, Vt., plant site.

Entergy's lawsuit was not unexpected, and has appeared more likely in recent weeks as Entergy admitted failure in an attempt to sell Vermont Yankee and failed to ink new power supply deals with the state's utilities.

The suit comes three weeks after the Nuclear Regulatory Commission extended the plant's operating license by 20 years, allowing Entergy to argue that the agency with sole jurisdiction of U.S. nuclear plant safety and public health has judged continued operation of Vermont Yankee to be safe.

While the NRC jurisdictional issue was widely expected to go to court, Entergy also accused Vermont officials Monday of trying to extract below-market power rates for state utilities as a condition for keeping Vermont Yankee running, which the utility said violated Federal Energy Regulatory Commission jurisdiction over wholesale power markets.

A spokeswoman for Shumlin was not immediately available for comment on the allegation Monday, nor were officials with Vermont's Department of Public Service, the agency that will take a primary legal role in battling Entergy's suit.

The suit is likely to determine the fate of one of New England's largest generators, which produces fully one third of Vermont's power.

In a release announcing the legal action, Entergy suggested it went to court only as a last resort.

"Despite the fact that Vermont Yankee is important to the reliability of the New England electric transmission grid, emits virtually no greenhouse gases, and provides more than \$100 million in annual economic benefits to the state of Vermont, it has been made clear that state officials are singularly focused on shutting down the plant," said Smith in the release.

"That has left us with no other choice but to seek relief in the court system," he said. Smith told reporters Monday that

he met personally with Shumlin March 31 to appeal for continued operation of the plant, but said Shumlin reiterated strong opposition.

Legal experts say Vermont's efforts to close the plant will likely hinge on officials' ability to demonstrate they are closing the plant for reasons other than safety and public health, because those issues are clearly the subject of NRC jurisdiction exclusively.

Instead, Vermont officials likely will argue they are closing the plant based on economic, electric system reliability or other non safety-related considerations, which experts say will be challenging given that the plant employs about 650 Vermonters and is highly beneficial to New England's grid stability.

The region's grid operator—ISO-New England—said last year that looming reliability concerns in northern New England would be exacerbated if Vermont Yankee were closed.

In the lawsuit, Entergy repeatedly attempts to show that Vermont's shutdown attempt is based solely on state assessments of the plant's safety and impact on public health—and thus clearly encroaches on NRC authority.

"Vermont's certificate of public good scheme, whether administered by the PSB or the General Assembly, interferes with exclusive federal authority over the continued operation of a nuclear power plant," because it has "has been employed in a way that reveals its focus on nuclear safety concerns that are entrusted exclusively to the federal government," Entergy said.

Additionally, Entergy claims a 1983 Supreme Court decision backs its lawsuit against Vermont. In that case, the court backed California's right to impose a moratorium on new plant construction, but only for economic reasons.

"A state's regulation of the 'construction or operation of a nuclear power plant...even if enacted out of non-safety concerns...directly conflict[s] with the NRC's exclusive authority over plant construction and operation," say Entergy's lawsuit, citing the case.

Interestingly, some observers think Entergy might be suing to block Vermont's shutdown in order to publicly clear away a hurdle to selling the troublesome plant. Entergy announced efforts to sell the plant last fall, but says an "uncertain political environment" has spooked would-be buyers.

Without Vermont Yankee, the state's utilities would be forced to find a significant amount of new power, although that task has been made easier by a recent drop in natural gas prices that has made gas-fired power more affordable than in the past.

Perhaps to highlight the state's alternatives to Yankee, Shumlin, Central Vermont Public Service Co. and Green Mountain Power, the state's two largest utilities, released a joint statement Monday hailing recent PSB approval of 26-year deal for generator Hydro-Quebec to sell the utilities power.

Duke Plans 36 MW Battery Storage System For Texas Wind Farm

In what the utility is touting as one of the world's largest battery-powered electricity storage systems, Duke Energy announced Thursday week it will store electricity produced at its 153 megawatt Notrees Windpower Project in west Texas using an energy storage and power management system developed by Austin, Texas-based Xtreme Power.

Duke in November announced plans to match a \$22 million Energy Department grant under the American Recovery

and Reinvestment Act grant to install a large-scale, 36 megawatt battery system capable of storing electricity produced by the wind farm.

When completed next year, the \$44 million project will store excess wind energy and discharge it whenever demand for electricity is highest. In addition, Xtreme Power's Dynamic Power Resource will help stabilize the frequency of the electricity flowing through the grid, Duke said.

Duke Energy will work closely with

the Energy Reliability Council of Texas to integrate the wind power and battery storage solution into the state's independent power grid. The Electric Power Research Institute will advise the project team, collect data and help assess the potential for broader adoption of energy storage solutions throughout the industry. Results from the storage project will be shared publicly through the DOE's Smart Grid Information Clearinghouse.

Based in Kyle, Texas, Xtreme Power engineers, manufactures and operates large-scale digital power systems for use in renewable energy and micro-grid applications.

House Democrats Raise Heat On 'Fracking' Fluids... (Cont'd from p. 1)

nents used by the companies, such as salt and citric acid, are largely benign and pose no threat to human health or the environment.

However, the report says the firms over the five-year period injected 11.4 million gallons of drilling products containing either benzene—a known carcinogen—toluene, xylene or ethylbenzene, all of which are regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) for their risks to human health or listed as hazardous air pollutants under the Clean Air Act. Led by Texas, nine states had at least 100,000 gallons of fracking fluids containing a carcinogen, the report said.

The report, released by Reps. Henry Waxman (Calif.), the committee's senior Democrat, Edward Markey (Mass.), ranking Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee and Diana DeGette (D-Colo.), also expressed alarm over the gas industry's use of methanol—a hazardous air pollutant under the Clean Air Act—in 342 hydraulic fracturing products.

The report also included findings released by the lawmakers earlier this year that some 32 million gallons of diesel fuel or diesel-infused fluids were used in hydraulic fracturing operations at oil, natural gas and coalbed methane wells in 19 states during the period—all without drillers or service firms getting required permits or conducting environmental reviews to make sure the fluids posed no threat to underground drinking water supplies.

The report says toxic diesel fuel was used in 51 different hydraulic fracturing products.

Commenting on the report's findings, Waxman in a statement urged the Energy Department and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), currently reviewing the environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing, to "make certain that we have strong protections in place to prevent these chemicals from entering drinking water supplies."

The drilling practice is mostly exempted from regulation by the EPA under the SDWA.

Legislation proposed by DeGette during the last Congress and reintroduced last month would reverse an exemption granted to fracking in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. DeGette's bill, dubbed the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act, would require drillers that use hydraulic fracturing to disclose to the state—or to the EPA in certain cases—the fracking chemicals they use.

DeGette's bill, which also would protect the proprietary

formulas of fracking fluids that each gas services firm uses, was previously squelched by key Democratic leaders, including Waxman, who urged DeGette to wait until EPA completes its review of fracking.

Environmentalists say that lack of knowledge about the chemicals drillers use makes it impossible to determine if hydraulic fracturing is causing any ecological or health threat.

Many states and localities, most notably New York, have held up new gas drilling to determine if tougher oversight of hydraulic fracturing is necessary.

However, the gas industry says fracking is safe and vital to the nation's shale gas boom.

Natural gas industry groups responded to the report with a collective shrug Monday, saying its findings revealed little new information. Producers groups also said the report's detailed breakdown of fracking chemicals used by drillers is redundant in light of a new industry-backed, voluntary Web-based registry that went live last week that gives drillers the opportunity to publicly disclose the chemicals they use in hydraulic fracturing.

The website, FracFocus.org, debuted April 11 and several of the largest U.S. natural gas producers, such as XTO Energy Inc., Chesapeake Energy Corp., Cabot Oil and Gas Corp., Anadarko Petroleum Corp., and others have already begun uploading information.

The registry, characterized as a proactive response to political pressure to make fracking chemical data available and as pushback against congressional efforts to "federalize" such disclosures, is a project of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission and the Ground Water Protection Council, the coalition of state groundwater regulatory agencies.

The registry is open to oil and natural gas producers to publically disclose data on the non-proprietary chemicals they use as well as when and in which state they are used.

However, the database has yet to be endorsed by the services firms that provide producers with the mix of chemicals, water and sand that producers inject underground.

DeGette said voluntary initiatives such as FracFocus.org are not enough to ensure regulators and the public that drillers are using fracking fluids safely, noting that many of the companies that provided House Democrats with fracking data were "unable to even identify some of the chemicals they were using in their own activities."

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April 21, 2011 Headlines

EPA Staff Calls For Tightening Air Standard For Soot

In a move that will exacerbate utility industry angst over Environmental Protection Agency regulatory initiatives, EPA professional staff this week recommended a significant tightening of the current federal air quality annual standard for fine particulate matter, saying a painstaking review of the latest scientific research indicates a tighter standard is necessary to protect human health. In a final policy assessment for EPA's review of the particulate matter national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS), put on the EPA website Tuesday, EPA staff said their review of the scientific evidence and risk-based analysis lead them to conclude that a tighter standard is needed. The Clean Air Act requires EPA periodically to review the NAAQS for particulate matter and five other specified pollutants. The statute requires the agency to set the standards at a level sufficient to protect public health "with an adequate margin of safety." The law prohibits the agency from considering costs to...

AES Buys DPL, Says Refocusing On U.S. Utilities

Trending away from its traditional focus on merchant and overseas businesses, AES Corp. announced plans Wednesday to invest \$4.7 billion in the stodgy U.S. Midwest electricity utility business by acquiring the parent company of Dayton Power & Light Corp. Under the agreement, Virginia-based AES will pay \$30 for each outstanding share of DPL Corp., the parent of Ohio-based Dayton Power & Light, an 8.7 percent premium over DPL's share price at closing Tuesday. In all, AES will pay \$3.5 billion in cash and assume \$1.2 billion in DPL debt. The deal for DPL is the second-largest U.S. utility merger in 2011, although it is far smaller than the \$13.7 billion merger between Progress Energy and Duke Energy Corp announced in January. Both companies' boards of directors have approved AES' deal for DPL, which now faces reviews from shareholders, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and the Department of Justice, which will look into...

State Advances Oil Sands Pipe; Downplays Greenhouse Impact

Following on recent calls from environmentalists that the project be further scrutinized for its potential climate change impacts, the State Department last week issued a supplemental draft environmental review of TransCanada Corp.'s proposed Keystone XL oil sands pipeline that acknowledged oil sands oil's higher emissions relative to conventional crude, but continues to maintain the project would result in few adverse environmental impacts. The

AK/88

supplemental report comes only one month after the State Department, which must approve all projects crossing international borders, announced plans to conduct an additional environmental review of Keystone XL, and exactly one year to the day—April 15—after State issued its draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the crude line. Since then, the \$7 billion pipeline project has become a political hot potato, disparaged by its opponents as encouraging emissions-heavy oil sands development and praised by its backers—oil and gas industry...

DOE Offers Conditional Loan Guarantee For CA Solar Plant

The Energy Department announced Monday that it has offered a conditional \$2.1 billion loan guarantee to back the Blythe Solar Power Project in Riverside County, Calif. The project, backed by Solar Trust of America LLC, is one of the largest solar...

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Since then, the \$7 billion pipeline project has become a political hot potato, disparaged by its opponents as en-

couraging emissions-heavy oil sands development and praised by its backers—oil and gas industry officials and some GOP lawmakers—as a potentially giant job creator and preferred alternative to suppliers of crude oil from the Middle East.

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.

In its April 15, 2010, draft EIS on Keystone XL, the State Department

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The Energy Daily will not publish on Friday, April 22, in observance of Good Friday.

State Advances Oil Sands Pipe... (Continued from p. 1)

said construction of the 1,959-mile project would have limited adverse environmental impacts and was needed to provide “a reliable and cost-efficient source” of crude oil from a friendly ally.

However, in July 2010, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), then-chairman of the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee, protested the oil pipeline project, saying it would increase U.S. reliance on “the dirtiest source of transportation fuel currently available.”

Waxman has also expressed concern that the State Department’s draft EIS of the pipeline failed to adequately consider the project’s climate change impacts. The Environmental Protection Agency echoed that sentiment in a July 16 letter to State Department officials, calling the draft EIS inadequate.

The proposed pipeline also sparked protest from Nebraska Republicans, who expressed concern that the line threatens a vital aquifer and that State’s draft review of the line failed to adequately consider alternate routes.

In separate letters to Clinton, Nebraska Sen. Mike Johanns and Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman both said errant oil spills could pollute the huge shallow underground Ogallala aquifer, referred to by Heinemann as “the lifeblood of Nebraska’s agriculture industry.”

However, the State Department is widely expected to approve the project—indeed State has already approved two other oil sands pipelines connecting Albertan production areas with U.S. markets, including Keystone 1, TransCanada’s initial cross-border line—and the supplemental draft EIS released last Friday suggests Keystone XL remains on track.

The draft supplemental review includes new information on proposed project facilities and regulatory requirements as well as additional information on the potential impacts to groundwater from an errant oil spill—including additional data on the Ogallala aquifer.

In comments on the hydraulic conductivity of the Ogallala Formation, the State Department said “localized preferential flow paths do exist that could enable dissolved chemicals to move at an increased rate through the unsaturated zone to the water table.”

However, State downplayed the import of that finding, adding that localized ash beds prevalent within the geological formation would “tend to inhibit vertical migration of dissolved contaminants.”

“...even very large spills would likely be limited to localized groundwater contamination that would not threaten the regional viability of the aquifer system,” said the report.

Partially on those findings, the report only considered one potential alternative route for Keystone XL that would avoid the aquifer entirely and four that would limit its exposure.

State staff said none offered an overall environmental advantage over the proposed route.

The agency also punted on the possibility that a spill might occur on Keystone XL, saying “TransCanada’s limited operating history with crude oil pipelines precludes a direct comparison of

accident and oil spill incident rates specific to TransCanada with the industry average rates.”

In comments on the project’s potential climate change impacts, the report notes the principal greenhouse gas of concern related to construction and operation of the pipeline is carbon dioxide (CO₂), which enters the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels.

Greens have fiercely opposed the pipeline because they say it would accelerate production of Canadian oil sands, which requires significant amounts of natural gas to produce steam used to melt the oil sands *in situ* so it can be extracted. Because of the extra emissions associated with these production techniques, oil sands oil has a significantly higher carbon “footprint” than conventional oil, they say.

In addition, because developers would have a million barrels per day of new pipeline transportation capacity to move their oil to Gulf refineries if Keystone XL were approved, Canadian oil sands developers would have a clear incentive to expand production, greens assert. They also charged that State ignored emissions that would result from the construction of new facilities as developers expanded their operations.

State, however, concluded that the pipeline would not lead to a dramatic expansion of Canadian oil sands development.

In expanded comments on the project’s potential “life-cycle” emissions—those arising from the extraction, refining and use of Canadian oil sands oil—the report said “it is clear that [oil sands oils], as would likely be transported through the proposed project, are on average somewhat more greenhouse gas-intensive” than the Mexican, Venezuelan and Saudi Arabian crudes they would displace in U.S. refineries.

But State said the pipeline’s overall contribution to cumulative greenhouse gas impacts from the project “would not constitute a substantive contribution to the U.S. or global emissions.”

However, the assessment estimated that oil sands oil’s lifecycle emissions would be 17 percent higher than the average 2005 lifecycle emissions of all oils consumed in the United States.

The assessment also said that U.S. emissions would increase by as little as 3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO₂e) per year or as much as 21 MMTCO₂e annually, depending on what kinds of oils were displaced at U.S. refineries.

The report was greeted warmly by TransCanada, with its President and Chief Executive Officer Russ Girling predicting final U.S. approval of Keystone XL before the year is out.

However, environmentalists complained that the new report gave short shrift to route alternatives, climate change impacts and other key issues.

“This environmental review for the proposed Keystone XL tar sands pipeline is as inadequate as their first go-round, with the State Department merely paying lip service to critical issues such as pipeline safety, the routing over the Ogallala Aquifer, and environmental justice around refineries,” said Susan Casey-Lefkowitz, international program director for the Natural Resources Defense Council, in an April 15 statement.

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EPA Staff Calls For Tightening Standard For Soot... (Cont'd from p. 1)

determining the level of a NAAQS.

The policy assessment is an important step in moving toward a new NAAQS, and is meant to bridge the gap between the relevant scientific evidence and technical information and the judgments required of the EPA administrator in determining whether, and if so how, to revise the NAAQS.

Fine particulate matter is defined by the agency as being 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller (PM2.5). These particles can be directly emitted from sources such as forest fires, or can form when gases emitted from power plants, factories and automobiles react in the air.

PM2.5 is particularly harmful to human health because they can lodge deep within lung tissue, causing inflammation and exacerbating existing respiratory ailments. EPA says fine particle pollution is responsible for thousands of premature deaths every year, tens of thousands of non-fatal heart attacks, and similarly large volumes of asthma attacks, particularly in children.

In their primary recommendation for a new standard, EPA staff said the existing annual standard—measured in micrograms per cubic meter—should be revised downward, while the current 24-hour standard could remain unchanged.

"Taking into account both evidence-based and risk-based considerations, staff concludes that consideration should be given to revising the current annual PM2.5 standard level of 15 micrograms per cubic meter to a level within the range of 13 to 11 micrograms per cubic meter," the staff said. "Staff further concludes that the evidence most strongly supports consideration of an alternative annual standard in the range of 12 to 11 micrograms per cubic meter.

The staff also said that "in conjunction with consideration of an annual standard level in the range of 12 to 11 micrograms per cubic meter, staff concludes it is appropriate to consider retaining the current 24-hour PM2.5 standard level at 35 micrograms per cubic meter. In conjunction with consideration of an annual standard level of 13 micrograms per cubic meter, staff concludes there is limited support to consider revising the 24-hour PM2.5 standard to somewhat below 35 micrograms per cubic meter, such as down to 30 micrograms per cubic meter."

The recommendation is not likely to sit well with the utility industry, which already is waging an aggressive lobbying campaign against EPA proposals to establish a "maximum achievable control technology" standard for hazardous air pollutants; to fi-

nalize a regional program to reduce transported air pollution in 30 eastern states; to limit greenhouse gas emissions; and to require changes in the way power plants use water to cool steam, among other initiatives.

EPA's most recent action on the PM2.5 NAAQS came in 2006, when the agency under the George W. Bush administration opted to retain the annual standard of 15 micrograms per cubic meter set in 1997 during the Clinton administration. EPA did choose to tighten the 24-hour standard from 65 micrograms per cubic meter to 35 micrograms per cubic meter.

In that rulemaking, EPA for the first time in its history rejected recommendations from an advisory panel of scientists—the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee (CASAC)—that the agency tighten both the annual and 24-hour standards.

In 2005, when EPA—then led by former Administrator Stephen Johnson—proposed to tighten only the daily standard, CASAC two months later took the highly unusual step of holding a public teleconference to consider whether to provide the agency with "further advice and recommendations" on the fine particle limits. In March 2006, CASAC members sent a letter to Johnson urging him to reconsider the proposed rule and to accept their recommendations to tighten both the daily and annual standards, saying they had "serious scientific concerns" with Johnson's proposal to tighten only the daily standard.

When the final NAAQS was published in 2006, three environmental and public health organizations sued the agency over the regulation. In 2009, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit declined to vacate the standards, saying doing so would sacrifice the health improvements likely to ensue from allowing the revised daily standard to remain in place.

But the court said EPA failed to adequately explain its decision to leave the annual standard unchanged, giving current EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson an opportunity to revise the annual standard if she determined it necessary.

While CASAC has yet to weigh in on the EPA staff's final policy recommendation, the panel in September sent a letter to Jackson in support of the staff's recommendations in a draft policy assessment.

"CASAC supports the EPA staff's conclusion in the Second Draft Policy Assessment" that "currently available information clearly calls into question the adequacy of the current standards."

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Dr John Holdren
Assistant to President Obama for
Science and Technology, Director
of the White House Office of
Science and Technology Policy



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DOE Offers Conditional Loan Guarantee For CA Solar Plant

The Energy Department announced Monday that it has offered a conditional \$2.1 billion loan guarantee to back the Blythe Solar Power Project in Riverside County, Calif.

The project, backed by Solar Trust of America LLC, is one of the largest solar

projects in the country, with a potential to avoid 710,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

DOE's conditional loan guarantee will back two units at the plant, with an initial combined capacity of 484 megawatts; the project is designed for expan-

sion to 1,000 MW eventually.

DOE says all of the output from the plant is contracted for sale to Southern California Edison, a key financial underpinning.

The Blythe project will be the first U.S. concentrating solar power (CSP) parabolic trough plant to use an air-cooled condenser unit, which will decrease water use by nearly 90 percent compared with a water-cooled CSP facility—a key benefit in the dry Southwest.

AES Buys DPL, Says Refocusing On U.S. Utilities... (Cont'd from p. 1)

holders, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and the Department of Justice, which will look into anti-trust concerns.

Given that AES has virtually no assets in Ohio, it is unlikely that any of those reviews will turn up any significant market concentration concerns.

However, the PUCO may give the deal a close look from a financial and ratepayer perspective given that it will be financed largely with debt, namely a bridge loan from Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

The DPL buy clearly highlights a corporate strategy shift underway at AES, which for years focused on expanding aggressively overseas and bulking up on merchant generation.

By contrast, the company is now focused on acquiring relatively conservative U.S. electric utilities, AES President and Chief Executive Officer Paul Hanrahan said Wednesday, to build on its 2000 acquisition of Indiana-based IPL, the parent of Indiana Power & Light Co.

"We are concentrating our growth efforts in a few key markets, including the U.S. utility sector, where we see ways to leverage our global platform of 40,500 [megawatts of generation capacity] and 11.5 million utility customers," said Hanrahan in a press release announcing the DPL buy.

In particular, the DPL buy will "build on our nearby utility business at Indianapolis Power & Light Company," he said.

Among other benefits, acquisitions like DPL substantially cut the risk of AES' largely international portfolio and could in the long-term boost its current credit ratings, which are below investment grade.

Credit agencies favor the regulated returns that utilities provide, although AES officials acknowledged the company's credit rating could take a short-term hit because the DPL buy will be financed largely with debt.

However, Moody's Investors Services praised the deal Wednesday while maintaining its "B1" rating on AES and changing its outlook from neutral to positive.

Moody's Vice President Scott Solomon said the new outlook is "supported by the sound rationale for the proposed acquisition which, if consummated, would reduce AES' business risk profile and help to improve financial performance from current levels."

DPL's primary asset—Dayton Power & Light—serves more than 500,000 retail customers in west-central Ohio.

Other subsidiaries are DPL Energy, a merchant generator with mostly peaking facilities; and DPL Energy Resources, a competitive electric supplier serving Ohio industrial and commercial customers.

With the acquisition, AES will add approximately 3,800 megawatts of generation capacity in Ohio, including 2,800 coal-fired megawatts and 1,000 megawatts of natural gas and diesel peaking units.

Globally, AES runs 14 utilities and controls 40,300 megawatts of generation. The company's far-flung operations are in Chile, Cameroon, China, Bulgaria and 25 other countries, with a particular concentration in Latin America and Europe.

One of the liabilities of the DPL purchase initially would appear be the coal-heavy nature of the generation fleet AES is acquiring, given the likelihood that coming EPA air quality regulations, combined with low natural gas prices, will force the retirement of many U.S. coal plants, particularly smaller and older units.

But AES officials said in a Wednesday conference call with analysts that DPL's coal fleet is actually positioned to cash in on that possibility.

AES Executive Vice President and President of North America and Global Wind Generation Ned Hall said AES expects 20 percent of the coal fleet in the region's power market—run by PJM Interconnection LLC—to retire in the next few years. However, DPL's units are clean enough that most will not be retired, and will instead cash in on capacity prices that will rise as other units retire and the region's supply portfolio shrinks, Hall said.

For example, Hall said 85 percent of DPL's coal units already are equipped with selective catalytic reduction for nitrogen oxides, as well as sulfur dioxide scrubbers—pollution controls that virtually all coal-fired power plants will have to install if the EPA rules are finalized. By contrast, Hall said only 45 percent of PJM's overall coal fleet is fitted with these control technologies.

Hall also acknowledged that AES is watching closely the somewhat unusual rate-setting process in Ohio to which Dayton Power & Light is subject, under which regulated utilities can either negotiate regulated "electric security plans (ESP)" with the PUCO or seek approval for a market-based rate plan.

The process has been rocky at times; no Ohio utilities have won approval for market rate plans, and ESP plans have in some cases been contentious and slow to be approved.

On Tuesday, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the PUCO unlawfully approved \$63 million in rate recovery under an ESP for Columbus-based American Electric Power Co., partially backing complaints from Ohio's Office of Consumers' Counsel and industrial customers.

DPL is set to re-negotiate its rates with PUCO next March.

Investors appeared to like the deal for DPL, sending AES shares up more than 3 percent Wednesday to close at \$12.88 per share.

Riley (OCA), Timothy

From: CQ Homeland Security [cqhls-owner@cqrollcall.com]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 7:01 AM
To: Riley (OCA), Timothy
Subject: CQ Homeland Security

OPINION LEADERS

CQ Homeland Security DAILY

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March 25, 6:33 a.m. | Rob Margetta, Editor

 Print Issue

 Schedule

New FEMA Flood Mapping Policy Just the Beginning of Policy Debate

Lawmakers recently won dispute with the White House over the Federal Emergency Management Agency accounting for ailing dams and levees in National Flood Insurance Program risk maps, but an alternative method that would address the program's many debts and protect homeowners in high-risk areas is yet to be determined.

» READ | By Jennifer Scholtes

Radiation-Detection Badges Another Battle for Body Scanners

The Transportation Security Administration's use of "backscatter" whole body imagers, which emit ultra-low doses of X-rays, has received a fair amount of criticism regarding passenger safety, but attention is also increasingly focused on the machines' operators.

» READ | By Rob Margetta

FROM THE CQ NEWSROOM

White House Sending Big Guns to Discuss Libya With House Members

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper Jr., and others will give the administration an opportunity to reduce congressional angst over the United States' role in international military campaign against forces loyal to Libyan strongman Muammar el-Qaddafi.

» READ | By Emily Cadei

Our Read of the Other Media's Homeland Security Coverage



That darned president: Having "sided with the Islamic supremacists at every turn," Obama "now paving the way for an Islamic state in Libya," FOX blogger blasts . . . Don't tread on us:

All scheduled events, today and future

►Around Washington

International Institute for Strategic Studies will sponsor a discussion of a report titled **"Iran's Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Capabilities: A Net Assessment."** Noon, IISS-U.S., 1850 K St. NW, Suite 300

Hudson Institute will hold a panel discussion titled **"How Should the U.S. Respond to the Prospect of Islamist Governments?"** Noon, 1015 15th St. NW, 6th floor

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace will hold a discussion titled **"Can Non-Violent Resistance Work in Iran?"** 12:30 p.m., 1779 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Institute for Women's Policy Research will hold a discussion on a report titled **"Organizations Working with Latina Immigrants: Resources and Strategies for Change."** 1:30 p.m., Woodrow Wilson Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

►Congress

The Senate is not in session.
The House is not in session.

Complain and legislate all you like, "TSA won't negotiate terms for security at U.S. airports," mouthpiece maintains . . . The Invisible Hand: Underwear bomber chose Detroit airport because fares to Chicago or Dallas were out of his range. These and other stories lead today's homeland security coverage.
» READ | By David C. Morrison

Thursday, March 24

Since the Newsletter

Afternoon Take: Thursday Recess Update

With the House and Senate in recess, the Afternoon Take will list the homeland security-related documents that recently have become available. The regular Afternoon Take will return on Monday, March 28.

» READ | By Chad Brand

CQ Transcripts



Libya

- [Former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Retired Gen. Richard Myers Interviewed on Fox News](#)
- [White House Deputy National Security Adviser Denis McDonough Interviewed on CNN](#)
- [White House Deputy National Security Adviser Denis McDonough Interviewed on MSNBC](#)
- [Sen. Lee Interviewed on Fox News](#)
- [White House Press Secretary Carney, Others Hold News Briefing Aboard Air Force One En Route to Andrews Air Force Base](#)
- [Senate Democrats Hold News Teleconference on the Situation in Libya](#)
- [Defense Department News Briefing Via Teleconference on Operations in Libya](#)
- [Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich Interviewed on Fox News](#)
- [Former Libya Ambassador to the United State Ali Suleiman Aujali Interviewed on PBS](#)

Afghanistan

- [Century Foundation Holds News Conference on Afghanistan](#)

Missile Defense

- [Northrop Grumman Holds Media Briefing on "Enabling Ballistic Missile Defense System 2020"](#)

Jerusalem Bombing

- [Jerusalem, Israel, Mayor Nir Barkat Interviewed on CNN](#)
- [Secretary of State Clinton Holds Media Availability with Morocco Foreign Minister Taieb Fassi-Fihri](#)
- [Israel Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren Interviewed on MSNBC](#)

Japan

- [State Department Holds Regular News Briefing](#)
- [Secretary of State Clinton Interviewed on Fuji TV, as Released by the State Department](#)

Japan Earthquake a Chance to Evaluate Foreign Disaster Aid

The recent earthquake that struck Japan has resulted in unprecedented damage — and unprecedented international cooperation for dealing not only with the quake but ripple effects such as the damage to nuclear power plants.

» READ | By Rob Margetta

Our Read of the Other Media's Homeland Security Coverage



Reactor containment: "Iran, Sudan, Syria, and other countries that the United States has named state sponsors of terrorism have received millions of dollars in U.N. nuclear technology aid"

New Model Army: FAA "feels model airplanes are a threat to national security and is proposing more restrictive laws" . . . Tour de force: Bomb threat to Parisian icon forces evacuation of Eiffel Tower. These and other stories lead today's homeland security coverage.

» READ | By David C. Morrison

BRIEF

Obama Pledges Federal Disaster Assistance for Winter Storms

President Obama has declared a major disaster for the areas of Missouri that were hit by a storm in late January, ordering federal aid to supplement state and local assistance.

» READ | By CQ Staff

Wednesday, March 23

Afternoon Take: Wednesday Recess Update

With the House and Senate in recess, the Afternoon Take will list the homeland security-related documents that recently have become available. The regular Afternoon Take will return on Monday, March 28.

» READ | By Chad Brand

Libya Reactions Give Hints of Tea Party's Foreign Policy Divisions

Tea party-backed Republican freshmen in Congress are facing the first American military campaign initiated under their watch, and their reactions have varied dramatically.

» READ | By Emily Cadei

CQ Transcripts



Libya

- [Sen. McCain Interviewed on CBS](#)
- [Rep. Kucinich Interviewed on MSNBC](#)

• [House Republican Study Committee Chairman Jordan Interviewed on Fox Business Network](#)

• [Secretary of Defense Gates Holds Media Availability in Moscow, Russia, as Released by the Defense Department](#)

- President Obama Interviewed on CNN En.Espanol
- Rep. Paul Interviewed on Fox News
- Washington Institute for Near East Policy Program on Arab Politics Director David Schenker Interviewed on Fox News
- Rep. Nunes Interviewed on CNN
- White House Holds Second News Briefing Aboard Air Force One En Route to El Salvador, as Released by the White House
- White House Holds First News Briefing Aboard Air Force One En Route to El Salvador, as Released by the White House
- White House Holds News Briefing in Santiago, Chile, as Released by the White House
- State Department Holds Regular News Briefing
- U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa Commander Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III Holds Defense Department News Briefing Via Teleconference on Operations in Libya
- Del. Norton Interviewed on CNN

Russia, Afghanistan

- Secretary of Defense Gates Delivers Remarks with Russia Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov at the Ministry of Defense Guest House in Moscow, Russia, as Released by the Defense Department

Japan

- Nuclear Regulatory Commission Holds Staff Briefing on the Ongoing Nuclear Event in Japan

Yemen

- Former California Democratic Rep. and Current Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Director, President and CEO Jane Harman Interviewed on CNN

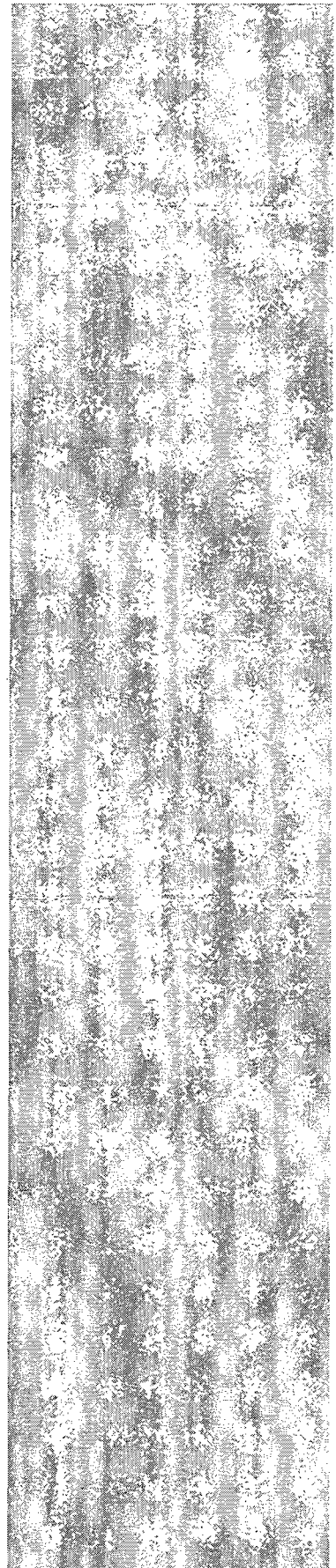
Missile Defense Conference

- Rep. Lamborn Delivers Remarks at the 9th Annual U.S. Missile Defense Conference and Exhibit
- Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Ellen Tauscher Delivers Remarks at the 9th Annual U.S. Missile Defense Conference and Exhibit
- Rep. Larsen Delivers Remarks at the 9th Annual U.S. Missile Defense Conference and Exhibit

Immigration

- President Obama Holds Joint News Conference with El Salvador President Carlos Mauricio Funes in San Salvador, El Salvador, as Released by the White House

Violence Against Law Enforcement



- [U.S. Attorney General Holder Holds News Conference on Violence Against Law Enforcement Officers](#)

Research Goal: Building Better Border Statistics

For the past several weeks, when Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Border Patrol officials have appeared before Congress to talk about safety along the U.S.-Mexico line, they've faced one recurring question from lawmakers: Exactly how effective are U.S. forces in stopping illegal trafficking?

» [READ](#) | By Rob Margetta

DHS Needs to Consolidate Nuclear Detection Purchases, Report Finds

The different arms of the Department of Homeland Security need to better coordinate their purchasing and inventory for equipment used to detect explosives, metal and radiation, according to a recent inspector general's report.

» [READ](#) | By CQ Staff

- [Read the report](#)

Our Read of the Other Media's Homeland Security Coverage



Kiss Kiss Bang Bang: The baroness who once led U.K.'s FBI hopes Western agents are "reaching out" to talk to "people on the edges of al Qaeda" . . . And don't you forget it: "Bomb threats by mothers angry with their daughters' choice of fiance or passengers high on Ambien are no laughing matter" . . . That's a switch: "Mysterious white powder" at the Kennedy Space Center turns out to be not phony anthrax but bag of cocaine. These and other stories lead today's homeland security coverage.

» [READ](#) | By David C. Morrison

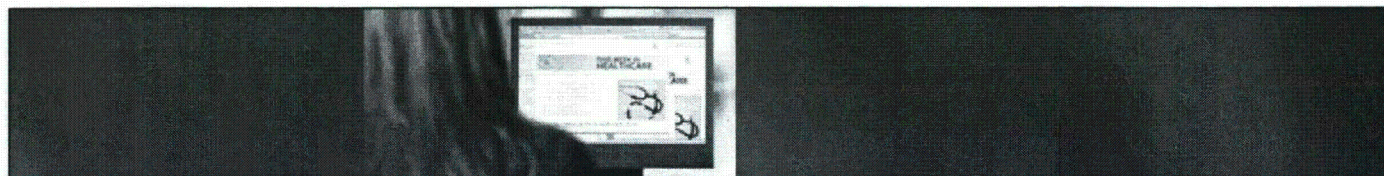
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From: CQ Homeland Security [cqhls-owner@cqrollcall.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 7:02 AM
To: Riley (OCA), Timothy
Subject: CQ Homeland Security



CQ Homeland Security DAILY

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March 29, 5:47 a.m. | Rob Margetta, Editor

Print Issue

Schedule

Thompson: Florida Contracts Reveal Problems at FEMA

The Homeland Security inspector general's office issued a report Monday that said a Florida utility company failed to comply with small-business contractor regulations when it spent \$134 million in federal money on a rebuilding project after 2004's Hurricane Ivan.

» READ | By CQ Staff

GOP Leaders Blame Napolitano for Real ID Delays

Republican leaders of the House and Senate Judiciary committees on Monday accused Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano of usurping congressional authority by delaying the implementation of federal driver's licensing standards.

» READ | By CQ Staff

Aguilar Calls Tight U.S.-Mexico Collaboration Necessary

Tighter unity between the United States and Mexico is the key to improving security at the Southwest border, one of the top officials at Customs and Border Protection said Monday.

» READ | By Rob Margetta

FROM THE CQ NEWSROOM

Model Airplane Hobbyists Seek Exemption From Drafted FAA Regulation

The Academy of Model Aeronautics is worried that a rule being drafted by the Federal Aviation Administration will restrict model aircraft, particularly those that are remote-controlled.

» READ | By Kathryn A. Wolfe

Our Read of the Other Media's Homeland Security Coverage

All scheduled events, today and future

► Around Washington

Rep. **Edward J. Markey**, D-Mass., will hold a news conference on **providing potassium iodide to the 20 mile radius of nuclear power plants.** 2 p.m., House Triangle (Outside), Capitol National Capital Planning Commission will hold a discussion titled **"Introducing the Homeland Security Regional Innovation Cluster."** 6:30 p.m., Burke Theatre, Naval Heritage Center, U.S. Navy Memorial, 701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

► Congress

The Senate will convene at 10 a.m. Senate Armed Services will hold a hearing on the defense authorization request for fiscal 2012 for the **U.S. European Command; U.S. Strategic Command.** 9:30 a.m., G-50 Dirksen

Senate Judiciary Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights Subcommittee will hold a hearing titled **"Protecting the Civil Rights of American Muslims."** 10 a.m., 226 Dirksen

Senate Energy and Natural Resources will hold an open meeting to provide an update on the recent events at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's **Fukushima Daiichi reactor complex** due to the earthquake and tsunami. 10 a.m., 366 Dirksen

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Federal

AK/90



Olly olly oxen free: Nearly 900 "special interest aliens" from 35 nations with suspected terror ties apprehended along Mexico border over the past 17 months . . . Spoil sport: Spreading DHS largesse "across this country has much more to do with pork barrel politics than it does national security" . . . The boom boom: "U.S. companies selling doomsday bunkers are seeing sales skyrocket anywhere from 20 to 1,000 percent." These and other stories lead today's homeland security coverage.

» READ | By David C. Morrison

Monday, March 28

Since the Newsletter

Afternoon Take: Administration Presents Its Case on Libya

President Obama's Monday night address on U.S. intervention in Libya comes at the start of a week when White House officials will face a stream of questions from Congress on the issue.

» READ | By Chad Brand

CQ Transcripts



Libya

- Senior Administration Official Holds Background Briefing on the North Atlantic Council's Meeting on Libya, as Released by the State Department

Department

- David Gregory Hosts NBC's 'Meet the Press'
- Jake Tapper Hosts ABC's 'This Week'
- Candy Crowley Hosts CNN's 'State of the Union'
- Bob Schieffer Hosts CBS's 'Face the Nation'
- Chris Wallace Hosts Fox News Sunday
- President Obama Delivers Weekly Radio Address, as Released by the White House
- Sen. McCain Interviewed on FBN
- Reps. Peter T. King and Lynn Woolsey Interviewed on CNN
- Rep. Ruppersberger Interviewed on CNN
- Rep. Smith Interviewed on CNN
- Gen. Ham, U.S. Africa Command Chief, Interviewed on CNN
- Sen. McCain Interviewed on Fox News
- Sen. Schumer Interviewed on MSNBC
- Defense Department News Briefing on Operations in Libya
- White House Holds Regular News Briefing

Federal Contracting

- Commission on Wartime Contracting Holds Hearing on Saving Money on Federal Contracting for Contingencies

The Week in Homeland Security: House Lawmakers Address 'D Block', Scrutinize Chemical Security

Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee will hold a hearing titled **"Tools to Prevent Department of Defense Cost Overruns."** 2:30 p.m., 342 Dirksen

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation will hold a hearing on the **economic ramifications of cyber attacks.** 2:30 p.m., 253 Russell

Senate Select Intelligence will hold a closed hearing on pending **intelligence matters.** 2:30 p.m., 219 Hart

The House will convene at 2 p.m. House Select Intelligence will hold a closed hearing on ongoing **intelligence activities.** 4 p.m., HVC-304 Capitol

House committees will turn their attention this week to a pair of issues featured in recently introduced legislation: designating a wireless broadband network for public safety and renewing the government's authority to regulate anti-terrorism and safety measures at high-risk chemical facilities.

» READ | By Jennifer Scholtes

A Spooky New Office Awaits DHS

If all goes as planned, in three years the secretary of Homeland Security will have a brand new office — just down the hall from the room where American poet Ezra Pound was held for mental treatment after being indicted for treason during World War II.

» READ | By Jennifer Scholtes

New Egyptian Government a Test for U.S. Influence

How should the United States engage with the next government that emerges in Egypt, particularly if its leaders support Islamist policies? Researchers who spoke Friday at the conservative Hudson Institute disagreed on the specifics but were consistent on one point: America has to be cautious.

» READ | By Rob Margetta

Detroit Bomb Discovery Puts FPS on Hot Seat

Over the past several years, lawmakers and federal auditors have maligned the Federal Protective Service as understaffed and lacking in needed authority over the federal buildings it is charged with guarding. The agency is now feeling more heat on Capitol Hill, thanks to the recent arrest of a Michigan man charged with placing explosives outside of Detroit's McNamara Federal Building.

» READ | By CQ Staff

People on the Move

Annie Medaglia has joined the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee as a presidential management fellow for the State Department. . .

Nora Bensahel has been named deputy director of studies and senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security.

» READ | By CQ Staff

FROM THE CQ NEWSROOM

Japanese Disasters Put U.S. Readiness on Lawmakers' Minds

In Washington, the Japanese disaster and Tokyo's response has turned the attention of emergency responders, disaster experts, lawmakers and the president inward, as they contemplate whether the United States could do any better than — or even as well as — Japan has. The answer is, for the most part, no.

» READ | By Tim Starks

Our Read of the Other Media's Homeland Security Coverage



This week's worry: "U.S. spy agencies have gathered new intelligence indicating that al Qaeda's affiliate in Yemen may be close to launching a terrorist strike" . . . Back to the drawing

board: Iowa county cancels planned terror response exercise featuring white

supremacists as the bad guys ... Scanned, screened and satiated: "One unexpected benefit of enhanced airport security is that airport dining options have never been better." These and other stories lead today's homeland security coverage.

» READ | By David C. Morrison

Friday, March 25

Afternoon Take: Friday Recess Update

With the House and Senate in recess, the Afternoon Take will list the homeland security-related documents that recently have become available. The regular

Afternoon Take will return on Monday, March 28.

» READ | By Chad Brand

CQ Transcripts



Libya, Middle East

- [Rep. Kucinich Interviewed on Fox Business Network](#)
- [Sen. McCain Interviewed on Fox News](#)
- [Secretary of Defense Gates Holds Joint News Conference with Israeli Defense Minister Barak](#)
- [State Dept. Background Briefing on North Atlantic Council Discussions on Libya](#)
- [Secretary of State Clinton Holds News Conference](#)
- [Defense Department News Briefing on Operations in Libya](#)
- [State Department Holds Regular News Briefing](#)
- [White House Holds Regular News Briefing](#)
- [Sen. Sherrod Brown Interviewed on MSNBC](#)
- [Israel Ambassador to the U.S. Oren Interviewed on CNN](#)
- [Council on Foreign Relations Holds Conference on Libya](#)
- [White House Deputy National Security Adviser McDonough Interviewed on PBS](#)

Japan

- [Union of Concerned Scientists Holds Conference Call Briefing to Discuss U.S. Nuclear Plant Safety and the Latest News from the Japanese Nuclear Power Incident](#)
- [American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research Holds Discussion on Japan](#)

New FEMA Flood Mapping Policy Just the Beginning of Policy Debate

Lawmakers recently won dispute with the White House over the Federal Emergency Management Agency accounting for ailing dams and levees in National Flood Insurance Program risk maps, but an alternative method that would address the program's many debts and protect homeowners in high-risk areas is yet to be determined.

» READ | By Jennifer Scholtes

Radiation-Detection Badges Another Battle for Body Scanners

The Transportation Security Administration's use of "backscatter" whole body

imagers, which emit ultra-low doses of X-rays, has received a fair amount of criticism regarding passenger safety, but attention is also increasingly focused on the machines' operators.

» READ | By Rob Margetta

FROM THE CQ NEWSROOM

White House Sending Big Guns to Discuss Libya With House Members

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper Jr., and others will give the administration an opportunity to reduce congressional angst over the United States' role in international military campaign against forces loyal to Libyan strongman Muammar el-Qaddafi.

» READ | By Emily Cadei

Our Read of the Other Media's Homeland Security Coverage



That darned president: Having "sided with the Islamic supremacists at every turn," Obama "now paving the way for an Islamic state in Libya," FOX blogger blasts . . . Don't tread on us: Complain and legislate all you like, "TSA won't negotiate terms for security at U.S. airports," mouthpiece maintains . . . The Invisible Hand: Underwear bomber chose Detroit airport because fares to Chicago or Dallas were out of his range. These and other stories lead today's homeland security coverage.

» READ | By David C. Morrison

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OPINION LEADERS



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March 30, 6:13 a.m. | Rob Margetta, Editor

Print Issue

Better Security Requires Privacy Law Revamp, Panel Says

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In Battle Over Nuclear Spending, Modernization Beating Nonproliferation

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» READ | By Emily Cadei

Levin to Push Resolution Endorsing U.S. Military Action in Libya

Schedule

All scheduled events, today and future

► Secretary Napolitano

Speaks at **DHS's science conference and university network summit**. 8:30 a.m., Renaissance Hotel, 999 Ninth St. NW

► Around Washington

The Department of Homeland Security will hold its **science conference and university network summit**. Highlights: 8:15 a.m.: Remarks by Tara O'Toole, undersecretary of Homeland Security for science and technology; 8:30 a.m.: Remarks by Janet Napolitano, secretary, Department of Homeland Security; and David V. Aguilar, deputy commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection. 8:15 a.m., Renaissance Hotel, 999 Ninth St. NW

► Congress

The Senate will convene at 9:30 a.m.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing titled **"Ten Years After 9/11: A Report From the 9/11 Commission Chairmen."** 10 a.m., 342 Dirksen

Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for the **Air Force** with Secretary Michael B. Donley. 10:30 a.m., 192 Dirksen

Senate Judiciary will hold an **oversight hearing on the FBI** with FBI Director **Robert S. Mueller III**.

AK/AN

Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Tuesday he would work with Democratic leadership to build bipartisan support and involve leaders of the relevant panels. Levin said that, if all went well, he hoped a resolution could be brought to the floor by next week.

» READ | By Frank Oliveri

Our Read of the Other Media's Homeland Security Coverage



Airport etiquette: "Am I, a citizen, required to stop motionless when the TSA officers yell 'freeze'? Actually, no," travel writer teaches . . . Kandahar West: Elderly California man seriously injured when bomb wrapped inside his morning newspaper explodes . . . The latest buzz: "Honey bees have a hidden talent that could make them one of the U.K.'s most ruthless and worst-feared weapons against terrorism." These and other stories lead today's homeland security coverage.

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Bill Would Impose New Requirements on Foreign Student Visas

A new bill from Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-Fla., would mandate closer monitoring of foreign students on visas — including requiring colleges and universities to report if a foreign student stops attending classes.

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- [Sen. McCain Interviewed on Fox News](#)
- [Rep. Tipton Interviewed on Fox Business Network](#)
- [Rep. Andrews Interviewed on Fox Business Network](#)

10 a.m., 226 Dirksen

Senate Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee will hold a hearing on **strategic forces programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration**

in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal 2012 and the future years defense program. 2:30 p.m., 232-A Russell Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing titled **"Securing the Border: Building on the Progress Made."** 2:30 p.m., 342 Dirksen The House will convene at 10 a.m. House Appropriations Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for **Office of Justice Programs.** 10 a.m., H-309 Capitol

House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for the **National Guard and Reserve.** 10 a.m., H-140 Capitol House Homeland Security will hold a hearing titled **"Public Safety Communications: Are the Needs of Our First Responders Being Met?"** 10 a.m., 311 Cannon House Judiciary Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security Subcommittee will hold a hearing titled **"The Permanent Provisions of the Patriot Act (PL 107-56)."** 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn

House Armed Services will hold hearings on the fiscal 2012 national defense authorization budget request for the **U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Northern Command, U.S. European Command.** 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn House Transportation and Infrastructure Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Subcommittee will hold a hearing titled **"Improving the Nation's Response to Catastrophic Disasters: How to Minimize Costs and Streamline Our Emergency Management Programs"** with Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator **W. Craig Fugate.** 10 a.m., 2253 Rayburn

House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee will hold a hearing on fiscal 2012 appropriations for the **Science and Technology.** 3:30 p.m., 2362-A Rayburn

- [Rep. Nunes Interviewed on Fox Business Network](#)
 - [Rep. Paul Interviewed on Fox Business Network](#)
 - [Sen. Lee Interviewed on Fox Business Network](#)
 - [Rep. Bachmann Interviewed on Fox Business Network](#)
 - [Rep. Rangel Interviewed on Fox Business Network](#)
 - [Sen. Paul Interviewed on Fox Business Network](#)
 - [Reps. Kucinich and Weiner Interviewed on MSNBC](#)
 - [Sen. Graham Interviewed on CNN](#)
 - [Rep. McCotter Interviewed on Fox News](#)
 - [Sen. Lieberman Interviewed on Fox News](#)
 - [U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Gortney Holds Defense Department News Briefing on Operations in Libya](#)
 - [Rep. Rogers Interviewed on MSNBC](#)
 - [White House Holds Pen and Pad Press Gaggle, as Released by the White House](#)
 - [Sen. Cardin Interviewed on MSNBC](#)
- Rolling Stone Afghanistan Article**
- [American Securities Project Fellow Joshua Foust Interviewed on Fox News](#)
- Muslim Discrimination**
- [Rep. King Interviewed on Fox News](#)

Thompson: Florida Contracts Reveal Problems at FEMA

The Homeland Security inspector general's office issued a report Monday that said a Florida utility company failed to comply with small-business contractor regulations when it spent \$134 million in federal money on a rebuilding project after 2004's Hurricane Ivan.

» READ | By CQ Staff

GOP Leaders Blame Napolitano for Real ID Delays

Republican leaders of the House and Senate Judiciary committees on Monday accused Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano of usurping congressional authority by delaying the implementation of federal driver's licensing standards.

» READ | By CQ Staff

Aguiar Calls Tight U.S.-Mexico Collaboration Necessary

Tighter unity between the United States and Mexico is the key to improving security at the Southwest border, one of the top officials at Customs and Border Protection said Monday.

» READ | By Rob Margetta

FROM THE CQ NEWSROOM

Model Airplane Hobbyists Seek Exemption From Drafted FAA Regulation

The Academy of Model Aeronautics is worried that a rule being drafted by the Federal Aviation Administration will restrict model aircraft, particularly those that are remote-controlled.

» READ | By Kathryn A. Wolfe

Our Read of the Other Media's Homeland Security Coverage



Olly olly oxen free: Nearly 900 "special interest aliens" from 35 nations with suspected terror ties apprehended along Mexico border over the past 17 months . . . Spoil sport: Spreading DHS largesse "across this country has much more to do with pork barrel politics than it does national security" . . . The boom boom: "U.S. companies selling doomsday bunkers are seeing sales skyrocket anywhere from 20 to 1,000 percent." These and other stories lead today's homeland security coverage.

» READ | By David C. Morrison

Monday, March 28

Afternoon Take: Administration Presents Its Case on Libya

President Obama's Monday night address on U.S. intervention in Libya comes at the start of a week when White House officials will face a stream of questions from Congress on the issue.

» READ | By Chad Brand

CQ Transcripts



Libya

• Senior Administration Official Holds Background Briefing on the North Atlantic Council's Meeting on Libya, as Released by the State Department

- David Gregory Hosts NBC's 'Meet the Press'
- Jake Tapper Hosts ABC's 'This Week'
- Candy Crowley Hosts CNN's 'State of the Union'
- Bob Schieffer Hosts CBS's 'Face the Nation'
- Chris Wallace Hosts Fox News Sunday
- President Obama Delivers Weekly Radio Address, as Released by the White House
- Sen. McCain Interviewed on FBN
- Reps. Peter T. King and Lynn Woolsey Interviewed on CNN
- Rep. Ruppertsberger Interviewed on CNN
- Rep. Smith Interviewed on CNN
- Gen. Ham, U.S. Africa Command Chief, Interviewed on CNN
- Sen. McCain Interviewed on Fox News
- Sen. Schumer Interviewed on MSNBC
- Defense Department News Briefing on Operations in Libya
- White House Holds Regular News Briefing

Federal Contracting

- Commission on Wartime Contracting Holds Hearing on Saving Money on Federal Contracting for Contingencies

The Week in Homeland Security: House Lawmakers Address 'D Block', Scrutinize Chemical Security

House committees will turn their attention this week to a pair of issues featured in recently introduced legislation: designating a wireless broadband network for public safety and renewing the government's authority to regulate anti-terrorism and safety measures at high-risk chemical facilities.

» READ | By Jennifer Scholtes

A Spooky New Office Awaits DHS

If all goes as planned, in three years the secretary of Homeland Security will have a brand new office — just down the hall from the room where American poet Ezra Pound was held for mental treatment after being indicted for treason during World War II.

» READ | By Jennifer Scholtes

New Egyptian Government a Test for U.S. Influence

How should the United States engage with the next government that emerges in Egypt, particularly if its leaders support Islamist policies? Researchers who spoke Friday at the conservative Hudson Institute disagreed on the specifics but were consistent on one point: America has to be cautious.

» READ | By Rob Margetta

Detroit Bomb Discovery Puts FPS on Hot Seat

Over the past several years, lawmakers and federal auditors have maligned the Federal Protective Service as understaffed and lacking in needed authority over the federal buildings it is charged with guarding. The agency is now feeling more heat on Capitol Hill, thanks to the recent arrest of a Michigan man charged with placing explosives outside of Detroit's McNamara Federal Building.

» READ | By CQ Staff

People on the Move

Annie Medaglia has joined the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee as a presidential management fellow for the State Department. . .

Nora Bensahel has been named deputy director of studies and senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security.

» READ | By CQ Staff

FROM THE CQ NEWSROOM

Japanese Disasters Put U.S. Readiness on Lawmakers' Minds

In Washington, the Japanese disaster and Tokyo's response has turned the attention of emergency responders, disaster experts, lawmakers and the president inward, as they contemplate whether the United States could do any better than — or even as well as — Japan has. The answer is, for the most part, no.

» READ | By Tim Starks

Our Read of the Other Media's Homeland Security Coverage



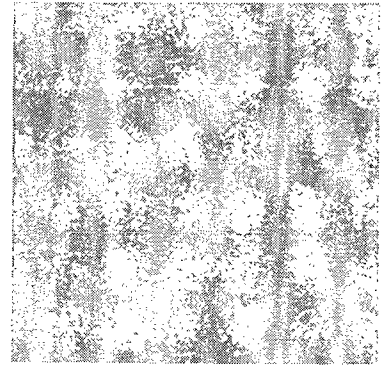
This week's worry: "U.S. spy agencies have gathered new intelligence indicating that al Qaeda's affiliate in Yemen may be close to launching a terrorist strike" . . . Back to the drawing board: Iowa county cancels planned terror response exercise featuring white

supremacists as the bad guys Scanned, screened and satiated: "One unexpected benefit of enhanced airport security is that airport dining options have never been better." These and other stories lead today's homeland security coverage.

» READ | By David C. Morrison

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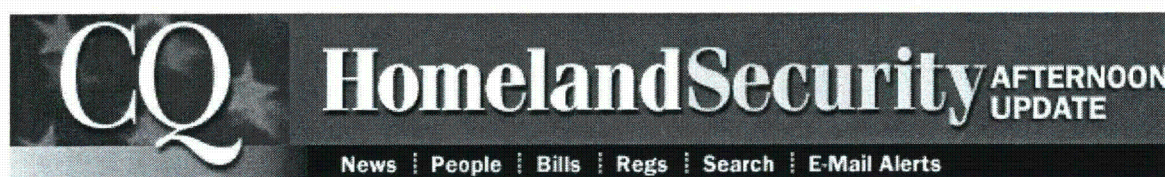
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To: Riley (OCA), Timothy
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OPINION LEADERS



Wednesday, March 30, 2:49 PM

Latest News

Afternoon Take: Grassley Keeps Pressure on ATF Whistleblower Allegations

Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, continued his criticism of the Justice Department's efforts to counter gun trafficking at the Southwest border this week, saying a recent statement touting a successful arrest by federal officials didn't tell the whole story.

» [READ](#) | By Chad Brand

Senate Democrats Push for Nuclear Waste Management Overhaul

At a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing today on Japan's nuclear crisis, Democrats called on Obama administration officials to consider new policies for managing U.S. commercial nuclear waste.

» [READ](#) | By Margaret Kriz Hobson

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Iran, Syria

- [State Department Holds Regular News Briefing, as Released by the State Department](#)
- [Washington Institute for Near East Policy Arab Politics Program Director David Schenker Interviewed on](#)

Fox News

Libya

- [President Obama Interviewed on CBS "Evening News"](#)
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- [Council on Foreign Relations Adjunct Senior Fellow for Middle East Studies Dan Senor Interviewed on Fox](#)

News

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AK 192

Japanese Reactor

- [Senate Energy and Natural Resources Holds Hearing on Events at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Reactor Complex](#)

Defense Dept. Initiatives, FY 2012 Budget Request

- [Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support Holds Hearing on Defense Department Efficiencies Initiatives](#)
- [Senate Armed Services Hearing on the FY 2010 Defense Authorization Request and Future Years for the U.S. European Command and U.S. Strategic Command](#)

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General

No new documents

Borders & Immigration

[Afternoon Take: Grassley Keeps Pressure on ATF Whistleblower Allegations](#)

CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/30/2011, 2:45 p.m.; 867 words)

[Bill Would Impose New Requirements on Foreign Student Visas](#)

CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/29/2011, 8:43 p.m.; 204 words)

Counterterrorism

[Bill Would Impose New Requirements on Foreign Student Visas](#)

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[Better Security Requires Privacy Law Revamp, Panel Says](#)

CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/29/2011, 8:37 p.m.; 464 words)

[Times Square Bombing a Lesson in Situational Awareness](#)

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Courts & Justice

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Government Reorganization

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Federal Budget

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Industry & Contracting

No new documents

Intelligence

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CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/30/2011, 6:20 a.m.; 1650 words)

**Local
Response**

Times Square Bombing a Lesson in Situational Awareness

CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/29/2011, 8:16 p.m.; 596 words)

**Presidential
Transition**

No new documents

Technology

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CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/29/2011, 8:37 p.m.; 464 words)

Report: Backscatter Machines Should Be Safe, but Need Peer Review

CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/29/2011, 7:31 p.m.; 359 words)

**Transportation
&
Infrastructure**

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Weapons

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SHAPE OPINIONS



March 31, 6:05 a.m. | Rob Margetta, Editor

Print Issue

Communications Problems Part of Daily Life for First Responders

In the three and a half decades since retired fire chief Jack Parow began his career as a first responder, the methods for communicating during emergencies have remained virtually unchanged, he told lawmakers on the House Homeland Security Committee on Wednesday.

» READ | By Jennifer Scholtes

DHS Science Office Needs Better Name-Recognition on Capitol Hill

The Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate needs to concentrate on promoting its brand both to the private sector and to Congress, House appropriators said Wednesday.

» READ | By Rob Margetta

FEMA Planning for Disaster on Scale of Japanese Quake

Just a few years ago, federal emergency response planners had a "too hard to tackle" category — a class of disasters so complicated and on a scale so large that adequate preparation was considered impossible. But FEMA administrator W. Craig Fugate is working to eliminate that kind of thinking. Now, the goal is to be prepared for anything.

» READ | By Rob Margetta

Napolitano Outlines DHS Science Priorities

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano says the top priority for her scientists is developing a security checkpoint that addresses privacy concerns while boosting the federal government's ability to catch potential terrorists.

» READ | By Rob Margetta

FROM THE CQ NEWSROOM

Briefings Do Not Sway Lawmakers Already Skeptical About Libya Mission

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All scheduled events, today and future

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►Congress

The Senate will convene at 9:30 a.m. Senate Select Intelligence Committee (Chairwoman Feinstein, D-Calif.) will hold a closed hearing on pending **intelligence matters**. 2:30 p.m., 219 Hart The House will convene at 10 a.m. House Oversight and Government Reform will hold a hearing titled **"Why Isn't the Department of Homeland Security Meeting the President's Standard on the Freedom of Information Act."** 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn House Homeland Security Oversight, Investigations and Management Subcommittee will hold a hearing titled **"The U.S. Homeland Security Role in the Mexican War Against Drug Cartels."** 10 a.m., 311 Cannon House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee will hold a closed hearing on fiscal 2012 appropriations for **cybersecurity**

Pentagon and State Department officials who will be testifying at hearings and briefings on the war in the coming days.

» READ | By Emily Cadei

GOP Raises Concerns About Straining U.S. Forces, Funding Air Force Operations

Thad Cochran of Mississippi and several of his colleagues in the Senate minority said increasing U.S. involvement in Libya has the potential to impair operations in Afghanistan and to affect a Defense Department already coping with financial pressures in tough economic times.

» READ | By Eugene Mulero

Our Read of the Other Media's Homeland Security Coverage



This week's worry: "There are more tools available to terrorists, extremists or just plain kooks now than in 2001" . . . It's not what you know: Justice memo shows the feds know "terror suspects are in this country and who allegedly helped bring them here" . . . Yes We Can't: President Obama hammers "the final nail in the coffin of his Day-Two promise to close Guantanamo." These and other stories lead today's homeland security coverage.

» READ | By David C. Morrison

BRIEF

Bio-Lab Could Face Delays

The opening of a Homeland Security animal disease laboratory in Manhattan, Kan., could be pushed back a year due to budgetary and permitting issues, the department's lead science official said Wednesday.

» READ | By CQ Staff

Wednesday, March 30

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- [Sen. Cardin Interviewed on MSNBC](#)

Rolling Stone Afghanistan Article

- [American Securities Project Fellow Joshua Foust Interviewed on Fox News](#)

Muslim Discrimination

- [Rep. King Interviewed on Fox News](#)

Thompson: Florida Contracts Reveal Problems at FEMA

The Homeland Security inspector general's office issued a report Monday that said a Florida utility company failed to comply with small-business contractor regulations when it spent \$134 million in federal money on a rebuilding project after 2004's Hurricane Ivan.

» READ | By CQ Staff

GOP Leaders Blame Napolitano for Real ID Delays

Republican leaders of the House and Senate Judiciary committees on Monday accused Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano of usurping congressional authority by delaying the implementation of federal driver's licensing standards.

» READ | By CQ Staff

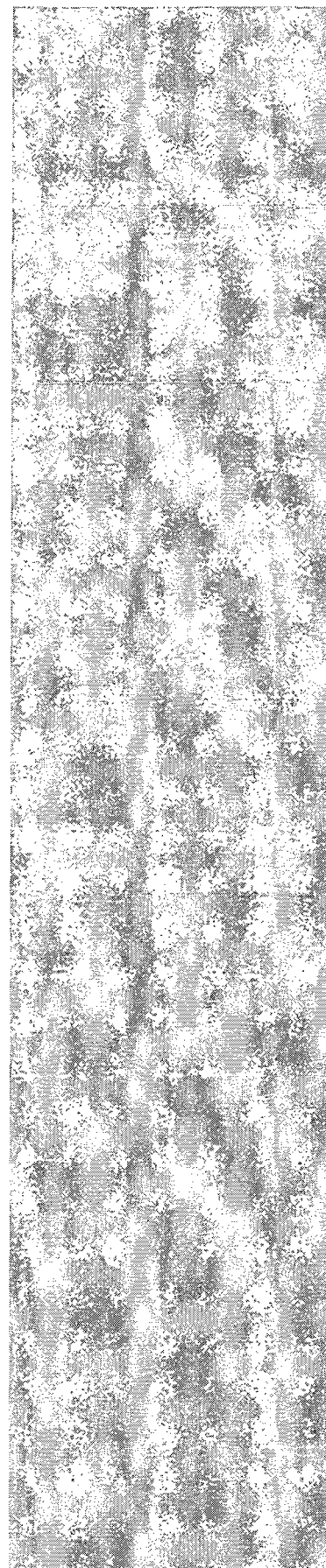
Aguiar Calls Tight U.S.-Mexico Collaboration Necessary

Tighter unity between the United States and Mexico is the key to improving security at the Southwest border, one of the top officials at Customs and Border Protection said Monday.

» READ | By Rob Margetta

FROM THE CQ NEWSROOM

Model Airplane Hobbyists Seek Exemption From Drafted FAA Regulation



The Academy of Model Aeronautics is worried that a rule being drafted by the Federal Aviation Administration will restrict model aircraft, particularly those that are remote-controlled.

» READ | By Kathryn A. Wolfe

Our Read of the Other Media's Homeland Security Coverage

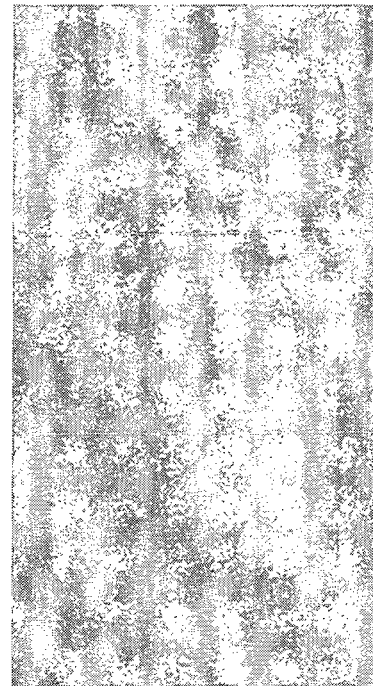


Olly olly oxen free: Nearly 900 "special interest aliens" from 35 nations with suspected terror ties apprehended along Mexico border over the past 17 months . . . Spoil sport: Spreading DHS largesse "across this country has much more to do with pork barrel politics than it does national security" . . . The boom boom: "U.S. companies selling doomsday bunkers are seeing sales skyrocket anywhere from 20 to 1,000 percent." These and other stories lead today's homeland security coverage.

» READ | By David C. Morrison

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From: CQ Homeland Security Afternoon Update [cqhlspm-owner@cqrollcall.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 4:12 PM
To: Riley (OCA), Timothy
Subject: CQ Homeland Security Afternoon Update

SHAPE OPINIONS



Thursday, March 31, 4:09 PM

Latest News

Committee Divided Over FOIA Findings at DHS

Republicans and Democrats on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee are sharply divided over the results of an investigation into the Department of Homeland Security's handling of public document requests, with one side saying the department acted in a paranoid and partisan manner, and the other saying there is no evidence of political pressure.

» [READ](#) | By Rob Margetta

Afternoon Take: Senate Battle Pending Over Borrás Nomination

The Senate Homeland Security Committee has tentatively scheduled a confirmation hearing for Rafael Borrás, a controversial nominee for the Homeland Security Department's undersecretary for management.

» [READ](#) | By Chad Brand

CQ Transcripts



Libya, Syria

- [Rep. Mike Rogers Interviewed on CNN](#)
- [House Armed Services Committee Holds Hearing on U.S. Military Operations in Libya](#)
- [Former U.S. Ambassador to Syria Ted Kattouf Interviewed on CNN](#)
- [Syria Diplomat Jihad Makdissi Interviewed on CNN](#)
- [Former Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld Interviewed on CNN](#)
- [Libya Opposition Spokesman Saddoun El-Misurati Interviewed on CNN](#)
- [Sen. Graham Interviewed on CNN](#)
- [Sen. Kirk Interviewed on Fox Business Network](#)
- [Reps. Mike Rogers and Ruppertsberger Interviewed on CNN](#)

Defense Authorization, Army Budget Request

- [Senate Armed Services Committee Holds Hearing on the Defense Authorization Proposed Budget Request for Fiscal 2012 and Future Years for the U.S. Army](#)

U.S. Southern Command

AK/94

- [U.S. Southern Command Commander Gen. Douglas Fraser Holds Defense Department News Briefing on the Caribbean, Central and South America](#)

New Documents on CQ Homeland Security

[Borders & Immigration](#) [Counterterrorism](#) [Courts & Justice](#) [Government Reorganization](#) [Federal Budget](#) [Industry & Contracting](#) [Intelligence](#) [Local Response](#) [Presidential Transition](#) [Technology](#) [Transportation & Infrastructure](#) [Weapons](#)

General

No new documents

Borders & Immigration

No new documents

Counterterrorism

No new documents

Courts & Justice

[Afternoon Take: Senate Battle Pending Over Borrás Nomination](#)

CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/31/2011, 2:58 p.m.; 468 words)

Government Reorganization

[Afternoon Take: Senate Battle Pending Over Borrás Nomination](#)

CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/31/2011, 2:58 p.m.; 468 words)

Federal Budget

[DHS Science Office Needs Better Name-Recognition on Capitol Hill](#)

CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/30/2011, 10:32 p.m.; 608 words)

Industry & Contracting

No new documents

Intelligence

[BEHIND THE LINES: Our Take on the Other Media's Homeland Security Coverage](#)

CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/31/2011, 6:10 a.m.; 1650 words)

Local Response

[FEMA Planning for Disaster on Scale of Japanese Quake](#)

CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/30/2011, 10:22 p.m.; 646 words)

[Communications Problems Part of Daily Life for First Responders](#)

CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/30/2011, 10:14 p.m.; 831 words)

Presidential Transition

No new documents

Technology

[Napolitano Outlines DHS Science Priorities](#)

CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/30/2011, 10:52 p.m.; 346 words)

Bio-Lab Could Face Delays

CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/30/2011, 10:43 p.m.; 298 words)

DHS Science Office Needs Better Name-Recognition on Capitol Hill

CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/30/2011, 10:32 p.m.; 608 words)

Communications Problems Part of Daily Life for First Responders

CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/30/2011, 10:14 p.m.; 831 words)

**Transportation
&
Infrastructure**

FEMA Planning for Disaster on Scale of Japanese Quake

CQ Homeland Security News, 112th Congress (3/30/2011, 10:22 p.m.; 646 words)

Weapons

No new documents

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OPINION LEADERS



Homeland Security DAILY

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April 1, 6:34 a.m. | Rob Margetta, Editor

Print Issue

Schedule

Cross-Border Violence Complicates ICE Recruitment

High-profile incidents of drug cartels attacking U.S. law enforcement officials in Mexico have hurt the Department of Homeland Security's ability to recruit agents willing to work across the Southwest border, a top official said Thursday.

» READ | By Rob Margetta

FROM THE CQ NEWSROOM

Turf Wars Again Complicate Homeland Work

That old homeland security bugbear — committee turf battles — could determine the future of House legislation on two big topics: chemical plant security and interoperable communications for first-responders.

» READ | By Tim Starks

Backers of Immigration Overhaul Turn to Plan B

With Republicans in control of the House and the Democrats' Senate majority significantly reduced, even the most ardent supporters of overhauling immigration laws have scaled back their goals and expectations.

» READ | By Seth Stern

Administration Faces Strong Doubts from Lawmakers on Libya Operation

Lawmakers vented a wide range of worries Thursday as they grilled top Obama administration officials about U.S. military operations against the regime of Libyan strongman Muammar el-Qaddafi.

» READ | By Frank Oliveri

• Libya Rebel Groups Will be Vetted, Obama Administration Officials Say

• McCain, Kerry Look for a Way to Authorize Use of U.S. Forces in Libya

House Panel Wants Report on Effectiveness of U.S. Aid to Haiti

A House subcommittee advanced a bill on Thursday that would aim to evaluate the effectiveness of some U.S.-led earthquake relief efforts in Haiti.

All scheduled events, today and future

► **Secretary Napolitano**
Delivers remarks on the resources dedicated by the Obama administration to **secure the border and facilitate legitimate travel and trade**. 9:30 a.m., Newseum, 7th Floor, 555 Pennsylvania Ave.

► **Around Washington**
The Department of Homeland Security will hold its **science conference and university network summit**. Highlights: 8 a.m.: Remarks by Peter Appel, administrator, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Department of Transportation; 8:30 a.m.: Panel titled "Emergency Large-Scale Event Evacuation Panel: Pilot Studies"; 9:30 a.m.: Remarks by Tara O'Toole, undersecretary of Homeland Security for science and technology. 8 a.m., Renaissance Hotel, 999 9th St. NW
Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan will hold a hearing on **U.S. Agency for International Development improvements**. 9:30 a.m., Constitution Ave. and 2nd St. NE
NDN will host a webcast featuring U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director John Morton, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director **Alejandro Mayorkas**, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection Deputy Commissioner **David**

AK/95

» READ | By Eugene Mulero

Our Read of the Other Media's Homeland Security Coverage



Curriculum vitae: Boston radio yakker once visited by Secret Service over threatening on-air comments about Obama now running for city council. . . Bad Dad Dept.: Rep. John L. Mica, R-Fla., who helped set up TSA, calls it "the little bastard child I created"

Threat du jour: An arson fire in Brooklyn "may have been the work of an anarchist with Animal Liberation Front links," police posit. These and other stories lead today's homeland security coverage.

» READ | By David C. Morrison

Thursday, March 31

Since the Newsletter

Committee Divided Over FOIA Findings at DHS

Republicans and Democrats on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee are sharply divided over the results of an investigation into the Department of Homeland Security's handling of public document requests, with one side saying the department acted in a paranoid and partisan manner, and the other saying there is no evidence of political pressure.

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The Senate Homeland Security Committee has tentatively scheduled a confirmation hearing for Rafael Borras, a controversial nominee for the Homeland Security Department's undersecretary for management.

» READ | By Chad Brand

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Libya, Syria

- [Rep. Mike Rogers Interviewed on CNN](#)
- [House Armed Services Committee Holds Hearing on U.S. Military](#)

Operations in Libya

- [Former U.S. Ambassador to Syria Ted Kattouf Interviewed on CNN](#)
- [Syria Diplomat Jihad Makdissi Interviewed on CNN](#)
- [Former Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld Interviewed on CNN](#)
- [Libya Opposition Spokesman Saddoun El-Misurati Interviewed on CNN](#)
- [Sen. Graham Interviewed on CNN](#)
- [Sen. Kirk Interviewed on Fox Business Network](#)
- [Reps. Mike Rogers and Ruppersberger Interviewed on CNN](#)

Defense Authorization, Army Budget Request

- [Senate Armed Services Committee Holds Hearing on the Defense Authorization Proposed Budget Request for Fiscal 2012 and Future Years for the U.S. Army](#)

U.S. Southern Command

- [U.S. Southern Command Commander Gen. Douglas Fraser Holds Defense](#)

Aguilar for a moderated discussion that will focus on the progress being made nationwide to foster a **secure and prosperous Southwest border region; effectively enforce U.S. immigration law, and ensure the strength and integrity of the entire immigration system.** 9:30 a.m., <http://ndn.org/livecast>

Council on Foreign Relations will hold a discussion titled **"U.K. and U.S. Approaches in Countering Radicalization: Intelligence, Communities, and the Internet."** 9 a.m., Council on Foreign Relations, 1777 F St. NW

Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University will hold an address titled **"Preventing Nuclear Terrorism: International Law and Policy Challenges."** Noon, 505 Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, 1957 E St. NW

►Congress

The Senate is not in session. The House will convene at 9 a.m. House Appropriations, Homeland Security Subcommittee will hold a closed hearing on **terrorist travel screening.** 10 a.m., H-405 Capitol House Appropriations Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.** 10 a.m., H-309 Capitol House Financial Services Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee will hold hearings titled **"Legislative Proposals to Reform the National Flood Insurance Program."** 10:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn

Department News Briefing on the Caribbean, Central and South America

Communications Problems Part of Daily Life for First Responders

In the three and a half decades since retired fire chief Jack Parow began his career as a first responder, the methods for communicating during emergencies have remained virtually unchanged, he told lawmakers on the House Homeland Security Committee on Wednesday.

» READ | By Jennifer Scholtes

DHS Science Office Needs Better Name-Recognition on Capitol Hill

The Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate needs to concentrate on promoting its brand both to the private sector and to Congress, House appropriators said Wednesday.

» READ | By Rob Margetta

FEMA Planning for Disaster on Scale of Japanese Quake

Just a few years ago, federal emergency response planners had a "too hard to tackle" category — a class of disasters so complicated and on a scale so large that adequate preparation was considered impossible. But FEMA administrator W. Craig Fugate is working to eliminate that kind of thinking. Now, the goal is to be prepared for anything.

» READ | By Rob Margetta

Napolitano Outlines DHS Science Priorities

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano says the top priority for her scientists is developing a security checkpoint that addresses privacy concerns while boosting the federal government's ability to catch potential terrorists.

» READ | By Rob Margetta

FROM THE CQ NEWSROOM

Briefings Do Not Sway Lawmakers Already Skeptical About Libya Mission

After the closed-door meetings, members said they still have questions for the Pentagon and State Department officials who will be testifying at hearings and briefings on the war in the coming days.

» READ | By Emily Cadei

GOP Raises Concerns About Straining U.S. Forces, Funding Air Force Operations

Thad Cochran of Mississippi and several of his colleagues in the Senate minority said increasing U.S. involvement in Libya has the potential to impair operations in Afghanistan and to affect a Defense Department already coping with financial pressures in tough economic times.

» READ | By Eugene Mulero

Our Read of the Other Media's Homeland Security Coverage



This week's worry: "There are more tools available to terrorists, extremists or just plain kooks now than in 2001" . . . It's not what you know: Justice memo shows the feds know "terror suspects are in this country and who allegedly helped bring them here" . . . Yes We Can't: President Obama hammers "the final nail in the coffin of his Day-Two

promise to close Guantanamo." These and other stories lead today's homeland security coverage.

» READ | By David C. Morrison

BRIEF

Bio-Lab Could Face Delays

The opening of a Homeland Security animal disease laboratory in Manhattan, Kan., could be pushed back a year due to budgetary and permitting issues, the department's lead science official said Wednesday.

» READ | By CQ Staff

Wednesday, March 30

Afternoon Take: Grassley Keeps Pressure on ATF Whistleblower Allegations

Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, continued his criticism of the Justice Department's efforts to counter gun trafficking at the Southwest border this week, saying a recent statement touting a successful arrest by federal officials didn't tell the whole story.

» READ | By Chad Brand

Democrats in Senate Push for Overhaul of Nuclear Waste Management

Democrats called on the Obama administration to consider new policies for managing U.S. commercial nuclear waste in statements at a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing Wednesday on Japan's nuclear crisis.

» READ | By Margaret Kriz Hobson

CQ Transcripts



Iran, Syria

- [State Department Holds Regular News Briefing, as Released by the State Department](#)

- [Washington Institute for Near East Policy Arab Politics Program Director David Schenker Interviewed on Fox News](#)

Libya

- [President Obama Interviewed on CBS "Evening News"](#)
- [President Obama Interviewed on ABC "World News"](#)
- [President Obama Interviewed on NBC News](#)
- [Council on Foreign Relations Adjunct Senior Fellow for Middle East Studies Dan Senor Interviewed on Fox News](#)
- [Sen. Lieberman Interviewed on MSNBC](#)
- [Rep. Bass Interviewed on MSNBC](#)
- [Rep. Roskam Interviewed on MSNBC](#)
- [Secretary of State Clinton Holds News Conference at the International Conference on Libya in London](#)
- [White House Press Secretary Jay Carney Holds News Briefing Aboard Air Force One En Route to New York City](#)

Japanese Reactor

- [Senate Energy and Natural Resources Holds Hearing on Events at the](#)

Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Reactor Complex

Defense Dept. Initiatives, FY 2012 Budget Request

- Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support Holds Hearing on Defense Department Efficiencies Initiatives

- Senate Armed Services Hearing on the FY 2010 Defense Authorization Request and Future Years for the U.S. European Command and U.S. Strategic Command

Better Security Requires Privacy Law Revamp, Panel Says

Private-sector executives suggested Tuesday that lawmakers should tackle an overhaul of outdated privacy laws in the near term while continuing to work toward comprehensive cybersecurity legislation.

» READ | By Jennifer Scholtes

Times Square Bombing a Lesson in Situational Awareness

Lt. Timothy Carroll of the New York Fire Department Center for Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness discussed at a Tuesday seminar how emergency workers who responded to the scene recounted a litany of details that might have

seemed insignificant, but added up to a situation that called for added caution.

» READ | By Rob Margetta

Report: Backscatter Machines Should Be Safe, but Need Peer Review

If the backscatter X-ray whole-body scanning machines used at airports work as advertised, they should be safe — but because the Transportation Security Administration does not allow independent assessment of the scanners, that's impossible to know for sure, according to a report published in the Archives of Internal Medicine this week.

» READ | By Jennifer Scholtes

FROM THE CQ NEWSROOM

In Battle Over Nuclear Spending, Modernization Beating Nonproliferation

Senate Minority Whip Jon Kyl may have lost the battle with the White House over last year's ratification of the New START arms reduction agreement, but the Arizona Republican could have the last laugh in this year's fight for nuclear weapons spending.

» READ | By Emily Cadei

Levin to Push Resolution Endorsing U.S. Military Action in Libya

Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Tuesday he would work with Democratic leadership to build bipartisan support and involve leaders of the relevant panels. Levin said that, if all went well, he hoped a resolution could be brought to the floor by next week.

» READ | By Frank Oliveri

Our Read of the Other Media's Homeland Security Coverage



Airport etiquette: "Am I, a citizen, required to stop motionless when the TSA officers yell 'freeze'? Actually, no," travel writer teaches . . . Kandahar West: Elderly California man seriously

injured when bomb wrapped inside his morning newspaper explodes . . . The latest buzz: "Honey bees have a hidden talent that could make them one of

the U.K.'s most ruthless and worst-feared weapons against terrorism." These and other stories lead today's homeland security coverage.

» [READ](#) | By David C. Morrison

BRIEFS

Bill Would Impose New Requirements on Foreign Student Visas

A new bill from Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-Fla., would mandate closer monitoring of foreign students on visas — including requiring colleges and universities to report if a foreign student stops attending classes.

» [READ](#) | By CQ Staff

Markey Introduces Bill in Response to Japan Nuclear Crisis

Edward J. Markey, ranking Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, introduced legislation Tuesday that would require all new nuclear reactor licenses and extensions be contingent on the facilities' ability to withstand catastrophes.

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CQ SCHEDULES

U.S. Homeland Security and Mexican Drug Cartels

House Homeland Security — Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations and Management

Subcommittee Hearing

Oversight, Investigations and Management Subcommittee (Chairman McCaul, R-Texas) of House Homeland Security Committee will hold a hearing titled "The U.S. Homeland Security Role in the Mexican War Against Drug Cartels."

Contact: Palarino, Nick - Majority Subcommittee Staff Director at 202-226-8417

Date Thursday, March 31, 10 a.m.

Place 311 Cannon Bldg.

Note Witnesses added.

Panel Luis Alvarez, deputy assistant secretary of Homeland Security for investigations, Office of International Affairs, Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Brian Nichols, deputy assistant secretary of State for international narcotics and law enforcement affairs
Frank Mora, deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Western hemisphere affairs
Grayling Williams, director, Office of Counternarcotics Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security

Panel Jon Adler, president, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association
David Shirk, professor, University of San Diego
John Bailey, professor, Georgetown University

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 7:18 p.m.

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AK-96

CQ SCHEDULES

First Responders and Public Safety Communications

House Homeland Security Committee

Full Committee Hearing

House Homeland Security Committee (Chairman King, R-N.Y.) will hold a hearing titled "Public Safety Communications: Are the Needs of Our First Responders Being Met?"

Contact: Russell, Mike - Majority Staff Director & Chief Counsel at 202-226-8417

Date Wednesday, March 30, 10 a.m.

Place 311 Cannon Bldg.

Note Witnesses added.

Witnesses William D. Carrow, president, Association of Public-Safety Communications

Scheduled Officials International

Jack Parow, president and chairman, International Association of Fire Chiefs

Paul Fitzgerald, first vice president, National Sheriffs' Association

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 7:18 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

Events at Fukushima Daiichi Reactor in Japan

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Full Committee Open Meeting

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Chairman Bingaman, D-N.M.) will hold an open meeting to provide an update on the recent events at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi reactor complex due to the earthquake and tsunami that occurred on March 11, 2011.

Contact: Bob Simon - Majority Staff Director at 202-224-4971

Date Tuesday, March 29, 10 a.m.

Place 366 Dirksen Bldg.

Participants

Panel Peter Lyons, acting assistant secretary of Energy, Office of Nuclear Energy
Bill Borchardt, executive director for operations, Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Panel David Lochbaum, director, Nuclear Power Project, Union of Concerned Scientists
Anthony R. Pietrangelo, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer, Nuclear Energy Institute

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 7:04 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Energy and Water Programs

House Appropriations — Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

Subcommittee Hearing

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee (Chairman Frelinghuysen, R-N.J.) of House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction.

Contact: Rob Blair - Majority Clerk at 202-225-3421

Topic Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Fossil Energy, Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

Date Wednesday, March 30, 10 a.m.

Place 2362-B Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda Draft Bill — Fiscal 2012 Energy-Water Appropriations (House)

Witnesses Henry Kelly, acting assistant secretary of Energy for energy efficiency and renewable energy
Patricia Hoffman, assistant secretary of Energy for electricity delivery and energy reliability
Victor Der, acting assistant secretary of Energy for fossil energy

Topic Environmental Management, Legacy Management

Date Wednesday, March 30, 2 p.m.

Place 2362-B Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda Draft Bill — Fiscal 2012 Energy-Water Appropriations (House)

Witnesses Ines Triay, assistant secretary of Energy for environmental management
David Geiser, acting director, Office of Legacy Management, Department of Energy

Topic Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Date Thursday, March 31, 10 a.m.

Place 2362-B Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda Draft Bill — Fiscal 2012 Energy-Water Appropriations (House)

Witnesses Peter Lyons, acting assistant secretary of Energy for nuclear energy
Gregory Jaczko, chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Topic Loan Guarantee Program and Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy

Date Thursday, March 31, 2 p.m.

Place 2362-B Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda Draft Bill — Fiscal 2012 Energy-Water Appropriations (House)

Witnesses Arun Majumdar, director, Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, Department of Energy
Jonathan Silver, director, Loan Guarantee Program, Department of Energy

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 6:20 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

Securing the Border

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

Full Committee Hearing

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (Chairman Lieberman, I-Conn.) will hold a hearing titled "Securing the Border: Building on the Progress Made."

Contact: Michael L. Alexander - Democratic Staff Director at 202-224-2627

Date Thursday, March 31, 2:30 p.m.

Place 342 Dirksen Bldg.

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 5:03 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

Drug Gangs' Tactics to Penetrate the Border

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs — Subcommittee on Disaster Recovery and Intergovernmental Affairs

Subcommittee Hearing

Disaster Recovery and Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee (Chairman Pryor, D-Ark.) of Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will hold a hearing titled "Exploring Drug Gangs' Ever-Evolving Tactics to Penetrate the Border and the Federal Government's Ability to Stop Them."

Contact: Williams, Donny - Majority Staff Director at 202-224-4462

Date Thursday, March 31, 10 a.m.

Place 342 Dirksen Bldg.

Panel Donna Bucella, assistant commissioner, Office of Intelligence and Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security
James Dinkins, executive director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security
Thomas Harrigan, assistant administrator and chief of operations, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice

Panel Fran Flener, Arkansas state drug director
L. Kent Bitsko, director, Nevada High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 5:02 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

Ten Years After 9/11

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

Full Committee Hearing

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (Chairman Lieberman, I-Conn.) will hold a hearing titled "Ten Years After 9/11: A Report From the 9/11 Commission Chairmen."

Contact: Michael L. Alexander - Democratic Staff Director at 202-224-2627

Date Wednesday, March 30, 10 a.m.

Place 342 Dirksen Bldg.

Witnesses Thomas H. Kean and Lee H. Hamilton, National Commission on Terrorist
Scheduled Attacks Upon the United States

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 4:57 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

Strengthening the Senior Executive Service

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs — Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia

Subcommittee Hearing

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia Subcommittee (Chairman Akaka, D-Hawaii) of Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will hold a hearing titled "Strengthening the Senior Executive Service: A Review of Challenges Facing the Government's Leadership Corps."

Contact: Lisa Powell - Majority Staff Director at 202-224-4551

Date Tuesday, March 29, 10 a.m.

Place 342 Dirksen Bldg.

Panel Nancy Kichak, associate director and chief human capital officer for strategic human resource policy, Office of Personnel Management

Panel Carol Bonosaro, president, Senior Executives Association
Max Stier, president and CEO, Partnership for Public Service

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 4:53 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

Clean Energy Bills

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Full Committee Hearing

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Chairman Bingaman, D-N.M.) will hold a hearing on pending legislation.

Contact: Bob Simon - Majority Staff Director at 202-224-4971

Date Thursday, March 31, 9:30 a.m.

Place 366 Dirksen Bldg.

Agenda S 629 — Hydropower Improvement Act of 2011

S 630 — Hydrokinetic Renewable Energy Promotion Act of 2011

Draft Bill — Title I, subtitle D of the American Clean Energy Leadership Act of 2009 (S 1462 from 111th Congress)

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 3:32 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

Fiscal 2012 Budget: Army Engineers

Senate Environment and Public Works — Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Subcommittee Hearing

Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee (Chairman Baucus, D-Mont.) of Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a hearing on the fiscal 2012 budget request for the Army Corps of Engineers.

Contact: Bettina Poirier - Majority Staff Director and Chief Counsel at 202-224-8832

Date Thursday, March 31, 2:30 p.m.

Place 406 Dirksen Bldg.

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 3:16 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

GSA Oversight

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Full Committee Oversight Hearing

Senate Environment and Public Works Full Committee (Chairwoman Boxer, D-Calif.) and the Oversight Subcommittee (Chairman Whitehouse, D-R.I.) will hold a joint hearing titled "GSA [General Services Administration]: Opportunities to Cut Costs, Improve Energy Performance and Eliminate Waste."

Contact: Bettina Poirier - Majority Staff Director and Chief Counsel at 202-224-8832

Date Wednesday, March 30, 10 a.m.

Place 406 Dirksen Bldg.

Panel Martha Johnson, administrator, General Services Administration

Panel John Sindelar, client industry executive, HP Enterprise Services
John Bautista, vice president for new business development, Arrowhead Systems

Doug Gatlin, vice president, LEED, U.S. Green Building Council

Ward Hubbell, president, Green Building Initiative

Jeffrey D. DeBoer, president and CEO, Real Estate Roundtable

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 3:15 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

Disease Clusters and Environmental Health

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Full Committee Oversight Hearing

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Chairwoman Boxer, D-Calif.) will hold an oversight hearing on disease clusters and environmental health.

Contact: Bettina Poirier - Majority Staff Director and Chief Counsel at 202-224-8832

Date Tuesday, March 29, 10 a.m.

Place 406 Dirksen Bldg.

Witnesses Trevor Schaefer, youth ambassador and founder, Trevor's Trek Foundation

Scheduled Erin Brockovich, president, Brockovich Research and Consulting

Richard Belzer, president, Regulatory Checkbook

Gina Solomon, senior scientist, Natural Resources Defense Council

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 3:08 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

Nuclear Safety in Light of Problems in Japan

Senate Appropriations — Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

Subcommittee Hearing

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee (Chairwoman Feinstein, D-Calif.) of Senate Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on nuclear safety in light of the impact of natural disasters on Japanese nuclear facilities.

Contact: Doug Clapp - Majority Clerk at 202-224-8119

Date Wednesday, March 30, 10 a.m.

Place 138 Dirksen Bldg.

Witnesses Greg Jaczko, chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Scheduled Pete Lyons, acting assistant secretary of Energy for nuclear energy

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 2:53 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

Defense Department Cost Overruns

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs — Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security

Subcommittee Hearing

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee (Chairman Carper, D-Del.) of Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will hold a hearing titled "Tools to Prevent Department of Defense Cost Overruns."

Contact: John Kilvington - Majority Staff Director at 202-224-7155

Date Tuesday, March 29, 2:30 p.m.

Place 342 Dirksen Bldg.

Panel Frank Kendall, principal deputy undersecretary of Defense for acquisition, technology and logistics
Richard Burke, deputy director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation Office, Department of Defense

Panel John Young, senior fellow, Potomac Institute for Policy Studies
Michael Sullivan, director, Acquisition Sourcing Management Issues, Government Accountability Office

Moshe Schwartz, specialist in defense acquisition policy, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 1:28 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

Economic Effects of Cyber Attacks

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

Full Committee Hearing

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee (Chairman Rockefeller, D-W.Va.) will hold a hearing on the economic ramifications of cyber attacks.

Contact: Ellen Doneski - Majority Staff Director/Chief Counsel at 202-224-0411

Date Tuesday, March 29, 2:30 p.m.

Place 253 Russell Bldg.

Note Witnesses added.

Witnesses Gordon Snow, assistant director, Cyber Division, FBI

Scheduled Harriet Pearson, vice president, security counsel and chief privacy officer, IBM

Sara Santarelli, chief network security officer, Verizon

Thomas Kellermann, vice president of security awareness, Core Security Technologies and adjunct instructor, American University

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 1:22 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

National Telecommunications and Information Administration and Rural Utilities Service Authority to Return Reclaimed Stimulus Funds to the Treasury

House Energy and Commerce — Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

Subcommittee Markup

Communications and Technology Subcommittee (Chairman Walden, R-Ore.) of House Energy and Commerce Committee will mark up pending legislation.

Contact: Roger Sherman - Minority Chief Counsel at 202-225-2927

Date Friday, April 1, 10:30 a.m.

Place 2322 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda Draft Bill — a Bill to Clarify NTIA and RUS Authority to Return Reclaimed Stimulus Funds to the U.S. Treasury

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 12:33 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

Department of Homeland Security Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program

House Energy and Commerce — Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy

Subcommittee Markup

Environment and the Economy Subcommittee (Chairman Shimkus, R-Ill.) of House Energy and Commerce Committee will mark up pending legislation.

Contact: McCarthy, Dave - Majority Chief Counsel at 202-225-2927

Date Thursday, March 31, 9 a.m.

Place 2322 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda HR 908 — Full Implementation of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Act

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 12:15 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

Impact of Health Care Overhaul on the Budget and Jobs

House Energy and Commerce — Subcommittee on Health

Subcommittee Hearing

Health Subcommittee (Chairman Pitts, R-Pa.) of House Energy and Commerce Committee will hold a hearing titled "True Cost of Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Effects on the Budget and Jobs."

Contact: Long, Ryan - Majority Chief Counsel at 202-225-2927

Date Wednesday, March 30, 10 a.m.

Place 2123 Rayburn Bldg.

Panel Doug Elmendorf, director, Congressional Budget Office
Rick Foster, chief actuary, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Panel Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum
Phil Kennedy, president, Comanche Lumber Co. Inc.
Larry Schuler, president, Schu's Hospitality Group LLC
David Cutler, applied economics professor, Harvard University
Rick Poore, president, DesignWear/Velocitee

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 12:13 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

Indian Land Fractionation

House Natural Resources — Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs

Subcommittee Markup

Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee (Chairman Young, R-Alaska) of House Natural Resources Committee will mark up pending legislation.

Contact: Fluhr, Chris - Majority Staff Director at 202-226-9725

Date Tuesday, April 5, 11 a.m.

Place 1334 Longworth Bldg.

Agenda HR 887 — A bill to direct the secretary of the Interior to submit a report on Indian land fractionation, and for other purposes.

Posted Friday, 3/25/2011, 12:00 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

DHS and FOIA Standards

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee

Full Committee Hearing

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee (Chairman Issa, R-Calif.) will hold a hearing titled "Why Isn't the Department of Homeland Security Meeting the President's Standard on the Freedom of Information Act"

Contact: Brady, Lawrence - Majority Staff Director at 202-225-5074

Date Thursday, March 31, 9:30 a.m.

Place 2154 Rayburn Bldg.

Posted Wednesday, 3/23/2011, 6:50 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

Review of Dodd-Frank Financial Overhaul Bill

House Oversight and Government Reform — Subcommittee on TARP, Financial Services and Bailouts of Public and Private Programs

Subcommittee Hearing

TARP, Financial Services and Bailouts of Public and Private Programs Subcommittee (Chairman McHenry, R-N.C.) of House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will hold a hearing titled "Has Dodd-Frank (PL 111-203) Ended Too Big To Fail?"

Contact: Brady, Lawrence - Majority Staff Director at 202-225-5074

Date Wednesday, March 30, 9:30 a.m.

Place 2154 Rayburn Bldg.

Witnesses Neil Barfosky, outgoing special inspector general for the Troubled Asset
Scheduled Relief Program

Tim Massad, assistant secretary of the Treasury

Posted Wednesday, 3/23/2011, 6:49 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

Unfunded Mandates and Regulatory Issues

House Oversight and Government Reform — Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform

Subcommittee Hearing

Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform Subcommittee (Chairman Lankford, R-Okla.) of House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will hold a hearing titled "Unfunded Mandates and Regulatory Overreach."

Contact: 202-225-5074

Topic Part II (Part I held Feb. 15.)

Date Wednesday, March 30, 1:30 p.m.

Place 2154 Rayburn Bldg.

Posted Wednesday, 3/23/2011, 6:41 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

U.S. Postal Service Compensation Issues

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee

Full Committee Hearing

House Oversight and Government Reform Committee (Chairman Issa, R-Calif.) will hold a hearing on the pay and benefits of the U.S. Postal Service.

Contact: Brady, Lawrence - Majority Staff Director at 202-225-5074

Date Tuesday, April 5, Time TBA

Place Location TBA

Posted Wednesday, 3/23/2011, 4:46 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

U.S.-Palau Compact of Free Association

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Full Committee Hearing

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Chairman Bingaman, D-N.M.) will hold a hearing on legislation regarding the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Palau.

Contact: Bob Simon - Majority Staff Director at 202-224-4971

Date Thursday, April 14, 10 a.m.

Place 366 Dirksen Bldg.

Agenda S 343 — A bill to amend Title I of PL 99-658 regarding the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Palau, to approve the results of the 15-year review of the compact, including the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau Following the Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review, and to appropriate funds for

the purposes of the amended PL 99-658 for fiscal years ending on or before Sept. 30, 2024, to carry out the agreements resulting from that review.

Posted Wednesday, 3/23/2011, 3:42 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

Motorcoach Safety

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation — Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security

Subcommittee Hearing

Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security Subcommittee (Chairman Lautenberg, D-N.J.) of Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on efforts to ensure the safety of motorcoach passengers.

Contact: Porter, Melissa - Majority Professional Staff Member at 202-224-9000

Date Wednesday, March 30, 2:30 p.m.

Place 253 Russell Bldg.

Posted Wednesday, 3/23/2011, 3:25 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Defense

House Appropriations — Subcommittee on Defense

Subcommittee Hearing

Defense Subcommittee (Chairman Young, R-Fla.) of House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction.

Contact: McLemore, Tom - Majority Clerk at 202-225-2847

Topic National Guard and Reserve

Date Wednesday, March 30, 10 a.m.

Place H-140 Capitol Bldg.

Note Date changed to March 30 from April 1

Agenda Draft Bill — Fiscal 2012 Defense Appropriations (House)

Witnesses Gen. Craig R. McKinley, chief, National Guard Bureau
Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, director, Air National Guard
Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, chief, Army Reserve, and commanding general, U.S. Army Reserve Command
Maj. Gen. Raymond W. Carpenter, acting director, Army National Guard

Topic U.S. Air Force

Date Thursday, March 31, 10 a.m.

Place H-140 Capitol Bldg.

Agenda Draft Bill — Fiscal 2012 Defense Appropriations (House)

Witnesses Michael B. Donley, secretary of the Air Force
Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, chief of staff, Air Force

Posted Wednesday, 3/23/2011, 2:54 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies

House Appropriations — Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

Subcommittee Hearing

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Culberson, R-Texas) of House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction.

Contact: Peterson, Tim - Majority Clerk at 202-225-3047

Topic Quality of Life in the Military

Date Wednesday, March 30, 2 p.m.

Place H-140 Capitol Bldg.

Agenda Draft Bill — Fiscal 2012 Military Construction-VA Appropriations (House)

Witnesses James A. Roy, chief master sergeant, Air Force
Kenneth O. Preston, sergeant major, U.S. Army
Carlton W. Kent, sergeant major, Marine Corps
Rick West, master chief petty officer, Navy

Topic U.S. European Command

Date Thursday, March 31, 10 a.m.

Place H-T2 Capitol Bldg.

Agenda Draft Bill — Fiscal 2012 Military Construction-VA Appropriations (House)

Witnesses Adm. James G. Stravridis, supreme allied commander, Europe, and
commander, U.S. European Command
Rear Adm. William 'Andy' Brown, director, logistics, U.S. European Command

Posted Wednesday, 3/23/2011, 12:58 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer Programs

House Science, Space and Technology — Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation

Subcommittee Hearing

Technology and Innovation Subcommittee (Chairman Quayle, R-Ariz.) of House Science, Space and Technology Committee will hold a hearing titled "The Role of Small Business in Innovation and Job Creation: The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs."

Contact: Jester, Julia - Majority Subcommittee Staff Director at 202-225-9662

Date Thursday, March 31, 2 p.m.

Place 2318 Rayburn Bldg.

Witnesses Donald Siegel, dean and professor, School of Business, University at Albany,

Scheduled State University of New York

Sally Rockey, deputy director, extramural research, National Institutes of Health

Doug Limbaugh, CEO, Kutta Technologies

Posted Wednesday, 3/23/2011, 12:56 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

Climate Change Policy Issues

House Science, Space and Technology Committee

Full Committee Hearing

House Science, Space and Technology Committee (Chairman Hall, R-Texas) will hold a hearing titled "Climate Change: Examining the Processes Used to Create Science and Policy."

Contact: Leslee Gilbert - Majority Chief of Staff at 202-225-6371

Date Thursday, March 31, 10 a.m.

Place 2318 Rayburn Bldg.

Witnesses J. Scott Armstrong, professor, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

Scheduled Richard Muller, professor, University of California, Berkley, and faculty senior scientist, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory

John Christy, director, Earth System Science Center, University of Alabama

Peter Glaser, partner, Troutman Sanders LLP

Posted Wednesday, 3/23/2011, 12:55 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

NASA Exploration Program Review

House Science, Space and Technology — Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics

Subcommittee Hearing

Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee (Chairman Palazzo, R-Miss.) of House Science, Space and Technology Committee will hold a hearing titled "A Review of NASA's Exploration Program in Transition: Issues for Congress and Industry."

Contact: Dick Obermann - Minority Staff Director at 202-225-7858

Date Wednesday, March 30, 10 a.m.

Place 2318 Rayburn Bldg.

Witnesses Douglas Cooke, associate administrator, Exploration Systems Mission
Scheduled Directorate, NASA
Scott Pace, director, Space Policy Institute, The George Washington University
James Maser, chairman, Corporate Membership Committee, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

Posted Wednesday, 3/23/2011, 12:52 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

Fiscal 2012 Budget: NOAA and National Marine Fisheries Service

House Natural Resources — Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs

Subcommittee Hearing

Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs Subcommittee (Chairman Fleming, R-La.) of House Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing on the fiscal 2012 budget request for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Contact: Burroughs, Harry - Majority Staff Director at 202-226-0200

Date Thursday, March 31, 2 p.m.

Place 1334 Longworth Bldg.

Posted Wednesday, 3/23/2011, 12:34 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

Border Security and Resources Assessment

House Homeland Security — Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security

Subcommittee Hearing

Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee (Chairwoman Miller, R-Mich.) of House Homeland Security Committee will hold a hearing titled "Using Resources Effectively to Secure Our Border at Ports of Entry--Stopping the Illicit Flow of Money, Guns and Drugs."

Contact: Anstine, Paul - Majority Staff Director at 202-226-8417

Date Tuesday, April 5, 10 a.m.

Place 311 Cannon Bldg.

Posted Wednesday, 3/23/2011, 12:27 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

Water, Power Supplies and Job Growth

House Natural Resources — Subcommittee on Water and Power

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing

Water and Power Subcommittee (Chairman McClintock, R-Calif.) of House Natural Resources Committee will hold an oversight hearing titled "Creating Abundant Water and Power Supplies and Job Growth by Restoring Common Sense to Federal Regulations."

Contact: Weaver, Kiel - Majority Staff Director at 202-225-8331

Date Tuesday, April 5, 2 p.m.

Place 1324 Longworth Bldg.

Posted Wednesday, 3/23/2011, 12:10 p.m.

[Add to my calendar](#)

CQ SCHEDULES

Job Creation and California's Man-Made Drought

House Natural Resources — Subcommittee on Water and Power

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing

Water and Power Subcommittee (Chairman McClintock, R-Calif.) of House Natural Resources Committee will hold an oversight field hearing titled "Creating Jobs by Overcoming Man-Made Drought: Time for Congress to Listen and Act."

Contact: Weaver, Kiel - Majority Staff Director at 202-225-8331

Date Monday, April 11, 10 a.m.

Place Fresno City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno St., Fresno, Calif.

Posted Tuesday, 3/22/2011, 5:27 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

Posted Monday, 3/21/2011, 10:02 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

House Appropriations — Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Subcommittee Hearing

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Wolf, R-Va.) of House Appropriations

Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction.

Contact: Mike Ringler - Majority Clerk at 202-225-3351

Topic Office of Justice Programs

Date Wednesday, March 30, 10 a.m.

Place H-309 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda Draft Bill — Fiscal 2012 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations (House)

Witnesses Laurie O. Robinson, assistant attorney general, Office of Justice Programs,

Department of Justice

Topic Office of Science and Technology Policy, White House

Date Thursday, March 31, 10 a.m.

Place H-309 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda Draft Bill — Fiscal 2012 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations (House)

Witnesses John P. Holdren, director, Office of Science and Technology Policy, White House

Topic National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Date Friday, April 1, 10 a.m.

Place H-309 Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda Draft Bill — Fiscal 2012 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations (House)

Witnesses Jane Lubchenco, undersecretary of Commerce for oceans and atmosphere, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Topic FBI

Date TBA

Place 2359 Rayburn Bldg.

Note Originally scheduled for March 9.

Agenda Draft Bill — Fiscal 2012 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations (House)

Witnesses Robert S. Mueller III - director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Posted Monday, 3/21/2011, 4:35 p.m.

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CQ SCHEDULES

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies

House Appropriations — Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies

Subcommittee Hearing

Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Kingston, R-Ga.) of House

Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction.

Contact: Martin Delgado - Majority Clerk at 202-225-2638

Topic Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

Date Wednesday, March 30, 10 a.m.

Place 2362-A Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda Draft Bill — Fiscal 2012 Agriculture Appropriations (House)

Witnesses Michael T. Scuse, undersecretary of Agriculture for farm and foreign agricultural services

Topic Rural Development

Date Thursday, March 31, 10:15 a.m.

Place 2362-A Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda Draft Bill — Fiscal 2012 Agriculture Appropriations (House)

Witnesses Dallas Tonsanger, undersecretary of Agriculture for rural development

Topic Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services

Date Friday, April 1, 10 a.m.

Place 2362-A Rayburn Bldg.

Agenda Draft Bill — Fiscal 2012 Agriculture Appropriations (House)

Witnesses Kevin Concannon, undersecretary of Agriculture for food, nutrition and consumer services

Topic Natural Resources and Environment

Date TBA

Place 2362-A Rayburn Bldg.

Note Originally scheduled for March 9th.

Agenda Draft Bill — Fiscal 2012 Agriculture Appropriations (House)

Witnesses Harris Sherman, undersecretary of Agriculture for natural resources and environment

Posted Monday, 3/21/2011, 4:34 p.m.

About this alert

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created by tim.riley@nrc.gov

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Riley (OCA), Timothy

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Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 6:27 PM
To: Riley (OCA), Timothy
Subject: CQ Today Extra!

OPINION LEADERS

TOMORROW AT A GLANCE

CQ TODAY EXTRA!

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011

LATE BREAKING DEVELOPMENTS

NEW

New: Impact of Health Care Law

Democratic Steering and Policy Committee (co-chairman Miller, D-Calif., and co-chairwoman DeLauro D-Conn.) will hold a hearing titled "Jobs Now: The Affordable Care Act - Providing Care and Lowering Costs." 2 p.m., HVC-215 Capitol

UPDATED

Updated: Regulatory Agency Improvements and Issues

Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee (Chairman Coble, R-N.C.) of House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing titled "Raising the Agencies' Grades--Protecting the Economy, Assuring Regulatory Quality and Improving Assessments of Regulatory Need." 4 p.m., 2141 Rayburn

POSTPONED

Postponed: Economic Effects of Cyber Attacks

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee (Chairman Rockefeller, D-W.Va.) will hold a hearing on the economic ramifications of cyber attacks. 2:30 p.m., 253 Russell

MARKUPS

Rules for Floor Debate

House Rules Committee (Chairman Dreier, R-Calif.) will consider rules for floor debate for pending legislation. 5 p.m., H-313 Capitol

HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Latham, R-Iowa) of House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, programs and agencies under its jurisdiction 9:30 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn

Surface Transportation Programs Overhaul

Highways and Transit Subcommittee (Chairman Duncan, R-Tenn.) of House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a series of hearings titled "Improving and Reforming the Nation's Surface Transportation Programs." 2:30 p.m., 2167 Rayburn

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Latham, R-Iowa) of House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, programs and agencies under its jurisdiction 4 p.m., 2358-A Rayburn

Updated: Regulatory Agency Improvements and Issues

Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee (Chairman Coble, R-N.C.) of House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing titled "Raising the Agencies' Grades--Protecting the Economy, Assuring Regulatory Quality and Improving Assessments of Regulatory Need." 4 p.m., 2141 Rayburn

Ongoing Intelligence Activities

House Select Intelligence Committee (Chairman Rogers, R-Mich.) will hold a closed hearing on ongoing intelligence activities. 4 p.m., HVC-304 Capitol

SENATE COMMITTEES

Defense Authorization

Senate Armed Services Committee (Chairman Levin, D-Mich.) will hold hearings on the defense authorization request for fiscal 2012 and the future years defense program 9:30 a.m., G-50 Dirksen

Future on Housing Finance System

Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee (Chairman Johnson, D-S.D.) will hold a hearing on public proposals for the future of the housing finance system. 10 a.m., 538 Dirksen

Events at Fukushima Daiichi Reactor in Japan

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Chairman Bingaman, D-N.M.) will hold an open meeting to provide an update on the recent events at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi reactor complex due to the earthquake and tsunami that occurred on March 11, 2011. 10 a.m., 366 Dirksen

Disease Clusters and Environmental Health

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Chairwoman Boxer, D-Calif.) will hold an oversight hearing on disease clusters and environmental health. 10 a.m., 406 Dirksen

Strengthening the Senior Executive Service

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia Subcommittee (Chairman Akaka, D-Hawaii) of Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will hold a hearing titled "Strengthening the Senior Executive Service: A Review of Challenges Facing the Government's Leadership Corps." 10 a.m., 342 Dirksen

Protecting the Civil Rights of American Muslims

Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights Subcommittee (Chairman Durbin, D-Ill.) of Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing titled "Protecting the Civil Rights of American Muslims." 10 a.m., 226 Dirksen

Defense Department Efficiencies Initiatives

Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee (Chairwoman McCaskill, D-Mo.) of Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing on Department of Defense efficiencies initiatives. 2:30 p.m., 232-A Russell

Ambassadorial Nomination

Senate Foreign Relations Committee (Chairman Kerry, D-Mass.) will hold a confirmation hearing on the nomination of Suzan D. Johnson Cook to be ambassador at large for international religious freedom. 2:30 p.m., 419 Dirksen

Defense Department Cost Overruns

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee (Chairman Carper, D-Del.) of Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will hold a hearing titled "Tools to Prevent Department of Defense Cost Overruns." 2:30 p.m., 342 Dirksen

Pending Intelligence Matters

Senate Select Intelligence Committee (Chairwoman Feinstein, D-Calif.) will hold a closed hearing on pending intelligence matters. 2:30 p.m., 219 Hart

HOUSE PARTY COMMITTEES

New: Impact of Health Care Law

Democratic Steering and Policy Committee (co-chairman Miller, D-Calif., and co-chairwoman DeLauro D-Conn.) will hold a hearing titled "Jobs Now: The Affordable Care Act - Providing Care and Lowering Costs." 2 p.m., HVC-215 Capitol

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CQ Today: Extra

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To: Riley (OCA), Timothy
Subject: CQ Today Extra!

OPINION LEADERS

TOMORROW AT A GLANCE

CQ TODAY EXTRA!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2011

LATE BREAKING DEVELOPMENTS

UPDATED

Updated: **Emergency Management Programs Assessment**

Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Subcommittee (Chairman Denham, R-Calif.) of House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing titled "Improving the Nation's Response to Catastrophic Disasters: How to Minimize Costs and Streamline Our Emergency Management Programs." 10 a.m., 2253 Rayburn

Updated: **Government Policies and Job Creation**

House Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Camp, R-Mich.) will hold a hearing on government policies and actions that are impediments to job creation. 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth

Updated: **Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Financial Services and General Government**

Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee (Chairwoman Emerson, R-Mo.) of House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction. 1 p.m., 2359 Rayburn

Updated: **America Invents Act**

Intellectual Property, Competition and the Internet Subcommittee (Chairman Goodlatte, R-Va.) of House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on the America Invents Act. 1:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn

Updated: **Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Homeland Security**

Homeland Security Subcommittee (Chairman Aderholt, R-Ala.) of House Appropriations Committee will hold a hearing on fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction. 3:30 p.m., 2362-A Rayburn

MARKUPS

Rules for Floor Debate

House Rules Committee (Chairman Dreier, R-Calif.) will consider rules for floor debate for pending legislation. 3 p.m., H-313 Capitol

AK/98

HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Review of Dodd-Frank Financial Overhaul Bill

TARP, Financial Services and Bailouts of Public and Private Programs Subcommittee (Chairman McHenry, R-N.C.) of House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will hold a hearing titled "Has Dodd-Frank (PL 111-203) Ended Too Big To Fail?" 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies

Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA, and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Kingston, R-Ga.) of House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction. 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Wolf, R-Va.) of House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction. 10 a.m., H-309 Capitol

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Defense

Defense Subcommittee (Chairman Young, R-Fla.) of House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction. 10 a.m., H-140 Capitol

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Energy and Water Programs

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee (Chairman Frelinghuysen, R-N.J.) of House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction. 10 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: State, Foreign Operation and Related Programs

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee (Chairwoman Granger, R-Texas) of House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction. 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn

Defense Authorization

House Armed Services Committee (Chairman McKeon, R-Calif.) will hold hearings on the fiscal 2012 national defense authorization budget request. 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn

Fiscal 2012 Budget: Members' Views

House Budget Committee (Chairman Ryan, R-Wis.) will hold a hearing to allow members of Congress to give their views on the fiscal 2012 budget. 10 a.m., 210 Cannon

Impact of Health Care Overhaul on the Budget and Jobs

Health Subcommittee (Chairman Pitts, R-Pa.) of House Energy and Commerce Committee will hold a hearing titled "True Cost of Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Effects on the Budget and Jobs." 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn

First Responders and Public Safety Communications

House Homeland Security Committee (Chairman King, R-N.Y.) will hold a hearing titled "Public Safety Communications: Are the Needs of Our First Responders Being Met?" 10 a.m., 311 Cannon

Patriot Act Assessment

Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security Subcommittee (Chairman Sensenbrenner, R-Wis.) of House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing titled "The Permanent Provisions of the PATRIOT Act (PL 107-56)." 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn

Fiscal 2012 Budget: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement

House Natural Resources Committee (Chairman Hastings, R-Wash.) will hold an oversight hearing on the fiscal 2012 budget request for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement. 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth

NASA Exploration Program Review

Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee (Chairman Palazzo, R-Miss.) of House Science, Space and Technology Committee will hold a hearing titled "A Review of NASA's Exploration Program in Transition: Issues for Congress and Industry." *10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn*

Updated: Emergency Management Programs Assessment

Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Subcommittee (Chairman Denham, R-Calif.) of House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a hearing titled "Improving the Nation's Response to Catastrophic Disasters: How to Minimize Costs and Streamline Our Emergency Management Programs." *10 a.m., 2253 Rayburn*

Updated: Government Policies and Job Creation

House Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Camp, R-Mich.) will hold a hearing on government policies and actions that are impediments to job creation. *10 a.m., 1100 Longworth*

Surface Transportation Programs Overhaul

Highways and Transit Subcommittee (Chairman Duncan, R-Tenn.) of House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will hold a series of hearings titled "Improving and Reforming the Nation's Surface Transportation Programs." *10:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn*

Veterans' Groups Legislative Programs

House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Miller, R-Fla.) and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairwoman Murray, D-Wash.) will hold a joint hearing on the legislative recommendations of various veterans' organizations. *10:30 a.m., 106 Dirksen*

Updated: Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Financial Services and General Government

Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee (Chairwoman Emerson, R-Mo.) of House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction. *1 p.m., 2359 Rayburn*

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Interior and Environment

Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Simpson, R-Idaho) of House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction. *1 p.m., B-308 Rayburn*

Regulatory Flexibility Act Modernization

House Small Business Committee (Chairman Graves, R-Mo.) will hold a hearing titled "Reducing Federal Agency Overreach: Modernizing the Regulatory Flexibility Act (PL 96-354)." *1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn*

Updated: America Invents Act

Intellectual Property, Competition and the Internet Subcommittee (Chairman Goodlatte, R-Va.) of House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on the America Invents Act. *1:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn*

Unfunded Mandates and Regulatory Issues

Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform Subcommittee (Chairman Lankford, R-Okla.) of House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will hold a hearing titled "Unfunded Mandates and Regulatory Overreach." *1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn*

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Energy and Water Programs

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee (Chairman Frelinghuysen, R-N.J.) of House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction. *2 p.m., 2362-B Rayburn*

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Culberson, R-Texas) of House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction. *2 p.m., H-140 Capitol*

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Latham, R-Iowa) of House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, programs and agencies under its jurisdiction. *2 p.m., 2358-A Rayburn*

Cost of Dodd-Frank Implementation

Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee (Chairman Neugebauer, R-Texas) of House Financial Services Committee will hold a hearing on the cost of implementing the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (PL 111-203). 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn

America's Foreign Broadcasting

Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee (Chairman Rohrabacher, R-Calif.) of House Foreign Affairs Committee will hold a hearing titled "Is America's Foreign Broadcasting Consistent with Our Nation's Interests and our Commitment to Freedom?" 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn

Trade Agreements

Trade Subcommittee (Chairman Brady, R-Texas) of House Ways and Means Committee will hold a series of hearing on pending bilateral trade agreements. 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth

Updated: Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Homeland Security

Homeland Security Subcommittee (Chairman Aderholt, R-Ala.) of House Appropriations Committee will hold a hearing on fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, agencies and programs under its jurisdiction. 3:30 p.m., 2362-A Rayburn

SENATE COMMITTEES**Nuclear Safety in Light of Problems in Japan**

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee (Chairwoman Feinstein, D-Calif.) of Senate Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on nuclear safety in light of the impact of natural disasters on Japanese nuclear facilities. 10 a.m., 138 Dirksen

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Harkin, D-Iowa) of Senate Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for programs under its jurisdiction. 10 a.m., 124 Dirksen

GSA Oversight

Senate Environment and Public Works Full Committee (Chairwoman Boxer, D-Calif.) and the Oversight Subcommittee (Chairman Whitehouse, D-R.I.) will hold a joint hearing titled "GSA [General Services Administration]: Opportunities to Cut Costs, Improve Energy Performance and Eliminate Waste." 10 a.m., 406 Dirksen

Taxpayer Use of Tax Incentives

Senate Finance Committee (Chairman Baucus, D-Mont.) will hold a hearing titled "How Do Complexity, Uncertainty and Other Factors Impact Responses to Tax Incentives." 10 a.m., 215 Dirksen

Ten Years After 9/11

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (Chairman Lieberman, I-Conn.) will hold a hearing titled "Ten Years After 9/11: A Report From the 9/11 Commission Chairmen." 10 a.m., 342 Dirksen

FBI Oversight

Senate Judiciary Committee (Chairman Leahy, D-Vt.) will hold an oversight hearing on the FBI. 10 a.m., 226 Dirksen

High Gas Prices and Farming

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Chairwoman Stabenow, D-Mich.) will hold a hearing titled "Fundamentals and Farming: Evaluating High Gas Prices and How New Rules and Innovative Farming Can Help." 10:30 a.m., 328-A Russell

Fiscal 2012 Appropriations: Defense

Defense Subcommittee (Chairman Inouye, D-Hawaii) of Senate Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations for departments, programs and agencies under its jurisdiction. 10:30 a.m., 192 Dirksen

Veterans' Groups Legislative Programs

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairwoman Murray, D-Wash.) and House Veterans' Affairs Committee (Chairman Miller, R-Fla.) will hold a joint hearing on the legislative recommendations of various veterans' organizations. 10:30 a.m., 106 Dirksen

Defense Authorization: Active, Guard, Reserve and Civilian Personnel

Personnel Subcommittee (Chairman Webb, D-Va.) of Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing on the active, guard, reserve and civilian personnel programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal 2012 and the future years defense program. 1 p.m., 222 Russell

Defense Authorization: Nuclear Security Administration

Strategic Forces Subcommittee (Chairman Nelson, D-Neb.) of Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing on strategic forces programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal 2012 and the future years defense program. 2:30 p.m., 232-A Russell

Motorcoach Safety

Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security Subcommittee (Chairman Lautenberg, D-N.J.) of Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee will hold a hearing on efforts to ensure the safety of motorcoach passengers. 2:30 p.m., 253 Russell

Fiscal 2012 Budget: National Park Service

National Parks Subcommittee (Chairman Udall, D-Colo.) of Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing on the fiscal 2012 budget request for the National Park Service. 2:30 p.m., 366 Dirksen

Securing the Border

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (Chairman Lieberman, I-Conn.) will hold a hearing titled "Securing the Border: Building on the Progress Made." 2:30 p.m., 342 Dirksen

Justice Department Nominations

Senate Judiciary Committee (Chairman Leahy, D-Vt.) will hold a confirmation hearing on pending nominations. 2:30 p.m., 226 Dirksen

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4 documents found

Trio of House GOP Bills Focused on Domestic Energy Production

CQ Today Online News (3/29/2011, 3:20 p.m.; 652 words)

HR 872

Sponsor: Gibbs, B. (R-Ohio)

Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2011

CQ BillAnalysis (3/29/2011)

Pressure Increases for Senate Moderates Ahead of EPA Climate Vote

CQ Today Print Edition (3/28/2011, 6:05 p.m.; 993 words)

House GOP Seeks to Expand Offshore Drilling; Democrats Target Unused Leases

CQ Today Print Edition (3/28/2011, 5:47 p.m.; 578 words)

CUSTOM ALERT: Energy Top Docs

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Rep. Cantor Statement Regarding Three Energy Bills Introduced by Natural Resource Committee (PDF)

Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va. Press Release

Subjects: Economy; Energy

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/29/2011; Posted: 3/29/2011)

AK/99

Speaker Boehner Statement Regarding Three Energy Bills Introduced by Natural Resource Committee (PDF)

Rep. John A. Boehner, R-Ohio Press Release

Subjects: Economy; Energy

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/29/2011; Posted: 3/29/2011)

Comparison of President's Proposed National Infrastructure Bank with Senate BUILD Act from the Center on Law and Public Finance (PDF)

Other Report

Subjects: Economy; Energy; Transportation & Infrastructure

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/29/2011; Posted: 3/29/2011)

Letter to Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement from Rep. Markey Regarding Recent Contractor Report on Blowout Preventer Safety (PDF)

Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass. Correspondence

Directed to Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOE)

Subjects: Energy; Regulatory Policy

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/28/2011; Posted: 3/29/2011)

Rep. Hastings Introduces Three Bills Regarding Offshore American Energy Production (PDF)

Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash. Press Release

Subjects: Economy; Energy

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/22/2011; Posted: 3/29/2011)

Rep. Hastings Introduces Three Bills Regarding Offshore American Energy Production

Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash. Press Release

Subjects: Economy; Energy

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/29/2011; Posted: 3/29/2011)

Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act (PDF)

Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash. Press Release

Subjects: Energy; Environment

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/29/2011; Posted: 3/29/2011)

Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act (PDF)

Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash. Draft Bill

Subjects: Energy; Environment

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/29/2011; Posted: 3/29/2011)

[Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act \(PDF\)](#)

Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash. Press Release

Subjects: Energy; Environment

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CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/29/2011; Posted: 3/29/2011)

[Putting the Gulf Back to Work Act \(PDF\)](#)

Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash. Press Release

Subjects: Energy; Environment

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CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/29/2011; Posted: 3/29/2011)

[Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act \(PDF\)](#)

Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash. Draft Bill

Subjects: Energy; Environment

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CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/29/2011; Posted: 3/29/2011)

[Putting the Gulf of Mexico Back to Work Act \(PDF\)](#)

Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash. Draft Bill

Subjects: Energy; Environment

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[Today at a Glance: March 29, 2011](#)

CQ Today Print Edition (3/28/2011, 11:09 p.m.; 365 words)

[Keyword excerpts — up to 5](#)

.... at a Senate Environment and Public Works hearing on disease clusters and environmental health, while Senate Energy and Natural Resources meets to discuss the damaged <<nuclear>> reactor complex in Japan.

House

Convenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Under suspension of the rules:

[House GOP Seeks to Expand Offshore Drilling; Democrats Target Unused Leases](#)

CQ Today Print Edition (3/28/2011, 5:47 p.m.; 578 words)

Keyword excerpts — up to 5

... holding hearings, Republican leaders are trying to shift public attention back to oil-related issues after weeks in which the topic has been eclipsed by Japan's <<nuclear>> <<energy>> and humanitarian crises and U.S. involvement in Libya. During the last month, the average price of a gallon of regular gasoline has jumped by 25 ...

About this alert

Sent March 29, 2011

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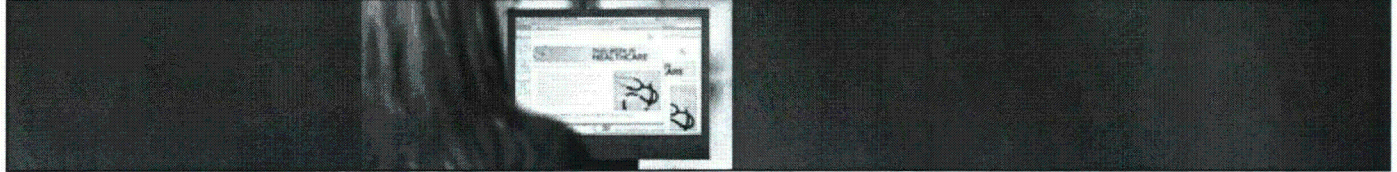


**OPINION
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Senate Democrats Push for Nuclear Waste Management Overhaul

CQ Today Online News (3/30/2011, 2:32 p.m.; 436 words)

Stabenow Floats New Limits on EPA Authority Over Vehicle Emissions

CQ Today Online News (3/30/2011, 1:04 p.m.; 351 words)

Obama Announces Plans to Reduce Oil Imports

Updated

CQ Today Online News (3/30/2011, 1:01 p.m.; 879 words)

In Battle Over Nuclear Spending, Modernization Beating Nonproliferation

CQ Today Print Edition (3/29/2011, 6:54 p.m.; 1,056 words)

Amendments Will Put Senators on the Record About EPA's Role in Climate Policy

CQ Today Print Edition (3/29/2011, 6:43 p.m.; 621 words)

CUSTOM ALERT: Energy Top Docs

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Rep. Fleming: 'Obama Contradicted by His Own Administration on Gulf Oil Production' (PDF)

Rep. John Fleming, R-La. Press Release

Subjects: Energy; Environment

AK/100

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (No date listed.; Posted: 3/30/2011)

Department of Energy: Advanced Technology Vehicle Loan Program Implementation Is Under Way, but Enhanced Technical Oversight and Performance Measures Are Needed (PDF)

Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report (GAO-11-145)

Directed to Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.; Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn.

Subjects: Energy

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (2/28/2011; Posted: 3/30/2011)

House Resources Chairman Hastings: Increasing American Energy Production Will Decrease Foreign Imports, Create American Jobs (PDF)

Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash. Press Release

Subjects: Energy; Environment

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/30/2011; Posted: 3/30/2011)

President Asks for Report on 'Use it or Lose it,' Interior Department Concocts Definitions to Grab Headlines (PDF)

House Natural Resources Committee Press Release

Subjects: Energy; Environment

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/30/2011; Posted: 3/30/2011)

Add Section on Suspension of Stationary Source Greenhouse Gas Regulations (PDF)

Congressional Floor Amendment

Subjects: Energy

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/29/2011; Posted: 3/30/2011)

Sen. Casey Calls for Federal Help With Gas Explosions in NW PA (PDF)

Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa. Press Release

Subjects: Energy

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/29/2011; Posted: 3/30/2011)

Sen. Boxer Statement from GSA Oversight Hearing (PDF)

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif. Statement

Subjects: Energy; Government Operations

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/30/2011; Posted: 3/30/2011)

A Secure Energy Future (PDF)

Barack Obama Speech

Subjects: Consumer Affairs; Energy

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/30/2011; Posted: 3/30/2011)

Sen. Bingaman Statement Regarding President Obama's Outline for America's Energy Security (PDF)

Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M. Press Release

Subjects: Energy

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/30/2011; Posted: 3/30/2011)

Response to Recent Department of the Interior Report on Status of U.S. Energy Leases (PDF)

House Natural Resources Committee Fact Sheet

Subjects: Energy; Environment; Regulatory Policy

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/30/2011; Posted: 3/30/2011)

Oil and Gas Lease Utilization - Onshore and Offshore (PDF)

Department of the Interior (DoI) Report

Subjects: Energy; Environment

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/30/2011; Posted: 3/30/2011)

America's Energy Security (PDF)

White House Press Release

Subjects: Energy

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/30/2011; Posted: 3/30/2011)

Nuclear Power Plant Safety Act (PDF)

Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass. Draft Bill

Subjects: Energy

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/29/2011; Posted: 3/29/2011)

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Senate Democrats Push for Nuclear Waste Management Overhaul

CQ Today Online News (3/30/2011, 2:32 p.m.; 436 words)

Keyword excerpts — up to 5

... CQ TODAY ONLINE NEWS – ENERGY

March 30, 2011 – 2:32 p.m. Senate Democrats Push for <<Nuclear>> Waste Management Overhaul By Margaret Kriz Hobson, CQ Staff

At a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing today on Japan's ...

... Waste Management Overhaul By Margaret Kriz Hobson, CQ Staff

At a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing today on Japan's <<nuclear>> crisis, Democrats called on Obama administration officials to consider new policies for managing U.S.

... crisis, Democrats called on Obama administration officials to consider new policies for managing U.S. <<commercial>> <<nuclear>> waste.

California Democrat Dianne Feinstein, chairwoman of the Energy-Water Appropriations Subcommittee, questioned why utilities are allowed to stock increasing amounts of used ...

... waste.

California Democrat Dianne Feinstein, chairwoman of the Energy-Water Appropriations Subcommittee, questioned why utilities are allowed to stock increasing amounts of used <<nuclear>> fuel inside water-covered waste pools. Similar pools at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi <<nuclear>> facility were severely damaged by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, resulting in a release of ...

... facility were severely damaged by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, resulting in a release of <<radioactive>> gases.

"I fail to understand why the <<Nuclear>> Regulatory Commission has not mandated a more rapid transfer of <<spent>> <<fuel>> to dry casks," Feinstein said. "Reports out of Japan indicate there were no problems with the dry casks at Daiichi."

David Lochbaum, director of the ...

Obama Announces Plans to Reduce Oil Imports

Updated

CQ Today Online News (3/30/2011, 1:01 p.m.; 879 words)

Keyword excerpts — up to 5

... calls to Congress for a clean-energy standard requiring electricity companies to get 80 percent of their power from renewable fuels, clean coal, natural gas and <<nuclear>> <<power>> by 2035.

"Our best opportunities to enhance our energy security can be found in our own backyard, because we boast one critical renewable resource that ...

HR 1066

Updated

Sponsor: Capps (D-Calif.)

Introduced: 3/14/2011

A bill to amend chapter 81 of Title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty.

CQ BillTrack

Keyword excerpts — up to 5

... Official Title:

A bill to amend chapter 81 of Title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a <<federal>> <<employee>> in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty. Introduced:

March 14, 2011 Committees: ...

HR 616

Updated

Sponsor: Maloney, C. (D-N.Y.)

Introduced: 2/10/2011

Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2011

CQ BillTrack

Keyword excerpts — up to 5

... HR 616 Sponsor:

Maloney, C. (D-N.Y.) Brief Title:

<<Federal>> <<Employees>> Paid Parental Leave Act of 2011 Official Title:

A bill to provide that four of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a ...

... Paid Parental Leave Act of 2011 Official Title:

A bill to provide that four of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a <<federal>> <<employee>> shall be paid leave, and for other purposes. Introduced:

February 10, 2011 Committees:

House Administration, House Oversight and Government Reform Cosponsors:

20 Total (20 ...

HR 1242

Updated

Sponsor: Markey (D-Mass.)

Introduced: 3/29/2011

A bill to ensure that nuclear power plants can withstand and adequately respond to earthquakes, tsunamis, strong storms or other events that threaten a major impact.

CQ BillTrack

Keyword excerpts — up to 5

... HR 1242 Sponsor:

Markey (D-Mass.) Official Title:

A bill to ensure that <<nuclear>> <<power>> plants can withstand and adequately respond to earthquakes, tsunamis, strong storms or other events that threaten a major impact. Introduced:

March 29, 2011 Committees:

House ...

Today at a Glance: March 30, 2011

CQ Today Print Edition (3/29/2011, 10:28 p.m.; 582 words)

Keyword excerpts — up to 5

... The committee also holds a hearing on border security. 2:30 p.m.; both in 342 Dirksen Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on <<nuclear>> safety in light of the impact of natural disasters on Japanese <<nuclear>> facilities. Witnesses include Gregory Jaczko , chairman of the <<Nuclear>> Regulatory Commission. 10 a.m., 138 Dirksen Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on proposed fiscal 2012 appropriations with Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius ...

Squeezing the GSEs

CQ Today Print Edition (3/29/2011, 9:16 p.m.; 254 words)

Keyword excerpts — up to 5

... Spencer Bachus , Alabama — Suspend current compensation packages for Fannie and Freddie senior executives and require compensation similar to the pay of other senior <<federal>> <<employees>> .

- Judy Biggert , Illinois — Require the inspector general of the GSEs' regulator to submit quarterly reports to Congress during the firms' conservatorship.
- Scott Garrett ...

In Battle Over Nuclear Spending, Modernization Beating Nonproliferation

CQ Today Print Edition (3/29/2011, 6:54 p.m.; 1,056 words)

Keyword excerpts — up to 5

... CQ TODAY ONLINE NEWS – APPROPRIATIONS: ENERGY-WATER
March 29, 2011 – 6:54 p.m. In Battle Over <<Nuclear>> Spending, Modernization Beating Nonproliferation By Emily Cadei, CQ Staff

Senate Minority Whip Jon Kyl may have lost the battle with the White House over last ...

... over last year's ratification of the New START arms reduction agreement, but the Arizona Republican could have the last laugh in this year's fight for <<nuclear>> weapons spending.

<<Nuclear>> nonproliferation programs near and dear to President Obama's heart are potentially facing big cuts for the remainder of fiscal 2011. So is one of Kyl's ...

... and dear to President Obama's heart are potentially facing big cuts for the remainder of fiscal 2011. So is one of Kyl's pet programs — <<nuclear>> stockpile maintenance and modernization — but he may be ahead in the quest for allies to salvage that spending.

While the White House has made ...

... stockpile maintenance and modernization — but he may be ahead in the quest for allies to salvage that spending.

While the White House has made <<nuclear>> nonproliferation one of its top national security priorities, it is not clear that will be enough to save funding for key ...

... nonproliferation one of its top national security priorities, it is not clear that will be enough to save funding for key <<nuclear>> security and disposal programs in the fiscal 2011 budget that lawmakers are struggling to finalize.

In contrast, Kyl and his allies in the Senate ...

About this alert

Sent March 30, 2011

5:15 p.m. ET

created by tim.riley@nrc.gov

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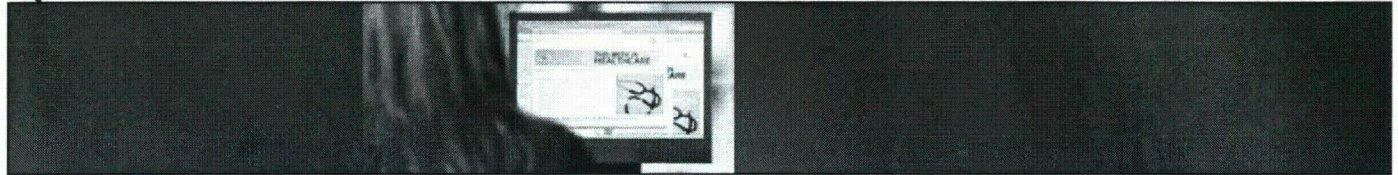


**OPINION
LEADERS**

Riley (OCA), Timothy

From: CQ.com Alert [CQCustomAlerts@cq.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 5:31 PM
To: Riley (OCA), Timothy
Subject: Daily Scrub

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COMBINED ALERT: Daily Scrub CUSTOM ALERT: Enegy Generic

Description: All Energy/Environmental Issues

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3 documents found

[S 609](#)

Sponsor: Inhofe (R-Okla.)

Comprehensive Assessment of Regulations on the Economy Act of 2011

CQ BillAnalysis (3/31/2011)

[House OKs Bill Blocking EPA Pesticide Regulations](#)

CQ Today Online News (3/31/2011, 3:03 p.m.; 428 words)

[Coburn Backs Off Proposal to Eliminate Ethanol Tax Credit -- For Now](#)

CQ Today Print Edition (3/30/2011, 8:39 p.m.; 534 words)

CUSTOM ALERT: Energy Top Docs

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[Natural Resources Committee Examines Impacts of Rising Gasoline Prices on Families and Businesses Across the Country](#)
(PDF)

House Natural Resources Committee Press Release

Subjects: Energy

[Text](#)

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/31/2011; Posted: 3/31/2011)

[Marine and Hydrokinetic Renewable Energy Promotion Act](#) (PDF)

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska; Sen. Mark Begich, D-Alaska Draft Bill

AK/101

Subjects: Energy; Environment

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/17/2011; Posted: 3/31/2011)

Energy Tax Prevention Act (PDF)

Congressional Budget Office (CBO) Cost Estimate

Subjects: Energy; Environment; Taxes

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/30/2011; Posted: 3/31/2011)

Letter to the EPA From the South Carolina Attorney General Regarding Deferring the Greenhouse Gas Regulations Program (PDF)

Other Correspondence

Directed to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Subjects: Energy; Environment

Text

CQ Hot Docs, 112th Congress (3/31/2011; Posted: 3/31/2011)

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HR 1268

Updated

Sponsor: Lowey (D-N.Y.)

Introduced: 3/30/2011

A bill to provide certain requirements for the licensing of commercial nuclear facilities.

CQ BillTrack

Keyword excerpts — up to 5

... HR 1268 Sponsor:

Lowey (D-N.Y.) Official Title:

A bill to provide certain requirements for the licensing of <<commercial>> <<nuclear>> facilities. Introduced:

March 30, 2011 Committees:

House Energy and Commerce Cosponsors:

3 Total (3 Democrats)

Engel (D-N.Y.) Hinchey (D-N.Y.) Maloney, C. (D-N.Y.) ...

HR 692

Updated

Sponsor: Gingrey (R-Ga.)

Introduced: 2/14/2011

Nuclear Family Priority Act

CQ BillTrack

Keyword excerpts — up to 5

... HR 692 Sponsor:

Gingrey (R-Ga.) Brief Title:

<<Nuclear>> Family Priority Act Official Title:

A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make changes related to family-sponsored immigrants and to reduce the ...

HR 909

Updated

Sponsor: Nunes (R-Calif.)

Introduced: 3/3/2011

A Roadmap for America's Energy Future

CQ BillTrack

Keyword excerpts — up to 5

... 909 Sponsor:

Nunes (R-Calif.) Brief Title:

A Roadmap for America's Energy Future Official Title:

A bill to expand domestic fossil fuel production, develop more <<nuclear>> <<power>> and expand renewable electricity, and for other purposes. Introduced:

March 3, 2011 Committees:

House Armed Services, House Energy and Commerce, House Natural Resources, House Oversight ...

H Res 188 | Outline

Sponsor: Rohrabacher (R-Calif.)

A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the regime of Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi.

Bill Text (Version: Introduced in House; 3/30/2011; 657 words)

Posted Thursday, 3/31/2011, 8:42 a.m.

Keyword excerpts — up to 5

... United States citizens out of the total loss of 243 passengers, 16 crew members, and 11 civilians on the ground; and

(3) a clandestine <<nuclear>> weapons program, which was only ended after the seizure by the United States Navy of a shipment of...

... weapons program, which was only ended after the seizure by the United States Navy of a shipment of <<uranium>> - enrichment components bound for Libya in October 2003; and

Whereas the Libyan people have not asked for United States ground troops to do their fighting ...

HR 1242 | Outline

Sponsor: Markey (D-Mass.)

A bill to ensure that nuclear power plants can withstand and adequately respond to earthquakes, tsunamis, strong storms or other events that threaten a major impact.

Bill Text (Version: Introduced in House; 3/29/2011; 854 words)

Posted Thursday, 3/31/2011, 5:24 a.m.

Keyword excerpts — up to 5

... BILL TEXT

HR 1242 VERSION: INTRODUCED IN HOUSE March 29, 2011

112th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 1242

To ensure that <<nuclear>> <<power>> plants can withstand and adequately respond to earthquakes, tsunamis, strong storms, or other events that threaten a major impact.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

...

... 2011

Mr. MARKEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To ensure that <<nuclear>> <<power>> plants can withstand and adequately respond to earthquakes, tsunamis, strong storms, or other events that threaten a major impact.

Be it enacted by the ...

... of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the " <<Nuclear>> <<Power>> Plant Safety Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. <<NUCLEAR>> <<POWER>> PLANT SAFETY.

(a) Amendment.—Chapter 14 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the ...
... Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

" Sec. 170J. Revision of <<Nuclear>> <<Power>> Plant Safety Regulations.—

"a. Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the ...

... Plant Safety Regulations.—

"a. Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the <<Nuclear>> <<Power>> Plant Safety Act of 2011, the Commission shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding, including notice and opportunity for public comment, to be completed not later than ...

About this alert

Sent March 31, 2011

5:17 p.m. ET

created by tim.riley@nrc.gov

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SHAPE OPINIONS

Riley (OCA), Timothy

From: CQ Budget Tracker [budgettracker-owner@cqrollcall.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 7:01 AM
To: Riley (OCA), Timothy
Subject: CQ Budget Tracker Newsletter

OPINION LEADERS

AK/102

Chuck Conlon, Editor, budget@cq.com

MORNING BRIEFING Thursday

What's New Print Issue

Negotiations Begin on Targeted Cut Level

Detailed negotiations on a tentative agreement on spending cuts began Wednesday, in a major step that could prevent a government shutdown at the end of next week.

Democrats and Republicans are targeting about \$33 billion in cuts for the current fiscal year, although that number could change, Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. told reporters. Biden, visiting Senate Democratic leaders to make sure they were all on the same page, said House Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, had agreed to begin negotiations at that level of cuts, which Biden described as \$73 billion below the president's fiscal 2011 request, versus the \$100 billion cut Republicans were seeking. But, Biden cautioned, "I spoke to John. John makes it clear. It's the same as our position. There is no deal until there's a total deal, okay." Biden said that much will depend upon the composition of the cuts, and suggested that cuts to Defense and mandatory spending could be included. "Democrats are in full agreement on what we don't want to do in that number. We don't want to eviscerate the ability of the economy to grow," the vice president said.

[CQ Today Story](#)

[Transcript of Biden Remarks](#)

Negotiations will also be occurring on the possible inclusion of policy provisions, or riders, that the House passed as part of its spending cut bill (HR 1) in February. "The president and I are not really big on any riders at all. But this is a process which is normal for the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to get into the details," Biden said, adding, "We've made it clear what we think are non-starters, both in numbers and riders." Republicans included dozens of policy provisions in [HR 1](#) that prohibit federal spending for specified activities, including controversial provisions to ban funding for Planned Parenthood, implementation of the health care overhaul law, and EPA regulation of greenhouse gas emissions. House and Senate appropriators, who are now negotiating the spending details, might consider some policy provisions, but the more controversial riders will be negotiated by leadership, an aide said. Questions regarding riders may be the toughest negotiations of all, Biden indicated. "There are certain things we're just not

Latest News on Hot Bills

Updated 12:29 a.m., Thursday 3/31

FY 2011 Spending / Cuts



Negotiations have begun on a tentative plan to cut \$33 billion for the year, although that number may change. Talks will also occur on controversial policy provisions. GOP conservatives continue to argue for a full \$61 billion cut for the year. [CQ Today Story](#) | [Complete Bill Coverage](#)

going to do on riders, even if you agree with everything else. We're just not going to do it. They [Republicans] may have positions that are equally as strongly held."

Boehner will be facing pressure from GOP conservatives, who want the full \$61.5 billion in spending cuts included in HR 1, as well as the policy riders Democrats most oppose — those dealing with Planned Parenthood and the health care law. At the targeted level of \$33 billion in cuts for negotiations, Republicans would be backing off from almost \$29 billion in cuts they had previously passed, while Democrats would be supporting an additional \$23 billion in cuts beyond the \$10 billion that had been enacted as part of the last two CR extensions. Many GOP freshmen and conservatives yesterday called for enactment of the full \$61.5 billion in cuts, arguing that for negotiations to occur Senate Democrats need to first pass their own spending cut bill. Tea party groups will be rallying at the Capitol on Thursday urging GOP lawmakers to stick to their campaign promises to make deep, immediate cuts in spending.

CQ Transcript of Freshmen GOP Press Conference

House GOP leaders will give their members another chance on Friday to vote for the full \$61.5 billion in cuts, in what will be a strictly symbolic vote. Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., said that in response to the Senate's failure to act, the House will consider a measure intended to force its hand. The bill provides that HR 1 would become law if the Senate fails to pass legislation to fund the government for the remainder of the fiscal year, and it would prevent lawmakers and the president from being paid for the duration of any government shutdown lasting more than 24 hours. Although the Democratic Senate is certain to ignore the measure, Cantor said the "Government Shutdown Prevention Act" will send a message. It "will say to the American people, the Senate has to act prior to the expiration of the CR. If it does not act, HR 1 becomes the law of the land. And if there is a partial shutdown, members will not get paid. Simple as that," Cantor said. "We're serious and we want to take care of this problem, so that we can get on about the business of this nation and get Americans back to work."

Cantor Statement

SENATE BUDGET SET TO VOTE ON OMB NOMINEE: The Senate Budget Committee on Thursday is scheduled to vote on the nomination of Heather A. Higginbottom to be Deputy Director of OMB.

Higginbottom's nomination is expected to be approved by the panel, although she will likely receive some Republican opposition. During her

confirmation hearing March 17, top Budget Republican Jeff Sessions of Alabama, questioned whether she had the experience for the position, saying that most persons who held that post had six or seven years of professional experience in budget and finance. Higginbottom is a past legislative director for Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., worked on two presidential campaigns managing policy, and has worked in the White House on the Domestic Policy Council. Sessions has criticized President Obama's fiscal 2012 budget for failing to address growing debt and deficits and argued that the administration has misrepresented what its budget would do. "I cannot support a nominee for this position, especially at such a time like this, who is unable to discuss the budget with clarity and candor," Sessions said at the beginning of the hearing. Sessions subsequently had some testy exchanges with Higginbottom during the hearing. Senate Budget Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D., expressed support for Higginbottom's nomination, noting that OMB Director Jacob J. Lew selected her and wanted her in that post, and that former deputy directors had similar backgrounds to Higginbottom's.

[Senate Budget Hearing Website](#) (including Conrad remarks & Higginbottom statement) |

[Conrad Statement](#)

Sessions Statements: [March 16 Pre-Hearing](#) | [March 17 Opening Statement](#)

The panel's vote will be held in the Capitol just off the Senate floor, during the Senate's first vote of the day. It's unknown when the full Senate will consider Higginbottom's nomination, or whether any Republicans will seek to block the nomination.

BLUE DOG BENCHMARKS DRAW ACCOLADES: Budget watchdog groups on Wednesday applauded the House Democratic Blue Dog Coalition for releasing a concrete set of goals for reducing deficits and stabilizing the national debt.

"This framework is about putting everything on the table and bringing both parties together for a frank conversation about how we forge a fiscally responsible and sustainable path forward," said Kurt Schrader, D-Ore., chairman of the Blue Dog Task Force on Fiscal Responsibility. Blue Dog co-chairman Mike Ross, D-Ark., said, "The Blue Dogs are inviting everyone to the table because until we start having a grown-up conversation, we will continue to mortgage our future on the backs of our children." The group of fiscally conservative Democrats recommends striving for \$4 trillion in deficit reduction over the next 10 years, with discretionary spending returning to 2008 levels by 2013 and the "largest deficit cuts in history" by 2014 so that the deficit shrinks to 2.3 percent of GDP in four years. Debt as a share of the economy should be reduced and stabilized at 60 percent of GDP by 2024, they

recommend, with the size of the government being reduced. The Blue Dogs don't recommend any specific policy proposals, but say everything must be on the table – including defense and non-defense cuts in discretionary spending, changes to major entitlements and other mandatory programs, changes to the tax code, and budget process reforms — with deficit reduction coming from both spending cuts (two-thirds of the savings) and tax “reform” (one-third).

Blue Dog Release

“With their leadership on this issue, the prospects for reform surely became a great deal brighter,” said fiscal commission co-chairmen Erskine Bowles and Alan K. Simpson, who noted that the Blue Dogs “have a long history of building coalitions across party lines and being at the center of significant bipartisan reforms.” They added, “Whatever a final plan may look like, it is our belief that if it follows the principles of reform laid out today by the Blue Dogs, it will be of the scope and magnitude necessary to meaningfully address our nation’s fiscal challenges.” Other anti-deficit organizations concurred, highlighting the need for deficit reduction efforts to be considered on a comprehensive, bipartisan basis, and also pointing out recent calls from prominent groups – including the group of 64 bipartisan senators and 10 former chairmen of the president’s Council of Economic Advisers – that the president and lawmakers need to begin serious discussions on the issue. “The Blue Dogs have added their voice to a growing chorus of leaders and experts from both sides of the aisle who are ready to come together to solve this problem,” said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. “The President and congressional leadership should heed the call.”

Releases: [Bowles-Simpson](#) | [Concord Coalition](#) | [CRFB](#) | [Blue Dog Research Forum](#)

HOUSE APPROPRIATORS SPAR OVER USAID FUNDING: The head of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) on Wednesday defended the Obama administration’s fiscal 2012 budget request before a House Appropriations panel, amid concerns from Democrats about proposed GOP spending cuts.

House State-Foreign Operations Subcommittee Chairwoman Kay Granger, R-Texas, said that while she “understands the value of many of these important programs, the funding request for the next year is unrealistic in today’s budget environment.” Granger said the administration’s fiscal 2012 proposal includes \$59.5 billion for the annual State-Foreign Operations bill, \$10.7 billion (22 percent) above non-supplemental fiscal 2010 funding. (The administration and international aid

community consider 2010 supplemental funding to be base funding going forward, and therefore don't consider the 2012 request to be such a large increase.) Granger stressed that she does believe "a large portion of the USAID request directly supports our national security." But she added, "We must focus on slowing the rapid growth of some programs, eliminating duplicative programs and personnel, and increasing oversight and transparency." In February, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton wrote to House Appropriations Chairman Harold Rogers, R-Ky., expressing concern that the fiscal 2011 spending bill (HR 1) represented a 16 percent cut to funds for foreign aid and State compared with fiscal 2010 funding levels. Clinton said the cuts "will be devastating to our national security."

Granger Opening Statement

USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah emphasized the agency's work to increase accountability and measure results in order to "get more leverage and better results for American taxpayers." Shah told appropriators it is "crucial" for Congress to fully fund USAID's fiscal 2012 operational budget request of \$1.5 billion, an 8 percent boost over fiscal 2010 levels, in order to support the agency's ongoing efforts to overhaul procurement and contracting practices and to tighten oversight. The administration's request includes funds for a staffing surge and leadership initiative aimed at filling gaps in priority countries and frontline states. Granger questioned the call for more employees, asking whether "this global staffing surge should remain a priority" given that the nation is "facing such a dire fiscal situation." Shah said the agency had seen a 57 percent reduction in staffing over several decades while its programmatic responsibilities had increased. In an effort to overhaul its operating model, Shah said the agency is requesting more technical officers and procurement and contract specialists whose work will help save taxpayer dollars.

Shah Prepared Testimony

Shah joined panel Democrats in expressing concern about cuts to international development programs included in the House GOP spending bill. Nita M. Lowey of New York, the panel's top Democrat, said the cuts "will imperil the agency's efforts to regain the expertise to be the premier development agency in the world." Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., D-Ill., asked Shah to explain the effect of a proposed 50 percent cut to the International Disaster Assistance account. Shah said the cut would be "the most dramatic backing away from our responsibilities around the world in decades." He cited specific countries in which such a decrease in funds would create a large impact, including the Darfur region of Sudan, where 1.6 million people are currently

receiving aid and 800,000 people could be put at risk. In some cases, Shah said, the United States "would simply not be able to respond to disasters." Shah expressed a willingness to look for budget savings, but emphasized his belief that "there is a way to do this that does not cost lives" by "being more businesslike in how we do our work, reining in contract partners, and doing better program oversight."

Lowey Opening Statement

Panel members of both parties voiced concern about the agency's efforts to build institutional capacity and safeguard USAID funds against corruption in countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan. USAID has set a goal of reaching 20 percent direct assistance in many countries by 2015, and 50 percent direct assistance in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In response to questions from both Granger and Lowey regarding those countries' ability to handle direct assistance, Shah said USAID's procurement overhaul is designed to allow the agency to work with a broader range of partners and deliver development assistance "without losing as much to middle institutions along the way." He emphasized the goal of holding USAID's local partners accountable, adding that the agency is "able to monitor the flow of resources using the same process we would use with any other independent contract partner." He also stressed the importance of building capacity "so that we have an exit strategy over time and we can step away from our assistance."

Frances Symes contributed to this report.

In Brief

- **GOP Raises Concerns About Straining U.S. Forces, Funding Air Force**

Operations: Military action in Libya could strain U.S. forces at a time when the nation is fighting wars in two other countries, the top Republican on the Senate Appropriations panel said Wednesday. [Full Story](#)

- **Stand-Alone Tax Holiday Proposal Divides Senior House Republicans:**

Senior House Republicans are divided over granting a tax break for U.S. companies' overseas profits, fostering a related internal debate about the political prospects for a broader tax overhaul. [Full Story](#)

- **Coburn Backs Off Proposal to Eliminate Ethanol Tax Credit — For Now:**

Senate ethanol supporters succeeded — at least for now — in blocking action on an amendment by Oklahoma Republican Tom Coburn to end a \$5 billion a year tax credit that the biofuels industry considers crucial to its success. [Full Story](#)

- **Democrats in Senate Push for Overhaul of Nuclear Waste Management:**

Democrats called on the Obama administration to consider new policies for managing U.S. commercial nuclear waste in statements at a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing Wednesday on Japan's nuclear crisis. [Full Story](#)

• **D.C. School Voucher Bill Passes House:** The House backed legislation on Wednesday that would revive a private school voucher program in Washington, D.C., despite opposition from the White House, teacher unions and District officials.

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