



## Committee Discusses Oil Spill Cleanup and Drilling Technologies

On [June 9](#), the Energy and Environment Subcommittee held a hearing to explore the research, development, and technology needs for the recovery of oil and effective cleanup of oil spills.



[Kevin Costner testifying before the Subcommittee about his device that separates oil from water.](#)

Members and witnesses examined federal agency roles in oil spill response research, the activities and programs federal agencies have pursued since the passage of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, the gaps in spill response research and technology development, and what is needed to improve the coordinated federal response going forward.

On [June 23](#), the Subcommittee held a [hearing](#) to explore technologies, standards, and practices for the prevention and mitigation of oil spills during deepwater oil and natural gas drilling operations.

[Read more on the Committee's work on the Oil Spill>>](#)

## Investigation Continues into the National Weather Satellite System

On [June 29](#), a hearing was held before the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight to assess recent organizational changes at the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) program. The hearing was the latest in a series, going back to 2003, investigating issues with the vital but perpetually troubled weather monitoring project.



[Subcommittee Chairman Brad Miller](#)

NPOESS is meant to provide accurate three-to-seven day weather forecasts. Without its successful operation, there will likely be a gap in accurate U.S. weather forecasting.

Witnesses indicated that that work is now underway to accomplish the President's goal of a strong earth observation network.

[Read more on the Committee's work on NPOESS>>](#)

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### Newsletter Spotlight

Welcome to the June edition of the [House Committee on Science and Technology's](#) E-Newsletter.

The Committee appreciates your interest in our work. Please feel free to share Science & Tech E-News with friends and colleagues. They can also [sign up](#) to receive E-News in their own mailboxes quickly and easily.

Sincerely,

Bart Gordon,  
Chairman,  
U.S. House Committee on  
Science and Technology

### June events:

[June 9](#) — *Deluge of Oil Highlights Research and Technology Needs for Effective Cleanup of Oil Spills*

[June 10](#) — *From the Lab Bench to the Marketplace: Improving Technology Transfer*

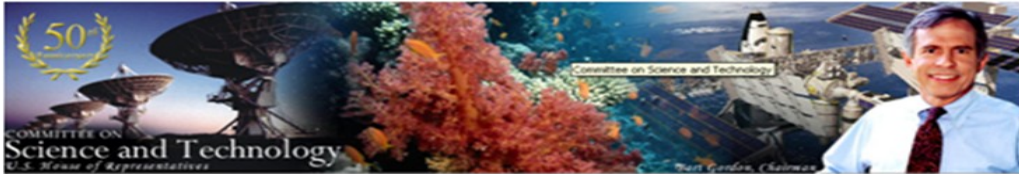
[June 16](#) — *Real-Time Forecasting for Renewable Energy Development*

[June 23](#) — *Deepwater Drilling Technology, Research, and Development*

[June 29](#) — *Setting New Courses for Polar Weather Satellites and Earth Observations*

[June 29](#) — *21st Century Biology*

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## Report Released by the American Energy Innovation Council

PAGE 2

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On June 10, the American Energy Innovation Council (AEIC) released their detailed recommendations to Congress and the President to revolutionize U.S. energy innovation. The

**AEIC Members including Bill Gates and Jeff Immelt launching their new initiative** [report](#) outlines fundamental changes in U.S. energy innovation to increase American economic competitiveness, diversify our energy sources, and produce more abundant, clean, low-cost energy.

This report recommends a dramatic increase in federal investments for energy research and technologies and strongly parallels the *America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010*. COMPETES passed the House of Representatives on May 28<sup>th</sup> and is now awaiting Senate action.



If you are not already, please follow the S&T Committee on Twitter (@SciTechCmte) for up-to-date information on the Committee's work. <http://twitter.com/SciTechCmte>

## GAO Recommends Improvements in FAA Plan

On June 11, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported to the Committee that the agency is on the right track in looking at their massive data files for safety trends in the air system in an effort to avoid future accidents.

"I'm encouraged that the FAA is adopting the view that it's time to go looking for problems before they show up as smashed aircraft and grieving families," said **Chairman Gordon**, lead requester for the report.

In the report, titled *Aviation Safety: Improved Data Quality and Analysis Capabilities are Needed as FAA Plans a Risk-Based Approach to Safety Oversight*, GAO emphasizes in its report the need for strong policies and procedures governing the management of the massive flows of data to be collected and analyzed.

## Subcommittee Reviews Tech-Transfer

On **June 10**, the Subcommittee on Research and Science Education held a hearing to review the process of transferring knowledge and technology from academic researchers to the private sector.



"I am particularly excited about this topic because I recognize that America's international competitiveness and economic growth will increasingly depend on successful technology transfer from the lab to the marketplace," said **Subcommittee Chairman Daniel Lipinski (D-IL)** .

**Chairman Daniel Lipinski meets with witness Dr. Peterson**

Members heard that entrepreneurial education and proof of concept funding will improve technology transfer.

## Looking Ahead

On July 1, the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee held a hearing titled: *Smart Grid Architecture and Standards: Assessing Coordination and Progress*. On July 15, the T&I Subcommittee plans to hold a hearing titled: *Planning for the Future of Cyber Attack Attribution*.

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