



Clean Energy Jobs^{and} Oil Company Accountability Act

Catastrophic Incident Planning

Background

In November 2006, Congress included the *Post-Katrina Emergency Reform Act* in the Fiscal Year 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. These provisions authorized the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to lead and support the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation. The legislation also included reforms in other emergency management areas that were considered shortcomings during Hurricane Katrina, but the legislation did not contain any provisions directly related to the response of the federal government to a catastrophic oil spill.

Legislation

The Clean Energy Jobs and Oil Company Accountability Act would help to further ensure that there is a coordinated system of catastrophic incident plans throughout the Federal government by requiring the President to:

- Review catastrophic incident plans developed by Federal agencies to ensure the effectiveness of the plans;
- Report to Congress on the status of catastrophic incident planning efforts and a status report of all catastrophic incident plans in progress or completed;
- Establish an office of Catastrophic Planning to lead efforts within the Department of Homeland Security to support, promote, and coordinate efforts throughout the Federal government; and
- Ensure the Commandant of the Coast Guard reviews and has an opportunity to respond to any response plan submitted for a vessel or facility a discharge from which could reasonably be expected to require the significant involvement of the Coast Guard.

The legislation also authorizes the Commandant of the Coast Guard to:

- Conduct and promote research, development, and evaluation of oil spill response and cleanup methods and technologies.