



THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

June 1, 2011

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Energy and Power
FROM: Subcommittee on Energy and Power Staff
RE: Hearing on “The American Energy Initiative”

On Friday, June 3, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. in room 2322 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Energy and Power will hold the ninth of a multi-day hearing entitled “The American Energy Initiative.” This hearing will focus on policy recommendations in H.R. 909, A Roadmap for America’s Energy Future.

I. WITNESSES

The invited witnesses are as follows.

Panel I

The Honorable Devin Nunes
California 21st District
U.S. House of Representatives

Panel II

David Sandalow
Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs
U.S. Department of Energy

Thomas Hicks
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the
Navy (Energy)

Panel III

Neil Auerbach
Managing Partner
Hudson Clean Energy

Jack Spencer
Research Fellow, Nuclear Energy
The Heritage Foundation

James Bartis
Senior Policy Researcher
RAND Corporation

II. BACKGROUND

High energy prices and continued turmoil in many oil exporting nations have heightened interest in expanding the supply of domestic energy. This is true both for conventional energy sources like fossil fuels and nuclear power, as well as renewable sources like wind, biomass, and solar. The federal government plays a critical role in the development of domestic energy, not just in the lands and offshore areas it controls, but through implementation of laws, regulations, and tax code provisions applicable to energy production and use.

H.R. 909, A Roadmap for America's Energy Future, seeks to expand domestic energy supplies by facilitating increased production of conventional sources of oil in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, non-conventional sources of oil such as oil shale and coal-to-liquids, and increased nuclear power. The additional revenues from leasing and production on federal lands and the OCS in this bill would be used to fund renewable electricity sources through a process of reverse auctions.

III. ISSUES

The following issues will be examined at the hearing:

- the potential for increased domestic oil production;
- the role of the federal government in the development of oil shale and coal-to-liquids;
- the prospects for new nuclear power, and the means of addressing the economic, safety, and technological challenges facing both new generation and waste storage;
- the merits of using additional federal revenues from conventional energy production to fund renewable electricity generation; and,
- the means of structuring a system of reverse auctions to foster development of cost-effective sources of renewable electricity generation.

IV. STAFF CONTACT

If you have any questions regarding this hearing, please contact Patrick Currier or Ben Lieberman at 5-2927.