

**Federal Climate and Energy Activities Weekly Roundup**  
**April 13—April 17**

Congress is on recess until Monday, April 20, therefore, there are no legislative introductions and updates to report in this week's SGA Federal Climate and Energy Activities Weekly Roundup.

Regulations

On April 17, EPA announced that it will release a proposed finding of endangerment indicating that greenhouse gas emissions—including carbon dioxide—pose a potential threat to public health and welfare. The finding is the first step EPA must take to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. In addition, EPA will also release a proposed finding that greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles contribute to the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. EPA will publish the proposed finding in the Federal Register shortly, most likely sometime next week. Upon its publication, there will be a 90-day comment period. SGA has already been in contact with EPA to set up a SAC briefing on the proposed finding. The briefing is tentatively scheduled for May 5, but we are attempting to find an earlier date. More information is attached.

On April 15, the Department of Energy published a notice in the Federal Register announcing the formulas through which it will allocate over \$2.7 billion in grants to states, territories, local governments, and Indian tribes under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. This funding is part of the \$3.2 billion appropriated to the block grant program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The grants will be used to assist states, territories and other eligible entities implement strategies to lower fossil fuel emissions, reduce energy use, and improve energy efficiency.

Future Hearings

The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Environment will hold hearings on the Waxman-Markey climate and energy bill on April 22, 23, and 24. Subcommittee markup of the legislation is expected the week of April 27. At this time, witness lists have not been released. However, according to press reports, administration officials including EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, Secretary of Energy Steven Chu and Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood will be among those testifying.

Events and News

On April 13, House Energy and Environment Subcommittee Chairman Edward J. Markey (D-MA) announced that the House climate and energy bill will stipulate that, at least in the early years of the program, a portion of the emissions allowances under the cap-and-trade section of the bill would be given away to emitters, rather than auctioned off at a price. The discussion draft released in late March by Markey and House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA) does not address the method (auction or given away freely) for distributing emissions

SGA Climate and Energy Weekly Roundup

April 13–17

Page 2

allowances. Last week, Administrative officials also said the Administration is willing to consider giving away allowances.