

Federal Climate and Energy Activities Weekly Roundup
July 27 – July 31

Update on Senate Climate Legislation:

This week, the Foreign Relations Committee continued discussion on the global security impacts of climate change in a hearing on July 30. Witnesses cited China and India as both major contributors to global emissions and major players in any future global conflicts because of their size and increasing economic power.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation also held a hearing entitled, Climate Services: Solutions from Commerce to Communities on July 30. The hearing focused on the need to create a national climate services committee to present environmental data in a comprehensive form, accessible to the public at large. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke stated that for a climate service to be successful, data will need to include regional and national assessments, have a singular website or source of information, work closely with private stakeholders, and make climate forecasts.

Any vote on energy and climate change legislation in the Senate is now expected after the August recess.

New Legislation

- (S.1462) The American Clean Energy Leadership Act of 2009 introduced July 16 by Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). The bill is comprehensive energy legislation that addresses transmission siting, energy efficiency, renewable electricity standards, oil and natural gas development, as well as energy innovation.

Status: Passed out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee June 17.