

**Federal Climate and Energy Activities Weekly Roundup  
October 5—October 9**

Update on Senate Climate Legislation

Legislative Action on the Senate climate change legislation is on hold until the Environmental Protection Agency completes its analysis of the bill. Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) said she isn't sure how long it will take, but estimates approximately two weeks. Upon its release, Boxer's committee will hold a marathon series of hearings and a markup of the legislation. However, due to the delay, hearings are unlikely to start by October 20, as originally intended. Therefore, a markup isn't likely until sometime in November.

Meanwhile, in an effort to gain Republicans' and moderate Democrats' support for the bill, climate change legislation sponsor Senator John Kerry (D-MA) made it clear this week that all options are on the table and that a bipartisan attempt to flesh out the bill's nuclear title will be considered. Efforts to support the nuclear industry are being led by Senator Joe Lieberman (I-CT), who is working closely with Senator John McCain (R-AZ) and Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and others. Graham is also pushing for expanding off-shore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and along the East coast. However, it's possible that Senators opposed to off-shore drilling and supportive of cap-and-trade could end up opposing the bill if drilling is included in it.

Tensions Rise at International Climate Negotiations

This week, negotiators from across the world met in Bangkok to continue ongoing climate change negotiations in advance of the world climate summit in Copenhagen this December. The long-term goal has been to adopt a successor to the Kyoto Protocol at the Copenhagen summit. However, there continues to be friction between developing and developed nations. On October 7, U.S. Deputy Special Envoy for Climate Change Jonathan Pershing announced that the United States would not sign a future agreement based on the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol required emissions reductions only of 36 wealthy countries and did not require developing countries to make similar cuts. The United States never ratified the protocol. Pershing said, "We want action from all countries." As a result of his remarks, delegates from about a dozen developing nations walked out of the talks in protest. They also objected to a proposal put on the table by the European Union that would require all nations—including developing nations—to contribute to a fund that would provide adaptation resources to poor nations. There is now talk that meeting in Copenhagen may be suspended without a final agreement pending a follow up meeting six months later.

House Committee Passes Solar and Water Efficiency Bills

On October 7, the House Science and Technology Committee passed H.R. 3585 and H.R. 3598. The former authorizes \$2.5 billion for solar energy research, and the latter authorizes \$60 million research into water conservation as it relates to energy usage.

House Subcommittee Discusses U.S. Clean-Tech Sector Competitiveness

On October 7, the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection held a hearing on increasing U.S. trade in green technology, focusing on domestic job creation.

New Legislation:

- H.R. 3727 introduced by Diana DeGette (D-CO). The bill would enhance the ability of drinking water utilities in the United States to develop and implement climate change adaptation programs and policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science and Technology.