

ECA Update April 19, 2016

In this update:

Latta and McNerney Introduce Legislation Regarding Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technology

House Energy & Commerce

Week ahead: Senate to take up energy reform, spending bills

The Hill

Latta and McNerney Introduce Legislation Regarding Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technology

House Energy & Commerce

Bipartisan Legislation Looks to Provide Certainty for Continued Innovation

WASHINGTON, DC – House Energy and Commerce Committee members Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH) and Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-CA) [introduced H.R. 4979, the Advanced Nuclear Technology Development Act of 2016](#). The bipartisan legislation will help provide the regulatory structure needed for safe, advanced nuclear energy technologies to play an important role in the U.S. energy portfolio.

The Advanced Nuclear Technology Development Act of 2016 requires the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to work together to provide certainty for the development of advanced nuclear technology. The legislation also requires that the NRC establish a regulatory framework to license and oversee such technology.

Upcoming Events

April 2016

20

“The Challenge of Excess Facilities on DOE Sites”
House Nuclear Cleanup
Caucus
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Capitol Hill

April 2016

21

Senate expected to vote
on FY17 Energy and Water
Development
Appropriations Bill.

April 2016

20-21

EMSSAB Chairs Meeting
Oak Ridge, TN

May 2016

Congress must look to the future of the nuclear industry, and this bill provides the certainty needed for continued private sector innovation, while also providing the NRC a path to safely regulate advanced nuclear technologies,” said Latta. “I am enthusiastic about this legislation and look forward to working with the committee to move the bill forward.”

Nuclear power provides approximately 60 percent of the carbon –free electricity in the U.S. It’s essential that we invest in clean energy technologies that help us move away from carbon-intensive energy resources. Encouraging the DOE and NRC to work together on new reactor technologies has the potential to ensure the U.S. remains a leader in nuclear technology and will provide us with additional security here at home,” said McNerney.

Energy and Power Subcommittee Chairman Ed Whitfield (R-KY) added, “The NRC functions best when it has the tools to fulfill its mission while allowing innovators in the nuclear industry to thrive. This legislation is forward thinking, and I commend Rep. Latta and Rep. McNerney for leading the charge on ensuring a bright future for new nuclear energy technologies. I look forward to examining the bill in our subcommittee in the very near future.”

Week ahead: Senate to take up energy reform, spending bills

The Hill
April 18, 2016
[LINK](#)

The Senate is planning to take up and vote on its previously stalled energy reform legislation and appropriations bill for energy and water programs.

The energy reform bill is the result of nearly a year and a half of work by Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.). It’s a bipartisan bill that mostly avoids hot-button issues but aims to modernize policy touching the electrical grid, renewables, energy efficiency, natural gas exports and more.

Days ago, the outlook seemed grim for the bill. But Democrats agreed to drop their demand to attach \$220 million aid package for the water crisis in Flint, Mich., allowing the bill to move forward.

11

EMAB Meeting
Aiken County, SC

May 2016

12-13

ECA Peer Exchange:
Environmental Management
Issues
Washington, D.C.
For information contact:
Ivana@energyca.org

August 2016

9-10

Third Annual
Intermountain
Energy Summit
Idaho Falls, ID
[Visit website.](#)

September 2016

14-15

2016 National Cleanup
Workshop
Hilton Alexandria Mark
Center
Alexandria, VA

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) set up a series of amendments to the bill for votes as soon as Tuesday, after which time the Senate can vote on the legislation as a whole.

Senators are also planning to consider the appropriations bill for the Department of Energy and water development programs. The \$37.5 billion bill, which has bipartisan support so far, passed the Appropriations Committee with nearly unanimous support.

It directs new money to the Energy Department's defense and energy research programs, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers.

Senators have withheld potential amendments during the subcommittee and committee markups, but they're likely to bring them up on the floor and seek votes.

The appropriations process is going to be keeping others on Capitol Hill busy as well.

The House Appropriations Committee will meet Tuesday to vote on that chamber's energy and water bill, along with other legislation. The subcommittee with jurisdiction passed it the same day as the Senate's, but the upper chamber moved faster.

The House's bill is far more controversial and takes direct aim at President Obama's environmental priorities. It would take significant funding away from clean energy research and development and direct it toward fossil fuels, which the GOP says is a better use of money, since those are the dominant fuels in the United States.

The bill also seeks to stop the Clean Water Rule, among other provisions.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is getting in on the appropriations action with a Tuesday hearing examining the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2017 budget request.

The Environment Committee's clean air and nuclear safety subpanel will meet Thursday for a hearing on the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act, a bipartisan bill to change how the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) works regarding its fee structure and licenses for advanced reactors.

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The senators will hear from representatives of the NRC and various stakeholders from business and research organizations.

The Senate Energy Committee is holding a hearing Tuesday on the impact of low prices on oil and natural gas development, and its public lands subcommittee will meet Thursday to discuss nine bills in its jurisdiction.

On the other side of Capitol Hill, the House Oversight Subcommittee on the Interior will have a two-part hearing over two days on what lawmakers see as barriers to taking species off the endangered list.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee is bringing in Mathy Stanislaus, head of the EPA's land office, for a hearing Thursday on the brownfields program, which provides grants and help for communities to remediate and reuse polluted lands.

Two of its subcommittees will hear from NRC representatives Wednesday about that agency's budget request for fiscal 2017.

The week wraps up Friday with Earth Day, which is also the day on which numerous countries plan to send representatives to United Nations headquarters to sign last year's Paris climate change agreement, the first day it's available to sign.

Secretary of State John Kerry will be representing the Obama administration at the event. Once 55 countries sign it, representing 55 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, the agreement takes effect.
