



INSIGHTS

107th Congress

May 13, 2002

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INSIGHTS is prepared expressly for the Department of Energy's Office of Federal Energy Management Programs (FEMP). The purpose of ***INSIGHTS*** is to provide FEMP management staff with timely information on legislative activities relevant to the program. ***INSIGHTS*** is prepared for FEMP by Energetics, Incorporated, (202) 479-2748.

I. WEEKLY SUMMARY

HOUSE

This week, the House will conduct the following activities of interest:

- Continue mark up of *H.R. (Unnumbered) – FY 2002 Supplemental Appropriations* (Committee on Appropriations)

SENATE

This week, the Senate will conduct the following activities of interest:

- Conduct appropriations hearings on the FY 2003 budget request for various agencies including the Air Force and the U.S. Forest Service (Subcommittees on Defense and Interior respectively)
- Vote to confirm Guy Caruso as the new Administrator of the Energy Information (Committee on Energy and Natural Resources)
- Conduct hearings on the role of Enron in the escalation of the price of electricity in the Western regions (particularly California) in 2000 and 2001 (Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES/VOTES

Comprehensive Energy Legislation House and Senate conferees are expected to begin negotiations on *H.R. 4/S. 517 (amendment to H.R. 4)* sometime in June. Last week, the Senate named 17 conferees – eight representatives each from the Democrats and the Republications and one Independent. No word yet on when the House will appoint conferees and how many members will be selected.

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II. COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

HOUSE

FY 2002 Supplemental Appropriations On May 6, the Committee on Appropriations began marking up *H.R. (Unnumbered) - FY 2002 Supplemental Appropriations* and is scheduled to continue the mark up on May 14. To date, the bill is composed of four major components:

- Homeland Security – provides \$5.8 billion to improve security at Federal facilities including national laboratories nationwide and to strengthen the Nation's transportation infrastructure (e.g., highways, bridges, and ports and waterways)
- New York City Recovery Operation - \$5.5 billion to address transportation infrastructure, business recovery, and Federal Emergency Management Agency issues

- National Defense - \$15.77 billion to enhance the Nation's defense capability.
- Foreign Assistance - \$1.35 billion.

The President requested \$27.1 billion for the supplemental and the committee mark provides an additional \$2 billion to his request. This week, some committee members are expected to introduce a number of controversial amendments unrelated to energy issues.

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SENATE

No new activities of interest to report.

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III. NEW LEGISLATION

HOUSE

Number	Short title	Date	Sponsor	Status
<i>H.R. 4668</i>	<i>Renewable Fuel Equity Act</i>	May 7	Duncan Hunter (R/CA)	Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
<p>Key Provisions:</p> <p>Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expands the renewable resources production tax credit to include additional forms of renewable energy including geothermal energy, solar energy, incremental hydropower, and biomass (other than closed-loop biomass). Applies to electricity sold after December 31, 2001. • Expands the investment tax credit to 20 percent for equipment with a capacity of less than 1 megawatt, which uses renewable resources to generate electricity. Applies to equipment placed in service after December 31, 2001 and before January 1, 2007. 				

SENATE

There are no new bills of interest to report.

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IV. ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES

Renewable Energy On May 13, President Bush signed into law, *HR. 2646 - Agriculture, Conservation, and Rural Enhancement Act of 2001*. Key renewable provisions of interest include the following:

- Directs Federal agencies to acquire bio-based products when practicable; a list of products will be developed by the Department of Agriculture; authorizes \$6 million in funding.
- Establishes a grant program for educating government and private sector consumers about biodiesel fuel benefits; authorizes \$5 million in funding.
- Encourages farmers to purchase renewable energy systems and implement energy efficiency improvements through the establishment of a loan guarantee and grant program; authorizes \$115 million in funding.
- Continues the *Biomass Research and Development Act*, which promotes renewable energy technology development; authorizes \$75 million in funding.
- Funds producers of bioenergy who purchase agricultural commodities in order to encourage expanded production of ethanol and biodiesel fuels; authorizes \$405 million in funding.

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V. HEARINGS SCHEDULE

HOUSE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/Location
<i>May 14 – (NEW)</i>	Bill Young (R/FL)	<i>Ongoing Mark Up –</i> FY 2002 Supplemental Appropriations	N/A	(Tentative) 5:00 p.m. Room 2359 Rayburn Office Building

HOUSE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

There are no hearings of interest to report.

SENATE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/Location
May 15 – Subcommittee on Defense <i>(NEW)</i>	Daniel Inouye (D/HI)	Hearing – FY 2003 Air Force Budget	James G. Roche, Secretary of the Air Force General John P. Jumper, Chief of Staff, U. S. Air Force	10:00 a.m. Room 192 Dirksen Office Building
May 15 – Subcommittee on Interior <i>(NEW)</i>	Robert Byrd (D/WV)	Hearing- FY 2003 budget for the U.S. Forest Service (continuation of earlier hearing)	Dale Bosworth, Chief, U. S. Forest Service	2:00 p.m. Room 124 Dirksen Office Building

SENATE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/Location
May 14 – Committee on Energy and Natural Resources <i>(NEW)</i>	Jeff Bingaman (D/NM)	Committee Vote – Vote on approving the nomination of Guy Caruso to head the Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration	N/A	TBA
May 15 – Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs (Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation) <i>(NEW)</i>	Byron Dorgan (D/ND)	Hearing – To examine manipulation of electricity markets in the Western region during 2000 and 2001.	<i>(Potential Witness)</i> Pat Wood, Chair, Federal Energy Regulatory Committee Also several Enron attorneys are scheduled to testify	9:30 a.m. Room 253 Russell Office Building
May 15- Committee on Energy and Natural Resources <i>(NEW)</i>	Jeff Bingaman (D/NM)	Hearing – To examine manipulation of electricity prices in Western energy markets during 2000 and 2001	Pat Wood, Chair, Federal Energy Regulatory committee	2:30 p.m. Room 216 Hart Office Building

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS/FLOOR VOTES

There are no activities of interest to report.

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