



## Policy Report for the Week of October 17, 2011

### *Key issues this week:*

1. [GOP vs. the Environment](#)
2. [Grid Modernization Pilot Projects to Integrate Renewable Energy](#)
3. [Ranking Member Waxman Offers Recommendations to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction](#)
4. [Smart Meter Penetration in North America will Reach 50 Percent by 2016](#)
5. [Renewable energy standards put Ohio on a better track to combat climate change](#)

### WHITE HOUSE

President Obama continues to make his case regarding job creation. However, the Senate's rejection of the bill last week will result in a modification in the strategy. Obama will attempt to achieve passage of parts of the jobs legislation he has been advocating and believes would help the economy. As noted below in the last report, from *Water World*, there could be some unintended consequences as well.

Passage of trade agreements was also a focus last week.

#### [Weekly Address: "Made in America"](#)

From a GM plant in Detroit, President Obama highlights the landmark trade agreements passed last week which will support tens of thousands of American jobs, level the playing field for American workers, and help us meet our goal of doubling our exports. [Transcript](#)

[Obama travels to Michigan to sell auto bailout as winner on jobs](#)

[Obama announces major clean tech push in the U.S.](#)

[WWEMA joins business community in opposition to 'Buy American' provision in Jobs Act](#)

### COMMENTARY FROM PRESIDENT'S BASE OF SUPPORT

In a continuing effort to anticipate the administration's strategies or policies leading up to the 2012 election, we've included reports from areas/publications either representing or reflective of one or more areas of the president's base of support. The purpose for providing these reports is to provide insight into the president's influences and how he may respond to them.

[GOP vs. the Environment](#)

[Climate Change Tumbles Down Europe's Political Agenda as Economic Worries Take the Stage](#)

[Where Did Global Warming Go?](#)

[In Quest for Power, Nuclear Is a Disunifying Force](#)

[Clean Energy Advances Despite Washington's Worst Efforts](#)

[Senate Republicans Successfully Filibuster American Jobs](#)

[Job Creation Will Come From the Wires, Not the Software of Broadband Internet](#)

['Green Casino' Solyndra Loan: GOP Blasts Democrats For Republican-Created Program](#)

[DOE bristled at fundraiser's Solyndra push](#)

[The Speaker's favorite energy loan guarantee](#)

[Democrats thwart Obama's bipartisan goals again](#)

[Rick Perry Proposes Energy Plan to Create 1.2M Jobs](#)

[Senate Republicans block Obama's jobs package](#)

[Obama's Jobs Plan Fails First Legislative Test](#)

[Solar Energy Lobby Calls For Extending Obama's Stimulus Grants for Solar Power](#)

[Enviros Make Keystone XL a Litmus Test for Obama's Re-Election: Will it Work?](#)

[Top 10 Giveaways To Big Oil In Rick Perry's 'Jobs' Plans](#)

[Obama's Big Green Mess](#)

[The World's Green Giants](#)

## CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITY

This week's report notes three sets of committee hearings of particular interest. A hearing on job creation was held by the Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works last week. The same day a hearing was held by the House Committee on Energy & Commerce on electric transmission lines. A hearing in the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources will be held on shale gas production. Also, Solyndra continues to be a focal point of attention.

## GENERAL

Energy Bills Introduced in 112<sup>th</sup> Congress

[S. 1586 Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Act of 2011 \(Introduced in Senate - IS\)](#)

[S. 1684 A bill to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005](#)

## SENATE

### Committee on Environment & Public Works

A [hearing](#) of the [Subcommittee on Green Jobs and the New Economy hearing entitled, "Innovative Practices to Create Jobs and Reduce Pollution"](#) was held October 13, 2011.

### Committee on Energy & Natural Resources

A hearing of the [WATER AND POWER SUBCOMMITTEE will be held on October 20 at 2:30 P.M. to examine shale gas production and water resources in the Eastern United States.](#)

The purpose is to examine shale gas production and water resources in the Eastern United States. The hearing will be webcast live on the committee's website, and an archive video will be available shortly after the hearing. Witness testimony will be available on the website at the start of the hearing.

## HOUSE

### Committee on Energy & Commerce

A hearing on [The American Energy Initiative: Electric Transmission Issues, Including Topics Related to the Siting, Planning, and Allocation of Costs for Electricity Transmission Infrastructure](#), was held on October 13, 2011.

The Subcommittee on Energy and Power held the 13th day of its hearing on "The American Energy Initiative" October 13, 2011. This day focused on electric transmission issues, including topics related to the siting, planning, and allocation of costs for electricity transmission infrastructure. A [background memorandum](#) was prepared and the [Opening Statement of Subcommittee Chairman Ed Whitfield \(R-KY\)](#) was supplied. Witnesses included:

FERC Chairman [Jon Wellinghoff](#), Ms. [Lauren Azar](#) from the Office of the Secretary of DOE, Michigan Public Service Commissioner [Greg White](#), Washington Utilities & Transportation Commissioner [Philip B. Jones](#); General Manager & CEO Sacramento MUD [John DiStasio](#) *on behalf of Large Public Power Council*; [Steven A. Transech](#) *on behalf of Coalition for Fair Transmission Policy*; [Nick Brown](#), President & CEO of the Southwest Power Pool, Inc.; and, and ITC Holdings Corp. Chairman, President & CEO [Joseph Welch](#).

[Heavyweight Fight on Solyndra Loan Restructuring: Obama Agency vs. Obama Agency](#)

## FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

Solyndra will continue to occupy the news for the foreseeable future. Beyond the White House, DOE will be involved in the inquiries. News emerged that [Solyndra came close to landing a deal with the Navy](#).

DOE made announcements regarding pilot projects, one focus is to integrate renewable energy as well as a clean energy partnership with the ROK. Further, from the September 19 *Public Policy Update*:

"... the convolution continues between the activities of regulatory bodies and the Congress. ... From the Senate perspective, E&NR Chairman Jeff Bingaman sent a [letter](#) to Energy Secretary Steven Chu in [response](#) to the [request by FERC](#) for a transfer of authority granted to the DOE under Section 216 of the Federal Power Act of 1935 as *amended* (also referred to as Section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005)"

The DOE announced its decision that that the request by the FERC was not approved in its original form however, as had been anticipated in the wake of the letter by Chairman Bingaman, a [strategy for closer cooperation](#) between the DOE and the FERC on this topic was announced. This is a topic of great interest.

Two items of interest on the FERC Open Meeting Agenda are E-1, RM11-17-000 *Enhancement of Electric Market Surveillance and Analysis through Ongoing Electronic Delivery of Data from Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators* AND E-28, RM11-7 *Frequency Regulation Compensation in the Organized Wholesale Power Markets*.

EPA reports include House bills that would limit EPA's authority regarding coal ash (which was the subject of the December 22, 2008 spill at the TVA's Kingston Fossil Plant). Additionally, a report is included by the Office of Management and Budget regarding "*Management Challenges and Budget Observations*."

## Department of Energy (DOE)

[Grid Modernization Pilot Projects to Integrate Renewable Energy](#)

[Department of Energy Announces New Clean Energy Partnership with the Republic of Korea](#)

## Department of Commerce

[Mayors Urge Swift Confirmation of Bryson Nomination](#)

## Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

[DOE-FERC Grid Coordination Effort 'Positive,' States Say](#)

[Open Meeting - October 20, 2011 - Agenda \(Sunshine Notice\) \[PDF\]](#)

## Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

[House bill would block EPA oversight of coal ash, leave it to states](#)

[House seeks to get EPA out of coal ash disposal; says states must regulate](#)

[Environmental Protection Agency: Management Challenges and Budget Observations](#)

## Energy - Climate Change Bill

S.1684 has been introduced, which would have benefits inuring to Indian tribes as a result of energy production.

[Chairman Akaka cosponsors Indian energy bill](#)

[SENATOR DANIEL K. AKAKA COSPONSORS INDIAN ENERGY BILL](#)

[Sen. Barrasso offers bill to help tribal energy](#)

[Ranking Member Waxman Offers Recommendations to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction](#)

## Electric Cars

One report focuses on determinations of cost of electricity for PHV's. The other is a notice of a November meeting of the ANSI Standards Panel for Electric Vehicles.

[Electric Vehicle: Cost of Electricity](#)

[ANSI Electric Vehicles Standards Panel to Meet November 17-18 in Arlington, VA](#)

## National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

[NIST Cooperative Agreement with University of Maryland Supports Research on 21st Century Smart Systems](#)

## Power Storage/Battery

As a follow-up to the February 8, 2010 *Public Policy Report*, a new report shows the path a major energy generator is taking to make use of electric batteries for injection into the wholesale/transmission grid. This general strategy is being employed within the PJM Interconnection and being considered in other ISOs and RTOs in the United States.

[Top 12 Questions About Energy Storage](#)

[Vehicle-to-Grid Charging for Electric Cars Gets Lift from Major U.S. Utility](#)

## RENEWABLES

Reports indicate positive signs in the future for the U.S. PV Market and note an indication by the secretary of the interior supportive of additional off-shore wind leases.

[Light at the end of the tunnel for the US PV market](#) (Renewable Energy)

[Salazar: 2nd offshore wind lease could be soon](#)

## SMART GRID

Reports include anticipated smart meter penetration in North America over the next five years and work force efficiencies being recognized through smart grid deployment.

[Smart meter](#) penetration in North America will reach 50 percent by 2016

[Smart Grid Improves Mobile Work Force Efficiencies](#)

[October Issue of IEEE Smart Grid Newsletter Features Articles on the Consumer Side of the Grid and Surprisingly Far-Reaching Implications of Communications on Grid Stability](#)

## FROM THE STATES

Reports include activities in Ohio (RPS benefits as well as gas shale activities), California (clean energy development by farmers as well as potential out of state RPS activity), Pennsylvania (expectation of falling energy prices through competition), Maryland (support for off-shore wind energy development) and Texas (including an update on Austin's Pecan Street Project).

[Renewable energy standards put Ohio on a better track to combat climate change](#)

[Land Rush In Eastern Ohio A Boon For The Economy](#)

[Ohio Shale Drilling Permits Sky Rocket as Potential EPA Moratorium Looms](#)

[California law opens door for farmers to develop clean energy](#)

[California Lays Welcome Mat for Out-of-state-Renewable Energy, Sort Of](#)

[PECO predicts a drop in electric-power price](#)

[POLL: Strong majority of Marylanders support offshore wind power](#)

[Austin's Pecan Street, a Smart Grid 'City Bloc,' Adds PV Solar and EVs during Phase Two](#)

[Kinder Morgan to buy El Paso Corp. for \\$20.7B](#)

## INTERNATIONAL

The following report includes interesting projections regarding smart grid development in Mexico.

[Mexico Smart Grid Market to Reach \\$8.3 Billion by 2020](#)