



House of Representatives

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COALITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER—FEBRUARY 2014

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STORIES

- **EPA To Publish Rules for New Power Plants after Delay**—EPA published notice of proposed rules limiting greenhouse gas emissions from new power plants more than three months after announcing the rules last September.
- **State Department Releases Keystone XL Final Environmental Impact Statement**—The State Department concluded in its final environmental assessment that the proposed Keystone XL pipeline would be unlikely to alter global greenhouse gas emissions, but officials cautioned that they are still weighing whether the project would meet the test of President Obama's broader climate strategy.
- **State of the Union 2014: Obama on Energy: Having It Both Ways**—President Barack Obama made it clear that he still thinks he can have it both ways on energy — taking unprecedented action on climate change while proudly presiding over a historic boom in oil and natural gas drilling.
- **President Obama Orders Sweeping Energy Review**—The President ordered a sweeping review of energy strategy that will involve departments and agencies across the federal government.
- **West Virginia Chemical Spill Triggers State of Emergency, Widespread Tap Water Ban**—President Obama issued an emergency declaration for the state of West Virginia, ordering federal aid in the aftermath of a chemical spill that has left up to 300,000 people without tap water, closed schools and businesses.
- **U.S. Carbon Emissions From Fossil Fuels Rose in 2013 as Coal Use Ticked Up**—The 2 percent rise in energy-related CO2 emissions marks a shift from five years of declining emissions amid the economic recession.

SEEC MEMBER LEGISLATION

Member Rep. **Earl Blumenauer** (OR): *H.R. 3870, Superfund Reinvestment Act*

Bill Summary: Would reinstate the Superfund taxes on polluters to their previous levels, including excise taxes of \$.097 per barrel on crude oil or refined oil products, excise taxes of \$.22 to \$4.87 per ton on certain chemicals, and a corporate income tax of .12 percent on the corporation's modified alternative minimum taxable income that exceeds \$2 million. This legislation also includes language to guarantee that money from the Trust Fund is only spent on Superfund cleanups.

SEEC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Coalition Welcomes Three New Members—SEEC welcomed Reps. [Julia Brownley](#) (CA), [Rick Nolan](#) (MN), and **Katherine Clark** (MA) to its ranks, bringing total membership to 56.

SEEC Member Retirements—Three SEEC Members announced their retirement at the end of this Congress: Reps. **George Miller** (CA), **Jim Moran** (VA), and **Henry Waxman** (CA).

EPA Meets with SEEC—EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and SEEC Members [discussed](#) issues like fracking and climate change. The Coalition also talked about regional issues like Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound, and the California drought.

SEEC Raises Climate Change Threats to Outdoor Recreation—During consideration of H.R. 3590, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act, 15 SEEC Members offered an amendment to ensure the Secretary of the Interior maintains the authority to consider climate change when making decisions regarding conservation and recreation on public lands. The amendment was offered by SEEC Vice-Chair **Rush Holt** (NJ), who was joined by SEEC Co-Chair **Gerry Conolly** (VA), SEEC Vice-Chair **Doris Matsui** (CA), Energy Task Force Chair **Jim Langevin** (RI), Members **Alan Lowenthal** (CA), **Chris Van Hollen** (MD), **Matt Cartwright** (PA), **Keith Ellison** (MN), **Earl Blumenauer** (OR), **Raul Grijalva** (AZ), **Carol Shea-Porter** (NH), **Lois Capps** (CA), **Mike Quigley** (IL), **John Delaney** (MD), and **Susan Davis** (CA).

Coalition Stands up for Public Health, Taxpayers—SEEC Co-Chair Rep. **Paul Tonko** (NY) offered an amendment to H.R. 2279, a bill that would undermine Superfund. His amendment would have blocked implementation if any provision would increase litigation, reduce clean-up funds, or delay clean up. SEEC Climate Task Force Chair Rep. **Scott Peters** (CA) offered the motion to recommit, which would have barred the bill from taking effect if it resulted in fewer sites being cleaned up, responsibility shifted from the polluter to the taxpayer, or greater exposure to carcinogens from locations within 5 miles of a contaminated site.

House Dems Press for Hearing on West Virginia Chemical Spill—The letter from SEEC Member Rep. **Henry Waxman** (CA) and SEEC Co-Chair Rep. **Paul Tonko** (NY) to Chairman Shimkus asks him to hold a hearing on the West Virginia chemical spill that left hundreds of thousands of people unable to use tap water.

TOP ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT FACTS

- ◆ **4th**: Place where NOAA ranked 2013 on its list of the hottest years on record, representing 37 consecutive years of above-average global temperatures.
- ◆ **109**: Number of anti-environmental votes taken in the House of Representatives during the first session of the 113th Congress.
- ◆ **87**: Percentage of Latino voters who agree that there should be limits on power plant pollution.
- ◆ **\$254 Billion**: Amount of global investment in clean energy during 2013, a 12% reduction from 2012 and the second year that investment has declined.
- ◆ **142,698**: Number of jobs in the U.S. solar industry, an increase of 23,600 jobs from 2012.

SEEC MEMBER TWEET OF THE MONTH

[RepRonBarber @RepRonBarber](#) Today is National "Shout Out For [#Solar](#) Day!" Tell your friends, family, and coworkers [#GoSolar](#) [#USA](#)!

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