

Murkowski spurs effort to block EPA on carbon

Sen Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, introduced a disapproval resolution yesterday that would block the EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act. The resolution was co-sponsored by 35 Republicans and three Democrats and comes in the wake of EPA's endangerment finding in December.

The Democrats are moderates: Sens Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark; Ben Nelson, D-Neb, and Mary Landrieu, D-La.

The endangerment finding was EPA's response to a Supreme Court

decision that forced it to decide whether CO2 was a threat to the welfare of the US and if so, to regulate it with the Clean Air Act.

"As the EPA moves closer and closer to issuing these regulations, I continue to believe that this command-and-control approach is our worst option for reducing the emissions blamed for climate change," said Murkowski.

The disapproval resolution is referred to the committee of jurisdiction, the Environment & Public Works

Committee -- and if it's not reported favorably, it can be brought to the floor with the petition of 30 votes.

EPW Chair Barbara Boxer, D-Calif, called the disapproval resolution "an assault" on the nation's health at a press conference yesterday. The Senate must not overturn a scientific, health rule, she added.

Murkowski has said that getting those 30 votes isn't a tough climb but passage would be in a chamber where Democrats still control 59 seats.

[\[Comments\]](#)

FERC proposes credit reforms for markets

FERC proposed a series of credit reforms in organized markets through an NPRM at its meeting yesterday. The NPRM tries to strike a balance between maintaining liquidity with appropriate risk management while ensuring just and reasonable rates for the nation's electric consumers.

In ISO/RTOs, defaults are socialized so minimizing them will cut costs to consumers. FERC has been working on credit issues in organized markets since their conception, with higher focus on them after Enron and during the credit crisis.

The commission will consider rules on shortening the settlement cycles to seven calendar days with seven more days for final payment.

It would limit unsecured credit to just \$50 million/market participant in energy markets and eliminate unsecured credit in financial-transmission-rights markets.

It's also considering clarifying the ability of market administrators to offset amounts owed to market participants against amounts owed by market participants and manage defaults.

It might set minimum participation criteria for market players, specify when a market administrator can invoke material adverse change to require a market player to post added collateral -- and limit the time a participant can post added collateral to cure its credit status.

The power sector wasn't nearly as impacted as others in the recent credit crisis and that's laudable but it doesn't mean FERC should sit on its laurels, said Commissioner Marc Spitzer.

ISO/RTOs have already done a lot on credit issues on their own and Commissioner Phil Moeller said he doesn't want to see any FERC actions disrupt what they've already done.

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Integrys believes marketing arm is attractive for investors

Integrys chose to keep some parts of its Integrys Energy Services retail natural gas and power marketing businesses after it finished the sale of its generation to Algonquin Power (RT, [Jan-14](#)). The retention of the restructured retail marketing business will have a positive impact on previously issued EPS guidance for 2011, said the firm.

"With the restructuring of Integrys Energy Services, the continued progress of the rate cases in each of our regulated service jurisdictions and the continuing implementation of our cost containment and operational efficiency program, we believe that we are well-positioned for the future," said Integrys Energy CEO Charles Schrock.

"We have met our objectives for Integrys Energy Services by significantly reducing capital investment and collateral support requirements. We believe that retention of the restructured, non-regulated retail natural gas and electric marketing business is the most attractive outcome for our investors."

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NEM picks leadership for key committees

NEM selected its 2010 officers this week with Gateway Energy Services CEO Steve Maslak assuming the chairmanship of the Executive Committee while US Gas & Electric CEO Doug Marcille and Energy Plus COO Kevin Kleinschmidt were elected vice chairman and second vice chairman respectively.

The organization appointed some national energy policy chairs:

- Matthew Picardi of Shell Energy is the chairman while Ken Ziober of Spark Energy is the co-chair of

Wholesale Power Policy;

- Scott White of IGS Energy is the chairman of Retail Natural Gas Policy while Jonathan Morris of MertoMedia Energy and Joseph Waldman of Gateway will serve as co-chairs;

- The Retail Electricity Policy Chairman is Jeff Hendler of IDT Energy and Joanna Hamrick of Energy Plus was appointed co-chair;

- Chris Hendrix of Wal-Mart will chair Customer Advocacy & Policy Development;

- Advanced Energy & Environmental Technology Policies will be chaired by Bill Mahoney who heads the South Carolina Research Authority, and
- Greg Collins of Vectren Retail and Joanna Hamrick will co-chair the Consumer Bill of Rights & Marketer Code of Conduct Policy Committee.

"It's a very exciting time for the markets and we look forward to great opportunities in 2010," said NEM President Craig Goodman.

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