

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
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October 15, 2013

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

The Committee on Energy and Commerce is conducting oversight of federal support for the development of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies. The Department of Energy (DOE) has been funding research and demonstration projects in support of advancing CCS technologies for eventual commercialization. A June 2012 Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report notes that DOE has been appropriated some \$6.9 billion on CCS related programs since 2005. As part of this oversight, we write for information concerning DOE's work to date and future plans relating to CCS.

In light of the amount of funding authorized, and recent regulatory proposals by the Environmental Protection Agency that assert the commercial viability of CCS, we seek to understand the extent to which DOE programs have contributed to advancements with respect to research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) of CCS technologies. The 2010 *Report on the Interagency Task Force on Carbon Capture and Storage* indicates that federal focus on RD&D is twofold, to demonstrate operation of current, or first-generation technologies, and to develop a second generation of improved capture and advanced power generation technologies to significantly reduce the cost of CCS, in order to facilitate widespread cost-effective deployment. Therefore, we also seek to understand what DOE's work has accomplished in terms of bringing down the cost and related deployment barriers for first and second generation carbon capture and storage technologies.

Accordingly, pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, we request that you respond to the following questions and provide the requested documents by November 1, 2013:

1. Is CBO's estimate of the \$6.9 billion for CCS-related programs accurate? If not, what is the total amount of federal funding appropriated for CCS RD&D since 2005 and how much of this has been expended? Please identify the amount of funding by fiscal year.
2. Of the CCS-related expenditures to date, how much has been for so-called first generation CCS?
 - a. Please identify each project and the amount expended to date on each project.
 - b. Please identify the technological achievements or advancements that have resulted from federal funding allocated for first generation CCS since 2005.
3. Of the expenditures to date, how much has been for so-called second generation CCS?
 - a. Please identify each project and the amount expended to date on each project.
 - b. Please identify the technological achievements or advancements that have resulted from federal funding allocated for second generation CCS since 2005.
4. When will the second generation technologies for CCS become available for demonstration?
5. The Interagency Task Force on Carbon Capture and Storage identified certain barriers to deployment of CCS, including the availability of suitably large, secure geologic reservoirs, the cost of CO₂ capture, transport and storage, long-term liability of sequestration sites, the need for a legal/regulatory framework, and public awareness and support. DOE was co-chair of this task force, which concluded that there was "considerable uncertainty" associated with the commercial deployment of CCS.
 - a. Please outline in detail all the steps that are required for a new coal-fired power plant to gain approval and install CCS, including site identification, permitting, community education, technology, design, financing, liability and other risk management, construction, and ongoing monitoring and reporting.
 - b. For each step, please explain whether existing technologies and Federal, State, local and tribal government programs are sufficient to complete the step in a timely and cost-effective manner, and how much time would be required for each step.
 - c. How has DOE addressed each of the concerns and barriers to deployment of CCS identified in the task force report?
6. Provide all memoranda or analyses relating or referring to DOE's evaluations, recommendations, and descriptions of its activities to address liability issues relating to carbon transport, sequestration, or storage.

7. Does DOE have a written plan or strategy to demonstrate second generation technologies for CCS? If so, please provide all memoranda or analyses that refer or relate to these plans or strategies.
8. Has DOE made any adjustments to its RD&D plans for either first generation or second generation CCS over the past four years and does the Department anticipate making any adjustments to its plans in light of EPA's recent determination that partial CO₂ capture is "adequately demonstrated"?
 - a. If so, please describe the extent, nature of, and reasons for these adjustments or anticipated adjustments and provide a copy of the adjustments or any proposed adjustments.
 - b. Provide all documents created on or after January 1, 2008, that refer or relate to changes, adjustments, or other amendments in R&D plans for CCS including, but not limited to, changes made relating to EPA regulations or proposed regulations.
 - c. If not, please explain why you have not made any adjustments or anticipate making any adjustments.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Peter Spencer with the Majority Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,



Fred Upton
Chairman



Tim Murphy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations



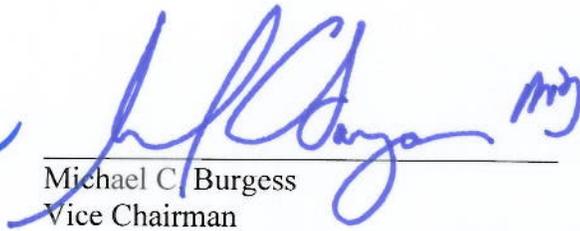
Joe Barton
Chairman Emeritus



Ed Whitfield
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power



Marsha Blackburn
Vice Chairman



Michael C. Burgess
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member

The Honorable Diana DeGette, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable Bobby Rush, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Power