

The Current

May 3, 2011

Women's Council on Energy and the Environment

The Current Team

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WCEE Needs You

Enjoy WCEE events? Wonder how you can get involved?

It's easy. Join a Section Committee.

There are openings for new members in several Sections.

Requirements for all positions:

- 1) enthusiasm;
- 2) willingness to roll up your sleeves;
- 3) good spirit;
- 4) willingness to learn

What you get out of it?

- 1) new skills;
- 2) new friendships;
- 3) new opportunities

WCEE Sections and Committees:

Activities
Career Building
Development/Fundraising
Marketing/Communication
Membership
Special Interest Group

Welcome to the WCEE Current

2011 has already proven to be a fast moving year for energy and environmental issues, with the nuclear crisis in Japan, drilling set to return to the Gulf of Mexico, fights over EPA regulations and gas prices in the Washington area reaching an average of \$4 a gallon. It seems like an ideal time to re-launch the WCEE newsletter!

I hope that the newsletter can become a resource for all members, with opinion pieces and articles on timely topics, information about WCEE members and sponsors, and updates on WCEE activities. We plan to highlight not only energy and environmental issues, but our members as well. We welcome suggestions and contributions on a variety of topics, as well as updates from our members about careers, publications, and awards and honors.

The newsletter is put together with a small team of very talented volunteers who are very generously donating their time. So to start, *The Current* will appear every two months, hopefully moving to a monthly timeframe. We welcome feedback—let us know what works, what is missing, what you would like to see more often or less often, and new ideas of all kinds.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Lisa Hyland, Editor

The Energy Debate – Where Do We Go From Here?

By Sheila Slocum Hollis, Duane Morris LLP

The energy industry is one of the most sophisticated, heavily capitalized, technologically advanced in human history. Yet it continues to be confounded and challenged by events that combine natural disasters, man-made disasters, brutal partisan and regional politics, overall economic conditions and international disputes. Never have the "facts of life" for the industry hit home with greater velocity and impact than in the past year. Reeling from an unprecedented economic downturn and financial chaos, wars in the Mideast, a Gulf oil spill, and the Fukushima crisis, the energy industry is the very center of turmoil in the economic and political arenas in the United States and around most of the world. And this is just over the course of a single year.

Never has the need for a strong, smart, determined energy supply and delivery system been greater. As if the various components of the energy industry—oil, gas, nuclear, coal, and renewables—did not have enough technical challenges, the politics are unsurpassed for their fractious nature and huge financial and physical consequences. All of these battles are being waged at a time when the nation desperately needs to replace, modernize and expand the energy infrastructure with the co-equal goal of addressing a monumental series of environmental problems. At the epicenter of the debate for at least the past fifteen years is the issue of reducing greenhouse gases; yet now greenhouse gas emissions must be weighed against potential fears of nuclear disasters.

It is a schizophrenic time for the industry and those it serves. This moment in history cries out for bold action on truly essential energy issues, but there appears to be utter confusion

Technology Committee

WCEE works because of its volunteers. Join the team and help WCEE grow. Contact Joyce Chandran if you are interested.

Upcoming Events

WCEE - EPRI - AGA Reception

May 3

Please join us for an evening reception hosted by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and the American Gas Association (AGA) on Tuesday, May 3, 2011. The event is from 6:00-8:00 p.m., with remarks by guest speaker, Cong. Paul Tonko [confirmed] (D-NY) at 6:30 p.m.

As a member of the House Science, Space & Technology Committee and House Budget Committee, Cong. Tonko is very well-positioned to address the importance of R&D / energy infrastructure in a budget-constrained world.

This event offers WCEE members not only an opportunity to learn more about advancing energy technologies, but to also meet EPRI's Technical Women's Network -- visiting Washington DC for the first time -- as well as energy colleagues from the American Gas Association.

Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2011
Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Venue: American Gas Association, 400 North Capitol Street, NW

Registration (open to WCEE members only): \$15.00

Due to limited space, this event is not open to non-members.

Refreshments will be provided.

and division over what steps to take and what long-term commitments to make. So, where do we turn and upon whom may we rely? We have the intellectual power and still maintain a preeminent position in world power and creativity; it is up to our leaders and ourselves to weave together flexible, politically survivable and realistic answers, understanding that nature may still deal us some bad hands.

What are the most basic steps that can be taken in the face of political challenges and an unpredictable future?

1. **Back to basics: safety and security.** Without these fundamentals in place, few reasoned decisions on energy policy can be made. Deep dives on safety in the nuclear, oil and gas, and coal industries must not be a short-term reaction to recent events, but an essential, ongoing commitment by the industry and those who oversee it. There must be buy-in by boards, shareholders and consumers, who ultimately will bear substantial financial responsibility for assuring a safe and secure energy industry.
2. **Commitment to service.** The original statutes creating the regulatory framework in place today—the Federal Power Act and the Natural Gas Act—recognized that the gas and electric industries had a public interest underpinning them. Reliability, just and reasonable rates and non-discriminatory practices are the bedrock of those basic laws. Such principles should be reinvigorated and applied, not only because they are important from a legal perspective, but also out of fairness and consideration for consequences for the country.
3. **Immediate attention to environmental concerns.** We must address environmental issues as rapidly as possible, taking into consideration needs for employment, costs of implementation, equality of impacts, and feasibility. Low hanging fruits should be picked as much as possible—green building, retrofits, conservation and expansion of clean energy. Demand reduction and better information systems to provide additional information and technology to manage energy should be deployed as rapidly and widely as possible.
4. **Absolute commitment to research and development.** This must occur across the entire spectrum of energy supply choices. In addition, improvement in existing extraction, transportation, and utilization should be pushed as quickly as possible. Instead of decrying our existing energy options, the industries must ultimately find approaches that allow a full slate of possibilities, with enough flexibility to provide energy for all our needs, at manageable prices and with reasonable returns.
5. **Passion for progress.** The desire to create innovative solutions and seize future opportunity should be preached from every energy pulpit. Every professional in the energy arena should maintain and improve the standards that allowed our great industries to transform the country and the world. Past is prologue, and despite the daunting challenges, it is time to embrace all the good that has been accomplished by energy availability and address the mistakes of the past, while building a new energy world for generations to come.

Energy Implications of the Crisis in Japan

By Lisa Hyland, CSIS

The March 11th earthquake and tsunami had devastating effects on Japan; the ensuing nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant added to the difficulty in managing a disaster of this magnitude.

On the energy front, the earthquake and tsunami damaged significant amounts of energy-related infrastructure—refineries, an LNG terminal, pipelines, ports—in addition to cutting power from the shut-down nuclear reactors across the country. The government instituted rolling blackouts in the Tokyo and neighboring regions to control demand and thereby avoid major blackouts. The country has also responded with major conservation efforts. Both of these will continue into the peak summer season, with a goal of reducing demand by 25

WCEE Brown Bag

May 12

The Future of Nuclear Power:
Fukushima Daiichi - Where Do We
Go From Here?

Co-hosted by Women in Nuclear
(WIN)

Please join us for a brownbag
luncheon on possible future scenarios
for nuclear power in the United States
and around the world in the wake of
the nuclear accident in Japan.

This brown-bag luncheon is the first
meeting of a 3-part series on the
future of nuclear power.

Presenters include:

Annie Caputo, Professional Staff, US
Senate, Committee on Environment
and Public Works;

Leslie Kass, Director, Business
Policy and Programs, Nuclear Energy
Institute;

Edwin Lyman, Senior Scientist,
Global Security, Union of Concerned
Scientists

Date: Thursday, May 12

Time: 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm

Venue: Quinn Gillespie &
Associates, 1133 Connecticut Ave
NW, 5th Floor

2011 Deloitte Energy Conference

May 19-20

Entering a New Era: Energy,
Environment and Prosperity

Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington,
D.C.

percent.

To help alleviate the fuel shortages in the Tohoku region, the Japanese government has released oil from its crude oil stockpiles. Demand for natural gas imports is expected to increase throughout the year in Japan to replace the electric power from the shut down nuclear reactors.

The ongoing crisis at Fukushima Daiichi is still being watched carefully by the international community. While the situation is more stable than in the days immediately following the earthquake, it is by no means over. The accident is rated a Level 7, the highest and most serious on the international scale, indicating a major accident with radioactive materials released and widespread impacts.

The magnitude of the crisis, and perhaps more importantly, its duration, are unprecedented. Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO) estimates it could be nine months before the reactors are fully shut down and stabilized. In response to the nuclear crisis, countries with nuclear electric power plants have responded in a variety of ways:

- The EU has called for stress tests for all nuclear power plants. Though details for the tests have not been determined, they would include response plans for outside threats such as earthquakes, floods, terrorism, as well as reviews of the plants directly;
- Germany had one of the strongest responses, with widespread demonstrations against nuclear power immediately following the accident. The government has now called for a three-month moratorium on new plant construction, and has ordered the temporary closure of the seven oldest plants as well as comprehensive security checks.
- France, where 80 percent of electricity is generated from nuclear reactors, has reiterated its support for nuclear power, but has also called for increased reviews;
- Russia will perform stress tests on all its reactors to judge their ability to withstand earthquakes;
- China immediately suspended approvals for new nuclear plants to review safety standards in light of the Fukushima crisis;
- South Korea officially plans to continue its nuclear program and pledged increase cooperative efforts with China.

The United States has 104 nuclear reactors at 65 power plants in 31 states, which generate about 20 percent of the nation's electricity. President Barack Obama and Secretary of Energy Steven Chu have pledged their continued support for U.S. nuclear power. Both the House and Senate convened a number of hearings to assess the situation and have introduced bills aimed at improving safety at nuclear reactors.

At President Obama's request, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is undertaking comprehensive safety reviews at U.S. nuclear reactors. Additionally, the U.S. nuclear power industry began reviews almost immediately to verify the plans in place for general safety, ability to respond to disasters, natural or otherwise, and to the specifics seen in Japan: loss of electric power and back-up systems, flooding, loss of local infrastructure, etc.

In light of Japan's ongoing nuclear crisis, WCEE is organizing a 3-part series on the future of nuclear power, with a focus on the implications for the United States. The first of these brown bag lunches, "The Future of Nuclear Power: Fukushima Daiichi - Where Do We Go from Here?" will be on Thursday, May 12th.

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Opinion

EPA Regulations – Controversial – Yes; Essential - Maybe

Who should attend: Executives, investors and regulators from energy and other industries affected by energy developments and policy

For more information visit: <http://www.deloitte.com> and look under Deloitte Center for Energy Solutions

EPA's Regulatory Overload

By Jennifer Taylor, NRECA

How much is too much when it comes to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulatory agenda? According to a recent study by the American Legislative Exchange Council's [EPA's Regulatory Train Wreck: Strategies for State Legislators](#), EPA is developing and finalizing nearly 30 major regulations and more than 170 major policy rules. Although EPA's efforts to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act have been much in the spotlight, some of the EPA's other rulemakings have the potential to cost the entire electric utility industry billions of dollars – they are especially hard on coal-fired power plants.

In June 2010, the EPA proposed federal regulations for the management of coal ash and other Coal Combustion Residuals (CCRs). CCRs are materials produced when coal is burned to produce electricity. Non-hazardous regulation of CCRs will ensure that coal ash is managed safely, while also protecting human health and the environment, jobs, and electricity consumers. The EPA's other option – to regulate coal ash as hazardous – would impose staggering costs on power plant operators, increasing electricity prices and potentially eliminating beneficial coal ash recycling. EPA had previously determined that there is no need to regulate coal ash as hazardous.

According to an economic analysis by the [Electric Power Research Institute](#) (EPRI), the potential cost to the coal-fired electric generation industry should the EPA regulate CCRs as hazardous is estimated to be between \$54.66 billion and \$76.84 billion over a 20-year period. And that is merely taking one of the major EPA rulemakings aimed at power plants into consideration.

A report, [A Reliability Assessment of EPA's Proposed Transport Rule and Forthcoming Utility MACT](#), prepared by Charles River Associates, suggests that coal-fired power plant owners would be forced to close 39 gigawatts of generating capacity nationwide by 2015 as a result of pending EPA rules requiring power plants to control emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and toxic air pollutants.

On April 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Energy Tax Prevention Act (H.R. 910) aimed at stripping the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act on a 255-172 vote. However, similar efforts in the U.S. Senate failed, including an amendment by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) that mirrored language in H.R. 910.

So, how much regulation by EPA is too much? Is a regulatory train wreck on the horizon? As the cliché goes, "it depends on who you ask." But for coal-fired power plants, which provide approximately 50 percent of Americans with electricity, an uphill battle ensues as the train rolls on.

WCEE welcomes opinion pieces on timely issues. Please contact Joyce Chandran or Lisa Hyland if you are interested in writing an opinion piece.

Woman of the Year

*By Jayne Brady, Public Relations Consultant
Co-chair of WCEE's Marketing and Communication Section*

Over 400 WCEE members and guests enjoyed dinner as Constance H. Lau, President and CEO of Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc. accepted WCEE's highest honor, Woman of the Year, on March 9th in Washington D.C.

Hawaiian Electric Industries (HEI) is Hawaii's largest public company. Lau and her husband travelled from Hawaii to receive the award at a dinner held at the Capital Hilton.

"Tonight, we gather here to recognize Constance Lau as WCEE's 2011 Woman of the

Year," said WCEE President Ronke Luke. "She buys into the dream of renewables, but understands the reality of the numbers; she can persuade the investors to stay for the long haul and also keep rate-paying consumers happy."

Lau's contributions stand out among a small number of women who have raised awareness on these issues. "I am honored to accept this award," said Lau. "Now more than ever, we must continue our pursuit of clean energy to protect our environment and enhance energy independence and security for our nation. Organizations such as WCEE are critical to this effort by championing careers for women in the clean energy field." Lau also noted that women make up more than one third of the Hawaiian Electric executive team, leading the company's clean energy efforts.

Also honored at the gala was Mike Nigro, CEO, MJ Nigro Consulting, LLC, who received the WCEE Champion Award.

"WCEE members are very grateful to Mr. Nigro for his support, guidance and leadership over the years. This honor recognizes his ongoing efforts to help women advance in both the energy and environmental fields," said Ronke Luke, WCEE President. "The award is an expression of thanks from WCEE for supporting women in these increasingly important sectors of the economy."

Nigro has been a leader in the energy and environment consulting arena for the last 30 years. Most recently, Nigro led Project Performance Corporation (PPC) on a path to triple its size in five years. In 2008, Nigro sold PPC to AEA Technology Inc. (AEA), a London-based climate change and energy efficiency management consulting company, and assumed the position of AEA's Chief Operating Officer and Executive Board Member. He recently stepped down from that position and now is CEO of MJ Nigro Consulting, LLC.

The Champion Award recognizes the importance of mentors for women professionals. Nigro ensured that PPC was a strong participant in the community, followed environmentally sound business practices, and focused on solving complex problems and making a difference in people's lives.

This year marks WCEE's 30th year as an organization helping to provide educational and networking opportunities for professionals in the environmental and energy fields.

Members in the News

New Books on Energy and Environmental Topics

from WCEE Members

WCEE is proud to recognize some important recent publications by our members on topics of particular interest to our membership. One of our most prolific authors is **Andrea Kramer**. Andrea (Andie) is a partner in the international law firm of McDermott Will & Emery LLP. She is based in its Chicago office and heads McDermott's Financial Products, Trading and Derivatives Group, is co-chair of its Energy Services Group. Most recently, Andie worked with Oxford University Press for the release of her new book *Energy and Environmental Project Finance Law and Taxation: New Investment Techniques* (August 2010). She is also the author of *Financial Products: Taxation, Regulation, and Design*, a three-volume treatise, updated annually. Andie is a co-editor and contributing author of the book *Energy and*

Environmental Trading: US Law and Taxation (Cameron May, July 2008). It is no surprise that Andie is a frequent speaker at conferences and workshops, having made over 300 presentations on trading activities, hedging, and derivatives.

Written for practitioners and laymen alike, [Energy and Environmental Project Finance Law and Taxation](#) arms the reader with crucial knowledge about structuring and financing conventional, renewable, green financing, and alternative energy projects. It addresses carbon financing, green power, and traditional and new technologies, including nuclear power, wind, photovoltaic, solar, geothermal, biomass, and the new generation of nuclear power. This book also addresses the risks involved in structuring and financing these new technologies; ways to hedge these risks; and how to monetize the tax credits available for renewable energy projects.

This book brings together internationally recognized lawyers and economists to share their knowledge, expertise, and insights in this important and growing industry. At the same time, the book also reflects our multi-regional WCEE network. Economist and WCEE member (and Vice President for 2011) **Robin Cantor** is one of the contributing authors to the book. Robin is a principal with Exponent, Inc. in the Alexandria, VA office, specializing in environmental and energy economics, statistics, risk management, product liability, and insurance claims analysis. Robin's chapter, "Creating and Financing the Next-Generation Carbon Offset Project: An Application to Carbon Capture and Storage," addresses identifying and developing opportunities to create carbon offset credits while recognizing the due diligence challenges of emerging technologies in carbon capture and storage projects.

In addition, Robin has a new book, [Product Liability](#), which was recently published by ABA Publishers (January 2011).

Product liability is an increasingly complex area that poses significant challenges to corporate risk managers, policy makers, business advisors, and even consumers. In the past decade, national headlines have highlighted the unprecedented number of liability claims and extensive social upheaval from products that pose serious unintended consequences for workers, consumers, and the environment.

Given the potential financial losses from a potential product liability, the business stakes are high, especially in the global economy. *Product Liability* presents business and policy advisory perspectives regarding a number of important issues that emerge from current and ever-changing legal and global market conditions. The book helps the reader navigate the complex web of risks and opportunities and offers strategies that minimize product liability under a range of regulatory and legal regimes. WCEE members Elizabeth (Betty) Anderson and Shireen Meer, both with Exponent, also are contributing authors. Betty's chapter, "Changing Perspectives on Chemical Product Risks," is particularly timely in its focus on distinguishing improving methods of chemical detection from assumptions regarding the potential risks due to chemical exposures in legal and regulatory proceedings.

Tips on Maintaining & Managing your WCEE Profile

By Edda Collins Coleman, Chair, Social Media Committee and

Guyltone Sukawati, WCEE, Administrative & Marketing Manager

Are you an expert in renewable energy? Are you interested in creating your own blog about nuclear energy? Do you use LinkedIn, Facebook or Twitter? If so, you will love WCEE's new social network user-friendly profile function on our very own website. We invite you to join us

in utilizing this fascinating new tool. Create or update your profile on the WCEE social network. With the WCEE social network, you will have an opportunity to interact with WCEE members easily and showcase your own knowledge, creativity, talents, blog and photos. Below are useful tips to help you in developing your profile. We hope to see you soon on the WCEE social network!

Here are some basic tips on maintaining and managing a profile on the WCEE website. (Please note that not all functions of the site are covered here.)

1. Log in to [WCEE](#) with your username and password.
2. Go to "My Profile" which is the blue box on the right-hand-side of the screen.
3. Click on "Manage Profile" to customize your profile and manage your membership.

To contact the Current Team or to submit suggestions or ideas, contact Joyce Chandran at executive.director@wcee.org

- Edit Bio: Just like the "My Bio" tab on your main profile, this icon allows you to modify your bio. Note that you can also set certain parts of your bio to be visible or invisible on the site by checking them on or off.
- Preferences: Click on this icon to choose what kind of alerts you want to receive from the site.
- Favorites: View and manage items that you have favorite.
- Networks: Integrate social media sites such as "Linkedin" and "Facebook" into your profile.
- Blogs: Create your own blog that will be uploaded to your profile page.
- Pages: Here you can create pages with custom content. These will also be included in your profile. Currently, our site allows users to create up to ten pages.
- Photo Galleries: You can use this to upload pictures and photo albums.
- Files and Links: Here you can upload documents or links, and choose the privacy settings to apply to them.
- Messaging: Here you can send and receive messages that show will go the user's profile inbox.
- Resume and CV: Here you can upload your resume or CV and manage its privacy settings.
- Career Postings: This option will allow you to upload a job posting that will be displayed in the WCEE career center page.
- Membership: Here you can check the status of your membership or renew it.

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