

Ten of Many *Terrible* Provisions Already in the Energy Bill

Although the energy conference report is still incomplete, it already includes enough extremely damaging provisions to know that this is a dangerous bill. Below are ten of the many terrible provisions in the energy bill conference draft released by the conference committee, (<http://energycommerce.house.gov>), and two other provision which are likely to be in the report.

1. Threatens drinking water by allowing the underground injection of diesel fuel and other chemicals during oil and gas development, and by preempting state laws holding oil companies responsible for cleanup of MTBE-contaminated ground water. [Section 327 for hydro fracturing, MTBE liability not yet final] Reverses a long-standing commitment to the “polluter pays principle” by authorizing up to \$2 billion of taxpayer funding for the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) program [language circulated by Rep. Gillmor (R-OH), 10/16/03]
2. Weakens environmental safeguards and paves the way for oil and gas drilling on sensitive public lands in the Rocky Mountain West and Alaska, which will lead to water pollution, and harm ranchers, hunters, fishermen, wildlife, and others. At least sixteen national hunting and fishing organizations oppose these provisions. [Title 3, 10/10/03 letter]
3. Pollutes rivers and coastal waters by exempting oil and gas drilling from clean-up safeguards on stormwater pollution. [Section 328]
4. Gives away \$500 million in subsidies to timber companies to log our national forests for energy production. [Section 206]
5. Increases air pollution and global warming with new incentives to burn coal for electricity without adequate pollution controls. [Coal Title, Title IV]
6. It includes \$8.8 billion in subsidies for big oil, nuclear and coal companies, and the tax title is not yet completed. The final total will likely approach \$20 billion for these polluting industries. [PIRG analysis]
7. Locks in American dependence on foreign oil by adding new roadblocks to better fuel economy. [Sections 701 (dual-fuel loophole), 772 (add'l criteria for CAFÉ)]
8. Promotes nuclear proliferation by reversing long-standing U.S. nuclear policy against reprocessing waste from commercial nuclear reactors, and using plutonium to generate commercial energy. [Section 926]
9. Tramples on states’ abilities to protect their coasts from harmful oil and gas exploration by weakening their voice about federal projects that affect their coasts. [Section _26]
10. Lowers environmental standards and undermines the ability of states, tribes and the public to meaningfully participate in the hydroelectric dam licensing process. [Section 231]

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