

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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April 2, 2008

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Bodman:

The Subcommittee is interested in learning how the Department came to so abruptly change direction on how to proceed with the FutureGen project. In fact, it looks as if the project has been fundamentally abandoned in favor of a new, unauthorized approach for which no money has been appropriated.

The program was announced as a major initiative of the Administration and your Department has supported the program for the past five years. As recently as November 30, 2007, you assured interested parties that the Department was moving forward expeditiously with this project and on track to make a final decision about the site for the facility by the end of the year. So it was with some confusion that we learned at the end of January of your decision to terminate the Department's participation in this project.

Because of the Committee's jurisdiction over all non-military research and development and our specific concerns about the implications of the decision to abandon the FutureGen program on the achievement of our goal to develop and deploy carbon capture and sequestration technologies, we desire to review this decision.

Under the authority assigned the Committee in House Rules X and XI, I ask that you produce to the Subcommittee complete records (see attachment) of all materials relating to FutureGen that were prepared for you or involved your review or participation. These include e-mails, briefing memoranda, decision memoranda, notes for letters, phone calls or other communications of whatever form, draft correspondence, final correspondence, and all other materials, of whatever description, relating to FutureGen and involving your office from November 1, 2007 until the present.

Please provide these materials no later than COB on Friday, April 11, 2008. You may contact Dr. Jean Fruci (202-225-6375), staff director, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, or Dr. Dan Pearson (202-225-6375), Committee staff, to arrange for the delivery of these materials or if you have any questions. Please provide two copies of these materials (one for the Majority and one for the Minority). The materials for the Majority should be delivered to Rayburn 2319. The materials for the Minority should be delivered to Ford 394.

Sincerely,



NICK LAMPSON
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Environment

Attachment

Cc: The Honorable Bob Inglis
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Environment

ATTACHMENT

1. The term "records" is to be construed in the broadest sense and shall mean any written or graphic material, however produced or reproduced, of any kind or description, consisting of the original and any non-identical copy (whether different from the original because of notes made on or attached to such copy or otherwise) and drafts and both sides thereof, whether printed or recorded electronically or magnetically or stored in any type of data bank, including, but not limited to, the following: correspondence, memoranda, records, summaries of personal conversations or interviews, minutes or records of meetings or conferences, opinions or reports of consultants, projections, statistical statements, drafts, contracts, agreements, purchase orders, invoices, confirmations, telegraphs, telexes, agendas, books, notes, pamphlets, periodicals, reports, studies, evaluations, opinions, logs, diaries, desk calendars, appointment books, tape recordings, video recordings, e-mails, voice mails, computer tapes, or other computer stored matter, magnetic tapes, microfilm, microfiche, punch cards, all other records kept by electronic, photographic, or mechanical means, charts, photographs, notebooks, drawings, plans, inter-office communications, intra-office and intra-departmental communications, transcripts, checks and canceled checks, bank statements, ledgers, books, records or statements of accounts, and papers and things similar to any of the foregoing, however denominated.
2. The terms "relating," "relate," or "regarding" as to any given subject means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, identifies, deals with, or is in any manner whatsoever pertinent to that subject, including but not limited to records concerning the preparation of other records.