



Federal Energy Policy: Legislation and Regulation Outlook

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Partisan Gridlock, High Gasoline Prices and 2012 Election Cycle will drive debate on Energy Policy

Administration

- Aggressive regulatory push
- Funding and oversight battles with House

Congress

- Funding debates
- Senate may debate clean energy legislation
- House will pass lots of legislation and conduct aggressive Administration oversight



Administration

Aggressive Regulatory Push

- OCS Regulations and Permitting Rules
- Keystone XL Presidential Permit
- Clean Air Act Climate Regulations
- NEPA Climate Regulations
- ESA Climate Regulations
- EPA Hydraulic Fracturing Study



Administration

Funding and Oversight Battles

- House Republicans are very focused on “reigning in” Administrative regulatory initiatives
- National debate on fiscal responsibility and government funding will provide context to several energy/environment fights
- 2012 Presidential Election is already influencing political fights in DC



Congress

Substantive Legislation

- Senator Bingaman will try to move “comprehensive” legislation in Senate
- House Republicans will move OCS legislation

Funding and Oversight Battles

- House Republicans are very focused on “reigning in” Administrative regulatory initiatives
- National debate on fiscal responsibility and government funding will provide context to several energy/environment fights



Gasoline Prices are going to drive energy debate

2008 Price Spike was a Game Changer

- Congress dropped OCS Moratorium rider
- President Bush dropped Presidential Withdrawal
- Big role in Presidential Campaign

2011 Price Spike will have major impact on public debate

- OCS Regulations and Permits
- Keystone XL Permit



Election Cycle is going to drive energy debate

Republican Goals

- Blame President for 100% increase in gasoline prices
- Blame President for unemployment and weak economy
 - Cap-and-Trade and Climate Regulations
 - Gulf of Mexico Shutdown

Democratic Goals

- Green Jobs
- Blame “Big Oil”



Implications for Ports to Plains Alliance

Partisan Gridlock

- Administration Oversight
- No Major Energy Policy Legislation

Administration

- War with House
- Major Push on Regulatory Initiatives
- 2012 Election will drive all decisions

Policy Fights in Unexpected Places

- GHG Regulations – NEPA, ESA & CWA
- Policy Provisions of Highway Bill and other vehicles



Implications for Ports to Plains Alliance

Congressional Debate on Energy Policy

- Engage directly with members of Congressional Delegation
- Write Letters/Op-Eds/Letters to Editor

Administrative Regulatory Proceedings

- File Comments
- Write Letters to Political Leadership
- Leverage Congress
- Op-Eds/Letters to Editor



For More Information

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