



THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

MEMORANDUM

September 16, 2013

TO: Members, Subcommittee on Energy and Power

FROM: Majority Committee Staff

RE: Hearing on “The Obama Administration’s Climate Change Policies and Activities”

On Wednesday, September 18, 2013, at 10:15 a.m. in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Energy and Power will hold a hearing on “The Obama Administration’s Climate Change Policies and Activities.” The purpose of this hearing is to conduct oversight of Federal agencies’ current and planned climate change activities, including the actions identified in the President’s Climate Action Plan released on June 25, 2013.

I. WITNESSES

Hon. Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Hon. Ernest Moniz
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy

The following Federal agencies were invited to attend, but declined to provide a witness:

Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Department of Defense (DOD)
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Department of the Interior (DOI)
Department of State (DOS)
Department of Transportation (DOT)
Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank)
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)
U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

II. BACKGROUND

For decades, the U.S. government has been spending billions of dollars annually on activities relating to climate change. In 2011, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a [report](#) tracking funding going back to 1993 and estimating that it increased from \$2.3 billion in 1993 to over \$8.7 billion in 2010. The Congressional Research Service (CRS) [estimated](#) in 2012 that climate change funding for climate science, technology, international assistance and adaptation was approximately \$70 billion for the period 2008 through 2012. The State Department

[reports](#) that over the period 2010-2012, the U.S. government provided \$7.5 billion in foreign assistance to address climate change. In August 2013, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a [report](#) estimating that climate change expenditures in 2012 were approximately \$20 billion, and projecting 2013 expenditures would exceed \$22 billion.

Climate change activities across the U.S. government involve an expansive and growing set of domestic and international activities, ranging from research and technology development programs, to regulatory initiatives, to international partnerships and agreements, to adaptation activities.¹ A chart included in the 2011 GAO [report](#) reflecting Federal agencies coordination of climate change related activities is attached as Appendix 1.

On October 5, 2009, the President issued [Executive Order 13514](#), which [requires](#) Federal agencies to submit greenhouse gas reduction targets, increase energy efficiency, reduce fleet petroleum consumption, conserve water, reduce waste, support sustainable communities, and leverage Federal purchasing power to promote environmentally-responsible products and technologies. Pursuant to this executive order, 41 Federal agencies have prepared annual sustainability plans that are reviewed and scored by OMB.² In 2010, the President's Council on Environmental Quality [released](#) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [draft guidance](#) "on when and how Federal agencies must consider greenhouse gas emissions and climate change in their proposed actions."

Since January 2009, the Administration has advanced a wide range of climate change related regulations, including more than 80 new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules, including its "Endangerment Finding," standards for passenger cars and trucks, standards for medium and heavy duty trucks, preconstruction and operating permitting requirements, proposed standards for new power plants, and rules relating to greenhouse gas monitoring and reporting, as well as EPA plans or commitments to issue new standards for existing power plants, new and existing refineries, and additional standards for trucks and aircraft. Through the Department of Energy, the Administration has developed new energy conservation standards for numerous household and commercial goods and products, ranging from microwave ovens, to furnaces, air conditioners, freezers, refrigerators, kitchen ranges, dishwashers, clothes washers, beverage vending machines, water heaters, and pool heaters and other consumer, commercial and industrial equipment. Since 2009, the Administration also has developed "Social Cost of Carbon" (SCC) estimates for use by Federal agencies "to estimate the climate benefits of rulemakings."³

¹ See, e.g., [U.S. Global Change Research Program](#) (13 agency interagency program) and [Related Federal Climate Efforts](#); [Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force](#) (over 20 agency task force); [Federal and EPA Adaptation Programs](#). For information regarding specific agency climate related activities, see, e.g. EPA: [Climate Change](#); DOE: [Office of Climate Change Policy and Technology](#), [Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy](#), [Appliance and Equipment Standards Program](#); USDA: [Climate Change Across USDA](#); DOD: [DOD Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan FY 2012](#); HHS: [HHS Sustainability and Climate Change](#); DOI: [Climate Change](#); DOS: [Global Climate Change](#); DOT: [The Transportation and Climate Change Clearinghouse](#); Ex-Im Bank: [General Bank Policies on Carbon](#); [General Bank Policies on Energy Efficiency and End-Use Energy Efficiency Exports](#); [Supplemental Guidelines for High Carbon Intensity Projects](#); NASA: [Global Climate Change](#); NOAA: [Climate](#); OSTP: [Environment and Energy](#); USAID: [Environment and Global Climate Change](#).

² See [Sustainability](#) (linking to federal agency sustainability plans and OMB scorecards).

³ See, e.g. EPA [Fact Sheet](#) (July 2013). The Administration convened an interagency group in 2009 that developed a set of SCC estimates for use in regulatory analyses and issued a "[Technical Support Document](#)" in Feb. 2010 and a "[Technical Update](#)" in May 2013.

On June 25, 2013, in a [speech](#) at Georgetown University, President Obama announced a “[Climate Action Plan](#)” to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases and address adaption and other measures. The plan describes a variety of new or previously announced actions and spending involving agencies across the Federal government. CRS has prepared a [report](#) describing these current and planned activities that range from new standards for power plants and trucks, to a 30% increase of funding across Federal agencies for research, development and deployment of “clean energy” technologies, to restrictions on financing of fossil-fuel projects abroad.

On June 25, 2013, the President also issued a [Presidential Memorandum](#) directing EPA to re-propose standards for new power plants by September 20, 2013, and finalize that rule in “a timely fashion,” and to propose standards for existing plants by June 1, 2014, finalize those standards by June 1, 2015, and require States to submit implementation plans not later than June 30, 2016.

On August 6 and September 4, 2013, the Subcommittee sent [letters](#) to the 13 agencies referenced above, and requested that they testify and provide information regarding their agency’s current and planned climate change activities.

III. ISSUES

The following issues may be examined at the hearing:

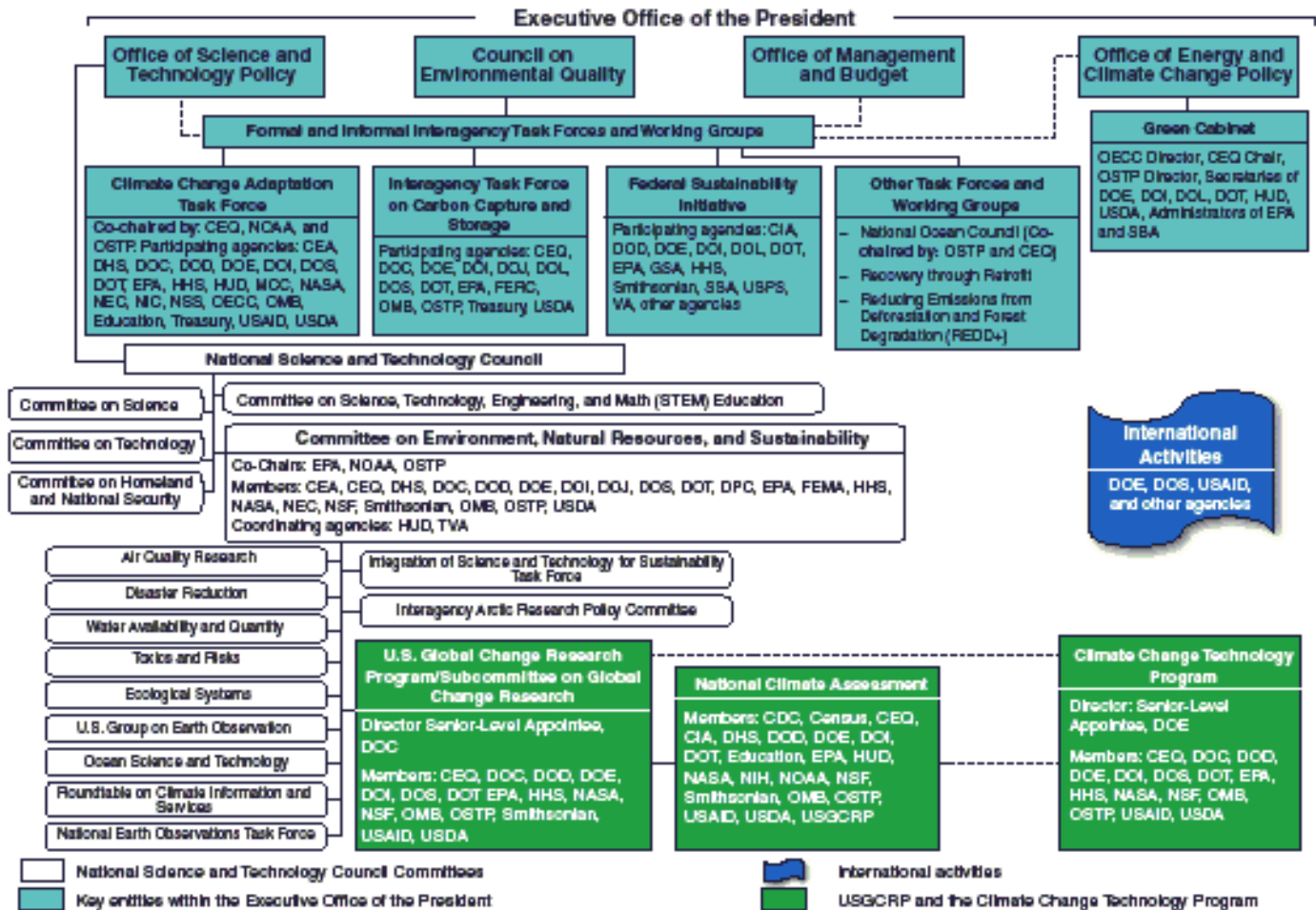
- Activities described in the President’s Climate Action Plan;
- Climate change related research and technology programs and activities;
- Climate change adaptation, mitigation, or sustainability related activities;
- Climate change related task forces, advisory committees, working groups or initiatives;
- Climate change or clean energy related funding, grants or financial assistance programs;
- Climate change related regulations or guidance documents, including regulations or standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Climate change related international agreements, partnerships, working groups or initiatives;
- Annual agency funds attributed to climate change activities;
- Actions undertaken by federal agencies in response to Executive Order 13514; and
- Agency employees and contractors engaged in climate change related activities.

IV. STAFF CONTACTS

For questions regarding the hearing, please contact Mary Neumayr, Peter Spencer, or Tom Hassenboehler at (202) 225-2927.

APPENDIX 1

Figure 4: Selected Coordination Mechanisms for Federal Climate Change Activities



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National Science and Technology Council Committees ■ Key entities within the Executive Office of the President | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ International activities ■ USGCRP and the Climate Change Technology Program |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CEA – Council of Economic Advisors Census – Census Bureau CEQ – Council on Environmental Quality CIA – Central Intelligence Agency DHS – Department of Homeland Security DOC – Department of Commerce DOD – Department of Defense DOE – Department of Energy DOI – Department of the Interior DOJ – Department of Justice DOL – Department of Labor DOS – Department of State DOT – Department of Transportation DPC – Domestic Policy Council Education – Department of Education EPA – Environmental Protection Agency FBMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency FERC – Federal Energy Regulatory Commission GSA – General Services Administration HHS – Department of Health and Human Services HUD – Department of Housing and Urban Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IARP – Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee MCC – Millennium Challenge Corporation NASA – National Aeronautics and Space Administration NEC – National Economic Council NIC – National Intelligence Council NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NSF – National Science Foundation NSS – National Security Staff OECC – Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy OMB – Office of Management and Budget OSTP – Office of Science and Technology Policy SBA – Small Business Administration SSA – Social Security Administration Smithsonian – Smithsonian Institution Treasury – Department of the Treasury TVA – Tennessee Valley Authority USAID – United States Agency for International Development USDA – United States Department of Agriculture USGCRP – United States Global Change Research Program USPS – United States Postal Service VA – Veterans Administration |
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Source: GAO analysis of Climate Change Science Program Strategic Plan, Climate Change Technology Program Strategic Plan, NSTC organizational chart and CEQ Initiatives.