INSIGHTS

107th Congress

November 19, 2001

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INSIGHTS is prepared expressly for the Department of Energy's Office of Federal Energy Management Programs (FEMP). The purpose of ***INSIGHTS*** is to provide FEMP management staff with timely information on legislative activities relevant to the program. ***INSIGHTS*** is prepared for FEMP by Energetics, Incorporated, (202) 479-2748.

I. WEEKLY SUMMARY

HOUSE

The House is on recess during the week of November 19.

SENATE

The Senate is on recess during the week of November 19.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

No meetings have been scheduled.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Fifth Continuing Resolution On November 17, President Bush signed *H.R. Res. 74*, which extends the operation of the Federal Government until December 7th for programs that do not have FY 2002 appropriations *(see chart below)*. FY 2002 appropriations bills of interest that are still pending in Congress include:

- Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies (pending the President's signature as of November 16)
- Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary (pending the President's signature as of November 16)
- Defense (in committee in the House; no action taken in the Senate)
- Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (pending House and Senate conference negotiations)
- Transportation and Related Agencies (pending House and Senate conference negotiations)
- Veterans' Administration, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies (pending the President's signature as of November 15)

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II. COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

HOUSE

Comments or Action Items

No new information to report.

SENATE

Comments or Action Items

Energy Legislation Last week, Senate Republicans filed the House energy bill, *H.R. 4 - Securing America's Energy Future Act of 2001*, as an amendment to the economic stimulus bill working its way through the Senate. However, legislation is now stalled in Congress because the House and Senate could not reach the point in which to begin negotiations. Senators Frank Murkowski (R/AK) and Larry Craig (R/ID), supporters of *H.R. 4*, have championed the House bill in the Senate. However, Minority Leader Trent Lott (R/R/MS) is reportedly reluctant to include energy issues in an economic stimulus package and Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D/SD) may want to attach economic stimulus legislation to FY 2002 appropriations language. The two chambers are expected to resume efforts to address differences over these issues after the Thanksgiving recess.

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STATUS OF FY 2002 APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

(In Billions)

	HOUSE					SENATE				
Jurisdiction/ FY 2002 Budget Request	*302(b) Allocations*	*Bill No.*	*Full Cmte.*	*Floor*	*Conf. Report Passed*	*302(b) Allocations*	*Bill No.*	*Full Cmte.*	*Floor*	*Conf. Report Passed*
Agriculture $ 15.409	$ 15.519	*H.R. 2330*	June 13	July 13	Nov. 13	$ 16.092	*S. 1191*	July 17	Oct. 25	Nov. 15
Commerce $ 37.944	$ 38.541	*H.R. 2500*	July 13	July 19	Nov. 14	$38.760	*S. 1215*	July 19	Sept. 13	Nov. 14
Defense $300.962	$300.292	__	Oct. 24			$298.568				
Energy and Water Development $ 22.517 *P.L. 107-66*	$ 23.704	*H.R. 2311*	June 25	June 28	Nov. 1	$ 25.129	. *1171*	July 12	July 19	Nov. 1
Interior $ 18,092 *P.L. 107-63*	$ 18.941	*H.R. 2217*	June 13	June 21	Oct. 17	$ 18.527	*H.R. 2217*	June 28	July 12	Oct. 17
Labor / HHS $115.682	$119.758	*H.R. 3061*	Oct. 9	Oct. 11		$119.000	*S. 1536*	Oct. 11	Nov. 6	
Military Construction $ 9.650 *P.L. 107-64*	$ 10.155	*H.R. 2904*	Sept. 20	Sept. 21	Oct. 17	$ 9.649	*S. 1460*	Sept. 25	Sept. 26	Oct. 18
Transportation $ 14.891	$ 14.893	*H.R. 2299*	June 20	June 26		$ 15,579	*S. 1178*	July 12	August 1	
Treasury $ 16.488 *P.L. 107-67*	$ 16.880	*H.R. 2590*	July 17	July 30	Oct. 31	$ 16.972	*S. 1398*	July 26	Aug 2	Nov. 1
VA/HUD $ 83.683	$ 84.159	*H.R. 2620*	July 17	July 31	Nov. 8	$ 84.053	*S. 1216*	July 19	August 2	Nov. 8

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III. NEW LEGISLATION

HOUSE

Number	Short title	Date	Sponsor	Status
H.R. 3274	***Comprehensive Energy Conservation Act for the 21st Century***	November 9	Bernard Sanders (I/VT) *Committee on Government Reform*	Referred to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Education and the Workforce

Key Provisions: Provides assistance to individuals most affected by high energy prices, enhances national security, and promotes and accelerates energy conservation investments in the United States

Energy Conservation
Provides funding to EPA and DOE for the ENERGY STAR® program. Increases average fuel economy standards. Establishes a National Tire Fuel Efficiency Program. Amends Title VI of the *Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978:* Includes a Federal renewable portfolio standard in which a percentage of the total electric energy sold by electric suppliers to electric consumers must be generated from solar energy, wind, geothermal, or biomass; the annual percentage increases incrementally to 20 percent by 2020. Also increases funding for LIHEAP by amending the *Low-Income Home Energy Act of 1981;* increases funding for weatherization and state grants.

Tax Provisions
Amends the *Internal Revenue Code of 1986*: Provides tax credits for individuals and small employers for the purchase of any ENERGY STAR® product; includes credits for purchasing fuel-efficient American-made passenger vehicles; includes a windfall profit tax in which an excise tax (to be paid by the seller) is imposed on the sale in the U.S of any electricity, fuel oil, natural gas, coal or other taxable product equal to the windfall profit (i.e., a sale which exceeds a reasonable profit) on such sale; establishes a Windfall Profits Fund in the U.S. Treasury from which funds shall be taken to carry out any provision of the *Comprehensive Energy Conservation Act of the 21st Century*; establishes a Reasonable Profits Board, to be considered an advisory committee, to "make reasonable profit determinations for the purpose of applying section 5886 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to the windfall profit on electricity and fuel oil, natural gas, coal and other products.)"

SENATE

There is no new legislation of interest to FEMP.

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IV. ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES

Strategic Petroleum Reserve Last week, the President directed Secretary Abrahams to increase the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to its 700-million barrel capacity. In doing so, an additional 108 million more barrels will be deposited in SPR. The Energy Secretary released the following statement on November 13:

> *Today marks a major step forward in our efforts to strengthen America's energy security. Americans count on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve as a readily available supply of emergency crude oil and the President's action today should increase consumer confidence that we are prepared to protect this nation from economic harm in the event of significant energy disruptions.*

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V. HEARINGS SCHEDULE

HOUSE – APPROPRIATIONS

No new hearings, mark ups or votes have been scheduled.

HOUSE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

No new hearings, mark ups or votes have been scheduled.

SENATE – APPROPRIATIONS

No new hearings, mark ups or votes have been scheduled.

SENATE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

No new hearings, mark ups or votes have been scheduled.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS/FLOOR VOTES

No meetings or votes have been scheduled.

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