

From: Howard, Ted
Sent: 10/25/2011 4:00:32 PM
To:
Cc:
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Subject: Nuclear Power Policy Conference on November 3rd at the CPUC

Please see the following updated announcement.

We are also webcasting the event at: <http://www.californiaadmin.com/cpuc.shtml>

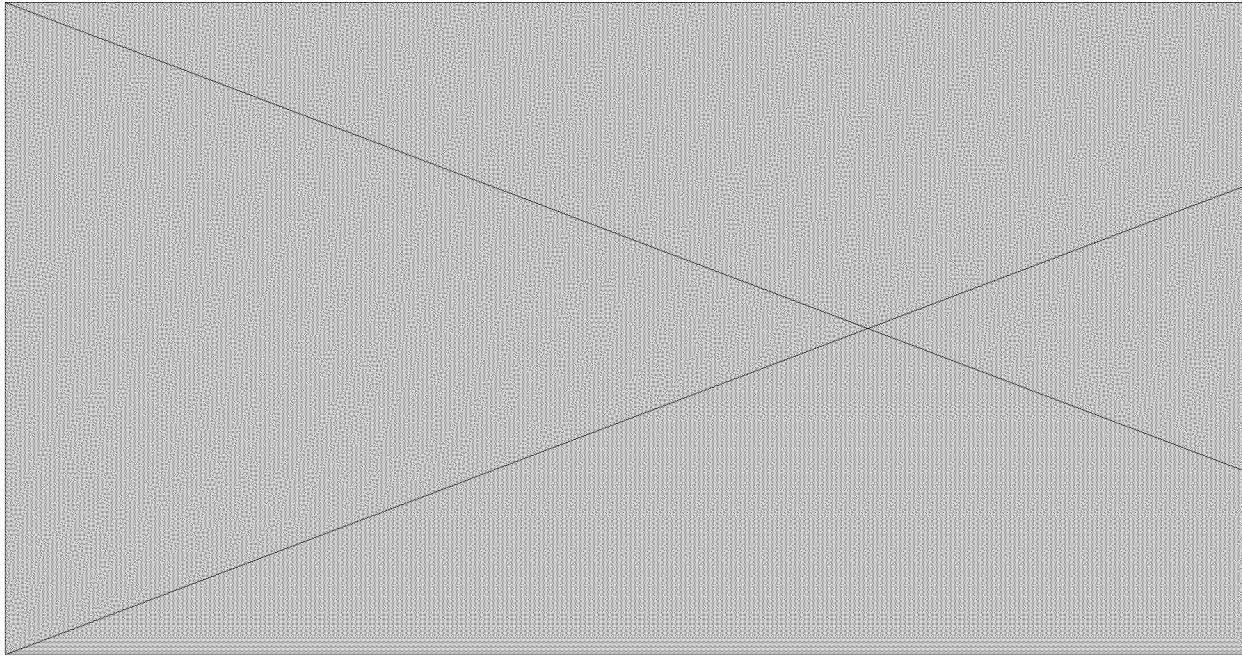
Please reply if you intend to join us in person.

Regards,

Ted Howard

California Public Utilities Commission

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NUCLEAR POWER POLICY CONFERENCE

November 3, 2011

1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Auditorium, California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

The Energy Institute at Haas (EI @ Haas) will hold a policy conference on two current electricity issues. The Policy Conference offers an opportunity for interactive discussions among policy and industry experts on current crucial energy policy topics.

AGENDA

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, *Deregulation's Impact on the Efficiency and Safety of Nuclear Power*

The U.S. nuclear power industry has experienced an unprecedented period of deregulation and consolidation in the last decade. Nearly half of the country's nuclear power reactors have been sold to independent power producers and today the three largest companies control more than one-third of all U.S. nuclear capacity. Over this same period, nuclear operating efficiency has increased substantially, with strong evidence of disproportionate gains among reactors that were sold. This session focuses on research that explores the impact of deregulation and consolidation on the increased efficiency of nuclear power plants. Can we pinpoint specific changes that led to the increased efficiency? Was safety

sacrificed for more output and higher profits? Are deregulated plants operated more or less safely? Did deregulation benefit ratepayers and the public?

Presenters: Catherine Wolfram and Catherine Hausman (UC Berkeley, Energy Institute at Haas)

Discussants:

Jeff Byron (Former CEC Commissioner)

Geoffrey Rothwell (Dept. of Economics and Public Policy Program, Stanford University)

3:15 pm – 4:30 pm, *Prospects of U.S. Nuclear Power After Fukushima*

In the United States no new nuclear power plant has come online since the mid 1990s, and despite a brief period of enthusiasm in 2007 and 2008, construction on a handful of new plants is proceeding very slowly. Nuclear power has long been controversial because of concerns about nuclear accidents, proliferation risk, and the storage of spent fuel. These concerns are real and important. In the end, however, the key challenge for U.S. nuclear power is the high cost of construction for nuclear reactors. Following Fukushima, industry observers have called for expanded regulatory oversight, which will likely cause these costs to increase further. This session reviews the historical record of reactor orders and construction costs in the United States, highlighting some of the insights from the cancellations and cost overruns that have characterized the industry.

Presenter: Lucas Davis (UC Berkeley, Energy Institute at Haas)