



Electricity Volume 222 February 22, 2011

Climate and clean energy funds could be casualties in broader budget war ahead

Tea party fervor drove the House spending bill through a week of debate that finished with its pre-dawn passage on Saturday. But now that the bill moves to the Democratic-led Senate, it looms as a warm-up to more intense partisan bargaining to come. "I don't think that Senate will pass these cuts. We will have to negotiate," Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), who chairs the House Budget Committee, said Sunday on CBS's "Face the Nation." Nevertheless, Ryan said, Democrats and the White House want to maintain spending at current levels, and Republicans want to send a message that they won't approve. The Republican bill cuts about \$60 billion from domestic discretionary spending; President Obama has said he wants to maintain spending levels, making no cuts, for the rest of this fiscal year. The question both chambers of Congress and the White House must focus on now is: Where is halfway? It will be a difficult puzzle for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) to sort out. He's spent much of his political career pushing Nevada's Yucca Mountain to the verge of being shut down as a repository for spent nuclear fuel. Amid its grab bag of subtractions, the House bill removes the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's money to do that. On the other side, the Republicans are deeply dug in against the Obama budget. Ryan said, "We don't want to accept this -- these extremely high elevated levels -- and so we're going to have to start negotiating on these things, not just with the Senate, but also with the president, as well."

The \$60 billion cut will be the prime negotiating point in the Senate, but the Republicans' bill contains other provisions likely to stiffen Democratic spines. These proposals, springing from the conservative base, include:

Temporarily suspending U.S. EPA's ability to regulate greenhouse gases.

Preventing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration from moving forward with its planned Climate Service.

Withholding U.S. funding from the international body that does climate research.

Preventing EPA from implementing a rule to let cars use ethanol blends up to E15 -- a fuel that's 15 percent ethanol.

Forbidding the president from hiring "czars" to work on climate policy or negotiate at global climate talks.

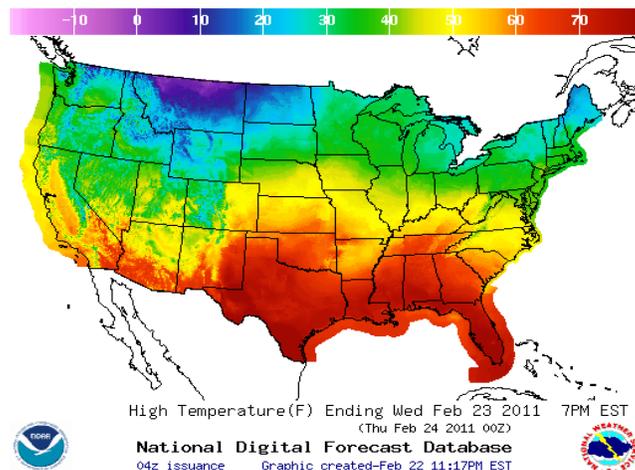
Electricity Pricing Areas – On Peak - Month – Mar 2011

	Feb 22, 2011	Per kWh
Cinergy	Hub Peak Swap Monthly	\$.03535
PJM Hub	Electricity Monthly	\$.04433
PJM	No. Illinois Peak LMP	\$.03470
PJM	Western Peak LMP	\$.04443

ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Mar 1 –Mar 31, 2010	\$.03247
Apr 1 – Apr 30	\$.02911
May 1- May 31	\$.03389
Jun 1- Jun 30	\$.04184
Jul 1 - Jul 31	\$.04741
Aug 1 –Aug 31	\$.04628
Sep 1 - Sep 30	\$.02934
Oct 1 - Oct 31	\$.02702
Nov 1 - Nov 30	\$.02778
Dec 1 – Dec 31	\$.03545
Jan 1 –Jan 31, 2011	\$.03871
Feb 1 – Feb 21	\$.03993

**Weather Wed:** Mostly cloudy. High near 40F. Winds SSE at 10 to 15 mph. **Thu:** Cloudy skies. High near 40F. Winds N at 10 to 20 mph. **Fri:** Cloudy. Highs in the low 40s and lows in the low 30s. **Sat:** Windy, snow showers possible. Highs in the mid 30s and lows in the upper 20s.



Extended Temperature Forecast: Chicago Area

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
36 - 40	31 - 40	27- 35	23 - 31	32 - 33