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### *Emissions pledge seen within reach*

Greenhouse-gas emissions have dropped dramatically in the United States since 2005, and the nation now appears on track to achieve the 17 percent reduction sought by President Obama by 2020, thanks to a trend toward increased fuel efficiency for vehicles and a switch by power companies from coal to cleaner-burning natural gas made possible by the shale gas revolution. The conservation trend, which began before Mr. Obama took office in response to \$4 a gallon gasoline prices, accelerated as a result of the stringent environmental regulations the administration imposed on power plants, cars and trucks in Mr. Obama's first term, and is likely to gain further momentum as Mr. Obama ratchets up environmental mandates in his second term, climate activists say.

While the U.S. was once vilified by other nations as the world's biggest source of greenhouse-gas emissions, those days are over, with U.S. emissions falling by 10 percent in the past seven years. At a United Nations conference on climate change in Doha, Qatar, late last year, the United States was the star performer, having achieved a bigger emissions drop than most European and developing-world countries at the event, participants said.

China came more sharply into focus as the biggest and fastest-growing source of emissions as it relies increasingly on coal -- the biggest source of CO2 emissions -- to generate electricity.

The U.S. was in a much stronger position going into the Doha talks, despite the failure of Congress to pass comprehensive climate legislation" during Mr. Obama's first term, because market and regulatory pressures were already reducing emissions, said Trevor Houser, a former U.S. climate negotiator who attended the Doha talks. "For countries like China that were able to hide behind a perception of U.S. inaction, the fact that U.S. emissions are falling helps increase pressure. It takes away the excuse that action is stalled because of the U.S.

A study by Resources for the Future, an environmental think tank, in October also found that by sticking with the current regulatory course, the administration could achieve its commitments, and actually might accomplish more than a bill to cap greenhouse emissions that failed in the Senate in 2010.

### Electricity Pricing – Feb 12, 2012

|      | On-Peak   | Off-Peak  |
|------|-----------|-----------|
| 2013 | \$0.03749 | \$0.02507 |
| 2014 | \$0.04032 | \$0.02724 |
| 2015 | \$0.04262 | \$0.02890 |

### LMP Electric Price

| Time Period        | Average per Kwh |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Feb, 2012          | \$0.02963       |
| Mar, 2012          | \$0.02894       |
| April, 2012        | \$0.02659       |
| May, 2012          | \$0.02816       |
| June, 2012         | \$0.03089       |
| July, 2012         | \$0.04303       |
| Aug, 2012          | \$0.03112       |
| Sep, 2012          | \$0.03034       |
| Oct, 2012          | \$0.02829       |
| Nov, 2012          | \$0.03327       |
| Dec, 2012          | \$0.03081       |
| Jan, 2013          | \$0.03111       |
| Feb 1–Feb 11, 2013 | \$0.03279       |

### Extended Temperature Forecast:

#### Chicago Area

|      | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| High | 36  | 43  | 41  | 29  | 23  |
| Low  | 30  | 33  | 26  | 17  | 17  |

