

### Volume 354 September 17, 2013

#### Climate Program Focuses on Expanding and Sharing Clean Tech

Climate change initiative has been overshadowed by other national stories. But the administration's new environmental tactics are a reality with which the power industry must come to grips. Methods to achieving carbon reductions are not written in stone. But they are intended to serve as a guidepost for future U.S. presidencies. Basically, it is about getting all sides to agree to publicly fund promising technologies that are cleaner than today's choices, at least until they would become economically viable. Obviously, it will be the coal sector that will get hardest hit by the intended regulatory changes. But the administration's recently appointed energy secretary is saying that the goal here is not to eliminate coal; rather, it is to push its leaders to invest in best-available technologies, which in turn will create new opportunities within that sector and which might be publicly assisted. That, of course, is the rosy view, which will take time to nourish. While advanced coal generation such as coal gasification is possible, the tools remain costly when compared to current alternatives such as natural gas, especially if carbon capture and sequestration is applied. But if the demand for natural gas rapidly jumps, its price will rise. Therefore, it is vital to diversify the country's energy mix.

Still, the need for natural gas to fuel power plants is taking market share from coal. In the United States, coal's position has fallen from half of the electricity generation market to 37 percent over five years. Natural gas, by contrast, has risen from 20 percent to about 30 percent in that time. Here in this country, that transition has caused carbon levels to fall by 4 percent since 2008.

"To reduce carbon pollution, I've directed the Environmental Protection Agency to work with states and businesses to set new standards that put an end to the limitless dumping of carbon pollution from our power plants," the president said. "We'll use more clean energy and waste less energy throughout our economy." Generally, the administration wants to reduce carbon emissions 17 percent by 2020, all based on a 2005 threshold. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz has said that the country is half way and that he expects it to get fully there. Much of that will be the result of the coal-to-gas transition, he admits. But at the same time, the White House is also financing advanced coal and renewable energy.

#### Electricity Pricing – Sept 17, 2013 Com Ed Average LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Sep, 2012	\$.03034
Oct, 2012	\$.02829
Nov, 2012	\$.03327
Dec, 2012	\$.03081
Jan, 2013	\$.03111
Feb, 2013	\$.03219
Mar, 2013	\$.03665
Apr, 2013	\$.03821
May, 2013	\$.03501
Jun, 2013	\$.03215
Jul, 2013	\$.04067
Aug, 2013	\$.03112
Sep 1 – Sep 16	\$.03447

#### Extended Temperature Forecast: Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	70	83	88	74	71
Low	60	69	70	55	52

