The Current and Future of Clean Coal and Carbon Technologies

Presented By:

Commissioner Jeremy Oden
Alabama Public Service Commission
From Legislator to Regulator

• Began political career by serving 16 years in the Alabama House of Representatives

• Represented rural, northern Alabama district

• Appointed to PSC in 2012 by Governor Robert Bentley

• Won statewide reelection for a four-year term in 2014
What Is The PSC?

• A body charged by the Legislature to ensure a regulatory balance between companies and consumers in order to provide consumers with safe, adequate and reliable services at rates that are equitable and economical

• Areas of responsibility include regulating: Alabama Power, Alabama Gas, Mobile Gas, some telephone and privately-owned water companies

• Regulated transportation aspects include: railroad track safety, buses, trucking, moving vans, taxis and others
National Involvement

- Southern States Energy Board (SSEB)
  - Honored to have previously addressed SSEB’s Committee on Clean Coal Energy Policies and Technologies

- Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition (NWSC)
  - Advocates for long term spent fuel storage as mandated by Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982
  - SSEB member states have paid over $9.2B into Federal fund but government has not taken any action
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC)

- Represents State public service commissions who regulate essential services such as energy, telecomm, power, water, and transportation.
- Serving on the Electricity Committee.
- Recently selected to head Clean Coal & Carbon Mgmt. Cmte.
- Chosen as 2nd VP of regional equivalent, SEARUC
The Clean Coal & Carbon Management Committee (CC&CM) explores ways to promote the use of lower-emission coal, as coal continues to be the nation's most plentiful fuel source.

This Committee helps educate NARUC members on the issues surrounding coal usage as well as new developments for carbon sequestration, storage, and commercialization.
President Trump has recently presented his budget to Congress. Similar to previous Heritage Foundation and Republican Study Committee caucus proposals, the budget seeks a $54B increase in defense spending while proposing deep cuts at various agencies, including EPA, DOE, NOAA, and many others. These agencies are currently looking at ways to decrease costs while fulfilling their legally required duties.
Future Funding Implications

- SECARB and the CC&CM Committee both rely on DOE’s funding to progress clean coal technologies and development of a viable carbon market.
- DOE’s Office of Fossil Energy has been imperative in advancing clean coal technologies as well as carbon capture, storage, and utilization.
- Through continued R&D, efficiencies increase, costs decline, and clean coal technologies become deployable.
Future Funding Implications

- For the 2016 fiscal year, DOE spent more than $600 million in the Office of Fossil Energy, around $1 billion on nuclear research, and $2 billion on efficiency and renewables.
- Nuclear Research funding would recede to 2008 levels as proposed.
America First Energy Plan

- President Trump has already taken action to stop some regulations and is expected to continue to review and eliminate regulations
- Lifting these regulations is predicted to increase wages by $30B over the next 7 years
- “The Trump Administration is also committed to clean coal technology, and to reviving America’s coal industry, which has been hurting for too long.” (www.whitehouse.gov/america-first-energy)