

Electricity Volume 224 March 8, 2011

Scientists and committee members faced off on the quality of the evidence for man-made climate change, in what may be the final hearing before the House Energy and Power Subcommittee's vote later this week to prevent U.S. EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions. The hearing took place at the insistence of Energy and Commerce Committee ranking member Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and subcommittee ranking member Bobby Rush (D-Ill.), and they invited more than half of the scientists who addressed the panel.

Waxman said the bill (H.R. 910) by committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-Mich.), which will receive a subcommittee vote Thursday, would seek to address climate change by declaring it does not exist. "The bill would legislate a scientific finding out of existence, and it would remove the administration's main tools to address one of the most critical problems facing the world today," he said. But subcommittee Chairman Ed Whitfield (R-Ky.) said the Upton bill is not a response to climate science, but a way to eliminate one of the worst strategies for curbing emissions -- allowing unelected bureaucrats to set standards for emitters. "Whether one thinks the science tells us that global warming is a serious problem, a minor problem, or hardly a problem at all, the real question before this committee is whether EPA's regulations under the Clean Air Act are a wise solution to that problem," he said. "Clearly, they are not."

The panel heard from several scientists who testified that if global emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions do not peak and begin to decline in the next years, atmospheric concentrations of heat-trapping emissions could reach a tipping point at which catastrophic changes to climate would become irreversible. Richard Somerville, a climate scientist and professor emeritus at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, told the panel in his statements and in written testimony that atmospheric CO2 is already at levels that will lead to a 2-degree-Celsius increase in global temperatures. He said "drastic" changes to emissions would be needed to hold global warming to the 2-degree target, the level scientists have said must not be exceeded if Earth is to avoid catastrophic climate effects. "It will be governments that will decide, by actions or inactions, what levels of climate change they regard as tolerable," Somerville said.

"The Earth is very large, the weather is very dynamic, and extreme events will happen several times per year," said John Christy, a climatologist and director of the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. "Natural, unforced climate variability explains these trends," he said - "not human emissions"

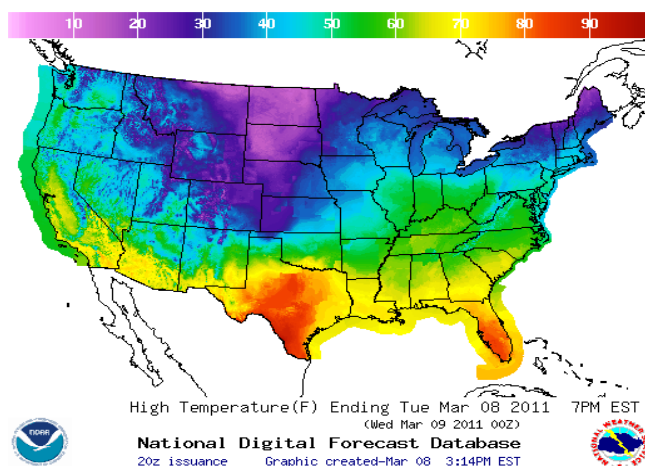
Electricity Pricing Areas – On Peak - Month – Apr 2011

	Mar 8, 2011	Per kWh
Cinergy	Hub Peak Swap Monthly	\$.03561
PJM Hub	Electricity Monthly	\$.05038
PJM	No. Illinois Peak LMP	\$.03491
PJM	Western Peak LMP	\$.04500

ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
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 28	\$.03581
March 1 thru Mar 7	\$.03668

**Weather - Tue:** Showers this evening. Low 42F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph. Rainfall near a quarter of an inch. **Wed:** Rain tapering to a few showers late. High around 45F. Winds S at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 90%. **Thu:** A few snow showers. Temps nearly steady in the mid to upper 30s. Winds NW at 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 50%. **Fr:** Snow early. Highs in the upper 30s and lows in the low 30s. **Sat:** Highs in the mid 40s and lows in the upper 30s.



Extended Temperature Forecast: Chicago Area

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
42 - 46	34 - 45	30- 39	38 - 45	29 - 41