

Climate Action News this week

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March 5th, 2008 Edition

National News

Federal Announcement Expected on Rules for Industry We are still very far from regulating large industry in Canada – Pembina

Amid reports of a coming announcement on details pertaining to federal regulations on greenhouse gas emissions from large industry, Climate Action Network Canada representatives met with media this week to explain several fatal weaknesses contained in the government's regulatory framework as proposed in its April 2007 "Turning the Corner" report.

News coverage:

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080304.wclimate04/BNStory/National/home

CAN-RAC analysis of federal climate change policies:

www.climateactionnetwork.ca/e/news/2008/media-briefing-2008-03-03.pdf

Pembina Institute Analysis

http://pubs.pembina.org/reports/Reg_framework_comments.pdf

and in Powerpoint:

<http://pubs.pembina.org/reports/RegulatoryFrameworkAnalysis.pdf>

Harper Government Working Washington Back-Channels for Tar Sands Exclusion

Canada's ambassador to the United States Michael Wilson has sent a letter to President George Bush asking for an interpretation of the U.S. 2007 Energy Bill that would clear

the way for federal procurement of fuel made from tar sands oil. The letter states that it is "difficult to identify fuel on the U.S. market that was 100 per cent extracted by conventional means" and therefore "the legislation could exclude all fuel commercially available on the U.S. market from being eligible for purchase by the U.S."

Read the article:

www.canada.com/reginaleaderpost/news/story.html?id=1888ebe6-da41-4ca5-962e-d69a36e57a8d

World News

Mechanisms like Taxes and Tradable Permits Needed Now - OECD 2030 Economic Outlook

Climate change is a "red light" issue for the world that must be addressed now to avoid "irreversibly altering the environmental basis for sustained economic prosperity." OECD modeling indicates that policies to stabilize emissions at 450 ppm CO₂eq will require all countries to reduce to 39% below 2000 levels by 2050. World GDP would decrease by 0.5% and 2.5% in 2030 and 2050 respectively.

For an OECD Report summary:

www.oecd.org/dataoecd/29/33/40200582.pdf

Video launch from Norway:

http://media01.smartcom.no/Microsite/dss_01.aspx?eventid=2818

Climate change poses 'security risk'

The European Union's Chief of Foreign Policy is advising that climate change be fought as a "serious security risk," warning that climate change impacts will exacerbate existing tensions in places like Israel, where "water supply...might fall by 60 per cent over this century."

Read the story:

www.ft.com/cms/s/0/436f8122-e8c4-11dc-913a-0000779fd2ac.html

On Water impacts in the Middle East:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iV6NFIPwTxMDj62N62GIDWvkE_iAD8V67H700

US Formally Rejects California Emissions Waiver

California is heading back to court after the Bush administration placed its stamp of approval on EPA chief Stephen Johnson's controversial decision to deny the state a waiver to allow it to set its own tailpipe emissions standards. "While I find that the conditions related to global climate change in California are substantial, they are not

sufficiently different from conditions in the nation as a whole to justify separate state standards," Johnson wrote.

The Province of Quebec has committed to meeting California's tailpipe standards if the state receives its waiver.

News coverage:

www.reuters.com/article/bondsNews/idUSN2922095420080229

www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-epa1mar01,1,4355584.story?ctrack=1&cset=true

Read the decision:

<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/url-fr/fr-waiver.pdf>

Reaction and Fallout:

www.nrdc.org/media/2008/080229.asp

<http://us.oneworld.net/article/view/158483/1/>

U.S. House Votes to repeal \$18 B in tax breaks for oil and gas companies

President George Bush has threatened to veto a 236-182 vote by the House of Representatives last week on a bill that would end \$18 billion in tax breaks to American oil and gas companies and use the money to invest in renewables.

Read the story:

www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/47227/story.htm

On the Hill

Government Filibusters Climate Change Accountability Act

Conservative MPs are trying to stop the clause-by-clause review of bill C377 "Canada's Climate Change Accountability Act" and prevent it from passing back to the House of Commons for further debate and ultimate passage into law. Opposition MPs managed to secure a vote that extends the March 7 deadline to finish the review by 30 days. (See "Take Action", below)

For the full text of the bill:

www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=3084559&Language=e&Mode=1

To check the meetings schedule and watch the proceedings live:

<http://parlvu.parl.gc.ca/parlvufr-ca/Guide.aspx?viewmode=0&categoryid=-1¤tdate=2008-03-4&languagecode=12298>

Across Canada

Saskatchewan's Brad Wall to Replace Stelmach on "Tar Sands are Clean" Washington Tour

Although Alberta has traditionally represented prairie oil in Washington, it will be Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall who goes to Washington next week to give four speeches to various high-level audiences. One topic will be the "mischaracterization" of the tar sands as dirty oil.

Read the story:

www.financialpost.com/trading_desk/energy/story.html?id=350897

Budget 2008 Funds "Surprise" Rail Service to Peterborough

Toronto transit officials were surprised and disappointed to learn that the federal budget ignored Ontario's 2007 MoveOntario plan in favour of money to restore a Via rail link from Peterborough to Toronto. The GO, which provides train service to the GTA, had no plans for Peterborough, a city of 80,000.

News Coverage:

www.thestar.com/News/FederalBudget/article/307725

www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080227.BUDGETRAIL27/TPStory/TPNational/Ontario/

Students Launch Cross-Canada Tour

Canada's university campuses will be blooming solutions this spring once the Canadian Federation of Students completes its tour of 30 campuses from Victoria to St. John's. The tour will demand a commitment by the federal government for meaningful action in the fight against climate change. For more information: Peter Schiefke, Environmental Campaigns Coordinator, (514) 913-0413

Get Involved

Green Cars – Do you really want cars that are truly fuel-efficient? Tell the federal government you do before March 15. Go to www.cleancarscanada.ca today!

Shame on the Government of Canada for trying to block passage of the Climate Change Accountability Act. It's time to contact a Conservative member of the House of

Commons Environment Committee to let him know what you think about obstructing legislation that would help guarantee Canada does its fair share in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions.

Bob Mills (Chair) 613) 995-0590, Mills.B@parl.gc.ca

Luc Harvey, (613) 995-4995, Harvey.L@parl.gc.ca

Maurice Vellacott, (613) 992-1899, Vellacott.M@parl.gc.ca

Jeff Watson, (613) 992-1812, Watson.J@parl.gc.ca

Mark Warawa, (613) 992-1157, Warawa.M@parl.gc.ca

Looking Ahead

This week/next Federal announcement on details of regulatory framework for large industry

Status Report of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development
www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/oag-bvg_e_29401.html

March 6 Release of NRCan Climate Change Impacts Report
http://adaptation.nrcan.gc.ca/assess_e.php

March 13 Quebec budget

April 1 Fossil Fuels Day of Youth Action
<http://actions.energyactioncoalition.org/fossilfools>