What Changes Are In Store For Energy Communities?

Congress and the DOE
A Discussion With the ECA New Leadership Peer Exchange
Once again, split party control, although Democrats nominally in stronger position
  • Yes, we’re again thinking about elections

Fiscal issues, with important exceptions, are again dominating the policy debate and are defining edge of divided government
  • The “debt limit crisis,” the “fiscal cliff,” the “government shutdown,” the new “debt limit crisis”
  • The sequester is real, and its impact will only grow unless an alternative budget deal is achieved
  • Is a deal possible? - absolute balance versus stabilization of debt load
The Energy Agenda

• “New” faces on several important committees
  • Maria Cantwell, Marcy Kaptur, Nita Lowey, Barbara Mikulski, Richard Shelby and Ron Wyden

• Secretary Moniz
  • An East Coast Scientist?

• What are people talking about?
  • “all of the above,” Keystone XL pipeline, increased oversight, natural gas bonanza, energy subsidies (the good, the bad and the ugly), DOE cleanup of legacy wastes, spent fuel/HLW management, SMRs, energy R&D
  • The President’s FY ‘14 budget request
So . . .

• ECA members have some well positioned champions

• There are some new players who need to be informed about your issues

• Secretary Moniz will enjoy a “honey moon” with Congressional overseers of uncertain duration

• Budgets affecting DOE projects in your communities will continue to face stress absent a breakthrough in fiscal debate