



washington dc update

Water Resources & Environment Subcommittee Hears from Mike Gritzuk of Pima County

November 5, 2009

Controversy:
S.1733, *Clean
Energy Jobs and
American Power
Act*

“The Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee's ranking member on Thursday accused chairwoman Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) of breaking the panel's rules by passing climate change legislation this morning.

Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) today on Fox News said that [committee rules](#) dictate that at least two members of the minority must be present when meeting. Boxer held a vote on the legislation, which passed 10-1, but no Republicans were present for the vote.

Read and watch a video clip of Sen Inhofe at Minority page of EPW site: <http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.PressReleases>

Yesterday, the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing on how quickly Federal agencies under its jurisdiction are committing Stimulus dollars. Although the hearing was under the jurisdiction of Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson [D:TX], Chairman Oberstar also actively participated.

Since both the USEPA and the Army Corps of Engineers is under the jurisdiction of the T&I Committee, Craig Hooks, Assistant Administrator for Administration and Resources Management at EPA and Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, provided testimony. They were joined by the Secretary of Environmental Protection for the State of Pennsylvania and the Mayor of Ruidoso New Mexico. Finally, Mike Gritzuk of Pima County, whom many of you heard at last week's WESTCAS conference, provided testimony on behalf of NACWA.

Here are some interesting facts and figures that came out of yesterday's hearing:

- The unemployment rate for construction workers was 17.1% in September, 2009.
- This is the highest rate of any industrial sector.
- However, the number of unemployed construction workers has fallen by 431,000 since February, 2009.
- EPA has committed \$4.6 billion or 98% of its total Stimulus funding, to water and wastewater projects.
- Of the \$2 billion allocated to the Corps of Engineers for infrastructure funding, 36% has been allocated.

With a deadline to allocate Stimulus funding by September 30, 2010, it would appear that the Corps still has some work to do whereas EPA, working mainly through its state primacy programs, has committed virtually all of their funding. It will be hard for anyone to argue for more Stimulus funding until the current amounts have been spent. We have attached the Committee update for your review and information.

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