

**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

HEARING

The Department of Energy's FutureGen Program

April 15, 2008

**Statement of Subcommittee on Energy & Environment Ranking Member Bob Inglis
(SC-4)**

Thank you for holding this hearing, Mr. Chairman.

Duke Energy faces a dilemma in South Carolina. They would like to be producing energy free of CO2 emissions, but because of the extensive licensing hurdles of nuclear, and the high costs of wind and solar power, Duke has been forced to meet increased energy demand by building coal-powered plants. Perhaps if we had clean coal and carbon capture technologies readily available and affordable, companies like Duke would be able to meet growing energy demand with coal and without emissions.

We're using lots of coal. We need to focus on ways to make that consumption cleaner and more efficient. And that's what clean coal and carbon capture and sequestration technologies are all about.

We need these technologies to be affordable and attractive to U.S. and global industry alike. America can lead the way with technological innovation that can be easily integrated into existing coal plants worldwide.

The Department of Energy's decision to restructure the FutureGen program raises questions about how our nation will maintain our leadership toward clean coal technologies. Without the research that was planned to begin at the FutureGen site, or the construction of a joint IGCC and carbon capture facility, I'm interested to know how DOE will encourage the many benefits of clean coal and carbon capture and sequestration technologies.

The future of renewable energy promises an end to our dependence on fossil fuels like oil and coal. But for today, we must work to make sure that our coal consumption is as emission-free and energy efficient as possible, bringing benefits to both industry and the environment.

Thank you again for holding this hearing, Mr. Chairman, and I look forward to hearing from our witnesses.