

Domenici Statement to Energy-Water Roadmap Needs Assessment Workshops (Nov-Kansas City, Dec-Baltimore, Jan-SLC)

Dear Participants in the Energy-Water Needs Assessment Workshop

Our nation faces an immense and growing dilemma. We can easily see a future where supply and demand don't balance for either energy or water. Equally important, these two critical sets of resources are inextricably linked. Imbalance in one will dramatically affect imbalance in the other. **It is my goal to address these problems before they become unsolvable.**

A great example of this issues involves future California electricity production. While population is anticipated to grow by 65% in California over the next 35 years, the electricity demand is conservatively projected to grow by 150%, requiring an additional 57 gigawatts of electricity production. The California Energy Commission, in order to minimize environmental impacts, assumes that the majority of that electricity will be provided by combined cycle natural gas turbines. Such an approach consumes about one gallon of water for each kilowatt hour. It is possible that California will need to increase its water CONSUMPTION for electricity production by as much as 1,000,000 af/yr to meet this increased demand. This water in turn will have to be treated and transported to the location of the electricity production reducing the effective increased in electricity. Additionally, this need for water will compete with other increases in water demand resulting from population growth. It is highly likely that this electricity will be generated in other states and transmitted to California thus creating the equivalent of water transfers to California.

At the same time there is great promise for helping to resolve these potential imbalances in addressing energy and water issues jointly.

In our Congressional structure, I have a unique position as Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee which oversees our energy policy and parts of the nations water policy. On a daily basis I face the overlap of energy and water issues. However, such inter-relationships and hurdles to balancing supply and demand in energy and water are not evident to the general public or my colleagues in Congress.

Consequently, I have tried to raise the visibility of the energy-water issues, educate the nation on the importance, and get started on the solutions. There are several key elements of that effort.

- I have appropriated funds for this Energy-Water Roadmapping exercise. It is my hope that the roadmap will identify key areas where combined federal and non-federal investment in technology development can most effectively provide some cushion in our balance of water and energy supply and demand.
- I have directed DOE to provide a report to Congress to provide a framework for a national dialog on the overlap of these two issues. The Report to Congress needs to identify the suite of topics where energy and water overlap so that we can have

an open dialog on the Federal programs needed to address this entire spectrum of issues.

- I have provided funding to the Bureau of Reclamation, the Office of Naval Research, Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratories and have supported funding for other programs within the Department of Energy to start active development of technology to address energy-water issues and move that technology to commercial application. These efforts would be greatly prospered if Senate Bill 1860 can pass and create the Energy Water Technology Efficiency Program within the U.S. Department of Energy.

I am committed to continuing this effort. The task before us is to determine how to bring to bear the resources of our nation, some of which are embedded in the Department of Energy's national laboratories, other agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Interior and the Army Corps of Engineers with private industry, municipalities, states and foundations to form a cohesive, focused effort to prepare for the future.

Your role in this process is to help us identify the high-priority needs of our nation. You know that better than anyone.

Thank you for your participation in this critical process.

Sincerely,

Senator Pete V. Domenici.