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PROGRESS ARKANSAS ISSUE UPDATE

MIT Study Analyzes Best Paths to Cut Carbon at Existing Coal Plants

A just-issued Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) study on coal plants and carbon emissions merits the attention of Arkansas policy makers.

Authored by professor Ernest Moniz, director of the MIT Energy Initiative (MITEI) and former undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, the reports finds that there is “no credible pathway” toward stringent cuts in greenhouse gas emissions worldwide without addressing coal-fired plants.

The report concludes retrofit technology is feasible, but that not enough is being done to implement it on a large scale and to make it viable for growing countries like China that are actively developing coal power as a low-cost and efficient source of electricity. Key findings include:

- Some \$12 to \$15 billion should be spent over the next decade to “dramatically expand” federal government programs to demonstrate large-scale, sustained CO₂ capture-and-sequestration technology for existing plants.
- At least \$1 billion in federal funds should be invested annually for roughly 10 years while creating more flexibility and improved certainty for robust research into advanced technology, efficiency, and repowering or rebuilding options.

The report is based on a March 23, 2009 MIT symposium “Retrofitting of Coal-fired Power Plants for CO₂ Emissions Reductions,” which included 54 subject matter experts from a range of stakeholder groups, including academia, government, public interest groups and industry. The symposium was co-chaired by Wayne Leonard, Chairman and CEO of Entergy Corporation, who also joined professor Moniz to announce the report in Washington DC on June 19. Entergy Arkansas is a Progress Arkansas member.

For more information on the report and its findings, please [click here](#) or visit <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2009/coal-0619.html>.

About Progress Arkansas: Progress Arkansas' mission is to build consensus and support for economic, energy, and environmental policies that will support growth and prosperity for the State of Arkansas. Our membership is comprised of business and community-based leaders dedicated to promoting key solutions that will benefit Arkansas. For additional information visit www.progressarkansas.com.