

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S PAGE

Energy independence and security are central stage again in the United States and globally. In this volume of the Energy Law Journal, we attempt to focus on certain critical issues underlying energy independence and security. In so doing, we are mindful of the following observation offered recently by acclaimed energy industry author and sage Daniel Yergin in the Wall Street Journal:

[I]f energy independence is presented as self-sufficiency, it will likely fall flat. . . . Today, quite simply, cutting ourselves off from global energy markets is not realistic. . . . But if the goal of energy independence is understood differently, to mean energy security—resilience, robustness, reduced vulnerability—then it is much more useful. This kind of definition . . . emphasizes the central goal of diversification—encouraging investment and higher levels of research and development in both alternative and conventional energy sources. It means a new push for energy conservation, higher energy efficiency, lower energy intensity

We first present two articles that separately address how additional U.S. natural gas and oil pipeline infrastructure can get built and the incentives for new investment in view of regulatory and other challenges. The next article addresses unique challenges from the environmental community arising from avian issues in connection with further development of an important source of alternative energy, wind power. And, on a more global note, we feature an article that explores the legal structure of the Russian natural gas industry and discusses its influence on world markets.

And how can we forget the searing events of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita? In this volume, we address an issue long dormant and ill-understood by many energy law practitioners and professionals, namely insurance for the energy industry and how it operates in the United States when natural disasters strike. The piece also reflects a new component in the Energy Law Journal—a transcription of an excellent Energy Bar Association Committee program sponsored by the New Orleans Chapter. This volume also contains two articles regarding the electricity grid; one on the benefits and costs of regional grid integration, and the other on the formation of the Regional State Committee in the Midwest.

Finally, in response to suggestions by our readers, we have worked closely with the committees of the Energy Bar Association to ramp up the number of timely committee reports published in the Journal. This issue contains five such reports, the most in years.

We hope you continue to value the Energy Law Journal.

Respectfully,

Robert S. Fleishman