



Dupont Summit 2016

Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy

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Presentation

“Low-Carbon Energy Security”

We like to say that conversations about energy security, whether in the US or Europe, are constantly evolving. But I am not convinced that the continuous shift in focus, whether it is reducing imports, increasing generation, or integrating markets, constitutes an evolutionary thought process. Instead I believe that this is a symptom of the reactionary nature of energy security policy creation. Energy security often gains traction in policy arenas following geopolitical or natural catastrophes, as we saw during the 2008-09 Russia-Ukraine gas conflict or following the Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan. Often, however, policies intended to address crises ultimately revert back to existing thought and process paradigms, making fundamental change difficult. Governments tend to return to what is easy or comfortable, more of a security blanket than a revolutionary energy vision. In other words, energy security has become, for many, an excuse to double-down on the status quo.

Complicating these reactionary tendencies is the push for low-carbon energy policies to support climate change mitigation strategies. In order to meet the energy security challenges of the future while continuing to take the necessary steps to minimize the impacts of climate change, we must fundamentally rethink our approaches to energy policies. The reactionary approach will not work any longer.

Presenters

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