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Clean Air-Cool Planet Offers Roadmap for ARPA-E

Report Details Opportunity to Transform America's Energy Landscape

Washington, DC -- A report issued today by Clean Air-Cool Planet details the opportunities and challenges facing the Obama Administration as it begins implementing the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPA-E), the new agency authorized by Congress to sponsor transformational research to help the United States improve its energy security and combat climate change.

ARPA-E, which was authorized by Congress in 2007 and funded as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, is modeled on the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the legendary agency that supported the development of revolutionary technologies that made possible, among other achievements, stealth and unmanned aircraft as well as the Internet.

The Clean Air-Cool Planet report, *ARPA-E: An Energy Future Transformed*, was funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and authored by Dr. Jane A. Alexander, a former Deputy Director of DARPA and the first Deputy Director of the Homeland Security Advanced Projects Research Agency (HSARPA). The goal of the report is to help the Administration and Congress understand the specific structural needs, characteristics and skill sets that will be necessary in the leadership of the new agency, as well as authorities that the new agency will need if it is to meet its goal of managing transformational R & D in the fields of energy security and climate change.

The report details why the United States needs a new special type of R&D organization, the critical ways in which the management of evolutionary and revolutionary R&D differ, and why, without a separate, specifically aligned organization like ARPA-E, transformational and revolutionary R&D will fail. It also explains how a properly implemented ARPA-E can identify technologies with the potential to have major impact in its energy security and climate change missions, and help them move beyond the difficult "Valley of Death" that exists between technology discovery and the point at which industry is willing to invest with a path to market.

The CA-CP report offers a detailed roadmap for the implementation of ARPA-E, outlining the proper start-up sequencing, staffing structure, and the right approach to risk management. The

report also offers advice on balancing expectations for a “hit-the-ground-running” start-up against the specter of past government failures by establishing a credible process for selecting and managing the first contracts and contractors while moving forward to simultaneously do all the other start-up tasks.

"CA-CP has long championed the establishment of an ARPA-E," said Rafe Pomerance, president of Clean Air-Cool Planet. "Building on the National Academy of Science's recommendation for the creation of an ARPA-E, we started working to make the vision a reality because we agreed that technological development must be a major part of transforming energy use and addressing climate change."

"Then, when Congress authorized ARPA-E, Clean Air-Cool Planet decided to look at how best to adapt the DARPA model in order to do for energy and climate change what DARPA has done for our national defense needs," Pomerance said. "We were extraordinarily lucky to be able to bring in Dr. Jane Alexander to lead the project, and to have the generous financial support of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation."

The entire report is available at http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/cpc/documents/ARPA-E_AnEnergyFutureTransformed.pdf.

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