



News from the Committee on Natural Resources

Rep. Nick J. Rahall, II - Chairman

1324 Longworth House Office Building - Washington DC, 20515 - <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov>

The Weekly Preview February 23 – 27, 2009

On the House Floor:

- On Monday, the **House of Representatives** is expected to consider under suspension of the rules the following 7 bills under the jurisdiction of the House Natural Resources Committee:
 - [H.R. 44](#) (Bordallo): To implement the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission. *"Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act"*
 - [H.R. 80](#) (Blumenauer): To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to treat nonhuman primates as prohibited wildlife species under that Act, to make corrections in the provisions relating to captive wildlife offenses under that Act, and for other purposes. *"Captive Primate Safety Act"*
 - [H.R. 714](#) (Christensen): To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands in Virgin Islands National Park, and for other purposes.
 - [H.Res. 132](#) (Grijalva): Honoring the life and memory of the Chiricahua Apache leader Goyathlay, also known as Geronimo, and recognizing the 100th anniversary of his death on February 17, 2009, as a time of reflection and the commencement of a "Healing" for all Apache people.
 - [H.R. 601](#) (Rob Bishop): To provide for the conveyance of parcels of land to Mantua, Box Elder County, Utah. *"Box Elder Utah Land Conveyance Act"*
 - [H.R. 603](#) (Rob Bishop): To require the conveyance of certain public land within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, to support the training and readiness of the Utah National Guard. *"Utah National Guard Readiness Act"*
 - [H.R. 637](#) (Calvert): To authorize the Secretary, in cooperation with the City of San Juan Capistrano, California, to participate in the design, planning, and construction of an advanced water treatment plant facility and recycled water system, and for other purposes. *"South Orange County Recycled Water Enhancement Act"*

This Week's Hearings:

Can't make it to our hearings or markups in person? Stay connected with our live and archived video and audio webcasts, available at <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov>.

- On Tuesday, the **Committee on Natural Resources** will hold the second in a three-part series of oversight hearings on offshore drilling during the month of February. With the expiration of the moratorium protecting the Atlantic and Pacific coasts from offshore drilling, a big question facing the Congress and the Obama Administration is where and how new oil and gas exploration should occur. The hearing will feature perspectives from coastal state officials. The following witnesses are scheduled to testify: Representative Sam Farr, CA-17, Member of Congress; The Honorable Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency; Ted Diers, Chairman, Coastal States Organization; Robert G. Marvinney, Ph.D., State Geologist and Director, Maine Geological Survey; The Honorable Frank W. Wagner, State Senator, Senate of Virginia; and Garret Graves, Director, Louisiana Governor's Office of Coastal Activities.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*February 24, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

- On Wednesday, the **Committee on Natural Resources** will hold the third in a three-part series of oversight hearings on offshore drilling during the month of February. The hearing will feature perspectives from the oil and gas industry. The following witnesses are scheduled to testify: Marvin E. Odum, President, Shell Oil Company; Lamar McKay, Chairman and President, BP America, Inc.; Larry Nichols, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Devon Energy Corporation; Tim Cejka, President, ExxonMobil Exploration Company; Gary Luquette, President, Chevron North America Exploration and Production Company; and Karen A. Harbert, President & CEO, Institute for 21st Century Energy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*February 25, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

- On Wednesday, the **Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife** will receive testimony on the following two bills:
 - [H.R. 860](#) (Bordallo): To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes. "*Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009*"
 - [H.R. 934](#) (Sablan): To convey certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to give that territory the same benefits in its submerged lands as Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa have in their submerged lands.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*February 25, 2009, at 2 p.m., Room 1334 Longworth House Office Building*)

- On Thursday, the **Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources** will hold a legislative hearing on the "[Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009](#)" (*H.R. 699*), legislation introduced by Chairman Rahall to reform the antiquated 1872 Hardrock Mining Law that has allowed large corporations to extract hardrock minerals from public lands in the West with no royalties paid to the American people. The bill would end the financial and environmental abuses permitted by the 1872 Mining Law by imposing a royalty on the production of hardrock minerals on federal lands, similar to the royalties paid by coal, oil, and gas industries for the disposition of these public resources. Visit the Committee's Web site to view the [press release](#) with additional information.

Visit the Committee's Web site to access [witness testimony](#) following the conclusion of the hearing. (*February 26, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building*)

In Case You Missed It:

- On February 10, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced details of a new comprehensive energy plan for the Outer Continental Shelf, including scrapping the Bush Administration's midnight timetable for its 5-year offshore drilling plan. Visit the Committee's Web site to read Chairman Rahall's [reaction](#) to the announcement.
- On February 12, Chairman Rahall and Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Chairman Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) introduced the "[Restoring Our American Mustangs \(ROAM\) Act](#)" (*H.R. 1018*), legislation to ensure the continued protection of the thousands of wild horses and burros that roam the Nation's public lands, which have recently become endangered by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to slaughter otherwise healthy animals. Visit the Committee's Web site to view the [press release](#) with additional information.

Quotable Quote:

"Gentlemen, I appreciate your testimony and I also appreciate your desire to see the moratoria reinstated. However, we may be in the situation where the ship has already sailed, and the political reality may be that the moratoria as we knew it will not be reimposed."

– *Chairman Rahall, at a February 11, 2009 Full Committee oversight hearing on offshore drilling. Visit the Committee's Web site to view Chairman Rahall's [opening remarks](#).*

Calendar:

Click on the text within the calendar to be linked directly to our Web site.

Monday 2/23	Tuesday 2/24	Wednesday 2/25	Thursday 2/26	Friday 2/27
	Full Committee Oversight Hearing: "Offshore Drilling: State Perspectives" (10:00 AM)	Full Committee Oversight Hearing: "Offshore Drilling: Industrial Perspectives" (10:00 AM) Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife: Legislative Hearing (2:00 PM)	Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources: Legislative Hearing on H.R. 699 (10:00 AM)	

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