

EPEI ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Understanding Model Estimates of the Economic Costs of Climate **Policy**

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Tom Wilson Senior Program Manager

U.S. Climate Policy Proposals Focused on Cutting Emissions Significantly Below Historic Levels



For a full discussion of underlying methodology, assumptions and references, please see http://www.wri.org/usclimatetargets. WRI does not endorse any of these bills. This analysis is intended to fairly and accurately compare explicit carbon caps in Congressional climate proposals and uses underlying data that may differ from other analyses. Data post-2030 may be derived from extrapolation of EIA projections.



Elements of Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act of 2007

- Economy-wide Coverage about 87% of 2005 emissions
 - Downstream on coal (units > 5,000 tons/yr)
 - Upstream on oil, gas, F-gases, N₂O
- Targets for Covered Sectors (in MtCO₂e)

2012:	5,775
2020:	4,924
2030:	3,860
2050:	1,732 (~ 70% below 2005 level)

- Cap-and-trade system
 - 22.5% auction phasing to 69.5% by 2030
 - Permits/auction revenues designated for a wide array of uses
- Provisions for limited use of offsets
- Cost containment via a Carbon Market Efficiency Board

And the Cost of Lieberman-Warner 2007 is





Topics

- A Digression A Perspective on Using Models
- Models and Modelers
- Different Assumptions Often Make the Biggest Differences
- Concluding Thoughts

Part I: What Are Models Good For?



"It's hard to make predictions, especially about the future"

-Yogi Berra

Famous American philosopher (and baseball player)



The Challenge of Modeling (Thanks to Jae Edmonds)

Examine Jae and John's Forecasts of 2000 CO_2 Emissions + Oil Prices

... Made in 1982

"I'm amused year after year by your high emissions scenarios – and happy to see others now chuckle at them too!"

- Note Jae got from a friend in 1983



Projected and Actual 2000 Global CO₂ Emissions



Source: Edmonds and Reilly -- <u>Global Energy Production And Use To The Year 2050</u>. Institute for Energy Analysis, Oak Ridge Universities, <u>1982</u>



Projected and Actual 2000 World Oil Prices



Source: Edmonds and Reilly -- <u>Global Energy Production And Use To The Year 2050</u>. Institute for Energy Analysis, Oak Ridge Universities, 1982



The Magic of Countervailing Errors – Geographic

Year 2000 Global Primary Energy



The Magic of Countervailing Errors – Technology Choice





Insights from This Example

- Important stuff happens, especially over 10, 20, or 40 year time horizons
 - Models can provide very useful insights ... but are less useful for providing "predictions"
 - Some things are easier to "predict" than others
- What could happen to change "predictions" dramatically?
 - Extended recession?
 - Rebound of the US\$?
 - Technology accident?
 - Technology breakthrough?
- What modeling insights seem robust?

Part II: Modelers and Models



The Story in Brief

Market-based policies are beginning to emerge in the economies of nations facing binding constraints on greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol. And while the United States has declined to sign the protocol, substantive action is taking place on a variety of domestic fronts. A number of market-based initiatives are gaining traction on the state and regional levels, and seven northeastern states will soon kick off a mandatory cap-and-trade system that will require power plants to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. And at the federal level, policy discussions are beginning to move beyond a sole focus on setting nearterm caps for carbon toward developing the technology that will make longerterm reductions achievable.



Models with Public Estimates of Lieberman-Warner

- EIA NEMS=National Energy Modeling System
- CATF NEMS
- ACCF NEMS
- EPA ADAGE = Applied Dynamic Analysis of the Global Economy IGEM = Intertemporal General Equilibrium Model
 IPM = Integrated Planning Model
 Others
- MIT EPPA = Emissions Prediction and Policy Analysis Model
- CRAI MRN-NEEM = Multi-Region National Model +
 North American Electricity and Environment Model



Selected Model Characteristics (Draft)

Model/Modeling Effort	Geographic Scope	Sectors	Time Horizon	Foresight	Electric Sector Detail
EIA/CATF/ACCF					
• NEMS	U.S. – Regional	All, Process	2030	Recursive	Plant type
EPA					
• ADAGE	Global(?)	All, Trade ¹	2050	Perfect	Production function
• IGEM	U.S.	All, Trade ¹	2050	Perfect	Production function
• IPM	U.S. – Regional	Electric	2025	Perfect	Plant type/unit
MIT: EPPA	Global	All, Trade ¹	2050	Recursive	Production function
CRAI: MRN-NEEM	U.S. – Regional	All, Trade ¹	2050	Perfect	Plant type/unit

¹Based on IMPLAN state-level, SIC code trade data with energy trade adjusted to match EIA physical trade data and reference scenario calibrated to EIA-AEO projections.

None of the Models Address Price Volatility ... A Critical Factor for Some

EU CO₂ Allowance (EUA) Prices (2005–2007)



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Part III Different Assumptions Often Make the Biggest Differences

The Story in Brief

Planning future generation investments can be difficult in the context of today's high fuel costs and regulatory uncertainties. Of particular concern are sharp changes in the price of natural gas and the possibility of future mandatory limits on the atmospheric release of CO₂. Research on advanced coal, nuclear, natural gas, and renewable energy technologies promises to substantially increase the deployment of low- and non-carbon-emitting generation options over the next two decades. Prudent power providers are likely to invest in a number of these advanced technologies, weighing the advantages and risks of each option to build a strategically balanced generation partiolio.



GENERATION TECHNOLOGIES

FOR A CARBON-CONSTRAINED WORLD

Recall the Cost of Lieberman-Warner 2007 is

. . . .





Cost Estimates from Application of NEMS by EIA, CATF, and NAM/ACCF



Key Assumptions Include Uncertainties and Policy Levers

I will talk about four uncertainties:

- Reference Case
- Technology Cost
- "Non-economic" limits on technology deployment
- Offsets



Policy Cost Depends on the Reference Case... Reference Cases Change Over Time

EIA Annual Energy Outlook Projected CO₂ Emissions (AEO 1998 – AEO 2008)



Energy Technology Costs Are Highly Uncertain: All Nuclear and CCS Costs are <u>Engineering Estimates</u>



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Pleasant Prairie Chilled Ammonia, Post-Combustion Capture Demo

Late 2007 photo, courtesy of Alstom



Energy Technology Costs Are Highly Uncertain: Are Today's Costs a New "Plateau" or a "Bubble"

Construction Cost Escalation Continues (Comparison of Several Cost Indices, Mid-2000 = 100)





Reported and Guesstimated Technology Cost Estimates for Analyses you Will See Today

Overnight Capital Cost (2008\$/kW)



Caveats: Converted to 2008\$

CATF= AEO2007, EPA/IPM= AEO2005, CRAI= updated AEO2007

Some costs decline rapidly over time, e.g., CRAI Coal CCS to \$3203/kW by 2050

Technology Deployment is Even More Uncertain





Cumulative Capacity Additions of Coal CCS, Nuclear and Renewables



EPA Analyses Offset Provisions of S. 2191 Significantly Influence Costs

Marginal Cost of GHG Abatement in 2030 - Sensitivity Cases

Unlimited Domestic Offsets and International Credits Unlimited Domestic Offsets, 15% International Credits 15% Domestic Offsets, 15% International Credits 15% Domestic Offsets, No International Credits No Domestic Offsets or International Credits

Nuclear and Biomass Constrained to Reference Nuclear and Biomass Constrained, No CCS before 2030



% Change from Core S. 2191 Scenario*

Need increased attention on offset modeling

MIT -- Banking Strategy is Not Obvious





With Offsets

Without Offsets



Concluding Thoughts

- US climate policy analyses likely to be released frequently over the next few years
- All of the models here are credible
- None are great predictors; but all can provide important insights about policy
- Differences in cost estimates appear to represent true uncertainties (e.g., technology deployment) and effects of policy choices (e.g., use of offsets) more than differences in models

I would be more worried and feel less-informed if there were little diversity in the cost estimates

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