

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
July 20, 2017 Hearing: Pending Nominations
Questions for the Record Submitted to Mr. Mark Wesley Menezes

Questions from Chairman Lisa Murkowski

Question 1: Alaska faces some of the highest energy costs in the nation. It's not uncommon for our more than 200 rural villages to pay more than ten times the national average to heat their homes. Many households spend over half of their income on heat. If confirmed, what will you do to help reduce energy costs for Alaska's rural villages?

Answer: I agree Alaska has many unique challenges and opportunities to address. I believe energy costs can be addressed several ways, including technological improvements in diverse fuel generation, infrastructure, micro-grids and an increase in supply. Should my nomination be confirmed by the U.S. Senate, I commit to reviewing what previous Administrations have done, or failed to do, and develop new options designed to reduce energy costs for Alaska's rural villages.

Question 2: Much of Alaska was electrified more than forty years ago. The majority of our rural energy infrastructure is now at the end or beyond its useful life, leading to frequent power outages and increased costs. What role can DOE play in helping our rural villages modernize their infrastructure? How will you support energy reliability and address emergency preparedness in these regions?

Answer: I will work with your staff to more fully understand the challenges faced by the State of Alaska with its aging rural energy infrastructure. Should my nomination be confirmed by the U.S. Senate, I will review existing DOE authorities and programs to determine what specific roles DOE can play to help your rural villages have reliable and affordable power.

Question 3: Will you follow the statute governing the Department of Energy's Office of Arctic Energy, which directs the office be located at a university with expertise in the matters specified by 42 U.S.C. 7144d(b)?

Answer: Should my nomination be confirmed by the U.S. Senate, I will follow all applicable statutory and budgetary requirements, with input from the Office of General Counsel at the Department of Energy.

Question 4: The Department of Energy currently has only two employees based in Alaska. However, the Department has acknowledged in past years that it should have at least four individuals for the Alaska office. Will you commit to review staffing in Alaska and consider additional employees?

Answer: Yes, should my nomination be confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Question 5: The needs of rural Alaska and Indian Country are significant and well documented. Should you be confirmed, how would you approach energy development on Native lands, including Alaska Native lands? Do you support continued funding for energy development on

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Native-owned lands and do you support allowing the funds to be used as grants to actually build energy projects, or only to be used to provide research or technical assistance for such projects?

Answer: I support energy development on Native lands, including Alaska Native lands. If confirmed, I will be a strong advocate for energy development on such lands. I will review current and past practices regarding the use of grants and assistance, as well as the statutory requirements, and look forward to learning more about this issue and getting recommendations from your staff. I will also work with the Department's Indian Energy office to ensure we are aligned and leveraging all our resources to safely and effectively develop energy on Native lands.

Questions from Ranking Member Maria Cantwell

Question 1: The budget proposes to eliminate the Weatherization Assistance Program and State Energy Program, which provide critical technical assistance and state-controlled competitive grant funding to all 50 states to support state- and county-level energy projects. Do you support eliminating the Weatherization Assistance Program and State Energy Program?

Answer: I support the President's FY2018 budget request and recognize Congress' role in the budgetary process. If my nomination is confirmed by the U.S. Senate, I will ensure that the enacted budget is carried out.

Question 2: The budget proposal includes draconian cuts to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, and other applied energy programs. These programs invest in all stages of innovation across a diverse portfolio of energy technologies to enhance economic competitiveness and secure America's long-term energy security. Do you agree with these cuts? Do you believe there is a Federal role in investing in R&D in these areas?

Answer: I support the President's FY 2018 budget request and recognize Congress' role in the budgetary process. I believe there is a federal role in investing R&D especially at the earliest stages.

Question 3: What is your view of where our country should be headed in the development and promotion of renewable energy? What types of technologies do you believe DOE should be supporting, and at what budgetary level?

Answer: I believe that the future for renewables is bright. During my time in the private sector, I saw firsthand the positive role renewable energies, such as hydro, wind and solar, can have in meeting our nation's energy needs.

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Question 4: Do you agree with the scientific consensus that the earth's climate is changing and is primarily caused by human activity?

Answer: I believe the climate is changing. Some of it is naturally occurring and some from our activities.

Question 5: What actions should be taken to mitigate climate change and its impacts?

Answer: I believe a strong, vibrant economy is the best way to mitigate any impacts from climate change. If confirmed, I will work to implement policies at DOE that will empower innovative approaches and technologies to mitigate climate change.

Question 6: Do you commit to protecting the climate science and data functions at DOE?

Answer: I strongly believe in the importance of objective research and the freedom of scientific inquiry.

Question 7: Can you commit to reviewing the findings and recommendations from the first and second installments of the Quadrennial Energy Review and consider continued support of the recommendations as they have received bipartisan support in the past?

Answer: I have not been fully briefed on the Quadrennial Energy Review (QER). If confirmed, I will seek more information about the value of the QER, including input from key stakeholders. I would certainly look to leverage the expertise of the DOE staff in any multi-agency energy review process.

Question 8: What is your view on the best way to address critical challenges that span DOE's diverse mission areas?

Answer: The Department of Energy has a vast and diverse mission executed by the tremendous career workforce and the national labs. If confirmed, I intend to work closely with my counterparts across the agency to ensure that program efforts are not only well defined at the outset but are also coordinated, well managed and aligned with the Department's mission.

Question 9: How do you view DOE's role in protecting the electric grid and energy systems from cyber attacks?

Answer: Energy cybersecurity is a critical issue and a significant part of DOE's mission. If my nomination is confirmed by the U.S. Senate, I will build on the work of the Administration and Congress to give this high priority attention it deserves. The Department has taken a number of steps internally, across the interagency and with the private sector to be working together to identify, mitigate and respond to threats.

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Question 10: What steps will you take to ensure that cybersecurity efforts, to protect the grid and energy systems and also to protect DOE assets, are coordinated across the Department?

Answer: The reliability and security of our electric grid and energy systems are very important to me and are a crucial role of the Department. If confirmed, I look forward to a discussion about how to harden our grid, energy systems and prioritizing cyber security efforts. DOE should coordinate across the Department and other agencies, as well as the private sector, to develop a seamless and coordinated plan for addressing major attacks. If confirmed, I would work to ensure that communication across the Department, between principals, CEOs, and my office is strong, and that the efforts of this group continue to focus on removing barriers to information sharing and technology development efforts.

Question 11: What is your view on the role of DOE's national laboratories in DOE's cybersecurity efforts?

Answer: The national labs are the crown jewels of our nation. The security of our electric grid and energy systems is very important to me and protecting it is a crucial role of the Department. If confirmed, I look forward to exploring ways in which the national labs can further build on existing efforts to advance scientific development to harden our grid, our energy systems and prioritize cybersecurity efforts.

Question 12: What is your view of the role DOE's national laboratories should play in a U.S. government cybersecurity strategy?

Answer: I believe the national laboratories play a similar role in the U.S. government as they do in the Department. The national labs are the crown jewels of our nation. The security of our electric grid and energy systems is very important to me and protecting it is a crucial role of the Department. If confirmed, I look forward to exploring ways in which the national labs can advance scientific development to harden our grid, our energy systems and prioritize cybersecurity efforts.

Question 13: Do you think that voluntary cybersecurity guidelines that may not be practiced by all of the pipeline industry are sufficient to protect our national security assets from foreign state actors?

Answer: The reliability and security of our electric grid, our energy systems, including our pipelines, are very important to me; protecting it is a crucial role of the Department. If confirmed, I look forward to a discussion about how to harden protection of our pipelines, the grid, other infrastructure assets, and prioritizing cybersecurity efforts. I will also work to ensure communication and technology development efforts are strong. I will work to increase participation of the pipeline industry in the Department of Energy's energy sector cybersecurity coordination.

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Question 14: Should any additional measures be implemented to fortify pipeline cybersecurity?

Answer: Ensuring robust physical cybersecurity measures is vital to our national security. However, I am not an Administration official at this time and have not been fully briefed. If confirmed, I will commit to looking further into this issue.

Question 15: What steps will you take to make sure our energy networks are protected against the constant threat of cyberattack?

Answer: The reliability and security of our energy networks are very important to me and their protection is a crucial role of the Department. If confirmed, I look forward to a discussion about how to harden our energy networks and prioritizing cybersecurity efforts. I will also work to ensure communication and technology development efforts are strong.

Question 16: Will you commit to maintain the efforts of the previous administration to keep Hanford safe and work on making Hanford safer for workers and the community?

Answer: I am committed to cleaning up the Hanford site and will make it a top priority if confirmed. Protecting workers and the surrounding communities is of paramount importance. I look forward to getting up to speed on these issues and working with you and your staff, the State of Washington, its Congressional delegation, and other relevant stakeholders.

Question 17: Do you acknowledge the extreme risk to workers at the Hanford site and commit to improving worker safety and improving the worker compensation program and the Departments contribution the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program?

Answer: I am committed to cleaning up the Hanford site and will make it a priority if confirmed. As stated to your staff prior to my confirmation hearing and expressed during the hearing, protecting workers and the surrounding communities is of paramount importance. I look forward to being fully briefed on these issues and working with you and your staff, the State of Washington, its Congressional delegation, and other relevant stakeholders.

Question 18: Do you acknowledge that the Department has a lot of work to do to improve how it helps sick workers? Will you commit to work with me to fix the Departments deficiencies and work with the unions and advocacy groups to get to the bottom of the problems plaguing the workers compensation program at Hanford?

Answer: Protecting workers and the surrounding communities is of paramount importance. Should my nomination be confirmed by the U.S. Senate, I am committed to being fully briefed and working with you and your staff, the State of Washington, its Congressional delegation, and other relevant stakeholders.

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Question 19: Will you commit to working with us to ensure the workers at Hanford are receiving the proper training and equipment and that they are not exposed to chemical vapors?

Answer: Protecting workers and the surrounding communities is of paramount importance. Should my nomination be confirmed by the U.S. Senate, you will have my commitment to be fully briefed on these issues and working with you and your staff, the State of Washington, its Congressional delegation, and other relevant stakeholders.

Question 20: Do you understand the moral and legal obligations as well as the urgency for the Department of Energy to properly fund and proceed with the cleanup effort at the Hanford site, including construction of the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant? In your respective role will you commit to providing the necessary resources to complete the construction of the direct feed low-activity waste facilities as well as the high activity waste facilities?

Answer: I am committed to cleaning up the Hanford site and will make it a priority if confirmed. I understand that DOE is actively working to meet its cleanup commitments while continuing key risk reduction and remediation activities at Hanford. I look forward to being fully briefed on these issues and working with you and your staff, the State of Washington, its Congressional delegation, and other relevant stakeholders.

Question 21: Do you understand that any change in the Department's approach to treating tank waste at Hanford must include input from the state of Washington before moving forward? This is critical to avoid costly litigation that will only hamper progress. Do I have your word you will work with the Washington delegation and state of Washington on the Hanford cleanup?

Answer: I am committed to cleaning up the Hanford site and will make it a priority if confirmed. I will work with the Washington delegation and State officials to ensure we are making sustainable, risk-informed, and fiscally wise decisions regarding our Environmental Management obligations at Hanford.

Question 22: Will you commit to including science and technology as an important component of cleanup work at EM sites, including Hanford?

Answer: Yes.

Question 23: Will you commit to ensuring that existing lab capabilities that support Hanford will be stewarded and utilized before investments are made in new capabilities?

Answer: Should I be confirmed by the U.S. Senate, I will work to ensure we are making sustainable, risk-informed, and fiscally wise decisions regarding our Environmental Management obligations at Hanford.

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Question 24: As you may be aware, many cleanup contracts around the EM complex are expiring. Because much of the funding for investments in science and technologies come through the cleanup contractors, new EM contract mechanisms are needed that provide appropriate incentives to these contractors to invest in innovative technologies to reduce costs, something that is not reflected in existing contract mechanisms. What will you do to ensure that EM utilizes contract mechanisms to provide these incentives in contracts that it will be re-bidding in 2017 and beyond?

Answer: I recognize the importance of effective contract management and ensuring that the right incentives are included. I am aware that DOE faces many challenges, among them project management and the accuracy of cost estimates, particularly for large projects. If confirmed, I will review the existing contract mechanisms and work with the Secretary to improve performance and management.

Question 25: Do you agree that grid modernization is an important component of DOE's mission?

Answer: Yes, the Secretary has stated his goal is to make modernizing the electric grid a priority and, if confirmed, I will ensure that the Department is focused on modernizing and improving the electric grid and the supply chain that supports it.

Question 26: What steps will you take to ensure that national laboratories remain a strategic and important part of the Department's grid modernization and cybersecurity work?

Answer: I value the national labs as the crown jewels of the nation and am aware of the Department's Grid Modernization Initiative (GMI) and Grid Modernization Multi-Year Program Plan (MYPP). I have yet to be fully briefed on either the initiatives or the program plan. If confirmed, I will ensure that the Department is focused on modernizing and improving the electric grid and will continue to utilize the national laboratories as appropriate.

Question 27: What steps will you take to build upon the strong public-private partnerships that exist in this area, including the role of public/private demonstrations at the regional level to accelerate grid modernization, resilience and security?

Answer: I am aware of the Department's Grid Modernization Initiative (GMI) and Grid Modernization Multi-Year Program Plan (MYPP). However, I have not been fully briefed on either the initiatives or the program plan. If confirmed, I will ensure that the Department is focused on modernizing and improving the electric grid.

Question 28: Do you agree that a priority for the Department is to ensure system reliability as energy sources continue to evolve?

Answer: Yes.

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Question 29: Do you agree that investing in transactive controls increases the reliability of our nation's energy system?

Answer: This is an issue I look forward to being more fully briefed on if confirmed. I am committed to energy reliability and fulfilling this important mission of the Department.

Question 30: What steps will you take to advance the reliability of our nation's energy system?

Answer: The Secretary has stated his goal is to make modernizing the electric grid a priority and, if confirmed, I will ensure that the Department is focused on modernizing and improving the electric grid. The Secretary has also commissioned an agency-wide study on electricity markets and reliability of the electric grid. If confirmed, I look forward to reviewing this study to gain a better understanding of the challenges facing the grid and how we can advance the reliability of the nation's energy system.

Question 31: Do you agree that energy storage is a critical component of a resilient, reliable grid? What steps will you take to move forward on energy storage if you are confirmed?

Answer: I do believe there is a role for storage. As previously stated, the Secretary has commissioned an agency-wide study on the electric grid. If confirmed, I look forward to reviewing this study to gain a better understanding of the challenges facing the grid and how energy storage can assist in strengthening the grid.

Question 32: What is your view on energy efficiency standards? How will you meet the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) and other statutory requirements for energy efficiency standards?

Answer: Energy efficiency has been a priority of Congress and DOE and has helped provide significant energy savings to many Americans. I have not been briefed on the full array of Departmental efforts in this area. If I am confirmed, I will commit to learning more about the Department's role in meeting America's efficiency needs.

Questions from Senator Bernard Sanders

Question 1: President Trump has suggested in the past that climate change is a hoax. Is the President correct? Is climate change a hoax?

Answer: I believe the climate is changing, and I agree with others who have stated that we must have some impact. I agree with Secretary Perry that the question is how we address it in a thoughtful way that further supports economic growth, improves affordability of energy, and American jobs.

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Question 2: Do you agree with the vast majority of scientists that climate change is real, it is caused by human activity, and that we must aggressively transition away from fossil fuels toward energy efficiency and sustainable energy like wind, solar, and geothermal?

Answer: I believe that the climate is changing and that we have some impact on it. I believe that the cost of the benefits of climate-related policies need to make sense for American families and the American economy.

Question 3: Do you agree with the vast majority of scientists that the combustion of fossil fuels contributes to climate change?

Answer: I believe the climate is changing and that we have some impact on it. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Congress and the experts in the Department to advance efforts to address climate change.

Question 4: Do you believe that DOE has a role in reducing the extraction and use of fossil fuels?

Answer: I support an “all the above” approach smartly using our energy resources. The Department of Energy Organization Act states that “a strong national energy program is needed to meet the present and future energy needs of the Nation consistent with overall national economic, environmental and social goals.” I believe in those goals, and, if confirmed, I will follow the law.

Question 5: If confirmed, how will you work to address climate change?

Answer: I believe the climate is changing and that we have some impact on it. If confirmed, I look forward to helping the Department implement its policies in accordance with the law.

Question 6: DOE’s Office of Science is the single largest funder of basic research in the physical sciences in the United States. What do you see as the most pressing priorities for the office?

Answer: The President’s FY 2018 budget request focuses the Department’s energy and science programs on early-stage research and development at our national laboratories to advance American primacy in scientific and energy research in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Question 7: What role should DOE play in advancing clean energy innovation in the U.S.?

Answer: DOE plays a critical role in early-stage, fundamental energy research and innovation. This early-stage research is critical to our efforts and is often used by our private sector in

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competing across the globe.

Question 8: Secretary Perry requested a study in April to ascertain whether wind and solar power are threatening electric grid reliability. It has been reported that the study found no such threat. Do you agree with the science that demonstrates wind and solar can in fact improve reliability while decreasing costs?

Answer: I support the Administration’s “all of the above” energy strategy, and believe renewable energy has an important role in that strategy. Ensuring the reliability of the grid and energy supply chain is important to supporting the American economy. I have not seen any drafts of the internal study but look forward to reading it when it is released.

Question 9: The National Academy of Sciences was asked to conduct an assessment of the progress Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) has made toward achieving its congressionally mandated mission and goals. It found that “there are clear indications that ARPA-E is making progress toward its statutory mission and goals.” If confirmed, do you commit to fully supporting ARPA-E?

Answer: I support the Department’s shift to focus on early-stage research and development at our national laboratories to more efficiently and cost-effectively advance American dominance in scientific and energy research. Congress and the President will ultimately arrive at an agreement regarding the funding of ARPA-E, and the Department will implement it accordingly.

Question 10: The president has called for “energy dominance,” yet China leads the world in solar photovoltaic manufacturing. The largest markets for solar and wind are also in China. Do you believe the US is falling behind in the international clean energy market? Will competing with China to develop renewable technology be a priority if you are confirmed?

Answer: I understand that competing with China to develop not only renewable technology, but all kinds of technology, will be a priority of the Department. This includes our efforts in exascale computing.

Question 11: When I met with Secretary Perry, we discussed subsidies for the fossil fuel industry. He reminded me that he made a campaign promise to “eliminate direct subsidies and tax credits” for energy. Will you commit to working with him to repeal all fossil fuel subsidies?

Answer: If confirmed, I commit to reviewing existing programs at DOE and working with Secretary Perry to ensure that they are in the best interests of the American people. Since many of the subsidies for various forms of energy are defined in laws we will work with you and your colleagues in Congress to prioritize.

Question 12: President Trump’s FY 2018 budget proposal would revive the approval process

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for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste site. If confirmed, will you commit to blocking the unsafe Yucca Mountain proposal and instead work to find a publicly-accepted, safe, long-term solution to this country's significant problem of nuclear waste disposal?

Answer: If I am honored to be confirmed, I will be committed to following the law, including the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is the final arbiter to determine whether Yucca Mountain is safe and should they approve it, I will implement any DOE activities in accordance with that direction. I recognize that the problem of nuclear waste management is extraordinarily complex and, if confirmed, am committed to working with all stakeholders to meet our commitments.

Question 13: Do you promise to uphold the merit system principles set forth in Chapter 23 Title 5 U.S. Code, which prohibit factors other than merit from consideration in civil service employment decisions?

Answer: Yes.

Question 14: The Holman Rule allows any member of Congress to propose amending an appropriations bill to single out a government employee or cut a specific program. If confirmed, do you commit to opposing any acts of Congress to individually target DOE employees based on political whims?

Answer: I have briefly read about the Holman rule, but would defer to the Office of General Counsel as to how any action under it should be applied.

Question from Senator Debbie Stabenow

Question: As you know, the SuperTruck program is a 50/50 cost-shared, public-private partnership at the Department of Energy that promotes the research, development, and demonstration of technologies that improve the efficiency of Class 8 tractor-trailer trucks by more than 100 percent by 2020. These trucks haul as much as 80 percent of the goods transported in the country, and although they only make up 4 percent of vehicles on the road, they use about 20 percent of the fuel.

The first phase of SuperTruck produced enormous achievements that exceeded benchmarks for freight and engine efficiency.

What is your assessment of the SuperTruck program?

Answer: While I am not familiar with the SuperTruck program, the achievements you describe seem commendable, and, if confirmed, I commit to being fully briefed on the program.

Question from Senator Steve Daines

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Question: Coal plays an important role in the economy of Montana. The development and production of coal creates good-paying jobs and provides cheap, reliable energy across the state. With the advancements in technology coal has also become a cleaner form of energy that supplies consistent baseload power to the grid. With the production and consumption of coal expected to grow in the next decades it is important that we craft policies that will help foster the growth of coal in a responsible manner. Will you work with congress and Secretary Perry to promote research in clean coal and carbon capture technology so that we can reduce emissions while still protecting jobs and fostering economic growth through the production of our natural resources?

Answer: Yes.

Questions from Senator Joe Manchin III

Question 1: I'd like to discuss the loan guarantee program at the Department of Energy for clean energy innovation which was established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Mr. Menezes, I believe you were a lead staffer on that bill. It has been proposed for elimination in the FY2018 budget, the House energy appropriations bill and the Senate subcommittee bill. This program was created by a Republican Congress on a bipartisan vote and signed into law by a Republican President – President George W. Bush. It has a 97.78% repayment rate. It has a demonstrated success of bringing advanced energy technology to market and makes money for the government.

What are your thoughts on why this program is being proposed for elimination despite its strategic importance to our nation's energy goals?

Isn't its elimination essentially a conclusion that there is no additional innovative project out there that the federal government should partner with the private sector on?

Answer: Should Congress eliminate future program funding, if confirmed, I will review how to make the best use of the remaining funds to continue successful programs.

Question 2: I spoke with Secretary Perry regarding the grid study that the Department has undertaken at our budget hearing in June and when he visited West Virginia earlier this month. I understand that just the undertaking of this study drew some criticism which is interesting because I think examining whether our grid reliability is at risk is a reasonable question to ask. As you know, West Virginia's existing installed capacity is over 90% coal – and those are reliable and resilient assets. For example, the Longview Power Plant in Madsville, WV which Secretary Perry visited with me, is one of the most efficient coal-fired power plants in the world. This is a 700 megawatt mine-mouth plant that continuously produces enough electricity to power about 500,000 homes. Longview Power is a clean coal facility with best-in-class air pollution

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control systems that result in much lower emissions than its permit limits, which are among the lowest in the nation for coal plants. In addition, Longview emits significantly less CO₂ than most other coal plants. But, merchant plants like Longview are having a harder time competing because of the lack of recognition of what baseload plants offer to the reliability of our grid. If we aren't asking these questions, we are not being vigilant in pursuit of a reliable and resilient electric grid on behalf of our constituents. So, I am looking forward to see what the experts at DOE find and, if confirmed, working with you to address these challenges.

Can you please comment on your experience with issues related to grid reliability?

Answer: My experience with grid reliability is fairly extensive. I was involved in the enactment of the mandatory reliability standards in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and advised many utilities in compliance and implementation of those standards. As a utility executive, I have gained much experience in grid operations to ensure reliability during peak loads and stress periods across wide portions of the United States.

How would you seek to balance the reliability of our grid with ensuring an all of the above energy mix?

Answer: Grid reliability must be maintained with a combination of a diverse fuel mix, both to ensure the integration of variable resources and maintain baseload. Our energy markets are both regulated and evolving. If confirmed, I will review this matter and work with your office, Congress, and the other agencies to ensure a diverse fuel mix and a reliable, resilient grid.

Question 3: My home state is known for coal. But what we're less known for is the work we've done to burn that coal more cleanly. The bulk of DOE's fossil energy research is centered at the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL). One of NETL's facilities is in Morgantown, West Virginia, where NETL has worked with the private sector on the technologies we use to remove particulates and other harmful substances from coal. The National Energy Technology Lab in Morgantown, West Virginia is an extraordinary complex that is near and dear to my heart and employs 612 people. The budget proposed consolidation of the 3 lab facilities that make up NETL in a phased approach. I had the opportunity to sit down with Secretary Perry at NETL earlier this month and I was encouraged by his interest in the work that these world-class researcher have undertaken. I believe that research and development is critical to the Department of Energy mission and the national lab system is vital to ensuring that we are on the cutting edge of energy technology development. The Morgantown facility is seen as a mainstay of fossil fuel technology development. Their projects on carbon capture, efficient utilization of coal, and how to integrate fossil fuel systems with renewable energy are vital to our energy future. So you can understand why the consolidation proposal may cause me and many West Virginians some concern.

What is your experience with the national labs and what specifically qualifies you to work with them and/or oversee the labs?

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Answer: As Chief Counsel to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I gained extensive experience in the oversight of our nation's labs. In private practice, I worked with clients who interacted with the labs to deploy the latest technologies and to implement grants. I believe that broad knowledge of operations and programs makes me qualified to assist in the oversight of the labs.

Questions from Senator Martin Heinrich

Question 1: I understand the Office of Environmental Management will soon announce the award of a new management contract for legacy cleanup work at Los Alamos National Lab. The regional communities and pueblos in Northern New Mexico are anxious to be active partners with EM and the new contractor in the execution of legacy cleanup work. Do you agree it will be critical for DOE and the new cleanup management contractor to engage and work closely with the local community and pueblos to assure an effective and efficient operation?

Answer: As I am not currently at the Department, I am not familiar with the details of this particular competitive process. If confirmed, I will work with the State of New Mexico, the New Mexico congressional delegation, pueblos, and other stakeholders to assure an effective cleanup and efficient operation.

Question 2: I continue to be concerned that DOE/EM lacks a strategic plan for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and its mission of permanent disposal of defense transuranic waste. Will you make it a priority to complete an assessment of WIPP's remaining space for disposal of TRU waste to determine if it is sufficient for all currently planned sources of waste or if expansion of the facility will be necessary? In addition, EM should determine if projected plans for TRU waste disposal at WIPP will be in full compliance with each of the statutory disposal limits established in the 1992 Land Withdrawal Act, which was negotiated with the State of New Mexico.

Answer: I have not been fully briefed on the remaining space for disposal of TRU waste at WIPP. If confirmed, I will make it a priority to assess the remaining space for its disposal at WIPP.

Questions from Senator Catherine Cortez Masto

Question 1. I want to make sure that all nominees for the Department of Energy understand the important relationship between renewable energy and economic development. How does the proposed DOE budget support its R&D programs that have helped develop clean energy technologies, improved national security, and grid reliability?

Answer: My understanding of the President's FY 2018 budget request is that it focuses on early-stage research and development that will allow the United States to remain a leader in science

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and technological innovation. Such leadership is important not only for science but for the economic growth of our nation.

Question 2. What do you think should be budgetary priorities for your office/Department?

Answer: The budgetary priorities are laid out in the President's FY 2018 budget proposal. I support the President's FY2018 budget request and recognize Congress' role in the budgetary process. If my nomination is confirmed by the U.S. Senate, I will ensure that the enacted budget is carried out.

Question 3. Do you believe DOE and the National Labs' R&D and clean energy technology work is integral to the United States securing energy independence and staying globally competitive?

Answer: Yes.

Question 4. Are there areas where DOE should do more?

Answer: I am not an Administration official at this time; however, I commit to work with the Administration, the Secretary and Congress to prioritize the work of the Department.

Question 5. Why do you believe you are qualified for the position you are nominated for?

Answer: I have almost three decades of experience in the field of energy, both in the public and private sectors. As Chief Counsel to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which has chief oversight responsibility for the Department of Energy, I developed a broad knowledge of the missions and challenges facing the Department, the national labs, and research and development programs. As a chief negotiator and drafter of several of the key provisions of one of our nation's bipartisan energy bills, which established several of the key programs at the Department, including the loan guarantee program for emerging technologies, incentives for renewables and other sources of generation and fuels, I have long recognized the need for a separate Under Secretary for Science. As I stated in my written statement, I have extensive management and performance training, and expertise in large corporations with diverse workforces and know how to measure and achieve performance goals.

Question 6. Secretary Perry indicated that he may reassign functions in some of your offices. What do you believe should remain as a priority in your office and what should be assigned to your office?

Answer: It is my understanding that Secretary Perry intends to return the Under Secretary positions to their traditional roles, consistent with the statutory designations of those roles by Congress. I am not familiar with any specific plans for reassignment of duties and without being

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an Administration official at this time, I do not think it is appropriate for me to speculate on how the functions might be reassigned.

Question 7. Should anything be reassigned to another office?

Answer: It is my understanding that Secretary Perry intends to return the Under Secretary positions to their traditional roles, consistent with the statutory designations of those roles by Congress. I am not familiar with any specific plans for reassignment of duties and without being an Administration official at this time, I do not think it is appropriate for me to speculate on how the functions might be reassigned.

Question 8. Geothermal energy is one of the fastest growing industries in Nevada. In 2013, there were 29 geothermal power plants operating in nine of Nevada's seventeen counties. The Nevada Department of Energy has estimated that at least 6,000 jobs would be created through geothermal energy investment. The proposed cuts to DOE will not provide for adequate funding for the Geothermal Technologies Office to continue researching geothermal energy innovations. Do you believe investments in geothermal energy should be prioritized?

Answer: I support the President's FY 2018 budget request and, if confirmed, look forward to finding alternative solutions to advance these goals. I will also ensure that the will of Congress is carried out.

Question 9. The nominee for Deputy Secretary, Dan Brouillette, commented in his nomination hearing that if the science is not there that he would **not** support Yucca Mountain as a permanent repository. Yucca Mountain has serious safety and environmental concerns which are detailed in the hundreds of contentions filed by the state of Nevada, the most the NRC has ever considered. The contentions alone will take up to 4 years to adjudicate, but even if the site was greenlighted, it would take up to 50 years to build infrastructure in Nevada and across the country and to allow the waste to cool and be shipped through heavily populated communities. I know that you may not be engaged with the Yucca Mountain project, but I want to quickly note that even if you are involved in the most peripheral way, that data, sound science, and consent have to be at the forefront of this conversation. Do you agree with that statement?

Answer: All scientific decisions related to Yucca Mountain should be based on sound science. If confirmed, I will ensure that scientific decisions related to Yucca Mountain continue to be based on sound science.

Question 10. In Nevada, DOE has provided the essential funding for state-run energy programs that are helping local communities save taxpayer dollars. For example, Nevada's Pershing County School District is saving \$72,000 every year after installing rooftop solar panels on schools, while energy efficient lighting in the Carson City school district is saving close to \$80,000 a year for taxpayers. Do you believe federal funding cuts to state-run energy programs

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will harm state initiatives that save taxpayers money and create clean energy?

Answer: The budgetary priorities are described in the President's FY 2018 budget proposal. I support the President's FY 2018 budget request and recognize Congress' role in the budgetary process. If my nomination is confirmed by the U.S. Senate, I will ensure that the enacted budget is carried out.

Question 11. How would you prioritize these programs if you were to be confirmed?

Answer: The budgetary priorities are described in the President's FY 2018 budget proposal. I support the President's FY 2018 budget request and recognize Congress' role in the budgetary process. If my nomination is confirmed by the U.S. Senate, I will ensure that the enacted budget is carried out.