

**Statement of
Jonathan Elkind**

**Nominee to be
Assistant Secretary for International Affairs
U.S. Department of Energy**

**Before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate**

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Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Cantwell, Members of the Committee: I am grateful for the opportunity to appear today as you consider my candidacy to be the Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs.

I am honored to have been nominated again for this post by President Obama. I also deeply appreciate the continuing confidence that Secretary Moniz has expressed by asking me to serve in this capacity.

I would like to introduce and thank my wife of twenty seven years, Suzanne Mintz. She understands all too well that government service is an endeavor that affects not only the person serving, but also his or her family.

In 2009, I was appointed as the Department of Energy's (DOE) Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs. This was my second professional association with the Department, but by coincidence my family's prior ties to DOE go back to my childhood. My father was a researcher who worked on cancer treatment and carcinogenesis. He spent portions of the 1960s and 1970s at the Brookhaven and Argonne National Laboratories that are now operated by DOE – in those days by the Atomic Energy Commission and later the Energy Research and Development Agency.

The fact that I am before you today, however, had more to do with my dad's attitudes about career choice than with the mere fact that I have known DOE and its precursors since childhood. When I was an undergraduate, my dad counseled me to find a professional niche that I felt passionate about, a place where I would *want* to make a contribution because of my own fascination with the issues at hand. Whether I made that contribution as a business person, an academic, or a government official wasn't central. His advice was essentially: Do what you love, and love what you do.

For a little more than twenty-five years, I have focused on international energy issues with that backdrop. I first worked on energy and environment issues in the federal government when I served at the Council on Environmental Quality under President George H.W. Bush. I served subsequently through the 1990s at positions in the Department of Energy, the Office of the Vice

President, and the National Security Council staff. Later, I worked as a private energy consultant and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

From these experiences, I know how important it is for the United States to work effectively with international partners on energy issues. We need strong international partnerships that allow us to understand where markets are heading, where there are opportunities for U.S. businesses, and where breakthroughs and flash points can emerge.

I am proud of the progress we have made on many of these fronts during my current tenure at the Department, because DOE's International Affairs (IA) team has made and is making critical contributions that enhance the ability of the United States to achieve the outcomes that we need and desire in collaboration with international partners.

IA applies knowledge of energy technologies, markets, and policies to pursue U.S. objectives in international energy security, clean energy deployment, and national security. IA is responsible for leading the Department and Administration's response to critical energy security commitments across all major regions, sectors and technologies. IA leads in addressing energy challenges and in some cases crises around the globe, as well as capitalizing on growing opportunities for addressing multilateral technology cooperation. Some examples include:

Ukraine: The energy dimensions of the crisis in Ukraine continue to require careful attention and strong engagement. Ukraine needs sustained help on energy planning, including technical expertise that exists within DOE and increased dialogue with our counterparts in Ukraine. IA has already led several delegations of energy systems experts to Kyiv to assist Ukraine in its energy planning efforts, including by enabling it to reduce the country's monopoly or near-monopoly reliance on Russia for certain fuels. Moreover, in response to the start of the crisis last year, and following the President's G-7 Leaders Summit in June 2014, IA has been asked to lead U.S. efforts to develop a collective energy security agenda among G-7 partners and the European Union.

U.S.-Israel energy cooperation has been another important example of IA's on-going work. We conduct annual U.S.-Israel energy meetings that address topical questions like critical energy infrastructure protection, natural gas technical workshops, and Israel's growing interest in collaborating on energy storage and energy-water nexus issues. These annual meetings are a central part of the United States' engagement with Israel on energy matters, and they are a priority for the Department.

Western Hemisphere engagements: Some of the most important changes to the energy world are happening in our own hemisphere. In light of this it is natural that we have significantly intensified our engagements with North American partners in Mexico and Canada, with Caribbean partners trying to enhance their energy security, and with others in the hemisphere who wish to engage on an agenda that thinks about technology in a spirit of "all of the above" and seek collaborations based on good technology, strong environmental performance, and sound economics. We are working with Caribbean partners to advance the Vice President's Energy Security Summit through events like DOE's Clean Energy Technology Symposium in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. The energy secretaries (or minister) of North America have

activated a trilateral channel that enables us to think at continental scale about the many issues that don't stop at the U.S. borders with Canada and Mexico.

Energy-Water Nexus: Last, we have started to expand our collaborations with key countries on the linkages between energy and water. Many countries are eager to work with the United States, and with DOE in particular, to address the technical and policy implications of their interconnected energy and water systems. This is an important emerging area, where the United States stands to benefit from providing leadership that enables such increased international cooperation.

If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed by the Senate, these are the kinds of areas that will be my focus. I also look forward to working with this Committee to identify additional opportunities to advance our energy economy. I hope to secure your support so that I might have that opportunity.