

Council asks Dept. of Energy to support gasification plan

March 16 -- The Gasification Technologies Council has called on the Department of Energy to renew support for the FutureGen project -- an integrated gasification-based plant that would use coal to produce electricity on a commercial scale while capturing and sequestering carbon dioxide.

FutureGen, originally supported and then shelved by the Bush administration, was the subject of a recent Government Accountability Office report that questioned the decision to pull the plug on the project. The GAO, the investigative arm of Congress, found fault with the cost estimates the Bush administration used as justification for stopping development of a FutureGen plant.

"We are calling on [Energy] Secretary [Steven] Chu to proceed expeditiously to get FutureGen back on track," said James Childress, executive director of the GTC. "The industry is ready to respond. We know what to do. The technologies are available. The processes are available. We now need the will to move FutureGen forward and get this built."

GTC represents more than 70 companies involved in gasification technologies.

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