

High-Performance Buildings

STRATEGIES & INSIGHTS



FROM THE EDITOR

Happy Election Day! Or, not-so-Happy Election Day, depending on which side of the aisle you're on. It looks like things are going to be shaken up quite a bit in Congress today, and that may have implications for energy policy. More likely, it won't — a Republican controlled Congress with a Democratic President probably means the status quo of gridlock will continue for at least another two years.

Nowhere is that gridlock more evident than in energy policy. You may remember in May, the bipartisan, universally liked Shaheen-Portman bill (official title: Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014) failed to get the 60 votes required to override a Republican filibuster. And so the bill died a sad, if somewhat predictable, death. (And now, the bill's co-sponsor, Jeanne Shaheen [D-NH], is in a neck-and-neck battle with former Massachusetts Senator Scott Brown to keep her Senate seat.)

The bill would've increased efficiency standards in buildings, required federal buildings to report energy use via Energy Star, and provided funding for a variety of energy efficiency initiatives. However, the two issues that killed the bill were the Keystone XL pipeline and new EPA regulations on coal-fired power plants — neither of which were actually part of the bill itself.

EPA regulations do have huge implications for facility managers, as the EPA regulations have been upheld by the courts at both the state and federal levels. Chances are, rates are going to rise, and the better informed you are about how much, the better you'll be able to plan.

Of course, the best way to insulate yourself from rising electricity rates is to use less electricity — which makes the fact that the Senate couldn't pass a bill focused on efficiency even more of a head-scratcher. But then again, most of us would probably agree that not much Congress has done (and Congress certainly has done not much) in the last several years has really

been a paragon of reasonableness and common sense. Maybe that'll change with today's election. Likely (and sadly) it won't.

Cheers,

[Greg Zimmerman, editor](#)

HIGH-PERFORMANCE STRATEGIES

[Electric Rates May Rise With New Regulations on Power Plants](#)

This story discusses in detail how new court-upheld EPA regulations on power plants may affect power prices, depending on your location.

IN THE NEWS

[Uncertainty Over Renewable Energy Tax Credits Causing Turmoil](#)

After today's election, Congress will be tasked with deciding whether or not to renew a wind production credit that expired last year and a solar investment tax credit that expires in 2016.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE MULTIMEDIA

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