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**Roundtable on Deploying Advanced Clean Coal Plants**

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Secretary McSlarrow touched on the key issues in early deployment. The members of this panel have touched on its risks and challenges.

Yet there are risks in not beginning deployment that are seldom noted: The risks of not acting in time.

These risks are considerable. They should be worked into the debate now. And this is an appropriate place to begin.

We're just coming to the end of a 25-year fight over existing coal-based capacity and pollution control. It stems, in essence, from technological and economic inflexibility in the face of changing societal expectations.

Possible new environmental requirements in the future – carbon removal and sequestration, for example – will put pressure on even new pulverized coal capacity. It would require additional technology development and retrofits that will be expensive to install and operate.

The combination of coal gasification and combined-cycle generation is a new technology and at its starting point. It is very good. It will get much better. And it is much more versatile.

IGCC will be more easily adapted to potential new environmental requirements. It allows clean-up of the fuel stream rather than the exhaust stream. Retrofits will be less expensive and easier made.

IGCC also has the retrofit potential for producing other forms of energy such as hydrogen and diesel fuel, which will add to both environmental and energy security.

Consider industry's response to the Round Two solicitation for the President's Clean Coal Power Initiative.

We received 12 proposals – seven of them gasification projects.

The seven gasification proposals alone would see industry invest \$4.8 billion in return for \$929 million in federal funding – a ratio that has industry proposing to invest \$5 for every \$1 in federal money.

The two most ambitious, in terms of size, call for funding ratios of almost \$7 and \$13 industry dollars to \$1 federal dollar.

We have only \$280 million in federal funds available for this round, and the other proposals are meritorious as well. All are in evaluation and my mention should not be taken as an endorsement of any specific proposal.

But the response does say a lot about the interest in gasification and the need for it.

With a foundation of gasification in the mix in the early additions to our new increment of capacity, we can be ready to respond to new requirements and capitalize on the advances as they come.

Without it, we are left with a replay of the legislative, regulatory and legal disputes of the last 25 years.

The risks of not taking timely action are considerable. Let us keep them in mind too.