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Addressing Water Policy in the New Administration

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Resources for the Future

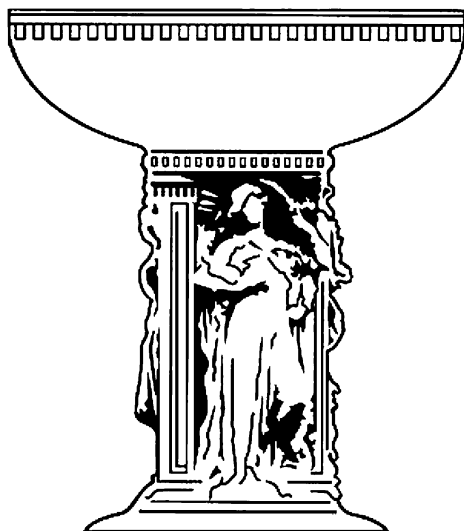
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The Dupont Summit.

*The New Administration Tackles Science and Technology:
Priorities for Discovery and Advance.*

December 5th, 2008, at the Carnegie Institution of
Washington.

Abstracts for discussion

Policy Studies Organization
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ADDRESSING WATER POLICY IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION

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From differing perspectives, panelists in this presentation will provide their assessments of the most pressing water and water-related policy issues that confront the new presidential administration. Importantly, they will identify opportunities for federal leadership in addressing these issues.

The wide-ranging ramifications of water related concerns play out throughout the world. Most fundamentally, the international community, including the United States, is confronted by the failure to provide universal access to safe and affordable water and sanitation, a basic human need. Another example is concern over the potential for water-related disputes to spark or intensify hostilities in already troubled parts of the globe.

Much of the session will focus on vital water policy issues in the United States. For example, many of the assumptions underpinning how we approach water resources management are being challenged by mounting concerns about climate change. Infrastructure planning, design and operation need to reflect what is being learned about a changing climate. Other challenges, such as addressing water problems that are a function of destroying aquatic ecosystems and improving the efficiency of water uses also loom large. The consequences of decisions about water resources management in the United States impact how Americans live and will live. Water related functions, such as providing flood protection, reflect some of government's most enduring obligations and are also the basis for some of the most searing critiques of its activities.