

Geoscience Policy Monthly Review: December 2015

The Monthly Review is part of a continuing effort to improve communications about the role of geoscience in policy. Current and archived monthly reviews are available online.

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December 2015

Budget

- Congress passes FY 2016 omnibus spending bill increasing funding for geosciences

Congress

- House passes bill amending the Natural Gas Act
- Sen. Sanders and others introduce bills supporting transition to clean energy
- House Committee holds underground hearing on mining workforce, education

?Energy

- New DOE funding opportunity hopes to spur retrieval of rare earths and other critical materials from geothermal fluids

Environment

- House passes bill which bans the use of microbeads
- Update to USGCRP Strategic Plan published in the Federal Register
- Legislators call for a halt to Atlantic seismic surveys

?Federal Agencies & Administration

- NDAA includes provision supporting conference travel for scientists
- President signs bill strengthening K-12 STEM education
- Dr. Suzette Kimball confirmed as Director of the U.S. Geological Survey

Water

- House legislation introduced that would allow farmers tax breaks for water conservation

?Federal Register

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