

Preside or Lead?

The Attributes and Actions of Effective Regulators

31. “All of the Above” Is Not a National Energy Policy

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A rational national energy policy should (a) transparently balance long-term goals and short-term needs, certainty and risk, experimentation and stability; (b) continuously question legacy policies to make room for new ones; (c) have roots in benefit-cost analysis; and (d) favor idea-makers over wheel-squeakers.

Our national energy policy, described these days as “all of the above,” fails these tests. This gap between the ideal and the real has at least five causes.

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