

2 October 2023

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Publication date: 02 October 2017

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ISSN: 0964-8496

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'Resiliency' subsidies for US coal and nuclear power whip up storm of controversy

New regulations that would work in favour of coal and nuclear power stations and against those fuelled with natural gas have been proposed by US energy secretary Rick Perry. If they were to go ahead, the changes would represent one of the most significant reforms to competitive electricity markets in the US in decades.

The changes are being justified as a response to natural disasters, such as the hurricanes that have battered the Gulf of Mexico coast in recent weeks, the Polar Vortex of 2014 that led to a big freeze in eastern and central states, and Superstorm Sandy, which devastated...

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