

**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**HEARING**

*Environmental Research at the Department of Energy*

June 9, 2009

**Statement of Subcommittee on Energy & Environment Ranking Member Bob Inglis  
(SC-4)**

Good morning, and thank you for holding this hearing, Mr. Chairman.

It has been thirty-seven years since the first environmental research park was established at the Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina. Now, nearly four decades later, we profit from seven such research parks, each contributing a unique piece to our national environmental and ecological research portfolio.

I wonder how many blindspots we would have in our understanding of our various ecosystems within this country, were it not for the commitment and vision of those who first established these parks? The research, education, and outreach gains we've made through these institutions highlight our need to continue supporting such efforts in the future. I appreciate Representative Lujan's leadership to introduce H.R. 2729, a bill to authorize these research parks permanently, and I look forward to hearing the witnesses' comments and suggestions for improving the bill.

In today's hearing, we will also discuss the work being done in Climate and Environmental Sciences through the Department of Energy's Office of Science. Environmental remediation and cleanup, climate modeling, atmospheric and environmental system science are the major priorities of this program. Each of these research areas presents significant challenges that require substantial financial commitments. But they are challenges we must meet, and I'm interested to hear from our witnesses on the strengths and weaknesses of these research efforts.

Thank you again for holding this hearing, Mr. Chairman.