



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

January 3, 2002

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Waxman:

This is in response to your inquiry by letter of December 4, 2001 about meetings between the Vice President or the former National Energy Policy Development Group's ("Group") support staff and representatives of the Enron Corporation during the preparation of the National Energy Policy that was published on May 17, 2001. The Enron Corporation announced on December 2, 2001 that Enron and certain of its subsidiaries had filed voluntary petitions for reorganization under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the U.S. Code in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. Your letter stated that you viewed it as appropriate to ask whether Enron had communicated "information about its precarious financial position" in any meetings.

Enron did not communicate information about its financial position in any of the meetings with the Vice President or with the National Energy Policy Development Group's support staff. These meetings are described below.

As the Vice President mentioned in his interview on the *Frontline* program on May 17, 2001, the Vice President met with Mr. Kenneth L. Lay, chairman and chief executive officer of the Enron Corporation. The meeting occurred on April 17, 2001 and lasted for about a half-hour. They discussed energy policy matters, including the energy crisis in California, and did not discuss information concerning the financial position of the Enron Corporation.

The National Energy Policy Development Group, which existed from January 29, 2001 to September 30, 2001, had a support staff. As you may recall from my letter to you of May 4, 2001, individuals on the Group support staff met, prior to issuance of the National Energy Policy, with many individuals to gather information relevant to the Group's work. The Group's support staff held such meetings with a broad representation of people potentially affected by the Group's work, including individuals involved with companies or industries (e.g., in the electricity, telecommunications, coal mining, petroleum, gas, refining, bioenergy, solar energy, nuclear energy, pipeline, railroad and automobile manufacturing sectors); environmental, wildlife, and marine advocacy; State and local utility regulation and energy management; research and teaching at universities; research and analysis at policy organizations (i.e., think-tanks); energy consumers, including consumption by businesses and individuals; major labor unions; and many Members of Congress or their staffs.

Included among those with whom the Group's support staff met were representatives of the Enron Corporation. The Executive Director of the support staff met on February 22 and March 7, 2001 with Enron representatives and reports that they discussed energy policy matters and did not discuss information concerning the financial position of the Enron Corporation. On April 9, 2001, Group support staff held a meeting with about two dozen representatives of various utilities, which was known to include an Enron representative and which did not involve discussion concerning the financial position of the Enron Corporation.

Two additional meetings occurred after publication of the National Energy Policy, one of which was after the termination of the Group. The Deputy Executive Director of the support staff met on August 7, 2001 with officials of an Enron German subsidiary and reports that they discussed energy policy matters and did not discuss information concerning the financial position of the Enron Corporation. An employee on the Vice President's staff, who previously was the Executive Director of the Group's support staff, met on October 10, 2001 with Enron representatives and reports that they discussed energy policy matters and did not discuss information concerning the financial position of the Enron Corporation.

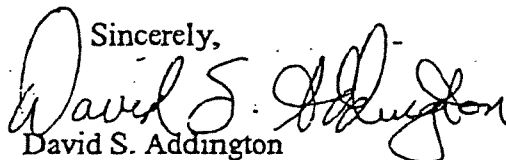
To summarize, as the above information reflects, during the period that the National Energy Policy was in formulation, the Vice President had only one meeting with Mr. Lay, which was the meeting that the Vice President mentioned on television in May. During the same period, the National Energy Policy Development Group's support staff, which had meetings with a broad range of individuals involved in energy matters, had two meetings with Enron representatives, plus a meeting with utility representatives that included an Enron representative. Also described above were two staff-level meetings that occurred well after issuance of the National Energy Policy. None of these meetings included discussion of the financial position of the Enron Corporation.

I note for your information that the Vice President and Mr. Lay of Enron Corporation both served on a panel on June 24, 2001 at the American Enterprise Institute World Forum in Beaver Creek, Colorado. The panel was widely attended and addressed energy matters. There was no discussion of information concerning the financial position of Enron Corporation.

Your letter mentioned a number of Federal officials not employed by the Office of the Vice President. To the extent you wish to inquire about their official activities, I would respectfully refer you to their employing departments, agencies or offices.

The information above is provided to you as a matter of comity between the legislative and executive branches, with due regard for the constitutional separation of powers, and reserving all legal authorities and privileges that may apply. It is our hope that submission of the information will help you avoid the waste of time and taxpayer funds on unnecessary inquiries.

Sincerely,



David S. Addington

Counsel to the Vice President