



Here we go again....Just weeks after turning out lights on the 108th Congress' failure to enact comprehensive **energy policy**, architects of past attempts mull trying again in the 109th—with the same bill as last time.—**House** leaders are said to be looking for quick passage of a bill they approved twice in 2003–04, only to see it die in the **Senate**. Watch for the issue of expanded federal regulatory control of electric utilities to fade into the background behind arguments over **Alaska drilling** and new **nuclear generation**. March 15 is the deadline for the Environmental Protection Agency to release the final draft of a rule capping power plant **mercury**. 70-percent emission cuts by 2018 could be delayed by a whiff of **litigation** in the air as enviro groups may sue, claiming the rule is too weak. **Boston, we have a problem....**Residential electricity users in **Massachusetts** brace themselves for average \$4 monthly **rate hikes**, thanks to a retail-competition scheme lacking one thing: competitors. As elsewhere, discounts mandated by “deregulation” deterred market entry. On March 1 the system shifts closer to true market pricing—with no meaningful competition in place.