



Join us the second Thursday of every month for a series of "brown bag" seminars, sponsored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Each seminar is held at NREL's Washington office with a videoconference link to Golden, Colorado. Topics focus on new and innovative renewable energy and energy analysis strategies, models, and technologies.



# Improving the Public-Policy Debate Through Better Modeling

*An analytical seminar presented by DOE and NREL's Energy Analysis Office (EAO)*

**Arnie Baker**, Chief Economist  
Sandia National Laboratories

**Thursday, February 9, 2006**

**Noon – 1 p.m. (in Washington, D.C. - bring your lunch)**

**10 – 11 a.m. (videoconference in Golden, Colo.)**

Understanding the complexities and potential solution trade-offs for interrelated energy security and environmental problems is daunting. Technical energy experts frequently have access to detailed technical models, usually based on complex underlying assumptions. Unfortunately, such models are neither easily accessible nor understandable for the policy-maker/decision-maker community (or their advisers). How can decision-makers and those who support them level out the many assumptions made by the modeler and advocates and provide a sound path forward? During the past several years, Sandia has developed a range of high-level, transparent dynamic simulation learning tools to help provide support and improve the quality of the public-policy debate. These models are written in commercially available software, run on laptop computers, and allow the user to easily ask "what if" questions. During this seminar, Arnie Baker (chief economist at Sandia National Laboratories) will briefly share some key insights from four of these models, using real-time demonstrations of each.

**Arnie Baker**

**Arnold B. Baker** is the chief economist of Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His current responsibilities include serving as the primary strategic planning resource for the Energy, Resources and Non-Proliferation Business Unit, managing the unit's economic and public policy analysis and modeling; and serving as economic and strategic planning adviser to Sandia Corporation. In addition, he is the president of the International Association for Energy Economics (2005) and former president of the United States Association (2002). He holds a bachelor's in history, and master's and Ph.D. degrees in economics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

## Golden, Colo., information

1617 Cole Blvd., Golden, Colorado  
Building 15, Conference Room 375

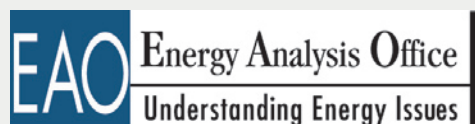
Please contact Lynne Fenn at [lynne\\_fenn@nrel.gov](mailto:lynne_fenn@nrel.gov) or 303-384-7439

## Washington, D.C., information

901 D Street SW (also the Aerospace Building, 370 L'Enfant Promenade), adjacent to the Forrestal Building

Please contact Wanda Addison, of Midwest Research Institute (MRI), at [wanda\\_addison@nrel.gov](mailto:wanda_addison@nrel.gov) or 202-646-5278

If you are interested in participating in the seminar via conference call, please contact Wanda Addison, of MRI, at [wanda\\_addison@nrel.gov](mailto:wanda_addison@nrel.gov) or 202-646-5278 for instructions.



For more information on NREL analysis, please visit the Web site at <http://www.nrel.gov/analysis>