

China Unveils New Energy Law

The first draft of China's new energy law, which will shape future energy policies, will be unveiled before the end of the year, according to the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). Energy experts want the law to outline regulations for foreign acquisitions and to establish an authority through which all energy projects must be approved. According to a report by official news agency *Xinhua*, experts want the new law to detail how approvals for energy projects should be dealt with by central and local governments. As the second largest energy producer and consumer in the world after the United States, China now has four specific energy laws, covering the coal industry, electric power, energy conservation and renewable energy. However, the country has yet to draw up legislation on petroleum and natural gas. According to *Xinhua* figures, China's coal output and electricity generation rose rapidly in the first ten months of this year. Figures released by the State Development and Reform Commission show coal output hit 1.67 billion tons, up 12.2 per cent over the same period last year while electricity generation reached 2.25 trillion kWh, up 13 per cent over the same period last year. Thermal power generation was up 15.1 per cent and hydroelectricity was up 4.6 per cent. The reported profit of the electricity industry was 103.8 billion yuan, an increase of 37.2 per cent over the same period last year.

[Source esaa news]