

AAPG Invades Washington—What the Headlines Don't Tell You, Don Juckett, Director, AAPG Office of Geoscience and Energy

AAPG's Washington, DC office has been operational for about twenty months. The objective for establishing the office was to bring a greater presence for AAPG and the energy geosciences to the policy and legislative process in Washington including both domestic and international interests. In that time frame, AAPG is now recognized as a player in the science and policy arena. We will explore some of the activities of the office and highlight where we believe we have had an impact.

Critical to AAPG's presence is to develop an appreciation by Association members of the kinds of activities in which they can engage both locally and in Washington where their presence can make a difference. The art of bringing good science to bear on public policy and implementation of policy should be perceived by scientists as both a privilege and an obligation. Building, presenting and being comfortable with the message in non-science, political environments is not necessarily within most scientists "comfort zone". Science in and of itself is inarticulate - science, especially in the Washington sense needs a succinct and articulate translator. An appreciation of that need is important for it will not only improve the appreciation of oil and natural gas geoscience in policy circles, but it can and will impact on making good public policy.