



[U.S. Energy Secretary to Step Down on December 1st](#)

U.S. Energy Secretary, Rick Perry, announced on October 17th that he would be resigning his position. In a statement released a few days later on October 21st, the Department of Energy said that Perry would be officially stepping down on December 1st. President Trump has stated that Secretary Perry's replacement is already being considered. The Secretary's resignation came the day before records subpoenaed by Congress were scheduled to be turned over, with Perry previously expressing that he would not be complying with the subpoena.

Amidst many rumors that he would do so, U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry handed in his resignation letter to President Trump on Thursday, October 17th. Secretary Perry, former Governor of Texas, has occupied the position since the start of President Trump's term in office and has been a driving force in the administration's American "energy dominance" policy. This policy has drawn Perry into the impeachment proceedings against the President, as aspects of the policy include an increase in the export of American fossil fuels to Ukraine and other countries.

During his time in the position, Secretary Perry has overseen the increased production of fossil fuels, including a heavy emphasis on liquified natural gas (LNG). The Department of Energy also oversaw a failure to create a federal relief bailout for the struggling coal industry in addition to nuclear power plants. However, Perry maintained that not all hope was lost in those sectors as providing incentives to them might better their prospects. Secretary Perry's time in the position can be best highlighted by his increased production of American LNG and the branding of it as "freedom gas" to countries in Eastern Europe who are looking for alternatives to Russian gas.

While rumors existed about the coming resignation before the impeachment inquiry, Secretary Perry's departure is possibly hastened by the subpoena for documents issued by Congress. As the Trump impeachment inquiry pressed on, Secretary Perry was determined to have a connection with the pressuring of Ukrainian President Zelensky to investigate a Ukrainian energy company that Hunter Biden sat on the board of. Secretary Perry has said in interviews that he would work closely with President Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, in connection to the impeachment inquiry. An official from the Department of Energy released a letter early last week stating that Secretary Perry would not be complying with the House Subpoena and would not be releasing the requested documents.

Secretary Perry's nominated successor, Deputy Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette, has already been named by President Trump. Brouillette's nomination follows the current administration's pattern of promoting the deputy to the cabinet with the departure of the flashier predecessor. Deputy Secretary Brouillette is well known in Washington D.C. for getting tough policy pushed through Congress and drawing more European clients to American LNG to decrease their dependence on Russian exports. He previously served as an Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs in the Department of Energy, which allowed him to gain the expertise and reputation that benefited him as Deputy Secretary under Secretary Perry.