

1 of 1 DOCUMENT

Greenwire

February 9, 2007 Friday

## **CLIMATE: Exxon Mobil changes position on global warming**

**SECTION:** Air, Water & Climate Vol. 10 No. 9

**LENGTH:** 285 words

Exxon Mobil Corp. punctuated its slowly changing rhetoric on global warming with an abrupt switch to advocacy, coinciding with the last week's release of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

"There is no question that human activity is the source of carbon dioxide emissions," Kenneth Cohen, Exxon's vice president of public affairs, said in remarking on the IPCC report, which found it extremely likely that humans are the cause of rising global temperatures.

"The appropriate debate isn't on whether climate is changing, but rather should be on what we should be doing about it," he said. "Climate is changing. It's a serious issue. The evidence is there."

Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson, who took over from Lee Raymond last January, has made a point of softening his statements against human-induced climate change but before this week still held that fossil fuels were irreplaceable. He has said that he believes oil, natural gas and coal will continue to supply more than 80 percent of the world's energy through 2030 (Greenwire, March 30, 2006).

Exxon spent \$16 million between 1998 and 2005 to fund 43 small nonprofit groups that question the science behind global warming, according to a report released last month by the Union of Concerned Scientists. Cohen said yesterday that Exxon has stopped funding them.

Tillerson said last month: "We recognize that we need to soften our public image. It is something we are working on" (Greenwire, Jan. 10).

"They certainly have mellowed somewhat," said Art Smith, chairman and CEO of John S. Herold, an energy research and consulting firm. "They took a pretty hard stance that everyone else was wrong about this" (Kristen Hays, Houston Chronicle, Feb. 9). -- DK

**LOAD-DATE:** February 9, 2007

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

Copyright 2007 Environment and Energy Publishing, LLC