

Crisis in the Ukraine: Balancing Energy and Politics Between East and West

Presented by:

Lee Feinstein

Former Ambassador to Poland

Monday, February 10

12-1:30 pm

Registration is at 11:30 am and the CICS table is free of charge

The Petroleum Club

800 Bell St.

Houston, Texas 77002

Massive protests in Ukraine spotlight stresses in the society, deeply divided over the country's future international alignment. The government of Ukraine has attempted to walk a fine line between the EU and Russia, each pressuring and pushing for an alignment deal. Hoping to develop domestic hydrocarbon resources, the government has concluded a series of major contracts with Eastern and Western international oil and gas majors. President Yanukovich has played the two suitors off each other in time to avert a looming financial crisis. But since Ukraine has one of the most energy-intensive economies in the world, three times higher than any EU countries, will the current investment in the energy sector be enough to keep the economy on track and the government in power? What opportunities are available to US energy majors?

Lee Feinstein, former U.S. ambassador to Poland, is an International Lawyer, national security issues advisor, and an expert on Eastern European politics. A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, Ambassador Feinstein has held senior positions the U.S. Department of State's policy planning staff, served as a policy advisor in the Department of Defense, and as a foreign policy advisor to the Congressional Task Force on the United Nations. He played a key role in negotiating the missile defense pact with Poland.

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