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Miller to lead House science oversight panel

Lauren Morello, E&E Daily reporter

Rep. Brad Miller (D-N.C.) was selected this morning to head a new oversight panel within the House Science and Technology Committee that could delve deeply into matters of scientific censorship.

The committee created the Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee this morning during its organizational meeting. The panel will handle "investigative and oversight activities on matters covering the entire jurisdiction" of the full committee, according to information released yesterday by Science and Technology Committee Democrats.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.) will serve as ranking member on the subcommittee

Miller, who joined the Science Committee in the 108th Congress, made waves last session with legislation that would have added whistleblower protections to the NOAA organic act bill eventually approved by the House. Miller's proposal would have exempted the agency from the Data Quality Act and established new guidelines for scientific advisory committees.

Republicans shot down the amendment on a party-line vote, arguing it would slow the bill down. But Miller argued the amendment would serve as "more than an exhortation to the executive branch not to do it," referring to scientific censorship (E&E Daily, June 15, 2006).