

*Friday, May 03, 2002*

DETROIT (AP) - Delegates from the Group of Eight countries homed in on energy infrastructure, emergency response and supply security in a private summit meeting Friday. U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham attended the ministerial meeting, which took place in a round-table format with translators behind glass booths and the press excluded.

The Thursday-Friday summit was the first G-8 gathering to focus on energy since a Moscow meeting in 1998. The event was outlined as a major goal of President George W. Bush's national energy policy proposal a year ago.

The countries participating in the summit are the United States, Canada, Russia, Great Britain, Germany, Japan, Italy and France.

Abraham told delegates Thursday that the world's energy challenges will become more acute over the next 20 years as countries face increased demand and try to balance energy growth with environmental protection.

All eight countries face similar energy challenges, including demand, growth and inadequate infrastructure for future needs, Abraham said.

In the United States alone, it is estimated that by 2020, oil consumption will increase by 33 per cent, natural gas consumption by more than 50 per cent and electricity demand by 45 per cent, Abraham said. The infrastructure to handle the increased use doesn't exist, he said.

Abraham also said that over the next two decades, world oil consumption is projected to increase from about 75 million barrels per day in 1999 to roughly 120 million barrels per day in 2020.