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Obama Likely to Replace Climate Proposal, Michael Lewan Says

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By Catherine Airlie and Mathew Carr

Jan. 6 (Bloomberg) -- The U.S. is likely to replace the current proposal to address climate change with a clean-energy plan, according to Michael Lewan, a principal with law firm Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP in Washington.

Lewan's clients have included the American Gas Association, the Principal Financial Group Inc. and Toyota Motor Corp. The views expressed in an interview in London today are his own.

On the likelihood of climate legislation proposed by U.S. Representatives Henry Waxman and Edward Markey:

"Politically, it's going to be difficult to have Waxman-Markey or a version of it, in place before President Obama runs for re-election. I don't believe it will come up for a vote on the senate floor this year" because many Republican senators do not see the need to implement climate law and want to protect jobs in the coal and oil industries. "There will be fewer Democrats after the 2010 elections."

On Obama's possible response:

The administration will probably be forced to substitute climate law with the American Clean Energy Leadership proposal in the likely event that he fails to win support in the Senate by July 31 for the climate law. "It's not a bad fallback position" because it moves the U.S. to cleaner energy and doesn't include emissions trading, which is unpopular with some senators.

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