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<http://etfdb.com/2010/five-etfs-to-watch-ahead-of-obamas-oval-office-address/>

Five ETFs To Watch Ahead Of Obama's Oval Office Address

President Barack Obama is scheduled to address the nation from the Oval Office on Tuesday night, a setting historically reserved for speeches made during times of crisis. With the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico reaching an "inflection point," the president will aim to silence critics who have bashed the White House for being too passive in its handling of the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

Much of the address is expected to focus on the government's efforts to hold BP accountable for the spill cleanup and compensation of those impacted by drilling moratoriums, polluted fishing water, and quiet tourist seasons. But the speech is also expected to address larger issues facing the U.S. energy industry, and could outline far-reaching reforms that change the way oil companies do business and domestic companies power their operations. Joining environmentalist groups and Gulf Coast residents in rapt attention to the address on Tuesday night will be Wall Street, as investors scramble to analyze the impact of the administration's proposed policies on the domestic energy industry.

Markets have always reacted to Washington's agendas, but the attention paid by Wall Street to the legislative environment has spiked since the beginning of the most recent recession. The last several years have seen unprecedented government ownership of U.S. corporations, as well as an increased willingness to implement regulatory changes that drastically alter the business environment. Below, we highlight five ETFs that will be in focus following Obama's Oval Office address:

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PowerShares WilderHill Clean Energy Portfolio (PBW): As the Obama administration has pushed through health care reform and moved towards overhauling the financial sector as well, the passage of legislation to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels has been pushed to the back burner. But aides have indicated that Obama plans to go well beyond the direct response to BP in his address, focusing on the need to develop new energy sources. Clean energy ETFs have been battered this year as cash-strapped governments have pulled back subsidies on which the industry depends. But a renewed focus on policies designed to boost the alternative energy sector could give PBW and other clean energy funds a boost.

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