



# SEEA Policy Highlights

April 2014

## SEEA Announcements

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### **Advisor Bob Balzar Helps SEEA Frame Strategic Vision**

This April marks the end of Bob Balzar’s tenure as SEEA’s first strategic advisor. Bob, who is the Tennessee Valley Authority’s (TVA) principal consultant for external relations, loaned his expertise to SEEA from January to March, providing perspective on the organization’s policy and business development activities. SEEA is deeply appreciative of Bob’s time, leadership and commitment, and we look forward to building upon our relationship in the years to come.

### **Welcome to the Two Newest Members of the SEEA Family!**

This winter, SEEA added two new members to our growing family. President Mandy Mahoney and her husband Sean welcomed Sean Paul Mahoney, Jr., “Paul,” to the world on January 24th. Just weeks later, on February 11th, Program Manager Cyrus Bhedwar and his wife Naina welcomed their bundle of joy, Jehan Cyrus Bhedwar.



The two baby boys, who coincidentally are neighbors, are both happy and healthy, although their parents tell us that they have not yet begun debating energy efficiency market transformation.

Congratulations, and best wishes to Mandy, Sean and Paul and Cyrus, Naina and Jehan!

SEEA is excited to welcome President Mandy Mahoney back from maternity leave on April 14th.

## Utility and Public Service Commission Initiatives

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### **Statewide Energy Efficiency Programs Filed in Mississippi**

The rollout of Mississippi’s landmark energy efficiency rules is currently underway. On January 11th, all Mississippi, Commission-regulated utilities with 25,000 meters or more submitted their Quick Start program offerings to the Public Service Commission. Commission review is currently underway, and programs are expected to be approved in the coming months. Programs will be implemented within six months of Commission approval.

Since the passage of Mississippi’s landmark energy efficiency rules in July, SEEA has been working closely with the Mississippi Public Service Commission and Mississippi Development Authority to develop strategies and provide resources for their successful rollout. In addition, SEEA has been engaging with a variety of stakeholders to aggregate best practices pertaining to EM&V, marketing, program design and budgeting for utility energy efficiency programs. SEEA is focused on providing resources that will not

only ensure an effective roll out of Quick Start programs, but also create a foundation that will guarantee successful programs for the long-term.

More information on the rules' rollout is available via the following link: <http://goo.gl/1UNIOC>.

### **Inaugural Integrated Resource Planning Processes Underway in Louisiana**

In 2012, the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) adopted integrated resource planning (IRP) rules, directing the state's investor-owned electric utilities to develop long-term plans for both supply- and demand-side resources (See Docket No. R-30021, <http://goo.gl/z7Q8G4>).



Over the past several months, Cleco (Docket No. I-33015, <http://goo.gl/J5uGVl>), Entergy Louisiana and Entergy Gulf States Louisiana (Docket No. I-33014, <http://goo.gl/ybGa22>) and SWEPCO (Docket No. I-33013, <http://goo.gl/wBl8o>) have held technical conferences for interested stakeholders, and draft IRPs are expected from all utilities by January 2015. SEEA has filed as an interested party in all three dockets, and in this capacity, will continue to provide regional perspective and input on best practices.

### **TVA EEIX Update**

In February, SEEA presented a targeted set of recommendations to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and other stakeholders at TVA's Energy Efficiency Information Exchange (EEIX). This stakeholder group, formed to address Demand Side Management (DSM) considerations for TVA's upcoming 2015 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), is composed of diverse representation, including state energy offices, local power companies, advocacy groups and the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association (TVPPA).

SEEA's presentation included an analysis of regional trends, highlight of TVA's strengths, recommendations for TVA growth (such as opportunities to expand and streamline programs) and examples of model energy efficiency programs.

In these forums, SEEA focuses on a collaborative approach to problem solving, providing stakeholders with perspective through regional trend analyses, lessons learned and best practices. Accordingly, SEEA has earned a respected reputation across the region and is regularly invited to participate in state-based forums such as TVA's EEIX.

### **North Carolina Technical Reference Manual Working Group to Conduct Feasibility Study**

Efforts to create a North Carolina-specific technical reference manual (TRM) for use in electric utility-offered demand side management/energy efficiency programs are continuing under the leadership of Advanced Energy. The TRM Working Group, of which SEEA is a member, will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) this spring for a feasibility study to determine the net benefits of a TRM. The results of the study will guide the Working Group's decision on whether to seek approval from the North Carolina Utilities Commission for development of a statewide TRM.

### **FEECA Proceedings Underway**

April marked the beginning of official Florida Public Service Commission proceedings under the Florida Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (FEECA). Over the coming months, the seven utilities covered under FEECA (Florida Power & Light Company, Florida Public Utilities Company,

Gulf Power Company, Jacksonville Electric Authority, Orlando Utilities Commission, Progress Energy Florida Inc. and Tampa Electric Company) and other stakeholders will provide the Commission input on the development of targets for both energy and peak demand savings.

### **SEEA Engages in “No Regrets” Opportunities for 111(d)**

As the anticipated June 2nd release date for EPA’s draft 111(d) rules for existing sources of CO2 emissions nears, SEEA is working proactively with stakeholders to identify "no regrets" scenarios that ensure the Southeast decreases the risk of any regulations and thrives by leveraging states' existing energy efficiency activities. SEEA is providing information, resources and facilitation within collaborative forums to promote energy efficiency as a pathway to compliance if the regulations move forward, while reaping the benefits of energy efficiency such as cutting waste, economic development, energy security and energy productivity.

## **Regional News**

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### **Southeast “Census” Highlights Economic Impact of Clean Energy Industry**

Since 2008, the North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA) has conducted an annual “census” of the state’s clean energy efficiency and clean energy industry, and its impact on the economy. In 2013, this effort expanded to include Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia through state-specific partnerships with Southface Energy Institute, the South Carolina Clean Energy Business Alliance (SCCEBA), and the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council (VAEEC), respectively. The Virginia Census concentrated on energy efficiency organizations

The analyses present findings from self-reported data provided by 1,283 companies, organizations, and institutions, reflecting a significant portion of the region’s clean energy industry. Among their findings:

- Georgia: Identified 611 clean energy firms, 381 of which generated \$2.6 billion of gross revenue in 2012, providing over 9,700 full-time jobs in 2013.
- North Carolina: Reported 18,404 clean energy jobs resulting in \$3.6 billion in gross revenue.
- South Carolina: Identified 17,719 clean energy jobs statewide clean energy companies and \$813 million in total gross annual revenue generated in 2012 and the first half of 2013.
- Virginia: Found that energy efficiency generates \$300M-plus in economic activity and supports 9,400 jobs.



Visit [www.cleanenergyindustry.org](http://www.cleanenergyindustry.org) for results from all four states.

### **Arkansas Utilities Move Forward with Potential Study to Determine 2016-2018 Targets**

In March, the Parties Working Collaboratively (PWC), Arkansas’ PSC-run utility stakeholder group, issued an RFP for a potential study that will inform the state’s second cycle of energy savings targets. The RFP was approved through Order No. 17, Docket No. 13-002-U (<http://goo.gl/VXxrP3>), which also provided guidance on determining the avoided costs for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to be used in the study.

## **PACE Expands in Arkansas**

The City of North Little Rock City Council recently approved an ordinance that made it the state's second energy improvement district under provisions of the State Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Act. During the 2013 legislative session, the Arkansas General Assembly passed the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act (<http://goo.gl/bzuFOl>), authorizing the creation of energy improvement districts to fund loans for energy efficiency improvements, water conservation improvements, and renewable energy projects. Last year, Fayetteville's Energy Improvement District became the state's first financing program to include PACE as an option.

## **IMT/NRDC City Energy Project Launches in Atlanta and Orlando**

This winter, Atlanta and Orlando were announced as two of the ten cities nationwide competitively selected to participate in the City Energy Project (CEP), a partnership between the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). CEP is a national initiative to create healthier and more prosperous American cities by improving the energy efficiency of buildings.



Working in partnership, CEP and the selected cities will support innovative policy solutions focused on providing information about building energy use to help owners and managers cut waste, aligning financial incentives for energy efficiency, ensuring the optimal function of building systems, and

encouraging leadership from universities, hospitals, and other major stakeholders. As efforts develop, SEEA will provide technical expertise and local context to support both southeastern projects. For more information on the CEP, visit <http://www.cityenergyproject.org/>.

## **North Carolina Utilities Commission Opens Avoided Cost Proceedings**

North Carolina's Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) have filed their avoided cost rates in accordance with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) order in Docket No. E-100, Sub 140 (<http://goo.gl/npRPyN>). These biennial proceedings will determine each utility's avoided costs with respect to rates for purchases from qualifying cogenerators and small power production facilities.

## **Building Energy Codes Program**

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### **SEEA Finalizes Building Energy Codes Theory of Change**

The SEEA Energy Codes Program is excited to announce the release of its "Theory of Change," a roadmap that will guide SEEA's involvement in energy codes over the next three to five years. This document contains the conditions, strategies and indicators of success that will help SEEA to focus on those activities that address the circumstances specific to the Southeast and have the greatest potential for impactful change. Through steady implementation of the activities captured in this document, SEEA will realize significant energy savings through strong, frequently updated and regularly enforced energy codes.

Visit <http://goo.gl/RWt340> to view the full Building Energy Codes Theory of Change.

### **Success with 2009 IECC for Code Officials Released**

SEEA has developed a new curriculum and resource guide in its series of *Success with Energy Codes* materials in partnership with Advanced Energy. *Success with 2009 IECC for Code Officials* provides a

user-friendly manual and training materials for code officials in the field, with requirements broken down by inspection type.

As developed, this resource covers the 2009 IECC as written, but may be customized upon request for states and local jurisdictions. To purchase or preview the *Success* manuals, visit the following link: <https://marketplace.mimeo.com/SEEA>.

### **Announcing E2R3: Energy Efficiency in Renovations, Retrofits and Remodels**

On July 23, the Florida Home Builders Association (FHBA) will host E2R3: Energy Efficiency in Renovations, Retrofits and Remodels at the Southeast Building Conference (SEBC) in Orlando. This full day of programming will focus on ways the industry can cultivate and capitalize upon energy efficiency's market potential to build and expand their businesses.

E2R2 is modeled off last year's SEBC Energy Professionals Forum, which discussed how the deregulation of energy ratings would affect Florida's Housing Market. This year, SEEA staff are chairing the E2R3 residential steering committee. In addition, SEEA will also be co-teaching a training on Florida's 2015 energy code the following day.



More information on the SEBC can be found at <http://www.sebcshow.com/>.

### **SEEA Launches the Southeast's First-Ever Circuit Rider Program**

SEEA is pleased to announce that we will be launching the region's first-ever energy code circuit rider program late in Q2 in the state of Florida. The circuit rider will provide energy code compliance snapshots and circuit rider services, including targeted technical assistance and troubleshooting, to building departments across the state, focusing on the commercial portion of the 2010 Florida Building Code: Energy Conservation.

The circuit rider model has met with great success improving compliance rates in other states like Idaho. Florida has the most construction starts of all states within SEEA's regional footprint, underscoring the importance of targeted resources like circuit riders in facilitating compliance.

### **Mississippi Rolls Out Region's Leading Commercial Code**

Last year, the Mississippi state legislature passed House Bill 1281 (<http://goo.gl/7rIA4P>), adopting ASHRAE 90.1-2010 as the statewide commercial code standard – the strongest in the region and one of the first in the nation to adopt this standard. Currently, SEEA is working with MDA on compliance strategies to ensure that the state is able to fully realize the suite of benefits resulting from the code's energy savings potential.

Last year, SEEA facilitated education on the new code through an in-state trainer, and this year, MDA is continuing this work. In addition, SEEA is assisting MDA in assembling resources specific to plan review and developing curriculum on the COMCheck tool. Stay tuned for more on the state's commercial code rollout!

### **Southeast Energy Codes Coalition Plans for Success**

The Southeast Energy Codes Coalition (SECC) continues to progress in developing a specific, goals-based framework. Through a collaborative process, the Coalition has selected short-term and long-term goals in the following priority areas: coordination; information-sharing and resource allocation; and reimagining compliance. Coalition members are working to operationalize these goals through the creation of working groups on key issues including ensuring coalition attendance at key energy codes decision forums, identifying successes and opportunities in energy codes training, engaging utilities and builders in the advancement of energy codes and exploring the opportunities for energy codes collaboratives in the region.

The Southeast Energy Codes Coalition is comprised of stakeholders who share a belief in the value of energy codes driven by sound building science and cost effective energy efficiency. Its members share information, coordinate with peers and collaboratively address challenges in order to ensure the Southeast reaps the economic and health benefits of energy efficient buildings.

### **2009 IECC Adoption in Arkansas and Louisiana**

Arkansas' residential adoption process is moving forward, with the deadline for public comments having closed on April 9. Pending formal approval by the legislature, the code will go into effect January 1, 2015.

Louisiana's Technical Code Study and Advisory Committee has completed review of the 2009 IECC with minimal amendments and will be issuing a recommendation in its favor.

SEEA continues to provide targeted technical assistance and resources to both adoption processes.

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**Thank you for your interest in SEEA!**

For more information on SEEA's policy initiatives, contact Policy Associate Abby Schwimmer at [aschwimmer@seealliance.org](mailto:aschwimmer@seealliance.org) or 404-602-9665.

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