

SEEA Policy Highlights

July 2014



SEEA Announcements

SEEA Partners with Regional Expert to Advance Energy-Efficient Manufacturing



SEEA is pleased to announce a new partnership with Rick Marsh, one of the region's leading authorities on industrial energy efficiency and the director of the Industrial Energy Efficiency Network. Rick has managed energy efficiency projects for stakeholders including the Energy Foundation, US Department of Energy, the Tennessee State Energy Office, the Tennessee Tech Industrial Assessment Center and several private sector clients. Rick currently serves as an advisor to the Tennessee Valley Authority, sits on the board for the Industrial Energy Technology Conference and is a contributor for various state and national level working groups that support the creation and adoption of energy efficiency resources.

Rick and SEEA will be collaborating on a suite of activities, which will include engaging with regional regulators, state energy officials, industrial associations and utility program design staff; hosting targeted convenings; conducting outreach to state and local manufacturers; and leading technical assistance webinars. SEEA looks forward to working with Rick over the coming months to enhance opportunities for energy efficiency in the region's industrial sector.

SEEA Welcomes Five New Industry Leaders to Its Board of Directors

In April, SEEA added five new industry leaders to its board of directors: Phil Welker, executive director, PECO; Beth Lowry, senior vice president, Holder Construction; Jay Wrobel, technical assistance supervisor, U.S. Department of Energy; Jim Herndon, senior project manager, Nexant; and Tim Duff, general manager of retail customer and regulatory strategy with Duke Energy. These new faces will join an impressive team, advising SEEA on both organizational and policy matters. See <http://goo.gl/hrAh3v> for a full board list.

"SEEA's board members are selected from the SEEA member base and represent a group of highly respected industry professionals. Together, they significantly enhance SEEA's ability to accomplish its mission of market transformation in the energy efficiency sector," said SEEA President Mandy Mahoney. "As an organization, we are deeply grateful to our board for its strong commitment and generous support of SEEA, and we are delighted to have the opportunity to leverage the considerable talent and expertise of our newest board members."

Utility and Public Service Commission Initiatives

Mississippi Public Service Commission Approves Energy Efficiency Programs for State's Major Electric and Gas Utilities

Mississippi is gearing up for the fall launch of its first-ever statewide energy efficiency programs. In June, following a thorough review of their filings, the Mississippi Public Service Commission (MPSC) approved Quick Start



energy efficiency programs for its major investor-owned utilities – Mississippi Power Company, Entergy Mississippi, CenterPoint Energy and Atmos Energy. Orders for the remaining cooperative utilities are expected to be issued over the next few months, and all Quick Start plans will be implemented within six months of their approval.

During the Quick Start phase, utilities will be able to recover program costs and lost contributions to fixed costs through an Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery (EECR) rider. A return on energy efficiency investment through a performance incentive mechanism has been deferred until the Comprehensive Portfolio phase, when performance can be measured against a specific numerical energy savings target that will be established by the Commission.

“The expansion of programs will add immediate value and enhance our established offerings such as home energy audits and low-interest rate financing on energy efficient home improvements,” said Mississippi Power Customer Services Organization Vice President Jeff Franklin in a press release. “Mississippi Power has long supported energy education and we believe these new programs will encourage our customers to use energy wisely to get the most out of their energy dollar, especially during the summer months.” SEEA will continue to support key stakeholders with effective implementation of these programs.

Louisiana Utilities File First-Ever Statewide Programs

On the heels of Mississippi, Louisiana’s three largest investor-owned utilities – Entergy, Cleco and SWEPCO – submitted their first-ever statewide energy efficiency programs to the Louisiana Public Service Commission this summer. Programs were filed in accordance with voluntary energy efficiency rules passed by the Commission in 2013 and opted into by the three utilities. Programs are expected to launch this fall, following Commission approval, and SEEA will continue to participate, providing targeted resources to this process. Examples of this engagement include a compendium of Quick Start program best practices, created upon request for application in Mississippi and Louisiana.

This document is available at <http://goo.gl/iDWYDG>.

Entergy New Orleans Launches 2015 Integrated Resource Planning Process

On July 27, stakeholders from Louisiana and beyond participated in a technical conference marking the launch of Entergy New Orleans’ 2015 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). The conference provided an overview of the process approved for the Company’s 2015 IRP and summary of inputs and assumptions into DSM potential study. Potential study results are expected in fall, and a draft IRP will be released in October 2015.

Entergy New Orleans has long been a leader in the state's energy efficiency efforts. Its suite of "EnergySmart" program offerings has been in place since 2011. Entergy New Orleans' 2012 IRP increased the Company's energy efficiency investment from \$3.5 to \$5.5 million.

SEEA will be participating in the IRP docket, providing regional perspective and guidance on energy efficiency best practices.

Arkansas Kicks off Statewide Energy Efficiency Potential Study

This June, the Parties Working Collaboratively (PWC), Arkansas' utility energy efficiency stakeholder group, kicked off a statewide potential study to determine the availability of cost-effective energy efficiency in the state. To conduct the potential study, the PWC has selected Navigant Consulting, with the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy serving in an advisory capacity.

The study will inform the state's second cycle of Comprehensive Portfolio phase energy savings targets, which will run from 2016 to 2018. Throughout the potential study process, SEEA will be providing resources and technical assistance to PWC participants like the Arkansas Energy Office (AEO).

SEEA Promotes Continued Energy Efficiency Investment through Georgia Power Demand-Side Management Working Group

For more than a decade, the Georgia Public Service Commission (GPSC) has convened the Demand Side Management Working Group (DSMWG), a collaborative stakeholder group that works with Georgia Power on developing energy efficiency inputs for their triennial integrated resource plan (IRP). In recent years, Georgia Power has significantly advanced its commitment to energy efficiency, exceeding annual savings targets set forth by the GPSC. Georgia Power, SEEA and other advocacy organizations participate in the DSMWG on a quarterly basis. Meetings for this IRP launched in April, and the next meeting will be held at the end of July. Topics of discussion for the working group this year may include low-income programs, energy efficiency financing and non-energy benefits.

SEEA is also an active participant in other utility stakeholder forums, including the Southern Company Stakeholder Forum, Dominion Virginia Power Management Working Group and Integrated Resource Planning Stakeholder Discussions, and Duke Energy Carolinas Technical Resource Manual stakeholder meetings.

Proposed Carbon Emissions Regulations Open the Door for Increased Investment in Energy Efficiency

On June 2, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued draft rules regulating carbon dioxide emissions from the nation's power sector under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act. While much remains to be determined in terms of implementation strategies, emission standards were determined through the application of a variety of best practice emissions reduction mechanisms, including end-use energy efficiency, and EPA has acknowledged the role of energy efficiency in facilitating least-cost compliance.

Over the coming months, SEEA will continue to provide 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 and Events

Mississippi Public Service Commission Approves Energy Efficiency Programs for State's Major Little Rock Selected to Host ACEEE 2015 Energy Efficiency as a Resource Conference



SEEA is pleased to share that the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) will be hosting its biannual Energy Efficiency as a Resource Conference in Little Rock from September 20-22, 2015. The conference, considered the nation's premier conference on the role of energy efficiency as a utility system resource, was also held in the

Southeast (Nashville) in 2013. This is a testament to the continuing momentum of energy efficiency and engagement of influential stakeholders across the region.

"This is a great opportunity for Arkansas," said J.D. Lowery, director of the Arkansas Energy Office, in a press release. "Energy efficiency is becoming increasingly important to individuals, businesses and to utilities across the country. Little Rock will host the nation's leaders in the energy-efficiency field. We look forward to learning from them and we are also eager to showcase the accomplishments Arkansas has made in energy." For more information, please visit <http://goo.gl/9c3Rc2>.

Greenbuild Is Coming to the Big Easy!

The U.S. Green Building Council will host its annual Greenbuild International Conference and Expo this fall in New Orleans. Greenbuild, the world's largest conference and expo dedicated to green building, is expected to attract more than 20,000 professionals working in sustainability and the built environment. SEEA's Energy Codes Program Manager, Lauren Westmoreland, will be co-presenting at a session entitled "Public Policy, High-Performance Homes & YOU," which will be held on Thursday, October 23, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

The conference will run from October 22-24; additional information and registration is available at <http://goo.gl/FZpBq1>.

Building Energy Codes Program

Success Goes Online

SEEA is pleased to announce that we have officially launched our *Success with Energy Codes* online portal. At the request of stakeholders and building off of the momentum of the *Success* curricula across the region, this microsite provides access to a spectrum of checklists, technical tips and other energy codes resources tailored to the Southeast, available for free. Check it out! Access the portal online at: <http://goo.gl/XymG17>.

SEEA's full suite of *Success* manuals is available for purchase at <http://goo.gl/LFOP4q>.



Florida Circuit Rider Program Underway

SEEA is pleased to announce its launch of the region's first-ever energy code circuit rider program late in the state of Florida. 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 energy code compliance.

In June, circuit rider Arlene Z. Stewart conducted the first Building Department visit for the SEEA Commercial Energy Code Process Research Project. Accompanied by SEEA Energy Codes Program Manager Lauren Westmoreland, Stewart shadowed code field inspectors and plans examiners, and discussed department processes with management. Stewart will continue this process for nine additional jurisdictions in Florida. The goal of these visits will be to understand how building departments operate and potential challenges to compliance, and to develop strategies for technical resource deployment.

Stewart is a Florida-based energy efficiency consultant with a wealth of energy code expertise. She is certified through RESNET's Home Energy Rating System (HERS) and serves as Area Associate Vice President for the Florida Home Builders Association.

SEEA Continues Targeted Energy Code Resource Development

SEEA's energy codes program continues to provide targeted, state-specific resources to support energy code compliance, maximizing the energy-saving and financial benefits of codes that are adopted throughout the region.

At the Southeast Building Conference in Orlando this June, SEEA will pilot a new, tailored Florida codes curriculum for use by the Florida Home Builders Association (FHBA) and the Building Officials Association of Florida (BOAF). SEEA is also working with its partners at Advanced Energy to develop a Florida-specific Success manual covering the 2014 Florida Energy Efficiency Code for Building Construction. The manual is expected to be completed late this year.

Just a few states away, SEEA is continuing to be working with the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) on the rollout of code resources to assist in the implementation of the state's new ASHRAE 90.1-2010-based commercial code, which is the strongest in the Southeast. Together, the team has developed simplified checklists, which will be piloted by select design professionals and building departments across the state.

Thank you for your interest in SEEA!

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