

SEEA Policy Team Updates

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I. Overview

SEEA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that promotes energy efficiency across the 12-state region of Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Our board consists of utilities, energy service providers, state energy offices and experts from universities. SEEA staff engage in a broad spectrum of activities, including serving as members of Public Service Commission sponsored collaboratives, appearing as public witnesses, organizing and presenting at workshops, filing written comments, providing information to interested parties, counseling state and local officials on best practices and connecting officials and stakeholders to other national and regional expertise. SEEA has a strong track record of developing and implementing successful programs in the Southeast and working with key stakeholders to develop and support energy efficiency policy.



II. Utilities of the South Coalition

The goal of this initiative is to create a forum for peer best practice sharing and problem solving among energy efficiency leaders of the Southeastern utilities and distributors. TVA kicked-off this initiative in February 2012, and Georgia Power will be hosting the next meeting in July 2012. SEEA staff is facilitating these meetings and coordinating this effort.

Coalition Objectives

- Expanded relationships between energy efficiency leaders of the utilities and distributors
- Best practice learning- share what's working and not working
- Discuss leading energy efficiency research and applications to the Southeast
- Identify and collaborate on cross utility and distributor projects

Member Utilities

Atlanta Gas Light

American Electric Power

CenterPoint

Dominion

Duke

Electric Cooperatives of SC

Energy Mississippi

Energy New Orleans

Florida Power & Light

Georgia Power

Oglethorpe Power

Jacksonville Electric

Progress Energy

Tennessee Valley Authority

III. Demand Side Management Programs

Georgia Power Demand Side Management Working Group: As part of the Georgia Power Integrated Rate Planning (IRP) process, the Georgia Public Service Commission convenes the Demand Side Management Working Group (DSMWG). Georgia Power, SEEA and other advocacy organizations participate on a quarterly basis. SEEA serves as an active participant in all DSMWG meetings, which are engaged in Georgia Power's 2013 IRP. SEEA assisted the review of the successes and accomplishments of Georgia Power's 2011 energy efficiency programs to promote more robust, expansive programs. SEEA is also participating in the 2012 Southern Company Stakeholder Forum on May 3-4, 2012.

Louisiana Public Service Commission Energy Efficiency Docket: The Louisiana Public Service Commission has an open energy efficiency docket. SEEA submitted comments to the rule when originally requested, contributed to a technical conference, and also submitted a second round of comments in January 2012. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) is undertaking an energy efficiency potential study that is scheduled to be completed by fall 2012, and SEEA is providing technical input and contacts to support ACEEE in their work. The rulemaking is on hold until the conclusion of the study.

Mississippi Public Service Commission Energy Efficiency Docket: In August 2011, the Mississippi Public Service Commission (PSC) opened an energy efficiency docket. Through a Stimulating Energy Efficiency Action cooperative agreement with DOE, SEEA serves as a consultant to the Mississippi Development Authority Energy and Natural Resources Division (MDA) to promote at least a 1% annual energy reduction goal in Mississippi. As a part of this effort, SEEA assisted MDA with the comments they filed on the energy efficiency docket in September 2011. In November 2011, the PSC unanimously voted to conduct an economic impact statement and charged the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff with this responsibility. In March, the Public Utilities Staff contracted with GDS Associates, Inc. to conduct the EIS. The EIS is expected to be completed in summer 2012. Once the EIS is completed, SEEA will continue to support and facilitate the progress of this docket. Governor Bryant is also planning to release a Mississippi State Energy Plan by fall 2012. Stakeholders expect this plan to be an "all of the above" energy strategy, and SEEA will continue to support energy efficiency within this effort.

Virginia State Corporation Commission: The Virginia State Corporation Commission released a request for comments regarding Dominion Virginia Power's application to implement new Demand Side Management (DSM) programs and to update rate adjustment clauses. SEEA submitted comments in February 2012, in support of energy efficiency and Dominion's more comprehensive DSM programs. On April 30, 2012, the Virginia State Corporation Commission successfully approved four five-year Residential Bundle Programs and two five-year Commercial Bundle Programs.

IV. Building Energy Codes Program

Alabama: On March 12, 2012, Alabama adopted its first statewide, mandatory residential energy code. The Alabama Energy and Residential Codes (AERC) Board passed the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) and 2009 International Energy and Conservation Code (IECC) with a unanimous vote. A legislative review committee is now in the process of certifying the code, and the new code will formally take effect on October 1, 2012. SEEA is already in the process of assessing 2009 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2007 training needs to ensure Alabama has adequate resources to properly implement the code.

Arkansas: In January, Arkansas updated its commercial energy code. The Administrative Rules and Regulations Subcommittee of the Arkansas General Assembly renamed the 2004 Arkansas Energy Code as the Arkansas Energy Code for New Building Construction and adopted ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2007 and Chapter 5 of the 2009 IECC. The new code will be effective January 1, 2013. Residential code adoption for the 2009 IECC is a priority for 2013. SEEA is also coordinating to support training efforts.

Florida: On March 15, 2012, the 2010 Florida Energy Efficiency and Conservation Code went into effect. Adopted by the Florida Building Commission in 2011, the state-developed code claims the 2009 IECC and ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2007 as foundational documents, with significant Florida-specific changes integrated throughout. SEEA is coordinating with stakeholders to support 2012 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2010 equivalent adoption efforts.

Georgia (Resolutions): In February 2012, SR 1069 was introduced in the Senate, and in March, HR 1948 was introduced in the House, both urging the repeal of the Georgia Amendments to the 2009 IECC. SEEA quickly mobilized in collaboration with local, regional and national stakeholders to ensure neither resolution successfully made it out of committee. At the end of March, the Georgia General Assembly adjourned, with no action taken on either resolution. SEEA is coordinating to support the successful training, implementation and compliance with the Georgia Amendments to the 2009 IECC.

Georgia (Compliance Project): In February 2012, SEEA completed its contract with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority in partnership with the Building Codes Assistance Project (BCAP) and Southface. SEEA and its partners authored a report that provided best practice implementation recommendations on the Georgia 2009 IECC to building departments. SEEA, BCAP and Southface traveled to Savannah, Chatham County, Acworth, Marietta, Columbus, Augusta, Brunswick and St. Mary's to deliver and discuss the report. Once finalized, the report will be mailed to more building departments, and SEEA will also work with Georgia Power to distribute the report during trainings.

Louisiana: Louisiana currently has SB 538 and HB 1166 before its legislature. We support SB 538 and oppose HB 1166. SB 538 proposes the legislative adoption of ASHRAE 90.1-2007, which if passed will codify the standard already adopted by the Fire Marshall. The legislation is not explicit regarding the 2009 IECC, and SEEA collaborated on a pending proposed amendment to the legislation to ensure 2009

IECC adoption. SEEA opposes HB 1166 since it proposes reconstituting the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council with non-energy code supporters, and reviewing energy codes every 6 years. SEEA is also working with New Orleans on training if the 2009 IECC is adopted statewide through SB 538.

Mississippi: Although the proposed commercial energy code, SB 2887, did not go through this session, a significant stakeholder base was created that understands and supports energy codes. SB 2887 made it unanimously out of the Senate and out of the House 191 to 1. In the House, a reverse repealer was placed on SB 2887 inviting conference to discuss the legislation, and the conference report to remove the reverse repealer was never filed in the House by the April 30, 2012, 8pm CT deadline. This bill was a casualty of politics. The substance of the bill was not at issue. By effectively engaging with stakeholders, the bill was supported and both stakeholders and legislatures were aligned around this effort. This is a disappointing outcome that reinforces the importance of creating a winning support base. SEEA is committed to continuing to build momentum for this meaningful effort for success in 2013.

North Carolina: SEEA is currently assessing training needs in North Carolina with the 2009 IECC. Specifically, Greensboro and Chapel Hill have reached out to SEEA for assistance. SEEA is coordinating with stakeholders and localities on this effort.

South Carolina: Governor Nikki Haley signed into law legislation updating the South Carolina Energy Standard to reference the 2009 IECC on April 2, 2012. The legislation will go into effect January 1, 2013. SEEA is in the process of coordinating and putting together resources to support 2009 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2007 training efforts in South Carolina.

Tennessee: SEEA is initiating local 2012 and 2009 IECC adoption efforts in Tennessee. This strategy promotes local adoption as a wedge to get the energy code “opt out” provision removed from the state code, when SEEA targets them for 2009 IECC adoption in 2013. SEEA is targeting the major cities as the areas with the most building activity for adoption, specifically Chattanooga, Memphis, Knoxville and Nashville. SEEA will travel to these localities to advance the progression of these efforts. Chattanooga, in particular, already has 2012 IECC legislation introduced, and SEEA plans to attend the first public hearing regarding the legislation to provide public comments and support adoption efforts. Once 2009 or 2012 IECC adoption has been achieved, SEEA will also provide 2009 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2007 or 2012 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2010 training resources.

Virginia: On February 27, 2012, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) hosted SEEA for a luncheon to discuss collaboration potential surrounding their energy code work. On February 28th, SEEA also attended the Virginia Building Codes Academy’s training session, “An Introduction to Energy, Energy Conservation, and Energy Codes.” Through this meeting SEEA continues to work with Virginia stakeholders on 2012 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2010 development, training and compliance initiatives.