

SEEA Policy Highlights

July 2015



Utility and Public Service Commission Initiatives

SEEA Releases Goal-Setting Report

In May, at the request of various public service/public utility commissions, their staff, utilities and other interested stakeholders throughout the region, SEEA released a paper titled *Energy Efficiency Goal Setting in the Southeast*. This paper surveys a spectrum of approaches that may be relevant to leaders in the Southeast that are exploring policy options for expanding the role of energy efficiency within their portfolio or jurisdiction. The paper surveys several approaches to energy efficiency goal setting, including mandatory portfolio standards, voluntary goals and integrated resource planning (IRP).



In doing so, the paper details the landscape of choices and “decision points” in the design of each of these policies, and provides case studies of southeastern states and utilities that have implemented them.

The full report is available at <http://goo.gl/2WZNgm>.

Arkansas Utilities File Annual Reports Showing Region-Leading Impacts, File Potential Study

In June, Arkansas’ investor-owned utilities filed annual reports reviewing the impacts of their energy efficiency offerings. Notably, two of the state’s electric utilities, Entergy Arkansas and SWEPCO, have achieved savings of near 1% of retail sales – among the highest values in the region. Individual utility annual reports are available at <http://goo.gl/PpH8A6>.

In July, Arkansas’ utility energy efficiency working group, known as the Parties Working Collaboratively (PWC) filed a statewide potential study, conducted by Navigant Consulting. Intervening parties have through the end of July to file comments on the study. Ultimately, the potential study will inform the development of the next cycle of utility savings target under Arkansas’ energy efficiency resource standard (EERS). Comments on the will be filed in Docket No. 13-002-U by July 30, and a ruling is expected this fall. To view the potential study and supporting documents, visit <http://goo.gl/iGlc5d>.

Mississippi Utilities File Quick Start Programs Annual Reports

The first annual reports for Mississippi’s Quick Start programs were submitted in May 2015. The reports cover both energy and cost savings that the utility energy efficiency programs and services have achieved for program year 2014. In only six months of operation, these programs have begun generating meaningful savings, as follows.

- CenterPoint Energy reported 130,569.6 Therms (CCF) of savings across their portfolio.

- Atmos Energy reported 107,192 Therms (CCF) of savings across their portfolio.
- Entergy Mississippi reported 2,514,543 kWh energy savings and 409 kW in demand savings.
- Mississippi Power Company reported 89,273 kWh energy savings and 252 kW in demand savings.
- South Mississippi Electric Power Association members (11 total) reported a combined 4,589 MWh in energy savings and 121,859 kW in demand savings.
- The local power companies in TVA Mississippi's territory reported 68,377,444 kWh energy savings and 10,337 kW in demand savings.

To view the full report, please visit <http://goo.gl/rbpxqP>.

TVA Files Final Integrated Resource Plan

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has released the final version of its 2015 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Unique to the Southeast, TVA's IRP introduces energy efficiency into the IRP model as a selectable resource that is able to "compete" on equal footing with supply-side resources, making it one of only a handful of utilities in the nation and the first in the Southeast to do so. SEEA commends TVA for this substantial step.

SEEA has been involved with the IRP as member of TVA's Energy Efficiency Information Exchange (EEIX) working group, providing information on regional best practices to inform the process.

The final IRP is available at <http://goo.gl/kWTMDU>.

National Conference on Energy Efficiency as a Resource Comes to Little Rock



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 to 22. The conference, considered the nation's premier convening 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.

Three SEEA staff will be speaking on panels and facilitating conference sessions. For more information, or to register for the conference, please visit <http://goo.gl/9c3Rc2>.

Virginia Governor Expedites Implementation of Energy Efficiency Goals

In 2007, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine set a goal of reducing electricity consumption in Virginia 10 percent by 2022. Since then, the state's goals have remained largely un-actioned. In 2014, Governor Terry McAuliffe released the Virginia Energy Plan, which places renewed emphasis on the role of energy efficiency, and this spring, Governor McAuliffe expedited the goal timeline by two years to 2020.

In May, the Governor announced the formation of the Governor's Executive Committee on Energy Efficiency, a group of stakeholders from the public, private and NGO sectors tasked with developing strategies and recommendations to achieve these targets. SEEA commends the McAuliffe Administration on their efforts to

maximize the benefits of energy efficiency for Virginia's residents, and looks forward to continued energy efficiency momentum in Virginia.

SEEA Program Shares Industrial Energy Efficiency Best Practices with TVA Distributors

On May 29th, in partnership with the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association, SEEA delivered a presentation on strategies for local power companies (LPCs) to enhance and expand their energy efficiency engagement with their industrial customers. The presentation was delivered as part of TVA organized Information Exchange meeting in Morristown, TN, and was the first of a series that will be provided throughout the TVA territory. The workshop was designed to address the following topics and bring personnel up to speed on industrial energy efficiency resources, best practices in energy management and customer engagement opportunities.

- Available resources to support energy efficiency;
- Content to share with customers; and
- Customer engagement tools.

Stay tuned for more as this work evolves!

Building Energy Codes

Florida Phases in New Statewide Code

The 2014 Florida Building Code, Energy Conservation, based on the 2012 IECC, went into effect June 30th; however, air infiltration testing (blower door) and mandatory mechanical ventilation requirements have been delayed for approximately one year while a review of the cost and economic impacts of these regulations are under review.

SEEA will continue to support in-state stakeholders to ensure that robust resources are available to foster implementation of the new code.

Residential Energy Codes Field Studies in Arkansas and Georgia Move Ahead

SEEA's DOE-funded Residential Energy Codes Field Studies are ramping up! These studies, conducted in partnership with Advanced Energy and Southface Energy Institute, will deploy innovative resources and programming to increase residential energy code compliance rates in Arkansas and Georgia. The project team's approach is targeted at achieving higher compliance rates for the current code and providing a template for strategies that utilities can adopt to support energy code compliance.

In Georgia, the project team has begun collecting data in single-family homes, visiting a total of 42 homes in the metro Atlanta region. In addition, the project team has hosted three Georgia Energy Code Forums in Atlanta, Savannah and Perry. These forums brought the building industry together to introduce the Field Study and gather industry feedback on energy code challenges and potential solutions. A report detailing the findings from these meets is scheduled to be published later this summer. Finally, SEEA is collaborating with both Georgia Power and TVA to assess the potential to leverage this study to produce robust baseline energy use

data in both of their Georgia service territories. SEEA has worked with both Georgia Power and TVA separately to develop and finalize sampling plans to collect data in each utility's service territory.

Stakeholder engagement is still in its early stages in Arkansas, but will continue to ramp up over the coming months. Data collection is also ongoing in Arkansas, where Advanced Energy has visited 24 homes to date. For more information on the field study, please visit the project page at <http://goo.gl/tVHMkU>.

SEEA Releases Florida Circuit Rider Report



In July, SEEA released the first in a series of reports on its Florida energy codes circuit rider program. SEEA's most recent energy codes report, the *Florida Circuit Rider Commercial Compliance Needs Assessment*. This report provides a snapshot of energy code compliance enforcement efforts across ten Florida jurisdictions, gathered through Circuit Rider site visits and questionnaires. This report documents the initial process of visiting building departments to gather information on processes of commercial building across the state. SEEA's contracted circuit rider visited 10 jurisdictions to survey and identify common themes, needs, and mechanisms on commercial code implementation and enforcement.

This paper includes:

- An overview of energy code compliance in the Southeast;
- Background on the value and role of energy code circuit riders;
- Information on Florida's current code environment; and
- General observations regarding code enforcement in Florida, including perceptions of code compliance, licensing and credentialing, resource availability and usefulness, and other key issues.

Finally, the report draws high-level conclusions regarding opportunities for supporting code compliance in Florida, as well as next steps for SEEA's Circuit Rider program – the first of its kind in the Southeast.

Over the coming year, SEEA will work to continue to conduct research, technical assistance and outreach efforts with the Circuit Rider to address the areas of priority in Florida.

To view the full report, please visit <http://goo.gl/CWNUAd>.

EPA's Proposed Clean Power Plan

SEEA Releases Additional Clean Power Plan Resources for States

Energy efficiency is widely recognized as a cost-effective, rapidly deployable resource for air pollution reductions from the electric sector. However, with the release of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed Clean Power Plan (CPP) in June 2014, southeastern states and utilities have voiced concerns regarding a number of barriers and challenges to using energy efficiency as a pollution control strategy within state compliance plans, both under existing air programs and forthcoming regulations, such as the CPP, once finalized (expected in August 2015). SEEA's Resource Paper Series identifies resources, strategies and solutions to help states and utilities address these barriers and effectively utilize energy efficiency as a compliance strategy, where appropriate and cost-effective.

To date, SEEA has released five resource papers:

- Resource Paper 1: State Authority and Enforcement (<http://goo.gl/WpFlvY>)
- Resource Paper 2: Energy Efficiency Ramp-Up Rates (<http://goo.gl/3zfi3V>)
- Resource Paper 3: Non-Utility Energy Efficiency Programs (<http://goo.gl/BjZ4E0>)
- Resource Paper 4: State Planning Approaches (<http://goo.gl/55tnXi>)
- Resource Paper 5: Energy Efficiency Costs (<http://goo.gl/uqw3P7>)

The remaining paper, which focuses on the reliability implications of energy efficiency within a Clean Power Plan compliance strategy, will be released by the end of July.

SEEA does not take a position on whether EPA has the authority to or should regulate greenhouse gas emissions from existing sources. If these regulations move forward and include "outside of the fence line" compliance options, SEEA is focused on working with states, utilities and other key stakeholders to support energy efficiency as a least-cost, multi-pollutant resource and compliance pathway—where appropriate and cost-effective—to build a stronger, more vibrant Southeast.

For more information, visit SEEA's Clean Power Plan Portal at <http://goo.gl/K08ZU3>.

Thank you for your interest in SEEA!

For more information on SEEA's policy initiatives, contact Policy Manager Abby Fox at afox@seealliance.org or 404-602-9665.