

SEEA Policy Highlights

July 2013



Public Service Commissions

Breaking News!

Mississippi Takes Bold New Energy Efficiency Leadership Role; Adopts Statewide Energy Efficiency Rules

Mississippi continues to show remarkable leadership in promoting smart energy policy that strengthens the economy and positions the state for future growth. On July 11th, the [Mississippi Public Service Commission \(PSC\)](#) unanimously adopted statewide energy efficiency rules, which require the creation of utility-run energy efficiency programs. The rules are expected to save consumers more than \$2.3 billion over the next 20 years and create 9,500 new jobs.



SEEA Policy Director Jenah Zweig (left) and Mississippi PSC General Counsel Katherine Collier (right) look on as Commissioner Brandon Presley signs the adopted rules.

The adoption of the rules – the result of an intensive, three-year public participation process and review by the Commission and its staff – is a positive and historic step for Mississippi. In 2012, it fell at the very bottom of the [American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's State Energy Efficiency Scorecard](#), the nationally recognized authority for tracking state-level energy efficiency leadership.

"For too long, Mississippi has ranked dead last in the nation in the area of energy efficiency. I have been determined since my first day in office to get our state off of the bottom in the category," said Public Service Commissioner Brandon Presley. "This program will save customers money, utilize our natural resources efficiently and create thousands of new jobs for our people. How much more of a win-win situation can we get? I am proud to have made the motion to make this a reality." Mississippi's energy efficiency rules have

drawn the support and enthusiasm of a diverse set of stakeholders. Major utilities, small businesses, consumer groups, workforce development advocates and low-income communities have all publicly spoken in favor of them.

Mississippi tops the nation for the percentage of household income its citizens spend on utility bills. Thanks to the passage of the rules, Mississippians will now have greater access to programs that help them save energy and money.

Remarked Commissioner Lynn Posey, "Energy efficiency and conservation are opportunities for consumers to learn not only how to conserve energy, but allow them to save money on their monthly utility bills. [These rules] will ensure utilities are educating their customers about how they can control some elements of their bills."

The rules are also expected to expand employment in the energy products and services sector. Arkansas adopted similar rules in 2007, which have since led to the creation of 11,000 related jobs.

Mississippi's renewed commitment to energy efficiency also extends to other state-level leadership. Last October, Governor Phil Bryant released [Energy Works: Mississippi's Energy Roadmap](#), which featured a full chapter on energy efficiency deployment. In April, the Mississippi State Legislature [adopted landmark legislation](#) strengthening the state's investment in energy efficiency infrastructure.

"As Governor Bryant and the PSC recognize, energy policy is closely linked to economic development," said SEEA Policy Director Jenah Zweig. "We applaud their work and look forward to seeing the results of this multi-stakeholder effort."

Commented Karen Bishop, director of the Mississippi Development Authority's (MDA) Energy and Natural Resources

Division, “MDA commends the leadership of the Public Service Commission for their thoughtful consideration of these rules, which hold so much promise for our state. Their decision complements and reinforces the Governor’s Mississippi Energy Roadmap, building positive momentum for consumer savings and workforce growth in Mississippi.”

SEEA has served as a close advisor to MDA since 2010, providing technical assistance and coalition-building support. Read the press release here: <http://www.seealliance.org/Portals/0/pdfs/ms-ee-rules-press-release-7-11-13.pdf>.

Louisiana Reconsiders EE Rules

In a watershed decision that spells significant savings for Louisiana ratepayers and businesses, the Louisiana Public Service Commission (PSC) has voted to reconsider statewide energy efficiency rules. The vote, held on June 26th in Baton Rouge, turned on the prudent advancement of Commissioner Scott Angelle’s perspective. In December 2012, the PSC voted to adopt the proposed energy efficiency rules, but in February overturned the decision. The may now potentially resume in early August, following an additional public comment period through July 15th. SEEA will continue to provide comments and public testimony, while also coordinating and engaging with “on the ground” and national stakeholders, including the Alliance for Affordable Energy, Green Coast Enterprises and American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. SEEA will assist in-state stakeholders with maximizing energy efficiency benefits within the rules to secure energy efficiency as a least cost resource for Louisianans. Read more here: <http://goo.gl/qmeeE>.

New Orleans EE Programs Continue to Pave the Way for Progress

SEEA engages with NOLA City Council by fostering relationships and drafting written comments and public testimony. Entergy New Orleans is currently expanding its energy efficiency programs through its 2013 Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process. SEEA will continue to support Entergy New Orleans as an EE leader for the region, while encouraging additional EE advancement, including exploration of the following potential opportunities raised by the City Council: EERS, more comprehensive EM&V and decoupling.

Arkansas Public Service Commission Continues to Lead the Southeast

SEEA continues to engage with the Arkansas PSC as a model and learning template for the rest of the region. Arkansas is the PSC trailblazer for the Southeast. Their Energy Efficiency Rules that were adopted in December 2010 through Docket No. 08-144-U and include an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) follow the well-respected National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (NAPEE) recommendations, and have served as a model for other southeastern PSCs, including Mississippi, Louisiana and New Orleans. Additionally, their Commissioners, especially Chairwoman Collette Honorable, who was recently elected as the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions (NARUC) President, are confidently supportive of energy efficiency as a least cost resource and take a collaborative approach to getting utilities on board with making the most of energy efficiency opportunities. Arkansas has just completed their first three-year phased round of a phased Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, and is currently ramping up for their next round. SEEA is currently assessing opportunities to engage more closely with Arkansas and provide additional resources in the next round of Commission proceedings and convening of their collaborative group.

Energy Efficiency Continues to Move Forward within Georgia Power IRP Process

The Georgia Public Service Commission approved Georgia Power’s Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), calling for a 10% increase in energy efficiency savings over Georgia Power’s initial portfolio. Although more stringent targets could be set, Georgia Power continues to meet their energy efficiency goals. Read more here, Georgia Power IRP, Docket 36498: <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/factsv2/Docket.aspx?docketNumber=36498>. Another low-income energy efficiency program is also being considered that would enable low income households to cost effectively save over 980 kWh a year. Read more here, Energy Efficiency, Docket 36499: <http://www.psc.state.ga.us/factsv2/Docket.aspx?docketNumber=36499>.

Utility Stakeholder Forums

As a compliment to formal PSC proceedings, SEEA also continues to participate in key utility stakeholder forums, including the following:

- Southern Company Stakeholder Forum
- Georgia Power Demand Side Management Working Group (DSMWG)
- Dominion Virginia Power Demand Side Management (DSM) and Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Stakeholder Discussions
- Duke Energy Carolinas Collaborative Meetings
- Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Stakeholder Discussions

SEEA is currently evaluating the ripest opportunities to engage more closely in targeted forums.

Building Energy Code Program – Adoption Initiatives



Arkansas 2009 IECC Adoption Underway

The State Energy Office completed its final stakeholder meeting in June and will begin its Administration Process in July for statewide adoption of the 2009 IECC. During this process, the State Energy Office will present a draft code that includes small weakening amendments like no programmable thermostats but also great strengthening amendments like new home labeling and energy modeling. The process will include a public comment period for feedback on the draft code.

Louisiana Adopts 2009 IECC Equivalent Code, While Extending the Adoption Cycle From Two to Five Years

HB 580 was adopted this legislative session and will extend the code adoption cycle from two to five years, while concurrently updating the statewide energy code to a 2009

IECC equivalent code, effective January 1, 2014. SEEA is working with stakeholders to provide implementation and energy code training support for these updates.

North Carolina Fights Multiple Anti-EE Bills

This legislative session has been a constant battle to preserve EE in North Carolina. Three pieces of legislation threatened EE: (1) HB 298 for a repeal of North Carolina's REPS, (2) HB 201 for an energy code rollback to the 2006 IECC equivalent code, and (3) HB 120 for an adoption cycle extension from three to six years. Although the session is not yet officially over, HB 298 and HB 201 look like they have been defeated, preserving North Carolina's REPS and 2009 IECC+ equivalent energy code. However, HB 120 passed, providing for an adoption extension cycle to six years. SEEA looks forward to learning from this year and helping to coordinate an even stronger advocate network for 2014.

Tennessee 2009 IECC and 2012 IECC Adoption Efforts Underway

Tennessee adoption efforts continue, with local and state initiatives targeting the 2009 IECC and 2012 IECC in coordination with the American Chemistry Council and Southface. Southface will begin a "train the trainer" program for the Tennessee Fire and Code Academy in July with *Success with 2012 IECC* materials developed by SEEA.

Virginia 2012 IECC Adoption Underway

The Board of the Housing and Community Development approved the draft 2012 IECC for Virginia with several weakening amendments. SEEA is leading a group of interested parties to submit strengthening proposals to amend it

back to the base 2012 IECC before the July 1st deadline. After these proposals are submitted, the draft code will be formally released to the public for a 60-day comment period.

SECC Provides Targeted State Adoption and Rollback Prevention Support

SEEA's Southeast Codes Collaborative (SECC) has been providing targeted support to states with adoption or rollback prevention needs this legislative session.

Building Energy Codes Program – Compliance Initiatives

Success with 2012 IECC Resources Being Finalized

SEEA created a Success Curriculum in partnership with Advanced Energy for the 2012 IECC that simplifies the energy code with a user-friendly manual. The final version of this resource will be available on the Mimeo website by mid-July. Both Southface and Mathis Consulting provided feedback to the latest edition of these *Success* materials. As a continuation from the previous resources (*Success with 2009 IECC*, *Success with 2009 IECC for Georgia*, *Success with 2009 IECC for South Carolina*, and *Success with the Alabama Energy Code*), SEEA negotiated competitive printing rates to make this resource accessible to all, including volume discounts through the Mimeo Marketplace. To purchase or preview the *Success* materials, visit the following link: <https://marketplace.mimeo.com/SEEA>.

Training Coordination Underway

SEEA is also working with the following states to provide specialized energy code trainings and/or resources this fall:

- **2009 IECC Equivalent in Louisiana**
- **ASHRAE 90.1-2010 in Mississippi**
- **2009 IECC in South Carolina**
- **2012 IECC in Tennessee**

SEEA Spearheads BERS Deregulation Assistance in Florida

HB 269 repeals the *Building Codes and Standards Office of the Florida Department and Business and Professional Regulation's* responsibility to adopt, update and maintain a statewide uniform Building Energy-efficiency Rating System (BERS), effective July 1, 2013. The bill delegates the training and certification of raters to various nationally recognized energy rating programs (Residential Energy Services Network, Commercial Energy Services Network, Building Performance Institute and Florida Solar Energy Center). To provide proactive support for these changes in regulation, SEEA is working in close partnership with the Florida Home Builders Association and other interested parties to spearhead essential session content at the Southeast Building Conference in July.

Georgia Energy Code Training Classes Wrapping Up with Success

Ten energy code trainings provided in partnership with Georgia Power and the Home Builders Association of Georgia are wrapping up with success. The classes were well attended, with many exceeding their capacity with wait lists. Additionally, SEEA has received two additional training requests from stakeholders due to the popularity of the classes and the *Success with the 2009 IECC for Georgia* materials, and SEEA is planning to fund these requested trainings to provide additional needed resources for energy code implementation in the state. SEEA will have more information available on the impact of these classes with the receipt of the final close out reports from the trainers, Advanced Energy and Mathis Consulting.

Thank you for your interest in SEEA!

For more information on SEEA's policy initiatives, contact Policy Director Jenah Zweig at jjzweig@seealliance.org or 404-602-9663.
