

# SEEA Policy Highlights

April 2016



## State, Local and Utility Policy

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### Virginia General Assembly Passes Bill to Establish EM&V Framework

In its 2016 legislative session, the Virginia General Assembly passed HB 1053, aimed at developing a framework for evaluating Virginia’s utility-administered energy efficiency programs. The bill requires the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to evaluate the establishment of uniform EM&V protocols, as well as a methodology for measuring the cost of saved energy. Utilizing input from the state energy office, the SCC will report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly by the end of 2016.

SEEA is involved in a number of concurrent state processes focused on implementing Governor McAuliffe’s state energy plan and will continue to monitor these conversations.

The full text of the bill is available at <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?161+sum+HB1053>.

### Georgia Power IRP Hearing Process Underway

In January, Georgia Power filed a twenty-year integrated resource plan (IRP) in Georgia Public Service Commission Dockets 40161 and 40162. By and large, the IRP maintains a steady state investment in energy efficiency. The filing also reflects ongoing learning and fine-tuning of programs with no major changes to the overall portfolio. Hearings are underway, and an order is expected in June 2016.

### Louisiana Utilities File Quick Start Program Results

In early March, the three Louisiana utilities that opted in to Louisiana’s statewide energy efficiency rules filed their first round of Quick Start Program annual reports. Filed in Louisiana Public Service Commission No. Docket R-31106, these reports detail successes, challenges and opportunities in administering each program. By and large, all three utilities offering statewide programs — Entergy, SWEPCO and Cleco — met or exceeded the levels of savings laid out in their initial program plans.

SEEA served in the process for adopting Louisiana’s energy efficiency rules and continues to provide regional perspective and technical assistance as requested.

To read the individual annual reports, please visit the Louisiana Public Service Commission website at <http://goo.gl/aAWnPy>.

### Mississippi Public Service Commission Energy Efficiency Workshop Planned

Since the beginning of 2016, the Mississippi Public Service Commission has been holding monthly “working sessions” to discuss various topics relevant to the Commission. These meetings serve as opportunities for stakeholders to get oriented on specific topics and ask questions; to date, they have focused on topics such as

utility ratemaking and regional transmission organizations. At the May working session, scheduled for ???, SEEA will be delivering a presentation on energy efficiency in Mississippi, along with colleagues from the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE). This presentation will provide a general overview of energy efficiency, a history of activity in Mississippi and the timeline and key factors for consideration for the Comprehensive Portfolio phase of the Rule 29 programs.

## **South Carolina Ramps Up State Energy Planning Process**

Efforts are currently underway in South Carolina to develop a comprehensive, statewide energy plan. Led by the Office of Regulatory Staff, this plan will evaluate how South Carolina currently utilizes energy resources, and provide a path forward outlining how South Carolina may choose to leverage its energy resources to meet future energy needs during the ensuing five- and ten-year intervals. For more information, visit <http://goo.gl/AJ2sMv>.

## **Arkansas Utilities Prepare for Energy Efficiency Program Filings**

Arkansas utilities falling under the statewide energy efficiency resource standard (EERS) are set to file their annual reports for 2015 on May 1, 2016 and their program filings for the second round of the EERS (2017-2019) on June 1. The utilities will also be addressing a variety of other issues including optimizing their EM&V practices and better understanding the factors contributing to the cost of saved energy. Programs will be filed in utility-specific dockets; ancillary issues will be addressed via filings in Docket No. 13-002-U.

SEEA provides support to the Arkansas Energy Office under a DOE-funded cooperative agreement and continues to monitor developments in this docket.

## **Building Energy Codes**

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### **Mississippi Commercial Energy Code Extended**

This session, the Mississippi Legislature passed HB 906, extending the repealer of the legislation establishing the statewide commercial energy code. Originally set to expire in 2016, this bill will push back the effective date of the repealer to 2019.

In 2013, Mississippi became the first state in the Southeast and the third state in the nation to adopt ASHRAE 90.1-2010 as the statewide energy code standard for commercial buildings and public facilities. Mississippi does not currently have a statewide residential energy code.

The full text of the bill is available at <http://goo.gl/Jxdl8D>.

### **Florida Keeps Performance Testing, Adds the Energy Rating Index and Grapples with On-Site Generation**

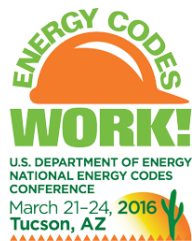
This session, the Florida Legislature passed HB 535, delaying the implementation of the statewide code's blower door testing requirement, designed to measure air leakage in residential structures. The original bill language called for removal of the test in its entirety.

This bill also introduced a new pathway called the Energy Rating Index (ERI) to the Florida Building Code, Energy Conservation. This pathway is very similar to the Home Energy Rating Index (HERS) that is often utilized in above-code programs. The language also tasked the Florida Building Commission (FBC) to determine whether on-site generation (e.g., solar photovoltaic) should be included as a measure that builders can use to meet this energy code pathway. The FBC will make a determination by October 1, 2016.

The full text of the bill is available at <https://goo.gl/E2bPdv>.

## SEEA Codes Team Presents at Two National Building Industry Conferences

### DOE National Codes Conference



In March, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) held its annual National Codes Conference in Tucson, Arizona. SEEA's codes team assisted in planning and organizing the conference, in addition to moderating sessions on "What Resources Are Available to Meet the Code?" and "The 2015 IECC and the Energy Rating Index (ERI)" and co-facilitating a reception with its sister regional energy efficiency organizations.

### RESNET

In early March, the SEEA codes team attended RESNET Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, where Energy Codes Manager Lauren Westmoreland served on a panel on the 2015 ERI compliance pathway.



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IECC

### ACI National Home Performance Conference



In April, Lauren Westmoreland will also be presenting on the SEEA's residential energy codes field study, described below, at the ACI National Home Performance Conference and Trade Show.

## Residential Energy Code Field Study Update

In partnership with Advanced Energy and Southface Energy Institute, SEEA is currently conducting DOE-funded residential energy code field studies in two southeastern states, Arkansas and Georgia. The goal of these projects is to establish a data set representing statewide construction trends and detecting significant changes in energy use from training and outreach activities, indicating whether an investment in building energy code education, training and outreach can produce a measurable change in residential energy use. These studies are among eight being conducted nationwide.

### Arkansas

The project team has completed data collection, as well as QA/QC to ensure its validity. The Pacific Northwest National Lab (PNNL) is currently conducting an analysis to determine the energy use intensity (EUI) of actual Arkansas homes as compared to code compliant homes. In addition, PNNL will provide the project team with the top 3-4 measure level savings (e.g. duct leakage).

After combining the data analysis and previously collected stakeholder feedback, the project team will develop a plan for education, training and outreach activities for next phase of this project.

## **Georgia**

Data collection is complete for the statewide field study. In addition, supplemental data collection within TVA's Georgia service territory is complete. This data collection is supplemental to the Field Study, and will be analyzed and used for a TVA-specific code study being conducted in partnership with DNV GL. TVA has expressed interest in the education, training, outreach in Georgia when the next phase of the project begins. Georgia Power samples are still being collected; Southface is expecting to complete these observations by April.

For more information on these studies, please visit SEEA's landing page at <http://goo.gl/6hMxAI>, or DOE's at <https://goo.gl/6QdMv9>.

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

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