

SEEA Policy Highlights

April 2015



Utility and Public Service Commission Initiatives

Tennessee Valley Authority Releases Draft Integrated Resource Plan

In early March, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) released the draft version of its 2015 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), inviting public comment by April 27th. 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.

Through the end of April, TVA will host a series of public meetings across the Valley. The IRP will be finalized later this summer. The draft IRP and accompanying Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement are available at <http://goo.gl/LRgo7>.

SEEA has been and will continue to be 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.

Industrial Training and Outreach Initiative Ramps up in the Tennessee Valley

As substantial energy users, industrial customers play an important role in shaping energy demand and load management planning for TVA's 155 local power companies (LPCs). SEEA, in partnership with the Industrial Energy Efficiency Network (IEEN) and the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association (TVPPA), has developed a train-the-trainer program designed to support LPC management and key accounts teams to better serve and engage their industrial customers.

On March 13th, SEEA began its initial outreach and education effort at the TVPPA Energy Services Committee meeting, with a representative body of LPCs from across the Valley. IEEN Executive Director Rick Marsh delivered a presentation on the project and its goals, which was well-received by LPC representatives and TVA. Leveraging on-the-books meetings over the next two months, this SEEA initiative will provide overview information and train-the-trainer resources to LPC managers, establishing awareness and input from LPCs across the Valley to help provide resources to LPCs, so they can better serve and provide more value to their industrial customers.

Mississippi Utility Program Showcase Demonstrates Energy Efficiency Leadership



On March 26th, Mississippi Power Company, Energy Mississippi, Atmos Energy, Centerpoint Energy and TVA and its affiliated local power companies presented their current energy efficiency program offerings to nearly 150 attendees at the Utility Energy Efficiency Program Showcase event. This gathering, held in Jackson, Mississippi, was co-hosted by the Mississippi Development Authority and Mississippi Public Service Commission.

Utilities provided an overview of their current or soon-to-be-launched energy efficiency program offerings for each customer class, and provided data from 2014 demonstrating the impact that their programs have already had on the state. Katherine Collier, Executive Secretary of the Commission, moderated the discussion.

Over 150 attended and many provided public comment in support of the programs, including Commissioner Brandon Presley (Northern District), Commissioner Steve Renfro (Southern District) and Insurance Commissioner and Fire Marshall Mike Chaney.

SEEA commends Mississippi for these significant advancements and the growing support base for their energy efficiency programs, and also supported the Mississippi Development Authority and Public Service Commission in organizing and planning the event. More information is available at <http://goo.gl/ocF6kh>.

Arkansas' Investor-Owned Utilities Request Extension of EERS Second Cycle Program Portfolios

On March 6th, Arkansas' investor-owned utilities, Public Service Commission staff and other parties filed for an extension of procedural deadlines, proposing to push back the second cycle of programs under the state's energy efficiency resource standard (EERS) until 2017, and holding in place current targets for a 2016 "bridge year." Current targets and program performance are among the most robust in the Southeast, with Entergy Arkansas saving approximately 1% of retail sales in 2014.

This request was made to allow adequate time for completion of the Commission's directives to explore a number of issues central to energy efficiency programming and evaluation. In addition, the extension, if approved, will ensure that information and analysis from the statewide energy efficiency potential study that is currently underway can be considered by the Commission in setting targets for the next cycle, and adequately incorporated into the next three-year program portfolio. The motion is available at <http://goo.gl/IX9JWS>.

SEEA has been engaged in the continued evolution of Arkansas' utility-administered energy efficiency programs as a part of the Parties Working Collaboratively stakeholder group, supporting the Arkansas Energy Office in this process.

Georgia Power Releases Technical, Economic and Achievable Potential Study to Inform 2016 IRP

In January, Georgia Power filed a market potential study, conducted by Nexant, with the Georgia Public Service Commission. The ten-year study identifies energy-savings opportunities to inform the company's 2016 IRP and will assist in targeting programs where the greatest potential exists.

According to the analysis, by 2026, Georgia Power could save a cumulative amount of between five and fourteen percent of sales through energy efficiency investments, depending on incentive levels.

SEEA serves on the Georgia Power Demand Side Management Working Group, which provides input into the company's DSM activities and program planning. A summary of the study results is available at <http://goo.gl/Qf9BMS>.

Building Energy Codes

Nashville Hosts DOE Codes Conference

In March, more than 200 stakeholders from across the country gathered in Nashville for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)'s national energy codes conference – the first held since 2011. The conference provided an opportunity for in-depth discussion on the future of energy codes, plans for the IECC moving forward and compliance tools.



The conference offered a policy track, focused on energy code compliance, and a technical track, which broke down specific elements of the IECC, including air sealing, ventilation techniques and insulation installation requirements. Organizers noted positive feedback, and have expressed their hope to make this as an annual event.

SEEA hosted a happy hour for southeastern attendees sponsored by SkyTec and a stakeholder breakfast, both focused on building relationships and fostering collaboration. Thanks to all of the southeastern stakeholders who attended and engaged in productive dialogue around energy codes in the region!

Residential Energy Codes Field Study Continues Data Collection and Stakeholder Engagement

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 25 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 in mid to late April. 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.

Stakeholder engagement is still in its early stages in Arkansas, but will continue to ramp up over the coming months.

For more information on the field study, please visit the project site at <http://goo.gl/tVHMkU>.

Training and Implementation Work Continue in the Sunshine State

Florida is a leader in the Southeast, both for its quantity of construction and for its new energy code. SEEA has partnered with AZS Consulting to provide energy code circuit rider services, to assess compliance baselines and provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions throughout the state. The circuit rider, Arlene Stewart, has completed site visits to 10 Florida building departments. Currently, SEEA's energy codes team and Stewart are developing a report on her findings, which will be available in early May.

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 compliance.

To further assist with rollout and implementation of the code, SEEA has developed three energy code training modules for the Florida Home Builder Association (FHBA) and Building Official Association of Florida (BOAF). This curriculum will be administered through a series of trainings across the state and is expected to teach 1,500 to 2,000 builders and code officials.

Residential Construction White Paper Underway

To complement its recently released white paper on commercial construction in the Southeast, SEEA is completing a similar analysis of census data of new single-family home construction. The supplement is currently in its final revision and is slated to be released by the end of April. The white paper will include:

- New residential construction permit numbers across all 11 states in SEEA's territory from 2005 through 2013;
- Maps of top counties in each state for new residential construction permits; and
- Comparative code-specific information, including residential energy code status and effective date for each state.

Both white papers will be available on SEEA's website at <http://goo.gl/hFykRH>.

Local Initiatives

City of Atlanta Benchmarking Ordinance Moves Forward



In early spring, the Atlanta City Council's Community Development Committee approved Ordinance 15-O-1101, Efficient Use of Energy within the Commercial Sector, which lays out a water and energy benchmarking program for a subset of Atlanta's large commercial building stock. The proposal is scheduled for a vote at the next council meeting on April 20th.

The ordinance has four components, including monthly water and electricity benchmarking, a process for submitting data to the city annually, a required energy audit and voluntary retrocommissioning.

SEEA has been providing strategic support for these efforts, and delivered comments on the proposed ordinance's economic and job creation potential at the Atlanta City Council Meeting on March 16th.

The full ordinance is available at <http://goo.gl/sXhG3g>.

Huntsville Joins the Better Buildings Challenge

In January, a coalition of local organizations announced the launch of the Huntsville Better Buildings Challenge. Initially, over 100 buildings will participate, with others expected to join over the next few years. This initiative brings together the public sector, business and nonprofit communities to implement building upgrades with the goal of improving participating buildings' energy performance a minimum of 20 percent by 2020.

The official announcement is available at <http://goo.gl/GvcKmp>.

EPA's Proposed Clean Power Plan

SEEA Launches Resource Paper Series

This spring, SEEA will be releasing a series of papers that deliver targeted information and resources for southeastern stakeholders and explore the role of energy efficiency as a compliance strategy for EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan and other environmental regulations. Topics include state agency authority, crediting and attribution of energy efficiency programs, program ramp-up rates, inter-state compliance approaches, reliability impacts, availability of planning resources and viability of non-utility programs.

SEEA does not take a position on whether EPA has the authority to 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.

The resource papers will be available on SEEA's website in our Clean Power Plan portal at <http://goo.gl/jaeA37/>. In early April, SEEA released the first paper, which focuses on state agency authority to include energy efficiency measures within state compliance plans. The remaining papers will be released throughout the spring.

Virginia, Georgia and Kentucky Kick Off Project to Enhance Energy-Savings Calculations from Performance Contracts

The Virginia, Kentucky and Georgia state energy offices have launched a new effort, supported by DOE, to develop a consensus approach on Evaluation, Measurement & Verification (EM&V), energy savings-to-CO₂ conversions and other key issues related to energy savings performance contracting (ESPC) projects. This project, which also includes partner organizations like SEEA, the National Association of State Energy Officials, National Association of Energy Service Companies and the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, will help states to expand their ESPC programs and promote greater cross-state consistency regarding EM&V, facilitating the potential inclusion of ESPC in strategies for complying with EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan.

SEEA will continue to serve as an active partner in this project, in addition to maintaining a suite of complementary resources to assist southeastern stakeholders in assessing a potential role for energy efficiency in compliance plans. These resources are available on SEEA's website at <http://goo.gl/yxndER>.

Thank you for your interest in SEEA!

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