



# The ARRA EAP

## Energy Assurance Planning Bulletin

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**Welcome to the seventh issue** of the quarterly *Energy Assurance Planning Bulletin*, a service of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (DOE/OE). The *ARRA EAP Bulletin* provides information on energy assurance planning resources, upcoming events, training opportunities, and important grant deliverable dates.

## Need to Know

**DOE/OE to conduct Midwest Regional Energy Assurance Exercise August 31-September 1, 2011 in Chicago, IL.** DOE/OE, in coordination with the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago, and NASEO, will conduct the tabletop exercise at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. The following States are encouraged to attend: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Localities/cities that have received Energy Assurance Grants from DOE and are located in the States listed above are also invited to participate.

This is an invitation-only event. Invitation letters and registration information has been distributed and reminders will continue to be sent out in the coming weeks.

One additional exercise, for the Western region, will be held in Phoenix, AZ November 29-30, 2011.

## Action Items

### State Grantees:

**DOE/OE has recently sent a notice requesting approval from States to share energy assurance plans with their fellow State planners to facilitate dissemination of best practices and lessons learned.** DOE anticipates that this will be a valuable opportunity for States to learn from each other's experiences, and looks forward to States' assistance in making it a success.

**Intrastate and interstate energy assurance tabletop exercises are to be completed 24 and 30 months, respectively, after the grant award date.** After-action reports are due within 30 days of exercise completion. Participation in a DOE/OE-coordinated regional energy assurance tabletop exercise will satisfy the interstate exercise grant requirement.

### State and Local Grantees:

**Quarterly Reports (Progress Report and SF-425) for grant activity April – June 2011 are due no later than July 30.** Quarterly Reports are submitted via the EERE-PMC website: <https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/SubmitReports.aspx>.

**The ARRA 1512 reporting cycle for the current quarter will begin July 1, 2011.** ARRA 1512 reports are submitted via [www.federalreporting.gov](http://www.federalreporting.gov). For local grantees, further information and sample reporting templates are available at: [www.energyassurance.us](http://www.energyassurance.us). Additional questions may be addressed by Attachment 3 (Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist) of the Assistance Agreement, or through contact with the DOE/NETL Project Officer.

## News from the States

### **Smart Grid comes to cities in Ohio.**

Cities in Ohio, with help from DOE's Smart Grid Investment Grant Program, have begun implementing initiatives that will modernize the way customers use energy. The City of Wadsworth's Connected Grid Project involves city-wide deployment of advanced metering infrastructure and targeted installation of home area networks, in-home displays, programmable thermostats, and other load control devices and distribution automation equipment. The new devices will help the City manage peak power demand and will give customers more control over their electricity bills by allowing them to view their energy use in real time.

For more information, visit:

[http://www.smartgrid.gov/project/city\\_wadsworth](http://www.smartgrid.gov/project/city_wadsworth).

## Energy Assurance Success Stories

**Chicago, IL is incorporating local renewable energy resources—such as its new 10 MW solar array (which is the largest urban solar array in the U.S.)—into its energy assurance planning initiative** (see: [http://www.energyassurance.us/index.php/leap/more\\_2/101/](http://www.energyassurance.us/index.php/leap/more_2/101/)). It has also developed and implemented an electrical outage notification system that emails outage data to responders, energy managers, and other key stakeholders, and aggregates this information in a historical database, where it can be sorted and analyzed for trends. Data tracked by the system include geographic boundaries and numbers of customers affected by outages. GIS data overlays will soon be integrated to help determine whether critical facilities fall within outage boundaries.

**Portland, OR has created a website for use by both its LEAP task force and the general public.** The site has information on the Portland LEAP planning process, building resiliency, critical infrastructure concepts, renewable energy (including its use in emergency management), upcoming presentations and trainings, articles and resource information, and other issues pertaining to energy assurance (<http://www.portlandonline.com/oem/index.cfm?c=53662>). In addition, Portland State University will be offering a summer course on energy assurance and disaster mitigation, with a specific focus on the local energy assurance plan as a case study.

## Other Useful Information and Links

**Hurricane season in the Atlantic begins June 1st and ends November 30th.** Both the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/outlooks/hurricane.shtml>) and the Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project (<http://hurricane.atmos.colostate.edu/Forecasts>) predict significantly above-average hurricane activity in 2011. Learn more about the hurricane outlook and impact probabilities by reviewing the links above.

**The DOE/OE Energy Assurance Daily newsletter** (<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>) provides current information on a range of issues impacting the energy sector—from utility service outages to natural gas supply trends to current developments in renewable energy. **This Week in Petroleum** (<http://www.eia.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>), published by the Energy Information Administration, provides a wealth of data on crude oil and petroleum product supplies, prices, and market outlook. Review these resources to stay current on broad-spectrum energy assurance issues.

## Upcoming Events

**PNWER Annual Summit, Disaster Resilience Working Group – July 10, Portland, OR** The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region will hold a roundtable discussion on building energy assurance and resilience at the State and local level, featuring DOE/OE personnel and State and local energy assurance grantees. Focal areas will include cross-jurisdictional and bi-national border issues, as well as regional data sharing, coordination, and decision-making. For more information, visit: <http://www.pnwer.org/2011annualsummit.aspx>.

**NARUC Summer Committee Meetings – July 17-20, Los Angeles, CA** The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Summer Committee Meetings will feature discussions on energy infrastructure security, the impact of new environmental regulations on energy supply, cutting-edge developments in smart grid and cyber security, and many other issues. For more information, visit: <http://summer.narucmeetings.org>.

**NASEO Annual Meeting – September 11-14, San Antonio, TX** The National Association of State Energy Officials Annual Meeting features the theme “Clean Energy is Economic Development” and will include discussion of nationwide public/private sector collaboration to open and expand clean energy technology services and markets, the role of clean technology innovation in combination with strategic energy policies and programs, and other issues. For more information, visit: <http://www.naseo.org/events/annual/index.html>.

## Guidance from PTI

The PTI *Local Government Energy Assurance Guidelines, Version 2.0* has a list of 10 helpful steps for local governments to consider when developing energy assurance plans. The *ARRA EAP* will be highlighting one of these steps each quarter. What follows is the second installment of this series. For more information contact Ronda Mosley at [rmosley@pti.org](mailto:rmosley@pti.org).

### ***Know the Emergency Authority Framework***

Energy assurance planning involves knowing the relevant emergency authority framework and referencing these authorities in the EAP. The plan should specify and explain the authority that is in place for the implementation of the strategies it outlines. Due to the nature of energy infrastructure, local, State, and Federal laws all can come into play during a major energy emergency. It is important to know which laws relate specifically to the EAP.

Traditional relationships between energy providers and governments have been shifting over time. Therefore, an assessment of the scope of local government energy emergency powers should be done regularly. Understanding emergency authorities early in the planning process will help avoid unforeseen problems with the EAP. Because there is a contractual relationship between energy providers and local government, knowledge of emergency authorities will also help planners understand the roles and responsibilities of their energy providers. Including legal counsel on the energy assurance planning team or a subcommittee may be a good idea.

### ***Federal Authority***

The National Response Framework provides the primary means through which Federal emergency response resources are applied, with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) taking a lead role in coordinating Federal response.

### ***State Authority***

The legal questions local governments consider when developing EAPs in many cases will be framed by relevant State-level laws and regulations. Some States pass “special acts” related to emergency management; it is important that local governments know their legal authority under these acts, if applicable. Fire and police departments operate under many levels of authority regardless of the cause of the energy emergency, but other departments may only be involved after an official State declaration of emergency status. It is important to know when an energy emergency officially starts, and who can, and must, be involved in response. The State may also have regulations that govern a locality and set forth limits that prescribe mandated activities or proscribe what cannot take place in the jurisdiction.

### ***Local Authority***

Local governments have legal responsibilities and authority vested through existing franchise agreements with utilities and others, for the use of streets, highways, and public places. For example, a local electric utility may have the exclusive right to use a locality’s public streets to replace lighting in an energy emergency. Also, depending on existing franchise agreements, some local governments are allowed to produce their own electricity and sell any surplus on the open market; some are not. Due to the changing electricity supply market, it may be advisable to incorporate considerations regarding future energy-related franchise agreements into the EAP. The tools available to direct or expedite local emergency response actions include but are not limited to:

- Executive order (typically issued by the chief executive such as mayor, city manager/administrator, and the like)
- Emergency rule (which may be a legal instrument passed by the local legislative body, such as city council or county commissioners)
- Administrative order (executed by a department head or cabinet-level appointee)
- Resolution (issued by the legislative body)
- Proclamation (issued by the chief executive; an example of a proclamation might be the declaration of a health emergency)

Jurisdictions that have “home rule” authority have a distinct advantage in emergency planning, response and recovery. Home rule cities are not burdened by the limitations of Dillon’s rule, which dictates that a unit of local government may exercise only those powers that the State expressly grants. The citizens of a home rule city are free to choose their own form of municipal government, and among a host of other choices, they are also free to establish their own way of conducting jurisdictional response to emergencies, unless expressly prohibited by the State.