



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OFFICE OF ELECTRICITY DELIVERY AND ENERGY RELIABILITY

STATE AND REGIONAL ELECTRICITY POLICY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

What DOE Offers to State and Regions: *The Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE)'s mission with regard to State and Regional Policy Assistance is to provide, on an as-requested basis, unbiased policy assistance and analysis to States and regions on State electricity policies, programs, laws, and regulations that facilitate electricity infrastructure investment needed to deliver clean, affordable, and reliable electricity to customers.*

In 2007, 46 States requested and received electricity policy-related assistance under the OE *State and Regional Policy Assistance Program*.

How DOE Helps States and Regions: Best practice-based technical and policy assistance is provided through a combination of efforts by OE staff, nationally-recognized experts at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the Regulatory Assistance Project, the National Council on Electricity Policy, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the National Council of State Legislatures, the National Governors Association, and others.

Assistance from OE through the *State and Regional Electricity Policy Assistance Program* ranges from quick response consultation, sometimes through telephone communication, to highly technical workshops.

Expert technical assistance is provided, *on an as-requested basis*, to State public utility commissions, State legislatures, regional State associations, regional transmission organizations/independent system operators, Federal officials, Governors' offices, State energy offices, and occasionally individual electric utilities.

What OE Does Not Provide to States and Regions: *The State and Regional Electricity Policy Assistance Program* is respectful of the Federal Power Act which grants most electricity policy decisions to the States. Thus the *Program* does not advocate or dictate policies to the States, or otherwise attempt to interfere with State decisions. Instead the *Program* serves as a clearinghouse, *on an as-requested basis*, for policymakers on best practices for effective electricity policy at the regional or State level. When asked, OE provides advice regarding options for a State official to consider, based on that State's requirements and needs and on lessons learned from other States.

OE's MISSION:

To lead national efforts to modernize the electric grid, enhance the security and reliability of the energy infrastructure, and facilitate recovery from disruptions to the energy supply.

Critical Issues: OE provides often requested technical and/or policy assistance or analysis to States and regions on the critical electricity policy issues of the day, including: utility-related energy efficiency, renewable energy and other types of generation (central or distributed), demand response (reducing electricity use at peak times), transmission siting and transmission infrastructure issues, and portfolio management and resource planning methods at the utility, State, or regional level.

Particular best practice emphasis is provided by OE by encouraging the development of regional institutions and regional thinking among States on these and related topics that help modernize the grid and meet the needs of the Nation's 21st Century economy and environmental concerns.

The State and Regional Electricity Policy Assistance Program History: The *Program* was transferred in 2003 as part of OE's creation from the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). EERE had created the *Program* in the early 1990s. Efforts to assist States at that time included integrated resource planning, best practices for electricity information disclosure and consumer protection practices, State Renewable Portfolio Standards, utility energy efficiency, electricity restructuring and market design issues. Many State electricity-related laws and regulations of the period were based on the technical assistance that DOE provided.

Much of the historical work on assistance to States and regions is available in the archives section of the National Council on Electricity Policy website at: www.ncouncil.org.

How to Request Assistance from OE: If you are a State official, contact any of the following individuals:

Larry Mansueti

Director, State and Regional Assistance
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, DC
lawrence.mansueti@hq.doe.gov
www.oe.energy.gov
202/586-2588

Rich Sedano

Principal
Regulatory Assistance Project
rasedano@aol.com
www.raonline.com
802/223-8199

Chuck Goldman

Principal Scientist & Group Leader
Energy Environment Technologies Division
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Berkeley, CA
cagoldman@lbl.gov
[//eetd.lbl.gov/r-ea-em.html](http://eetd.lbl.gov/r-ea-em.html)
510/486-4637

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