

State Energy Security Plans (SESP) **Frequently Asked Questions**

Frequently asked questions about State Energy Security Plan submission and reviews are listed below. This page will be updated periodically as needed. For additional questions please email energysecurityplans@hq.doe.gov

SESP Submission

1) Does my state / territory need to submit a state energy security (SESP) to the Department of Energy (DOE) in 2023?

Yes, all states and territories must submit an updated SESP to DOE by Saturday, September 30th, 2023, by 11:59 pm ET. Each plan should show “meaningful progress” since the FY22 plan submission. Meaningful progress is defined as significant enhancements to at least one element identified by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) section 40108 as compared with the previous plan submitted to DOE in 2022.

2) Should I submit a letter from my Governor?

No, a Governor’s letter or certification is not required for the FY23 submission. Once a state/territory receives communication from DOE stating that the submitted SESP fully addressed all of the 6 BIL elements required by Congress, a Governor’s letter can be sent the following year in lieu of a plan.

3) Do I need to identify the element(s) where we made meaningful progress? Is a cover letter required?

CESER will provide a simple one-page form with check boxes for states to indicate which element(s) they worked on since the FY22 submission. States also have the option to add any comments or areas of interest for technical assistance in 2024. Cover letters are not required for the 2023 submission.

4) My state hasn’t addressed all of the elements identified as “incomplete” in the letter we received in response to our first SESP submission. Do we still need to submit our SESP in 2023?

Yes, a submission is required in 2023. DOE has asked states to make “meaningful progress” on the plans, which means significant progress on at least one element.

5) How should I submit my plan to DOE?

DOE will provide multiple options for states/territories to submit their plans. States and territories can choose their preferred method based on their state's information sharing policies.

1. Upload SESP file to PNNL's secure **SharePoint** site
 - Only used for states to transmit plans to PNNL /CESER
 - Requires states/territories to identify a point of contact ahead of time
 - Send your point of contact's email address to: irena.netik@pnnl.gov
 - Access will be granted to each state's point of contact
2. Submit the encrypted SESP file to: energysecurityplans@hq.doe.gov
3. Submit the SESP file to: energysecurityplans@hq.doe.gov

6) Will we have to submit a plan in 2024?

States that receive a letter from DOE indicating that they have not "fully addressed" any one of the 6 elements must resubmit an updated plan by September 30, 2024. These plans should show "meaningful progress" on the elements that were identified in the previous review. DOE will provide additional technical assistance resources and tools to support state updates.

SESP Review

7) Who is reviewing the plans submitted in 2023?

The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) will complete the reviews of SESP in coordination with CESER. PNNL's team of reviewers have experience working with states, cybersecurity, and energy security, and have committed a dedicated team to the project who will provide actionable recommendations throughout the review process.

8) Will the elements in our FY22 SESP submission that were fully accepted be reviewed again? (Can the new reviewer change the previous decision?)

Even though the entire plan will be reviewed, the new reviewer will not change the status of fully accepted elements but may provide optional ideas for improvement to elements that were fully accepted in the prior review.

9) When will DOE notify the states of the completed review?

DOE will provide states with a status update before the end of the year (December 31, 2023).

10) Do states have the option to view other states' plans?

States can view other states' plans in the ISERNET system after registering for an account. Current and previous plans are found in the Energy Emergency Assurance Coordinators (EEAC) tab on the left-hand side. Register for an ISERNET account. States can also update their EEAC contacts in ISERNET. The EEAC program enables bi-directional communications between DOE CESER and state energy and emergency officials, leading up to and during

energy disruptions. The program facilitates multi-state and national information sharing and collaboration, Learn more about [EEAC here](#).

DOE website resources:

- [State Energy Security Plan Framework and Guidance](#)
- [State Energy Security Plan \(SESP\) Resources](#)
- [Energy Security Planning Resource Hub](#)

For questions about 40109, or State Energy Program funds which can support development of State Energy Security Plans as well as related activities like energy emergency exercises, Emergency Support Function (ESF) 12 training please visit the State Energy Program Guidance [website](#).