## FEDERAL UTILITY PARTNERSHIP WORKING GROUP SEMINAR

November 3-4, 2015 Houston, TX

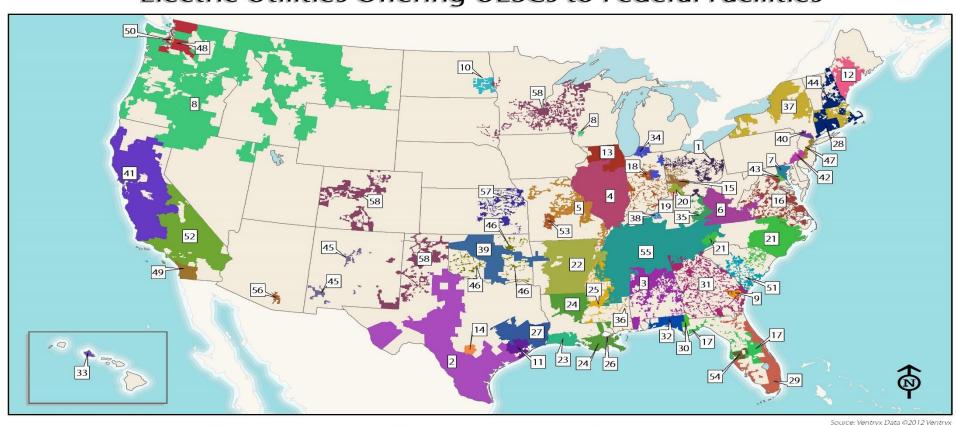
# Best Practices Escalation Rates

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#### Electric Utilities Offering UESCs to Federal Facilities





27. Entergy Texas

28. Eversource Energy



This map was produced by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for the Department of Energy. Meghan Mooney. September, 2015.



12. Central Maine Power Co

13. Commonwealth Edison Co

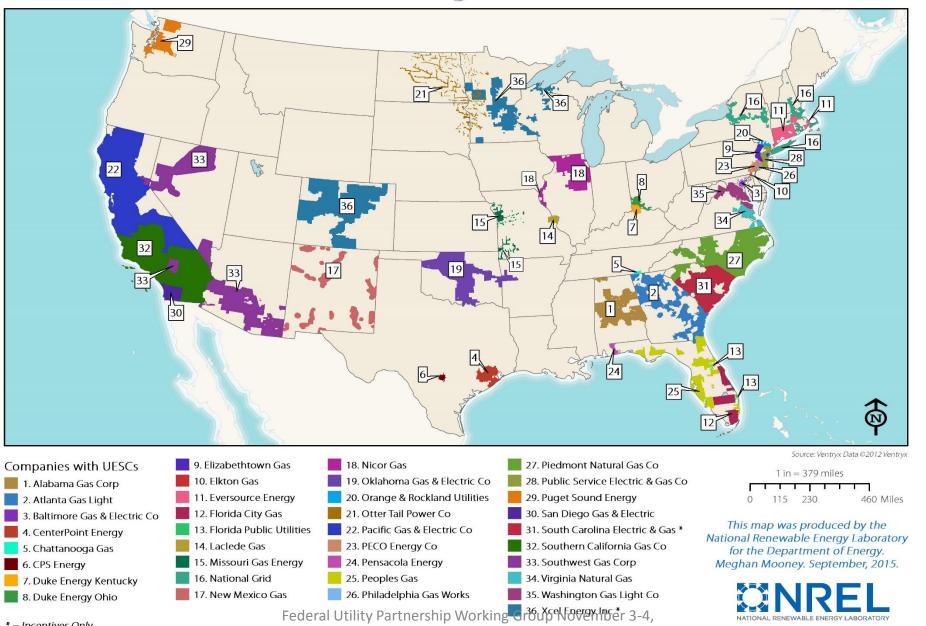
57. Westar Energy

58. Xcel Energy \*

42. PECO Energy Co

43. Potomac Electric Power Co

#### Natural Gas Utilities Offering UESCs to Federal Facilities



2015 Houston, TX

#### Best Practices: Escalation Rate

#### Value of future energy savings

- Provides purchasing power for implementing a robust, comprehensive and customized ECM set
- Provides an option for paying back financing in the shortest possible time



## Best Practices: Escalation Rate

#### **Cautions:**

- Over-estimating future energy savings
  - Savings < Costs</p>
- Under-estimating the value of future energy savings may result in
  - Cutting potential ECMs = exposure to higher future energy costs
  - Missing site objectives and goals
  - Longer payback term = greater interest costs



## Hypothetical Project #1

Year-1 Savings	Escalation Rate	Payback Term	Future Value of Energy Savings (Total payments potential)
\$1M	0%	20 years	\$ 20M
\$1M	2%	20 years	\$24.8M
\$1M	2.5%	20 years	\$26.2M

These future savings can be used to buy more capital or payback financing faster!

## Hypothetical Project #2

Investment	Interest Rate	Escalation Rate	Years to pay off	Total Interest Paid
\$10M	6%	1%	15 Years	\$5.4M
\$10M	6%	4%	12 years	\$4.6M

Increased escalation rate supports larger payments, resulting in a shorter payback and lower interest paid



## Best Practices: Escalation Rate

How can we capture the power of future energy costs to maximize the work we can get done today?



#### Escalation Rates – Source

- DOE's Energy Information Administration (EIA) develops energy price forecasts
- NIST uses EIA's forecasts in FEMP tools
  - Life-cycle cost
  - EERC, a calculator that provides average escalations given project term and area of country

## **Energy Escalation Rate Calculator (EERC)**

- EERC reflects forecasts (for energy prices and inflation) of government experts
- Recommended by DOE FEMP
- Used by Industry and Agencies

Has been proven accurate and eliminates lots of negotiation

Download EERC 2.0-15

http://energy.gov/eere/femp/energy-escalation-rate-calculator-download



#### "Use the tool!"

## High escalation rate Benefit: more "future dollar savings" to spend on ECMs Shortest payback term = lowest interest costs Risk: over-estimated "future savings" won't cover costs of ECMs target escalation rate = escalation rate from EERC Low escalation rate Benefit: Ensure savings cover payments Leave "future savings" on the table Longest payback = highest interest costs

#### For More Information and Assistance

"Escalation Rates in Energy Savings Performance Contracts", by Philip Coleman, *Energy Engineering*, Vol. 112, No. 5 2015

Direct UESC Project Support:

<a href="http://energy.gov/eere/femp/contacts-federal-utility-energy-service-contracts">http://energy.gov/eere/femp/contacts-federal-utility-energy-service-contracts</a>