



# The ARRA EAP

## Energy Assurance Planning Bulletin

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OE Website

<http://www.oe.energy.gov>

**Welcome to the eighth 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 Western Regional Energy Assurance Exercise November 29-30, 2011 in Phoenix, AZ.** DOE/OE, in coordination with the State of Arizona, the City of Phoenix, and NASEO, will hold its final regional energy assurance exercise at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel. Energy scenarios will address infrastructure interdependencies, as well as communication, collaboration, and policy responses. The following States/territories are encouraged to attend: Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. 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 have been distributed, and reminders will continue to be sent out in the coming weeks.

## Action Items

### State Grantees:

**Reminder: DOE/OE has sent a notice requesting permission from States to post their energy assurance plans on ISERnet to facilitate dissemination of best practices and lessons learned.** DOE recommends that States take this valuable opportunity to share their plans with their fellow State planners to learn from each other's experiences and success stories.

**After-action reports are due within 30 days of intrastate and interstate energy assurance tabletop 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 July – September 2011 are due no later than October 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 October 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.

## Energy Assurance Success Stories

**Midwest Regional Exercise Recap:** On August 31 – September 1, 2011, DOE/OE, in coordination with the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago, and NASEO, held the third in a series of four regional energy assurance exercises, The exercise, *White Prairie*, focused on the midwestern States and featured 146 participants from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Attendees included Governors' Offices, State Energy Offices, Public Utility Commissions, and State-level emergency management and environmental protection agencies. Other participants included cities and local jurisdictions, as well as officials from trade associations and the electricity, oil, natural gas, and renewable energy industries. The day-and-a-half event featured three scenarios dealing with man-made hazards impacting electricity, petroleum, natural gas, and renewable energy.

## Other Useful Information and Links

**The Public Technology Institute (PTI) has published a series of new educational documents—and has offered related webinars—in support of local energy assurance.** Topics range from Energy 101 and Smart Grid 101 to the Role of Amateur Radio in Local Government Energy Assurance, and Local Government Guidelines for Working with the Media During an Energy Emergency. These documents and webinars are currently available through the PTI website at: <http://www.pti.org/index.php/ptiee1/inside/C129>.

**The ISER division of DOE/OE has issued a new report entitled *Year-in-Review: 2010*.** The report summarizes last year's energy infrastructure events and expansions. Based on ISER's *Energy Assurance Daily*, the report provides an overview of the most important energy disruptions that occurred over the course of the year, and it describes additions to U.S. energy infrastructure. Also included are international events that were of importance to U.S. energy supplies. To view this report, visit: <http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/outreach.aspx>.

## News from the States

### **Hydro Projects Funded by Revolving Loans Help to Power Nevada**

Low-interest loans from the Nevada State Office of Energy's Revolving Loan Program have recently helped to finance the construction of three hydroelectric projects in Lander, Nye, and Elko Counties. These new hydro plants will be automated, and will require very little maintenance. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada was the first State in the Nation to have 100 percent of its American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Revolving Loan funds allocated.

For more information, visit:

[http://energy.state.nv.us/documents/news/2011/PR\\_2011-06-27\\_RevolvingLoanFundedHydroProjects.pdf](http://energy.state.nv.us/documents/news/2011/PR_2011-06-27_RevolvingLoanFundedHydroProjects.pdf).

## Upcoming Events

**Winter Fuels Outlook – Oct. 12, 2011, Washington, DC** The conference, hosted by DOE/OE, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), and NASEO, will address topics such as global oil supply uncertainty and the effects of projected winter weather on the demand for heating and key transportation fuels. Some of the Nation's leading experts in energy data and forecasting will discuss in detail a range of market factors that may impact the supply, distribution, and prices of petroleum, natural gas, and electricity this winter. For registration information, please visit <http://www.naseo.org/events/winterfuels/index.html>.

**NARUC Annual Meeting – Nov. 13 – 16, 2011, St. Louis, Missouri** This conference of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) will feature speakers from government and industry and will focus on hot issues and challenges confronting the utility sector and utility consumers. For registration information, please visit <http://annual.narucmeetings.org/>.

## 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 third installment of this series. For more information contact Ronda Mosley at [rmosley@pti.org](mailto:rmosley@pti.org).

### ***Understand Response Roles and Responsibilities***

To help protect the general public during an energy emergency, local governments interact with the private sector and a variety of regional, State, and Federal agencies. Defining the roles and responsibilities of each private and public sector organization is one of the most important tasks to address in the EAP. Performing this task early in the planning stages has the added benefit of reducing unnecessary, wasteful duplication of effort during an emergency.

#### *Local Roles and Responsibilities*

Public sector responses to energy emergencies are usually coordinated by the local Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Emergency Management Agency (EMA), or another agency (e.g., police or fire departments) designated for this purpose. The local response will also typically involve an elected official (usually the mayor), an appointed administrative official, the local body or governing board, and/or other agencies as needed. Revisit roles and responsibilities regularly, and be prepared to update them as technology, energy supply contracts, and personnel change. It is also useful to determine how the EAP interacts with the local continuity of operations plan (COOP) or similar response framework. The two plans should be complementary and consistent.

#### *Cooperation with the Private Sector*

Historically, the most effective energy emergency responses have been characterized by close cooperation between the public and private sector. It makes sense to involve private sector energy emergency experts early in the planning process. The private sector organizations that are typically involved in emergency response are the ones that own, lease, and/or operate energy supply systems serving or located within the local jurisdiction. Planners should identify the local government official who will be responsible for the first call(s) to private sector energy suppliers in an energy emergency. They should also determine how the information gathered from that call will be transferred to others in the local government.

#### *Regional, State, and Federal Government Roles and Responsibilities*

Information on where local government energy emergency responsibilities begin and end, and where regional, State, and Federal government responsibilities begin and end, is crucial information and should be a part of the EAP. The local energy assurance coordinator should help ensure that interaction between agencies and departments and between the public and private sector is as efficient and effective as possible during emergencies.

State emergency or disaster plans are designed to delineate responsibilities among State agencies and between State and local governments. These plans generally seek to define the relationship between both State and local response mechanisms and the Federal emergency management system.

The National Response Framework (NRF) and its component Emergency Support Functions (ESF) include information on local government roles and responsibilities, and how they interface with Federal response actions. The NRF is an all-discipline, all-hazards plan that establishes a single, comprehensive framework for the management of domestic incidents. It provides the structure and mechanisms for the coordination of Federal support to State, local, and tribal incident managers and for exercising direct Federal authorities and responsibilities.

Under the NRF, DOE/OE is the lead Federal agency for responding to energy emergencies, once Emergency Support Function 12 is activated. State and local governments should work closely with DOE/OE in sharing energy emergency and shortage information as well as in seeking technical support.