



NATIONAL COUNCIL
ON ELECTRICITY POLICY

Memorandum

To: National Council Policy Committee
From: Andrew Spahn, SRA International
Re: Summary of March 14, 2008 Policy Committee Call
Date: March 20, 2008

Participants

Comm. Pat Oshie, WA	Dub Taylor, TX
Comm. Marsha Smith, ID	John Sarver, MI
Comm. Phyllis Reha, MN	Carol Tombari, NREL
Comm. Philip Giudice, MA	Rob Naronho, Sandia
Rep. Carl Holmes, KS	Howard Schwartz, WA
Rep. Alan Maxwell, AR	Betty Merrill, OR
Pres. Jeanne Fox, NJ	Niko Dietsch, EPA
Wally Nixon, AR	Sue Coakley, NEEP
Bill Lohrman, FERC	Chuck Gray, NARUC
Jeremy Newberger, National Grid	Miles Keogh, NARUC
Kate Marks, NCSL	Julia Friedman, NARUC
Glen Anderson, NCSL	

I. Introductions

Pres. Fox introduced the National Council's mission and members. Morey Wolfson from the Colorado governor's office was introduced as the NCEP's newest member.

II. Cindy Jacobs, senior advisor for EPA's Energy Star program

Ms. Jacobs introduced EPA's Portfolio Manager tool. Portfolio Manager is a tool developed by EPA to manage, track, and benchmark EE in commercial buildings. The tool addresses the fact there are good opportunities to reduce energy use and GHG emissions in these buildings. The key features of the tool include:

- 1) rating system of 1 -1 00 for many types of buildings to help owners understand how efficiently they use energy.
- 2) energy benchmarking – energy per sq foot, weather normalized data over time, track CO2 emission, etc.

The rating system make the energy efficiency data very easy to understand. What the EPA has found is that there is a huge variation in energy use per square foot among buildings and that

newer buildings are not necessarily more efficient. Additionally, the use of efficient technologies also does not necessarily mean the whole building is more efficient. Buildings have to earn 75 or higher on the rating system to receive an Energy Star label. This rating system is consistent with ASHRAE standards and international protocols.

The EPA has seen huge growth in use of the Portfolio Manager tool in the last year. Local governments are joining the challenge to improve government buildings' efficiency. States government is also using the tool in greater numbers. Lastly, utilities are using the tool to show government agencies that they are meeting government mandated energy efficiency requirements.

III. Sue Coakley, Executive Director of the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership Ms. Coakley provided an overview of energy efficiency M&V and discussed how benchmarking tools (such as PM) can enhance M&V effectiveness. To begin she explained the differences among measurement, verification, and evaluation.

1. Measurement is the change in usage after implementation of an energy efficiency program or the impacts of that program.
2. Verification confirms that the savings actually occurred.
3. Evaluation examines the overall performance of the program or project – changes in the marketplace, assessment of a specific technology or program process, etc.

Benchmarking is a measurement tool that can inform evaluation. In the context of this discussion it allows for a comparison across similar buildings.

EM&V is important for energy officials since it provides a means of understanding whether or not policies are achieving their intended goals. Such information will inform future resource planning and projection, program design and implementation, etc.

IV. California Assemblywoman Lori Saldana (D- San Diego) AB 1103 was signed by the governor last week. Implementation of this law will begin in 2009 and 2010. California uses the Portfolio Manager tool because they did not want to reinvent the wheel. Property managers with buildings across the nation find this tool attractive since all of an individual manager's buildings can be tested and analyzed in one tool. However, the development of a California specific model is a possibility.

V. Business Meeting

The EPA issued a draft of the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency's Year 3 Workplan. They are looking for comments on pages 8 – 14. Andrew reviewed the document with the group. If you have comments, please send them to Andrew and he will forward them on to the EPA.

President Fox will no longer be able to attend the Face to Face meeting in April due to scheduling conflicts. The meeting will still be held April 14 – 15 in Washington, DC. The goal is to have 2-3 representatives from each of the member groups in attendance. At the meeting participants will review priorities for the next year and future projects. The theme of the meeting is Climate Challenges and the Future of the Electricity Sector.

Andrew reviewed the draft agenda. The topics are on the mark, especially for the work that needs to be done to coordinate state-fed activity and state agency activities across the nation. DOE and EPA like the agenda and will supply speakers as needed.