

# Southeast Energy Monitor

The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office

February 2020

The *Southeast Energy Monitor* publishes energy-related developments for Army leaders and installation staff through analysis of energy programs and additional resources. Covering eight states, the *Southeast Energy Monitor* gives early notice of state dockets and legislative and regulatory activities relevant to military interests through critical analyses and prioritization.

The information in the *Southeast Energy Monitor* is derived from a variety of sources and is not created by USACE.

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## CARBON CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY

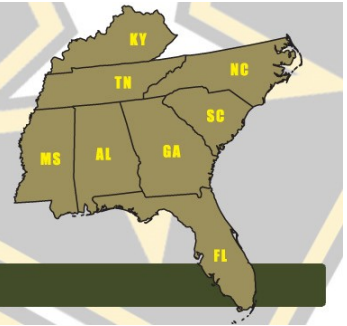
The passing of the [Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#) included a section for a program related to blue carbon capture and direct air capture. The program is known as the "Direct Air Capture and Blue Carbon Removal Technology Program."

"Blue carbon capture" is defined as the removal of dissolved carbon dioxide from seawater through engineered or inorganic processes, including filters, membranes, or phase-change systems. The definition of "direct air capture," with respect to a facility, technology, or system, means that the facility, technology, or system uses carbon capture equipment to capture carbon dioxide directly from the air.

The goals of the program are to develop technologies that capture carbon dioxide from seawater and the air to turn such carbon dioxide into clean fuels to enhance fuel and energy security, to develop and demonstrate technologies that capture carbon dioxide from seawater and the air to reuse such carbon dioxide to create products for military uses, and to develop direct air capture technologies for use at DOD military installations or facilities or in modes of transportation by the Navy or the Coast Guard.

The program will be carried out in two phases with phase one consisting of research and development, and the second phase consisting of testing and evaluation. Phase one will be carried out no later than the end of March 2020, 90 days after the NDAA enactment date. A front-end engineering and design study will be conducted that includes an evaluation of direct air capture designs to produce fuel. Phase two is testing and evaluation of the program to produce fuels for use at DOD military installations or facilities or in modes of transportation for the Navy or Coast Guard.

For more information or to comment on any state issue, contact [Dave Blalock](#), REEO-S Regional Counsel, (404) 545-5655.



### *LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES*

**SB 3, GULF OF MEXICO ENERGY SECURITY ACT.** The bill would provide for the expenditure of funds received by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for coastal conservation, restoration, and protection. The bill has been prefiled for the 2020 legislative session.

### *PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS*

There are no significant dockets to report.



### *LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES*

**S 284, PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) PROGRAM.** The bill would create the PACE Program that authorizes a property owner to apply to a local government or an approved PACE administrator to finance a qualifying improvement that includes energy conservation and efficiency improvement. The bill was introduced 14 JAN 20.

**S 770, PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) PROGRAM—QUALIFYING IMPROVEMENTS.** The bill amends the definition of "qualifying improvement" to include sewage treatment, seawall improvements, and certain improvements to underground infrastructure. The bill was introduced 14 JAN 20.

**S 1190, COOLING TOWERS.** The bill would require that owners of cooling towers register them with the Department of Health and require that owners of cooling towers obtain or update a maintenance program and plan for existing and newly installed cooling towers. The bill was introduced 14 JAN 20.

**S 1514, RENEWABLE AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY.** The bill would revise the contents of a report to the governor and Legislature to include the development of certain renewable and alternative energy technologies and would require the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to promote the development of renewable and alternative energy technologies. The bill was introduced 14 JAN 20.

**H 913 (S 1232), FLORIDA CLIMATE AND RESILIENCY RESEARCH PROGRAM.** The bill would create the Florida Climate and Resiliency Research Program to prepare an assessment that analyzes, integrates, evaluates, and interprets the effects of climate change on energy production and use, disaster preparedness, the natural environment, and other areas. The program would also examine current trends in climate change and projected major trends for the subsequent 25 to 100 years. The bill was introduced 14 JAN 20.

**H 921, ALTERNATIVE FUELS.** The bill would revise contents of the *Renewable & Alternative Energy Technologies Report*, require the Department of Agriculture to promote the development of alternative fuel and alternative vehicle technologies, and delete a requirement that the department prepare a separate, specified renewable energy report. The bill was introduced 14 JAN 20.

**H 1419, RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION.** The bill would authorize public customers to use specified mechanisms to generate electricity using renewable energy generating systems and would require utilities to adopt programs offering renewable energy tariffs for non-residential customers. The bill was introduced 13 JAN 20.

### ***PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS***

**DOCKET # 20190002, ENERGY CONSERVATION COST RECOVERY CLAUSE.** The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) has issued a final order approving energy conservation cost recovery amounts and related tariffs and establishing energy conservation cost recovery factors for the period of January 2020 through December 2020. The Energy Conservation Cost Recovery Clause allows public utilities to seek recovery of costs for energy conservation programs on an annual basis. The status of this docket is open. All filings for this docket (20190002) can be found [here](#).

**DOCKET # 20190015, REVIEW OF NUMERIC CONSERVATION GOALS.** The Florida PSC has issued a final ruling rejecting Florida Power & Light's proposed conservation goals and instead voted to keep the current goals established in 2014 in place through 2025. The status of this docket is open. The last PSC review and outcome can be found on original docket 20130199 [here](#).



### ***LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES***

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

### ***PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS***

There are no significant dockets to report.



### ***LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES***

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

### ***PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS***

**DOCKET # 2019-00410, NOTICE TO FILE FOR APPROVAL OF CONTINUATION OF TARGETED ENERGY EFFICIENCY (TEE).** The Kentucky PSC opened the proceeding to consider Kentucky Power Company's application to continue its existing TEE Program through 31 DEC 20 and increase the demand-side management surcharges for the program. The PSC has determined that Kentucky Power's request for the continuation of the TEE program through 31 DEC 20 should be approved, and the surcharge increases should be approved. The status of this docket is open. All filings for this docket (2019-00410) can be found [here](#).



### *LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES*

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

### *PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS*

**DOCKET # 2018-AD-64, INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING (IRP) PROCESS.** The Mississippi PSC has issued a final order adopting a formal IRP process. The final rule adds distributed energy resources and demand-side management efforts into the resource planning process and recognizes and values them as resources for planning and cost-recovery purposes. The current status of this docket is open. All filings for this docket (Case Year: 2018, Case Type: AD, Case No.: 64) can be found [here](#).



### *LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES*

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

### *PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS*

**DOCKET # E-2, SUB 1185, MICROGRID PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT.** The North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) has rejected the Hot Springs Microgrid Project progress report filed by Duke Energy Progress LLC (DEP.) The progress report stated DEP had moved back the commercial operation date for the Hot Springs Microgrid by nine months, from January 2020 to September 2020, but provided no explanation for the schedule change. NCUC said the progress report failed to include the “transparent and comprehensive plan” required by the NCUC. The current status of this docket is open. All filings for this docket (E-2, Sub 1185) can be found [here](#).

**DOCKET # E-2, SUB 1219, ADJUSTMENT OF RATES AND CHARGES.** Duke Energy Progress LLC has filed an application with NCUC requesting authority to adjust and increase its rates for retail electric service in North Carolina effective 29 NOV 19. The proposed rate increase is based on a test period ending 31 DEC 18. The status of this docket is open. All filings for this docket (E-2, Sub 1219) can be found [here](#).

**DOCKET # E-7, SUB 1185, CUSTOMER NOTICE AND COMPLIANCE TARIFFS.** NCUC has approved the customer notice and compliance tariff filed by Duke Energy Carolinas LLC and Duke Energy Progress LLC to inform North Carolina GreenPower (NCGP) tariff participants of the revisions approved by the NCUC. Notice was to be sent to all NCGP tariff participants at the end of January 2020. The current status of this docket is open. All filings for this docket (E-7, Sub 1185) can be found [here](#).



### *LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES*

**S 922, ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS.** The bill would amend a section of South Carolina Code to state a person or corporation who uses an electric vehicle charging station to resell electricity to the public for compensation is not an electric utility as long as specific criteria are met. The bill was introduced 14 JAN 20.

**S 923, INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN—WATER OR SEWER.** The bill would provide that a water or sewer utility must submit an integrated resource plan to the South Carolina PSC that includes mandatory and certain other reporting requirements. The bill was introduced 14 JAN 20.

**H 4730, WIND ENERGY SITING.** The bill would amend section 58-33-20, Code of Laws of South Carolina, relating to utility facility siting and the environmental protection act. Areas revised include the definitions for "major utility facility," "DOD Siting Clearinghouse," "notice of presumed risk," "adverse impact on military operations and readiness," "major military base," and "wind energy facility." It also amends sections of the code relating to the construction of a utility facility and to provide that parties constructing utility facilities must include the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission and the DOD Siting Clearinghouse for proceedings related to wind energy facilities. The bill was introduced 14 JAN 20.

**H 4810, COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY ACT (C-PACE.)** The bill would create a provision that allows governing bodies to establish a district for the purpose of promoting, encouraging, and facilitating clean energy improvements within its geographic area. The bill was introduced 14 JAN 20.

### *PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS*

**DOCKET # 2019-185-E, DUKE ENERGY CAROLINAS LLC PROCEEDINGS.** Duke Energy Carolinas LLC has presented to the South Carolina PSC consideration of the South Carolina Energy Freedom Act (H 3659) proceeding to establish Duke Energy Carolina's standard offer, avoided cost methodologies, form contract power purchase agreements, commitment to sell forms, and other terms and conditions including small power producers as defined in 16 U.S.C. 796. The status of this docket is open. All filings for this docket (2019-185-E) can be found [here](#).



### *LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES*

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

### *PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS*

There are no significant public service commission dockets to report.

# Federal Activity

## ENERGY

**S 2799, ENERGY AND WATER FOR SUSTAINABILITY ACT OF 2019.** The bill would require the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Interior to establish a joint Nexus of Energy and Water Sustainability Office to serve as a forum for developing common federal goals and plans on energy-water nexus activities in coordination with the National Science and Technology Council. The bill is currently in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

**S 2978, SUSTAINABLE DELIVERY OF ENERGY AND CLEAN WATER.** The bill would ensure consideration of water intensity in the Department of Energy's energy research, development, and demonstration programs to help guarantee efficient, reliable, and sustainable delivery of energy and clean water resources. The bill is currently in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

**TRIBAL ENERGY RESOURCE AGREEMENTS (TERA.)** The Bureau of Indian Affairs has amended its regulations governing TERAs between the Secretary of the Interior and Indian tribes. Tribes may apply for TERAs to allow them to enter into leases, business agreements, and rights-of-way for energy resource development on tribal land without the Secretary of the Interior's review and approval ([84 FR 69602](#)). The final rule was effective 18 DEC 19.

**LIFE CYCLE GREENHOUSE GAS PERSPECTIVE.** The Office of Fossil Energy of the Department of Energy has provided responses to comments received from its 19 SEP 19 study titled *Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Perspective on Exporting Liquefied Natural Gas from the United States: 2019 Update* ([85 FR 72](#)). The update and public comment responses can be found [here](#).

# Professional Development

## DOD TRAINING SOURCES

**NAVY CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS OFFICERS SCHOOL TRAINING.** The [Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officers School](#) (CECOS) offers training on environmental management, pollution prevention, environmental compliance, environmental conservation and planning, and environmental restoration. Energy course offerings include Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, Energy Information Administration, and Energy Technology Information. Click [here](#) for information on course offerings and times. Courses offered by CECOS are available to all military and civilian employees of the U.S. government, free of charge. Travel costs are borne by the student.

**AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEERING SCHOOL TRAINING.** The [Air Force Civil Engineer School](#) offers a variety of environmental management courses and seminars, including Interservice Environmental Education Review Board offerings. Courses are available to all military and civilian employees of the U.S. government, free of charge. Travel costs are borne by the student.

**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (SERDP) AND ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (ESTCP) WEBINAR SERIES.** DOD's environmental research and development funding programs [SERDP and ESTCP](#) launched a [webinar series](#) to promote the transfer of innovative, cost-effective, and sustainable solutions developed using SERDP and ESTCP funding. Live webinars are offered every two weeks on Thursdays from 12 p.m. Eastern for 90 minutes. Most webinars feature two 30-minute presentations and interactive question and answer sessions on topics targeted for DOD and U.S. Department of Energy audiences. Prior presentations are archived for viewing any time. Recently archived webinars are available on demand [here](#).

## ***FEDERAL TRAINING SOURCES***

**FEDERAL FACILITIES ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE CENTER.** [FedCenter.gov](https://www.fedcenter.gov) is the federal government's home for comprehensive environmental stewardship, compliance assistance, and professional development information. FedCenter.gov provides a wide variety of information, such as:

- Program development (e.g., environmental management systems, green procurement program);
- Federal and state regulatory requirements for various facility activities;
- Access to [environmental assistance](#);
- Access to free, [FedCenter-sponsored courses](#); and
- [Partnerships](#).

FedCenter also provides member assistance services such as collaboration tools for workgroups, environmental reporting tools, and daily newsletter and subscription services.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE FEDERAL BUILDINGS.** This training series from the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) provides updated guidance for complying with the 2016 Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings. The series consists of five on-demand courses:

- [2016 Guiding Principle I: Employ Integrated Design Principles and Introduction](#)
- [2016 Guiding Principle II: Optimize Energy Performance](#)
- [2016 Guiding Principle III: Protect and Conserve Water](#)
- [2016 Guiding Principle IV: Enhance Indoor Environmental Quality](#)
- [2016 Guiding Principle V: Reduce Environmental Impact of Materials and Guiding Principle VI - Assess and Consider Climate Change Risks](#)

**EPA SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT ACADEMY.** Learn about key issues, successful projects, and a variety of best management practices for creating waste management programs, from the series of [live and archived webinars](#). Building on the familiar concept of [Reduce, Reuse, Recycle](#), sustainable materials management is a systemic approach that seeks to reduce materials use and their associated environmental impacts over their entire life cycle, starting with extraction of natural resources and product design and ending with decisions on recycling or final disposal. The format is a formal presentation followed by a question and answer session.

**SUSTAINABLE ACQUISITION FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES.** The two-hour online [course](#) provides staff involved in specifying and purchasing with a thorough introduction to compliance requirements, processes, and tools for procuring sustainable products and services. Participants will receive specific guidance in how to meet executive order and Federal Acquisition Regulation requirements and understand how sustainable acquisition benefits their agency, community, and the environment.

**SUSTAINABLE ACQUISITION TRAINING RESOURCES.** The interagency federal Sustainable Acquisition & Materials Management Practices Workgroup compiled a [spreadsheet](#) of sustainable acquisition training resources developed or hosted by federal agencies that are available to government employees, businesses, and non-governmental organizations.

**FEMP eTRAINING COURSES.** FEMP offers interactive, [eTraining courses](#) to help federal agencies develop core competencies and comply with energy efficiency, renewable energy, water management, and sustainability requirements. FEMP is partnering with the National Institute of Building Sciences' Whole Building Design Guide to host these comprehensive, FEMP-developed eTraining courses.

**ENERGY STAR.** EPA's [Energy Star program](#) helps identify and promote energy efficiency in products, homes, and buildings. EPA hosts a [webinar series](#) that covers a range of topics, from how to benchmark in Portfolio Manager to financing energy efficiency improvements to how to engage building occupants.

# Staff Directory

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## How the Regional Offices Work for You

**The Army Regional Environmental and Energy Offices' close cooperation between the military and regional policymakers helps to resolve issues *before* they become laws and regulations.**

The REEOs monitor proposed state environmental and energy laws, regulations, and other public sources for impacts to installation missions. When legislation or a regulation important to the military is being developed, REEOs work with the other military Services to assure that their interests are represented.

To comment on items in the *Southeast Energy Monitor*, please email the [Regional Counsel](#).

To be added to the *Southeast Energy Monitor* distribution list, email the [Regulatory Affairs Specialist](#).

