

# Southeast Energy Monitor

The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office

April 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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## ENERGY AND WILDLIFE RESEARCH ANNUAL REPORT

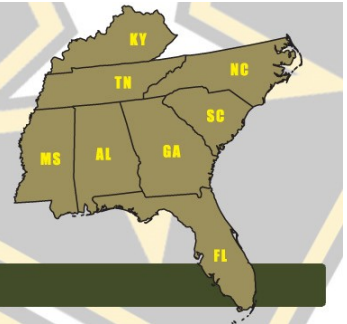
*From Mona Khalil's introduction to the U.S. Geological Survey Energy and Wildlife Research Annual Report for 2019*

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Energy and Wildlife Research Annual Report for 2019 highlights new research on the interactions of energy development with wildlife. The report encompasses investigations of conventional and renewable energy development across the United States and summarizes ongoing USGS research projects and publications related to the impacts of energy development on fish and wildlife resources, tools to assess those impacts, and solutions to avoid or minimize risk.

This year's report features geospatial models and tools for species and habitats that were produced to assist resource managers and the industry in siting new energy development and selecting off-site mitigation areas. Research efforts are applied to oil and gas development activities, where USGS tools can identify areas of lowest conflict between energy development and sensitive resources such as trust and at-risk species, and provide management solutions that improve the recovery of species and landscapes altered by energy extraction. To address wildlife concerns related to wind energy development, the USGS is working with stakeholders and industry to develop technologies and management solutions to maximize wind-facility development and energy production while reducing wildlife fatalities at wind farms. To address emerging wildlife issues related to utility-scale solar energy, the USGS assists land and wildlife managers, industry, and other stakeholders by identifying the causes of negative effects to animals and the areas where impacts can be minimized. To improve aquatic ecosystems and species recovery, USGS is designing next-generation fish passage devices for hydropower dams that can replace those reaching the end of their lifespans, improve migratory fish passage, and reduce spread of invasive species.

The entire report is available [here](#).

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



### *LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY*

**SB 99, RENEWABLE ENERGY SITING.** The bill would require a county or municipality to give an affected military installation notice and an opportunity to review any proposed tall structure of wind energy facility within two miles of the installation for potential adverse impacts on military aviation and other operations prior to approving construction. The bill was introduced 4 FEB 20.

### *PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS*

**DOCKET # U-5213, APPROVAL OF RATE CONTRACT FOR PURCHASED ENERGY (CPE).** The Alabama Public Service Commission approved revisions to rate CPE effective with 1 APR 20 billings. The rate CPE is available to any qualifying facility that seeks to sell its total output, or a portion thereof, to Alabama Power Company in accordance with the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, as amended, and Title 18, Part 292 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as implemented by the Alabama Public Service Commission. The current status of this docket is open.



### *LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY*

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

### *PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS*

There are no significant dockets to report.



### *LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES*

**SB 496, ENERGY SOURCE CONNECTION.** The bill would prohibit governmental entities from adopting any policy that prohibits the connection or reconnection of any utility service based upon the type or source of energy or fuel. The bill was introduced 4 MAR 20.

**HR 1430, DEMAND-SIDE MANAGEMENT AND ENERGY USE.** The house resolution would create the House Study Committee on Demand-Side Management and Energy Use. The resolution was introduced 9 MAR 20.

### *PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS*

There are no significant dockets to report.



### *LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY*

**HB 323, ELECTRIC GENERATION FACILITIES.** The bill would allow eligible electric generation facilities in operation before 31 DEC 24 to maintain the same net metering rates as eligible generation facilities beginning operation before the effective date until 31 DEC 29. The bill was introduced 24 JAN 20.

### *PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS*

**DOCKET # 2020-00016, LARGE-SCALE SOLAR PROJECT.** The public docket discusses Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company's application for a 100 MW solar power project to be split among their own customers plus two corporations. The application includes a 20-year contract for the purchase of the output of 100 MW solar generation. The solar farm is expected to start commercial operation by 2022. The current status of this docket is open.



### *LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY*

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

### *PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS*

**DOCKET # 2019-UA-232, ANNUAL ENERGY DELIVERY PLAN.** The public docket discusses Entergy Mississippi LLC's (EML) compliance to follow Mississippi Public Service Commission's Final Order Amending Rule 29 to establish an integrated resource planning and annual delivery reporting requirement. EML will include in its annual energy delivery plan a description of all programs proposed for the company's demand-side management portfolio and provide the results of cost-effectiveness tests that evaluate the proposed demand-side management activities. EML will be working with the Mississippi Public Utilities Service to develop tariff revisions that reflect the initial recovery of demand-side management for calendar year 2020 in its March 2020 filing. The current status of this docket is open. For a listing of all filings for this docket, please search case year 2019, case type UA, and case no. 232.



### *LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY*

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

## *PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS*

**DOCKET # E-100 SUB 157, BIENNIAL INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANS.** The public docket discusses Dominion Energy North Carolina and Duke Energy Progress' Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard Compliance Plan for consideration. Duke anticipates the need for approximately 4,000 MW of new resources between 2019 and 2033. The North Carolina Utilities Commission held a [public hearing](#) 9 MAR 20 to discuss the IRP reports and compliance plans. The current status of this docket is open.

**ORDER # E-100, SUB 113, REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITIES.** The North Carolina Utilities Commission has revoked the registrations of 48 renewable energy facilities retroactively effective 5 OCT 19. The docket order states that the owners of the revoked facilities shall not establish the facilities as projects, and the listed facilities are ineligible to be used by an electric power supplier for compliance with the North Carolina Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard. The order was effective 26 FEB 20. The current status of this docket is closed. For a listing of all filings for this docket, please search Docket # [SP-404 Sub 0](#)



## *LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY*

**HJR 4940 (SJR 998), ELECTRIC MARKET REFORM MEASURES STUDY.** The joint resolution would establish the Electricity Market Reform Measures Study Committee whose responsibilities would include whether the Legislature should adopt market reform measures affecting the provision of electric service in South Carolina and to study public benefits associated with such measures. The resolution was introduced 15 JAN 20.

## *PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS*

**DOCKET # 2019-365-E, COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT PROGRAM FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY.** The public docket discusses Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC's plans to extend the limited waivers of generator interconnection procedures for the issuance of the competitive procurement of renewable energy program. The current status of this docket is open. For a listing of all filings for this docket, please search [2019-365-E](#).



## *LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES*

**SB 2475, CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES.** The bill would require the Tennessee Office of Energy to assist Tennessee institutions and citizens with research and experimentation in the development of clean energy technologies during the immediately preceding calendar year. The bill was introduced 5 FEB 20.

**SB 2876, ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDING STANDARDS.** The bill would authorize state and local governments to contract for energy reduction warranties in contracts for new building construction and renovations costing in excess of \$100,000. The bill was introduced 6 FEB 20.

**HB 1675, CLEAN ENERGY RULE.** The bill would require the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to develop a plan to implement the federal affordable clean energy rule and submit the plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval by 15 JUN 20. The bill was introduced 15 JAN 20.

**HB 1773, STATE ENERGY POLICY COUNCIL.** The bill would extend the Tennessee state energy policy council to 30 JUN 24. The bill was introduced 22 JAN 20.

## *PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS*

There are no significant dockets to report.

# Federal Activity

## *ENERGY*

**HR 5760, GRID SECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT.** The act would provide for a comprehensive interdisciplinary research, development, and demonstration initiative to strengthen the capacity of the energy sector to prepare for and withstand cyber and physical attacks. The resolution was introduced 5 FEB 20.

**ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS AND COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has proposed amendments to its decision-making process for selecting energy conservation standards and the use of a comparative analysis of the relative costs and benefits of all the proposed alternative levels for potentially establishing or amending an energy conservation standard ([85 FR 8483](#)). This analysis would make a reliable determination that the chosen alternative is economically justified. Comments were due 16 MAR 20.

**ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS AND TEST PROCEDURES.** DOE has updated and modernized its process rule for use when prescribing energy conservation standards for both consumer products and commercial equipment ([85 FR 8626](#)). DOE will examine both the total amount of projected energy savings and the relative percentage decrease in energy usage that would be obtained from establishing or amending energy conservation standards for a given covered product or equipment.

**ENERGY STORAGE GRAND CHALLENGE.** DOE's Research and Technology Investment Committee Energy Storage Subcommittee intends to create a cross-cutting strategy for U.S. leadership in energy storage by focusing efforts across five tracks ([85 FR 9464](#)):

- Technology development,
- Technology transition,
- Policy and valuation,
- Manufacturing and supply chain, and
- Workforce.

# 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](#) 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](#).

