

Southeast Energy Monitor

The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office

August 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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REDUCING ARMY INSTALLATION UTILITY BILLS

From [Association of Defense Communities](#)

A study conducted by RAND Arroyo Center has investigated maintaining or enhancing military base readiness while reducing utility costs.

With regard to water and wastewater management, the study cited a shift from trying to access new water sources to efficiently using existing sources such as reclaimed water and nontraditional sources.

The study also highlights that many Army installations are becoming “prosumers” of energy (producing and consuming one’s own power sources) and moving away from centralized energy systems to smaller distributed energy sources including smart grids.

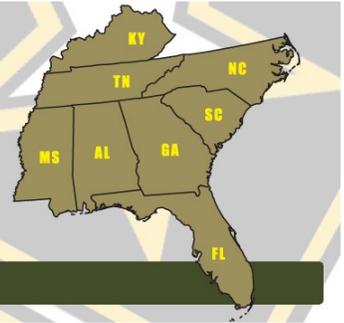
In order to reduce installation commodity payments, researchers suggest bases work with local utility providers to buy “power to renegotiate rates.” Additionally, researchers recommend seeking opportunities in utility emerging rate structures, which include “electric utility time-of-use pricing.”

“Army installations should continue to make cost-effective energy and water efficiency and infrastructure investments,” wrote the study’s authors in an overview.

“Options include leveraging Army mission funding for energy and water resiliency and security needs; taking advantage of federal, state, and local funding sources; and implementing nontraditional installation energy and water partnerships.”

The RAND report can be found [here](#).

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



Alabama

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS

DOCKET # U-4226, RATE REVISIONS. Alabama Power Company has agreed to file conforming tariff sheets for the most recent rate revision and changes to the Rate Rider RGB (supplementary, back-up, or maintenance power.). The most recent filing in this docket was 19 MAY 20, and the status of this docket is open.

Florida

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

FLORIDA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON CLIMATE AND ENERGY. The Florida Advisory Council on Climate and Energy (FACCE) held a virtual public meeting to provide an overview of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Florida Office of Energy, and the Energy and Climate Plan. The members of FACCE also participated in a facilitated discussion on the transportation sector to look at how the state can modernize energy policy, diversify energy sources, increase energy efficiency, and create opportunities for its most vulnerable citizens. A recording of the meeting can be found [here](#). The meeting was held 3 JUN 20.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS

DOCKET # 20200176, CLEAN ENERGY CONNECTION PROGRAM. The docket includes information on a voluntary community solar program that allows participating customers to pay a subscription fee in exchange for receiving bill credits related to the solar generation produced by the Clean Energy Connection (CEC) Program solar facilities. Duke Energy Florida LLC intends to build approximately 750 megawatts (MW) of solar generation as part of the CEC Program. Each project will be approximately 74.9 MW and will have different in-service dates starting with January 2022. The status of this docket is open.

DOCKET # 20200153, SOLAR BASE RATE ADJUSTMENT. Duke Energy Florida LLC has petitioned for a limited proceeding to approve a third solar base rate adjustment for cost recovery up to 700 MW of solar generation. Five solar projects are included in this approval request: Twin Rivers Solar Power Plant, Santa Fe Solar Power Plant, Charlie Creek Solar Power Plant, Duette Solar Power Plant, and Archer Solar Power Plant. The status of this docket is open.

Georgia

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS

There are no significant dockets to report.

Kentucky

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS

There are no significant public service commission dockets to report.

Mississippi

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS

There are no significant public service commission dockets to report.

North Carolina

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS

There are no significant public service commission dockets to report.

South Carolina

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

There are no significant legislative activities to report.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS

There are no significant public service commission dockets to report.

Tennessee

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

SB 1429 (HB 1290), SOLAR EASEMENT INSTRUMENT. The bill would require the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to make available on its website for public viewing a sample solar easement instrument prepared by the department's Office of Energy programs. The bill was recommended for passage in the Senate.

SB 1695 (HB 1773), STATE ENERGY POLICY COUNCIL. The bill extends the Tennessee State Energy Policy Council to 30 JUN 24. The bill was signed into law with an effective date 19 MAR 20.

HB 1709 (SB 1792), UTILITY DISTRICTS. The bill requires utility districts, water systems, and wastewater facilities to submit annual reports to the utility management review board or the water and wastewater financing board, as applicable. The bill was signed into law 26 MAR 20.

HB 1838 (SB 1934), UTILITY SERVICE. The bill prohibits political subdivisions from prohibiting by ordinance, resolution, regulation, code, or any other requirement, the connection or reconnection of a utility service based on the type or source of energy to be delivered to an individual customer. The bill was signed into law 26 MAR 20.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKETS

There are no significant public service commission dockets to report.

Federal Activity

ENERGY

HR 7186, FEDERAL POWER ACT AMENDMENT. The bill would amend the Federal Power Act to require the Electric Reliability Organization to propose a reliability standard that addresses the resilience of the bulk-power system. The bill was introduced 11 JUN 20.

HR 7203, DEFENSE CRITICAL ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE. The bill would direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program on the implementation of mitigating actions to address vulnerabilities to defense critical electric infrastructure. The bill was introduced 15 JUN 20.

HR 7303, ENERGY RESILIENCY PROGRAMS. The bill would provide funds for federal and state energy resiliency programs. The bill was introduced 24 JUN 20.

BATTERY CRITICAL MATERIALS SUPPLY CHAIN. The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EREE) will host a Research and Development Battery Critical Materials Supply Chain Workshop in fall 2020 and is seeking input to inform the workshop agenda ([85 FR 36394](#)). DOE is requesting information on challenges and opportunities in the upstream and midstream critical materials battery supply chain. EREE is specifically interested in information on raw minerals production and refining and processing of cathode materials including cobalt, lithium, and battery grade (Class I) nickel. Responses to its request for information were accepted through 16 JUL 20.

SECURING U.S. BULK-POWER SYSTEM. On 1 MAY 20, the president issued [Executive Order 13920](#) "Securing the United States Bulk-Power System." The order finds that the bulk-power system represents a potential target of malicious cyber activities. The order establishes a task force, chaired by DOE, to address federal energy infrastructure procurement policies related to national security. The task force shall:

- Develop a recommended consistent set of energy infrastructure procurement policies and procedures for agencies and submit such recommendations to the Federal Acquisition Regulatory (FAR) Council.
- Evaluate the methods and criteria used to incorporate national security considerations into energy security and cybersecurity policymaking.
- Report to the Office of Management and Budget within one year, to summarize its progress, findings, and recommendations.
- Engage with distribution system industry groups, to the extent consistent with law and national security.

Within 180 days of receiving energy infrastructure procurement recommendations, the FAR Council will consider proposing amendments to implement the recommendations.

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 DOE 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 (ONLINE). [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](#).
- [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 (ONLINE). 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 (ONLINE). 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 (ONLINE). The two-hour [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 on 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 (ONLINE). 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 (ONLINE). 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 (ONLINE). 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

Director/DOD Region 4 REC	(404) 562-5146
Regional Counsel	(404) 562-5016
Region 4 Army REC	(404) 562-5231
Regulatory Affairs Specialist	(404) 562-5023

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](#).

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