

MEEA Policy Insider: EEfficient News

May 25, 2017

The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance's Policy Team is actively tracking policy developments in a number of states within MEEA's footprint. The MEEA Policy Insider captures the latest activity within each state and provides MEEA's most recently developed resources to aid members in their own outreach, education and advocacy initiatives.

This issue contains updates on policy activity in the following states. *Items noted with an asterisk have immediate advocacy opportunities.*

- Illinois*
- Indiana
- Iowa*
- Kentucky*
- Michigan*
- Minnesota
- Missouri*
- Ohio

At the end of the document you will find a section titled, MEEA's Events and Resources, which contains MEEA's latest webinars, written resources, staff contact information and upcoming events.

Illinois

Regulatory

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) passed a resolution commencing [NextGrid](#), the state's utility of the future study. NextGrid will be an approximately 18-month process to explore issues related to climate change and the environment, consumer and community economic development, grid design, digital networks and markets and regulation to encourage innovation. The process will be facilitated by an independent facilitator. The ICC took comments on potential facilitators as well as the scope of the effort.

The electric and gas utilities previewed their 4-year DSM plans on May 2 at the Illinois Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group (IL SAG) meeting. Plans are due by June 30. All of the utilities filed their plans for the bridge period – the 7-month period from June 1 to December 31 of this year – with the ICC. These plans propose how the utilities will take the low income and public sector programs that were previously managed by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. This change was part of the Future Energy Jobs Act.

The Future Energy Jobs Act called for the utilities to convene a low-income advisory group. This group, now the Economically Disadvantaged Advisory Group, will hold its second meeting on May 23 in Springfield, Illinois. Details on the meeting can be found on the IL SAG website.

MEEA Activities

MEEA submitted [comments](#) on the scope of the NextGrid effort to the ICC.

As a follow-up to MEEA's meeting on April 5 with Acting Commissioner Oliva, MEEA will conduct an abbreviated EE 101 training with her two new policy advisors on May 31.

MEEA worked with other members of the Illinois Energy Efficiency for All effort to submit feedback to the utilities on the 4-year plans presented on May 2. Feedback included ideas for approaching multifamily energy efficiency programs and workforce development and diversification.

How to Get Involved

The IL SAG is open to the public. A calendar of meetings can be found on the IL SAG [website](#).

Indiana

Regulatory

The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's (IURC) [rulemaking](#) on IRPs and energy efficiency planning requirements is ongoing. The final draft rule was completed last fall, but the IURC has not yet commenced the formal rulemaking process.

MEEA Activities

MEEA submitted comments on [IPL](#), [NIPSCO](#) and [Vectren's](#) IRPs. MEEA met with the Governor's Director of Policy and recently named IURC commissioners, including Chairman Atterholt, in April to introduce them to MEEA, brief them on energy efficiency and offer MEEA as a resource in their work.

MEEA attended the IURC's IRP Contemporary Issues Technical Conference on April 25, which included expert presentations on risk and uncertainty, stochastic modeling, constructing modeling scenarios and regional perspectives on resource planning.

Iowa

Regulatory

[Alliant Energy](#), [MidAmerican Energy](#) and [Black Hills Energy](#) have filed their 2016 annual energy efficiency plan reports with the Iowa Utility Board (IUB).

How to Get Involved

On June 29, the Iowa Office of Consumer Advocate will host a meeting to discuss Alliant Energy's, MidAmerican Energy's and Black Hills Energy's annual energy efficiency reports. The utilities will discuss their plan performance, implementation challenges/successes and address questions related to the annual report filings. The meeting will be held from 9:30-3:30 in the hearing room of the IUB Building at 1375 E. Court Avenue in Des Moines. Interested parties are encouraged to submit any questions or suggested topics for the meeting to Sheila Parker on or before May 26 at Sheila.parker@oca.iowa.gov. The utilities will provide written responses to the questions by June 26.

Kentucky

Regulatory

As reported in last month's Policy Insider, Kentucky Public Service Commission's (PSC) investigation into the reasonableness of Kentucky Power Company's demand side management programs ([Case No. 2017-00097](#)) is ongoing. The scope of this investigation includes an examination of the appropriateness of Kentucky Power's DSM programs, the level of spending on such programs and the reasonableness of the resulting DSM rates. The PSC ruled on May 4 regarding a March 31 request from Kentucky Power on how to administer its DSM portfolio while proceedings are pending. The PSC ruled that Kentucky Power continue its obligation to administer its DSM portfolio without increasing or expanding funding for any EE programs, as well as ordering that the company not be held to the minimum \$6 million expenditure level previously approved. According to the procedural schedule for the investigation, the PSC will issue a decision after June 9, 2017.

MEEA Activities

MEEA analyzed Kentucky Power's programs and has submitted [comments](#) to the PSC as a non-intervener on April 14.

How to Get Involved

Non-intervening parties may submit comments on this case directly to the PSC while the case is open. Any such comments will be entered into the record on

file. Comments can be addressed to Dr. Talina Mathews, Executive Director of the KPSC, referencing the case number 2017-00097.

Michigan

Legislative

On December 21, 2016, Governor Snyder signed into law a comprehensive energy bill package ([PA 341](#) and [PA 342](#)) that the Michigan legislature passed on December 15. The laws bring to a close the debate that began in early 2015 with a proposal for full repeal of the mandated electric and natural gas energy optimization standards.

On February 15, 2017, Representative Gary Glenn introduced [House Bill 4220](#) to the House Energy Policy Committee. This bill relates to advanced or “smart” meter programs and would lower the cost by going to a flat fee that is lower than the current cost-of-service rates set by the MPSC under current law, while allowing residents who opt-out to do their own meter reading.

MEEA Activities

On April 7, 2017 MEEA submitted [comments to the MPSC](#) relating to the energy waste reduction potential study. The EWR potential study is one of the first steps in the MPSC’s initial IRP assessment process.

How to Get Involved

The initial Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) IRP planning modeling assessment (authorized in the recently enacted energy bill package ([PA 341](#) and [PA 342](#)) is ongoing and Energy Waste Reduction stakeholder group continues to provide input on the upcoming Michigan statewide energy efficiency potential study. Details of the recent stakeholder comments and meeting dates have been posted by the MPSC at www.michigan.gov/energylegislation. The next Energy Waste Reduction meeting (conference call) will take place on June 12.

Minnesota

Legislative

Governor Dayton vetoed Chapter 64, Senate File 1937, a jobs, commerce and energy policy omnibus bill. The energy policy pieces related to energy efficiency included exempting some of the municipal and cooperative utilities from complying with the state’s Conservation Improvement Program, requiring that the public service commission rule in favor of resource plans and

investments that retained the greatest number of jobs and require legislative approval of certain changes to the building energy code.

MEEA Activities

MEEA submitted a letter to Governor Dayton to educate him and his staff about the existing energy code update and review process. The letter was featured in [Midwest Energy News](#).

Missouri

Legislative

[Missouri Senate Bill 190](#), which contains a number of energy efficiency related provisions such as expanding the Missouri Energy Efficiency Investment Act's definition of demand-side program to include combined heat and power technology, continues to move through the legislative process in the Senate.

Regulatory

The Missouri Public Service Commission (MO PSC) held a hearing on the proposed amendments to the Missouri Energy Efficiency Investment Act (MEEIA), case number [EX-2016-0334](#). The MO PSC submitted the initial filing to the Secretary of State on December 28, 2016. The proposed changes correspond to rules CSR 240-[20.092](#), [20.093](#) and [20.094](#). A wide range of changes to MEEIA are included in this proposal ranging from the establishment of a statewide energy efficiency collaborative to adding non-energy benefits to cost-effectiveness tests, altering the industrial opt-out requirements and the adoption of a technical reference manual as part of a statewide EM&V framework.

The Public Service Commission opened a working on Emerging Regulatory Issues, [Case EW-2017-0245](#). This case asks for input on a range of issues including solar energy, electric vehicles, advanced metering infrastructure, rate design and clean energy financing. A workshop was held on May 18 in Jefferson City during which the commission heard feedback from interested parties.

MEEA Activities

MEEA submitted [comments](#) to the Missouri Public Service Commission's proposed changes to the [MEEIA rules](#).

How to Get Involved

The commission will explore issues related to the MEEIA rules during the Agenda session on May 24 at 9:30 am CT. The session should be live [streamed](#) and [archived](#).

Ohio

Legislative

On March 30, [House Bill 114](#) passed the House. The bill would freeze Ohio's EERS at 1% through 2025 with penalties for noncompliance only assessed in 2019, 2022 and 2025. HB 114 has been assigned to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee but is not expected to be up for a committee vote until after the July recess.

MEEA Activities

MEEA submitted [written testimony](#) on HB 114 on March 21.

MEEA Events and Resources

Recent Policy Publications and Resources

- [Factsheet: Non-Energy Benefits of Energy Efficiency](#)
- [Energy Efficiency Tracking Considerations for Kentucky](#)
- [Monetizing Energy Efficiency: Implementation Strategies for Kentucky](#)
- [Well-Suited Energy Efficiency: Tailoring Programs for Multifamily Buildings](#)
- [The Economic Impacts of Energy Efficiency Investments in Indiana](#)
- [The Economic Impacts of Energy Efficiency in Michigan](#)
- [The Economic Impacts of Energy Efficiency in Ohio](#)
- [The Economic Impacts of Energy Efficiency Investments in the Midwest](#)

MEEA Building Energy Codes and Benchmarking

- [Midwest Energy Codes Status Report](#)

MEEA Advocacy Toolkit

MEEA released our [Advocacy Toolkit](#) in December of 2014. It is a living resource that will aid MEEA members and advocates in communicating the value of energy efficiency to policymakers, the public and other stakeholders. It includes:

- State Information including: fact sheets, state contacts, legislative and regulatory links, etc.
- EE Messaging: supporting energy efficiency and refuting common opposition argument

- PPT slides tracking regional investment in energy efficiency, state by state investments, state regulations, etc.
- Sample letters to the governor and editor supporting energy efficiency

MEEA Contacts

- For Industrial Energy Efficiency and state policy in Michigan, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin: Nick Dreher, Policy Manager (312-784-7271; ndreher@mwalliance.org)
- For Multifamily updates and state policy in Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota and Indiana: Julia Friedman, Senior Policy Manager (312-784-7265; jfriedman@mwalliance.org)
- For state policy in Indiana and Kentucky: Greg Ehrendreich, Research Analyst (312.784.7273; gehrendreich@mwalliance.org)
- For state policy in Iowa, Kansas and Ohio: Leah Scull, Policy Associate (312-784-7247; lscull@mwalliance.org)
- For Building Energy Codes: Isaac Elnecave, Senior Policy Manager (312-784-7253; ielnecave@mwalliance.org)