FEDERAL LEGISLATION WORKING GROUP MEETING
11/10/21

Agenda

1. Administration activities
2. Legislation updates

Notes

1. Administration Activities

On 11/1, the administration released a five-prong strategy for hitting net-zero greenhouse gas emissions economywide by 2050. The plan, announced as the U.N. climate conference got underway in Glasgow, calls for decarbonizing the electric power sector; electrifying transportation and industry; boosting energy efficiency; cutting emissions of other GHGs in addition to carbon dioxide, including methane and hydrofluorocarbons; and scaling up CO2 sequestration. Reaching the net-zero goal would require reduction of annual net emissions from about 5.7 billion metric tons of CO2-equivalent in 2020 to zero by 2050. About 4.5 billion metric tons of reductions would come from energy, the plan estimated.

On 10/21, DOE released a report indicating that widespread electrification of transportation would likely require changes in regulations and business processes as well as development of a “robust, visible charging network.”

2. Legislative Update

ACEEE just released a toolkit titled *Ready to Go: State and Local Efforts Advancing Energy Efficiency*. The toolkit outlines details about the recently passed infrastructure bill in terms of what might impact EE-related activities.

EESG recently shared with us a principles document on EE and Beneficial Electrification. An interesting read, and is helping to shape current BBB legislative efforts. Document pasted below.

EE-BE principles document

From Patsy Duggar AESC: SEEA held a webinar earlier today on Advancing Electric Transportation: How to Leverage Federal Support in the Southeast. Free recording here. (Many thanks to Patsy for sharing).

From: Liz Weiner on behalf of Resource Innovations: Offered a curated summary of the infrastructure legislation that she received recently from a Senate office and was pulled together over the past few days (HUGE thanks to Liz and RI for sharing):

Broadband: $65B - Grants to states for broadband deployment, makes broadband access more affordable for low-income families, expands eligible private activity bond projects to include broadband infrastructure, and supports middle-mile deployment efforts. [*I figure this relates to EE work, given potential for wider smart thermostat and Internet of Things deployment in utility and other programs]*

Power and Grid: $65B - Includes funds for grid reliability and resiliency and support for a Grid Deployment Authority; critical minerals and supply chains for clean energy technology; key technologies like carbon capture, hydrogen, direct air capture, and energy efficiency; and energy demonstration projects from the bipartisan Energy Act of 2020.

Electric Vehicle Charging: $7.5B – Funds for alternative fuel corridors and to build out a national network of EV charging infrastructure to facilitate long-distance travel and to provide convenient charging where people live, work, and shop. The federal funding will have a particular focus on rural disadvantaged, and hard-to-reach communities.

Deeper in the weeds

Utility demand response
• State regulators required to consider establishing rate mechanisms to allow utilities to recover the costs of promoting demand-response practices in order to encourage electrical utilities to promote the use of demand-response practices.

21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board
• establishes a 21st century to support and develop a skilled energy workforce. The board would consist of between 10 and 15 members, at least one of whom representing a labor organization.

Expansion of energy consumption surveys.
• EIA to expand the Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey, the Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey, and the Residential Energy Consumption Survey to obtain more comprehensive data and reduce the burden on survey respondents; report community-level economic and environmental impacts of energy supply; and improve the presentation and distribution of data.
• directs the EIA to expand data collection with respect to electric vehicle integration with the electricity grid.

Title V—Energy Efficiency and Building Infrastructure
Subtitle A—Residential and Commercial Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency revolving loan fund capitalization grant program.
• creates a revolving loan fund capitalization grant program within the State Energy Program for recipients to conduct commercial energy audits, residential energy audits, or energy upgrades or retrofits. This section authorizes $250,000,000 for FY22.

Energy auditor training grant program.
• establishes a competitive grant program to eligible States to train individuals to conduct energy audits or surveys of commercial and residential buildings. This section authorizes $40,000,000 for the period of FY22-26.

Subtitle B—Buildings
Cost-effective codes implementation for efficiency and resilience.
• creates a grant program within the Building Technologies Office to enable sustained, cost-effective implementation of updated building energy codes. This section authorizes $225,000,000 for the period of FY22-26.

Building, training, and assessment centers.
• provides grants to institutions of higher education to establish building training and assessment centers to educate and train building technicians and engineers on implementing modern building technologies. This section authorizes $10,000,000 for FY22.

Career skills training.
• awards grants to pay the Federal share of associated career skills training programs under which students concurrently receive classroom instruction and on-the-job training for the purpose of obtaining an industry-related certification to install energy efficient buildings technologies. This section authorizes $10,000,000 for FY22.

Commercial building energy consumption information sharing.
• requires the EIA and EPA to agree to an information sharing agreement related to commercial building energy consumption data.

Grants for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy improvements at public school facilities.
• competitive grants to make energy efficiency, renewable energy, and alternative fueled vehicle upgrades and improvements at public schools. This section authorizes $500,000,000 for the period of FY22-26. Energy efficiency materials pilot program.
• This section establishes a pilot program to award grants to provide nonprofit buildings with energy-efficiency materials. This section authorizes $50,000,000 for the period of FY22-26.

Subtitle E—Miscellaneous Weatherization assistance program
• $3,500,000,000 for FY22 for the Weatherization Assistance Program

Energy efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.
• $550,000,000 for FY22 for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. This section also amends the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to allow EECBG funding to be used in programs that finance energy efficiency and other clean energy capital investments, projects, loan programs, and performance contracting programs.

Survey, analysis, and report on employment and demographics in the energy, energy efficiency, and motor vehicle sectors
• This section establishes an “Energy Jobs Council” to conduct a survey of employers in the energy, energy efficiency, and motor vehicles sectors and perform analysis of those sectors to be made publicly available. This section is simply codifying the United States Energy and Employment Report that DOE used to produce, and has been produced by the Energy Futures Initiative since 2017.

Assisting Federal Facilities with Energy Conservation Technologies grant program.
• This section authorizes $250,000,000 for FY22 for the existing AFFECT grants that are distributed through the Federal Energy Management Program to provide grants to federal agencies that they can leverage with private capital to make energy and water efficiency upgrades to federal buildings.

Rebates.
• This section authorizes $20,000,000 for the period of FY22-23 for the extended product system rebate program and the energy efficient transformer rebate program.

Model guidance for combined heat and power systems and waste heat to power systems.
• requires the Secretary of Energy and FERC to review existing rules and procedures relating to interconnection service and additional services for electric generation with nameplate capacity up to 150 megawatts connecting at either distribution or transmission voltage levels to identify barriers to the deployment of combined heat and power systems and waste heat to power systems.

Next Meeting

Our next Federal call will be on Wednesday November 24th at 8:15 Here are the coordinates:

Zoom Link
Call-in: +1 669 900 9128, Meeting ID: 977 7731 8912
Passcode: cedmc