

*In the Energy Assistance Community ...*

- **NEUAC 2010 is Good to Go!**  
**What do former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Energy and Texas Public Utility Commissioner Karl Rábago, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services David Hansell and Department of Energy Senior Advisor for Policy and Programs Gil Sperling all have in common?** They're among the general session speakers at the 2010 National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference on June 14–16 in San Antonio, Texas. And they're among the many speakers and presenters you won't want to miss! Our conference hotel, the Hyatt Regency San Antonio, is already filled but the National Fuel Funds Network and National Low Income Energy Consortium have made arrangements for additional rooms at a nearby hotel: San Antonio's historic Menger Hotel, which is located across the street and one block away from the conference site at 204 Alamo Plaza. If you haven't reserved your room yet but are planning to attend NEUAC 2010, you can book a room at the Menger Hotel by calling 210–223–4361 and asking for the NEUAC block.

Meanwhile, NEUAC 2010 has been approved for Continuing Legal Education credit by the state bars of Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Texas. Because NFFN and NLIEC may be required to provide written documentation to the accrediting authorities attesting to attendance, lawyers seeking CLE credit will need to sign in and sign out to document their participation in each qualifying workshop they attend. They should be sure to include their state bar registration numbers when they sign in for a CLE workshop. In addition, forms are available at the conference registration desk for lawyers who wish to secure CLE credit through the states of Louisiana and Pennsylvania.

- **Midwestern Governors Association Elected to NLIEC Board of Directors**  
The National Low Income Energy Consortium Board of Directors has elected the Midwestern Governors Association to the Board for a term expiring in 2012. The MGA's election as a voting member of the NLIEC Board was approved unanimously in electronic balloting that concluded on May 20. Its representative to the Board is Jesse Heier, the director of the MGA's Washington office, who spoke at a plenary session on regional greenhouse gas initiatives during the 2009 National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference in Portland, Oregon.

- **Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy Nearly Triples Number of Fuel Funds**  
The number of fuel funds being run by members of the Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy has grown from 4 in 2008 to 11 this year, according to David Rinebolt, the organization's executive director. Collectively the fuel funds administer \$7.7 million annually. Rinebolt said the increase in the number of fuel funds is directly related to the OPAE's advocacy efforts before the state's Public Utility Commission. "Effective advocacy is the key to leveraging these resources," he said. "The fact that we take no administrative funds for our efforts maximizes the assistance available to our clients." Members of the OPAE include the AEP 2009 Fuel Fund, the Columbia Gas TECO Fuel Fund, Columbia Utility Crisis Fuel Funds I and

II, the DP&L Fuel Fund, the Dominion East Ohio Fuel Fund, the Duke Electric Fuel Fund, the Duke Gas Fuel Fund, the FirstEnergy Fuel Fund, the OPEA/FirstEnergy Fuel Fund, and the Vectren Fuel Fund. — *National Fuel Funds Network Energy Safety Net Bulletin #152*, May 19, 2010

- **The Salvation Army – Michigan Partners with Propane Provider**

The Salvation Army in Michigan has partnered with state propane provider Inergy Propane, LLC and its 30 vendors throughout the state to encourage their customers to donate their used propane tanks. Inergy Propane will recycle the tanks and donate all proceeds to The Salvation Army's utility assistance program. This special fund will provide critical home heating assistance to low-income propane customers statewide over the 2010–2011 winter. — *NFFN Energy Safety Net Bulletin #152*, May 19, 2010

- **West Virginia Program Sees 81 Percent Increase in Demand**

Demand for aid through the West Virginia Utility Assistance Program has increased by 81 percent since the program opened on October 1, 2009, according to the program's director Danielle Snidow. The has helped more than 3,036 low-income West Virginia families maintain or restore utility service by providing over \$782,626 in utility assistance grants. — *NFFN Energy Safety Net Bulletin #152*, May 19, 2010

- **Energy Outreach Colorado to Get Late Payment Fees for Assistance**

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission has ordered Xcel Energy to continue to donate 100 percent of its residential late payment fees to Energy Outreach Colorado to be used for bill payment assistance for the company's low-income customers. The fees generate about \$5 to \$6 million in funds annually. Xcel began charging its residential customers a 1 percent per month late payment fee in 2007, at which time the company was required by the commission to donate the entire amount to Energy Outreach until rates for the company's next rate case went into effect. This process was extended in the last two rate cases, and no expiration of the transfer of residential late payment fees to Energy Outreach was set in this most recent case. — *NFFN Energy Safety Net Bulletin #152*, May 19, 2010

- **Former FERC Chairman Joins First Wind**

Wind developer First Wind has appointed a former FERC chairman as a member of its board of directors. Pat Wood III chaired the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from 2001 to 2005 and, before that, the Public Utility Commission of Texas for six years. The Boston-based First Wind said Wood's expertise would be "beneficial" as the company develops new wind projects. — *BrightEnergy.org*, May 12, 2010

### ***In Washington ...***

- **Kerry, Lieberman Introduce Climate Control Bill**

United States Senators John Kerry (D-MA) and Joe Lieberman (I-CT) have introduced climate control legislation designed to reduce carbon emissions and lessen the country's dependence on oil. The complex legislation sets limits on carbon emissions in power plants, heavy industry and transportation and will sell emissions allowances. The revenue from those sales will be used to provide direct rebates, energy bill discounts, tax cuts and an energy refund program to consumers to lessen the impact of expected increases in energy prices. Although the House passed an energy and climate control bill last year, Capitol Hill sources say the prospects of the bills being approved by the Congress and sent to the president are slim. — *National Public Radio*, May 13, 2010 Read more at: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=126789527> View the legislation at: <http://kerry.senate.gov/>

[americanpoweract/pdf/APAbill.pdf](#)>

- **FirstEnergy, Allegheny Energy File Merger with FERC**

FirstEnergy Corp. and Allegheny Energy, Inc. have filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for approval of their proposed merger. The application provides additional detail and analysis related to competition in wholesale electric power markets, FERC jurisdictional rates, and state and federal regulation of both companies and their subsidiaries. Under the Federal Power Act, FERC has 180 days to rule on a merger application. The companies plan to make filings for state regulatory approval in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Maryland in May and in Virginia later in the second quarter. The merger is expected to close in the first half of 2011, subject to customary closing conditions, including shareholder and regulatory approvals, as outlined in the preliminary S-4 Registration Statement, which was filed in March. — *Electric Light & Power*, May 11, 2010

***In the States ...***

- **New York State Announces Additional Federal Home Heating Assistance**

The state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) announced this week that 500,000 of New York's neediest households will receive additional federal funding to assist in meeting their current energy costs. The additional assistance is being provided with \$45 million in federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program contingency funds released to New York earlier this year by President Barack Obama. "High unemployment rates and the prolonged recession have led to a record demand for home energy assistance and we are committed to doing all we can to see that all New Yorkers get the help that they need," said Kristin Proud, Deputy Secretary for Human Services, Technology and Operations, who is currently overseeing OTDA. "While the calendar says it's spring, New Yorkers know the heating season is still ongoing. With oil prices up by more than 20 percent over this point in time last year, these additional Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefits will enable many families, including senior citizens on fixed incomes who did not receive an increase in their Social Security benefits this year, to get through the final cold nights before warmer weather takes hold." — *Saranac Lake (NY) Adirondack Daily Enterprise*, May 12, 2010 [Read more at: <http://adirondackdailyenterprise.com/page/content.detail/id/512999.html?nav=5008>](http://adirondackdailyenterprise.com/page/content.detail/id/512999.html?nav=5008)

- **Report Identifies Gaps in Iowa's Energy Efficiency Programs**

A report on energy efficiency programs in Iowa says both the federal Weatherization Assistance Program and utility-funded programs are inadequately funded and that utility programs suffer from inadequate regulation and lack of minimum standards. The Iowa Policy Project earlier this month released "Making Residential Energy Efficiency Accessible to Low-Income Iowans." It found that the state's Weatherization Assistance Program weatherizes just over 2,000 homes each year, although that number will increase to about 7,000 more homes through 2012 due to federal stimulus funds. However, as of 2009, 165,206 Iowa homes were eligible for weatherization, showing an immense unmet need. Utility-run energy-efficiency plans don't adequately reach a large share of low-income households, the report said, because consumer-owned utilities such as municipal power companies and rural electric cooperatives aren't required to target their programs to the low income or to have their energy efficiency plans reviewed by the state regulatory agency, as the three investor-owned utilities are. According to the report, one in five low-income households in Iowa does not have an investor-owned utility as its primary vendor and, therefore, does not have access to the regulated energy efficiency programs that the IOUs must provide. — *LIHEAP Clearinghouse*, May 24, 2010 [Read more at: <http://www.liheap.ncat.org/news/may10/ia.htm>](http://www.liheap.ncat.org/news/may10/ia.htm)

- **Heating Assistance Saw Record Demand**

A record number of low-income Minnesotans turned to state assistance for help paying their heating bills this past season, the state Commerce Department's Office of Energy Security said Friday. To date, more than 160,000 households have used Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program. That tops last year's record total of 153,721. A final total for this season will be available after applications received by May 31 are processed. — *Minneapolis (MN) Star Tribune*, May 28, 2010 Read more at:

[http://www.startribune.com/local/95122839.html?elr=KArks:DCiU1OiP:DiiUiD3aPc:\\_Yyc:aUU](http://www.startribune.com/local/95122839.html?elr=KArks:DCiU1OiP:DiiUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUU)

### ***In the News ...***

- **SCE Offers Help with Utility Bills**

When it comes to paying utility bills, a few dollars can make a big difference. And Southern California Edison is inviting customers to give a few pennies each month to its Energy Assistance Fund to help their neighbors in need. The program, funded by SCE employees and the utility's parent company, Edison International, grants up to \$100 a year to help Edison ratepayers who cannot pay their electric bills. "At the end of last year we did a survey and it revealed that about half a million people were having trouble paying their bills," SCE spokeswoman Vanessa McGrady said Wednesday. "We know this is a really hard time for our customers." SCE'S EAF program allows customers to chip in by rounding up their monthly utility bills to the next nearest dollar. So if someone's bill was \$76.45, that would be rounded up to \$77 and the extra 55 cents would go toward the fund. — *West Covina (CA) San Gabriel Valley Tribune*, May 26, 2010 Read more at: [http://www.sgvtribune.com/business/ci\\_15168260](http://www.sgvtribune.com/business/ci_15168260)

- **Fan Program Just Short for Grant**

Covenant Cooperative Ministries is offering their free fan program this summer. However, the fan distribution is in need of donations. Energy assistance didn't have money to donate so the burden has fallen completely on Covenant Cooperative Ministry. The ministry received a grant from Duke Energy, but they have to match the grant money with funds of their own. The ministry is \$400 short. They are asking for help so they can use the money to purchase fans. — *WTHI-TV, Terre Haute, Indiana*, May 27, 2010

Read more at: <http://www.wthitv.com/dpp/news/local/Fan-program-just-short-for-grant>

- **Xcel Plans for More Wind Energy**

Xcel Energy has released an annual corporate responsibility report in which the utility said it will increase its wind energy portfolio by 56 percent by 2015. Xcel also reported that it spent \$140 million last year on energy-efficiency programs and contributed \$16 million to energy-assistance programs. The report is available on the "about us" page of [xcelenergy.com](http://xcelenergy.com) <http://xcelenergy.com>. — *Denver Post*, May 28, 2010.

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