

DOI ANNOUNCES SOLAR INITIATIVE

On Monday, Secretary of Interior, Ken Salazar, and Senate Majority Leader, Harry Reid (D-NV), held a joint press conference announcing a new DOI solar initiative. This initiative proposes to open a new renewable energy office in Nevada, have 13 large scale commercial solar installations under construction by 2010, and to develop new system to speed-up permitting and reviews of renewable energy industry proposals. The Department plans to take the following steps during the next several months:

Set aside 670 thousand acres for fast tracking the initiative in 24 solar zones located in CA, AZ, NV, CO, NM and UT.

Select 13 sites from the 24 solar zones for the actual installations.

After site selection, move forward on environmental impact statements and begin reviewing project applications. There are currently 35 applications for large scale solar installations on file at the DOI.

The DOI will also establish a Renewable Energy Office in Nevada to help fast track the review and permitting process.

A copy of the official DOI press release can be found at: http://www.doi.gov/news/09_News_Releases/062909.html



HOUSES PASSES HISTORIC CLIMATE/ENERGY LEGISLATION

On June 26, the House passed sweeping climate and energy legislation designed to reduce green-

house gas emissions and boost energy efficiency. The 1,300+ page American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 intends to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 17 percent by 2020 and proposes creating and changing a host of programs that promote energy efficiency and smart growth. We will continue to keep you informed of various program details as they emerge.

Retrofit for Energy and Environmental Performance (REEP) Program

The REEP program, included in the bill by Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT) would fund state and municipal investments of up to half the cost of retrofitting existing homes and buildings. Homeowners could qualify for \$1,000-\$3,000 in financial incentives for achieving a 10% to 20% percent increase in efficiency, with another \$150 for every additional percentage point of energy savings achieved. Historic buildings on the National Register of Historic Places would be eligible for a 20% boost in these same awards because of the special needs associated with retrofitting historic buildings. In addition, REEP would give businesses up to \$2.50 per square foot for making major energy reductions, and historic buildings would get the same 20% boost available to historic homes. The NTHP advocated strongly for this provision.

Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) has included REEP provisions in the Senate version of the energy bill, which will be considered later this summer.

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Transportation Sector

The legislation included some key provisions designed to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. These provisions amend the federal transportation planning process and require states and metropolitan planning organizations to develop goals and strategies to reduce emissions from the transportation sector. The legislation also includes a process for developing a national transportation GHG reduction goal. The bill allows states to use up to 10 percent of funding they will receive through the State Energy & Environment Development (SEED) accounts for public transportation, van pooling, bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Senate Bill

In July, the Senate EPW Committee is expected to look at this legislation, as well as S. 575, the Clean, Low-Emission, Affordable, New Transportation Efficiency Act (CLEAN-TEA). Several Senate Committees are expected to look at climate legislation in preparation for a floor debate in the fall.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- July 8-11, 2009 – NCSHPO Summer Board Meeting, Big Bend, Texas
- October 13-17, 2009 – National Preservation Conference, Nashville, TN
- October 14-15, 2009 – NCSHPO Winter Board Meeting, Nashville, TN

Happy 4th of July from your NCSHPO friends in D.C.!