



Legislative Energy Commission

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Executive Director Updates

July 28, 2014

Propane Alternatives Inquiry

The 2014 omnibus energy bill (H.F. 2834) requests the LEC “investigate the feasibility of converting propane gas users to natural gas or other alternative sources of energy.” Staff has begun this inquiry, and an intern from Macalester College will assist with the research this fall. A report will be prepared for the Legislature by January 15, 2015 as requested. An informal working group will be convened via occasional conference calls. Interested participants: contact Annie Levenson-Falk (annie.levensonfalk@lec.leg.mn, 651-297-7137).

EPA Clean Power Plan Proposed Rule

The Legislative Energy Commission received a briefing on the EPA’s proposed carbon regulations for existing power plants on June 30, 2014. Staff is staying up to date through the Pollution Control Agency. The EPA is accepting comments on the proposal until October 16, 2014, and will issue the final rule by June 2, 2015. State implementation plans are due July 1, 2016, with the possibility of a 1- or 2-year deadline extension.

National Governors Association Clean Energy and Economic Development Policy Academy

The LEC is a partner on Minnesota’s effort, and has been especially engaged with the smart grid sector. The State is working with industry partners in the solar, wind, energy efficiency, bio, and smart grid sectors, as well as conducting an analysis of Minnesota’s clean energy businesses. More than 250 people participated in the July 17 Clean Energy Economy Summit.

Energy Future Framework

On July 10, the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources recommended \$1 million in funding for the Framework, to support in-depth analysis and development of options for Minnesota to transition to as much clean energy as possible over the next few decades. The 2015 Legislature must act to finalize this recommendation. The Dept. of Commerce has submitted a separate proposal to the U.S. Department of Energy for shorter-term energy planning, which could feed into the larger scope of LCCMR-funded work. Should either of these proposals be approved, the LEC plans to issue RFPs for data collection and analysis, stakeholder engagement, and/or public engagement. To receive more detailed updates on the Energy Future Framework, contact Annie Levenson-Falk (annie.levensonfalk@lec.leg.mn, 651-297-7137).

Upcoming LEC meetings

Date	Description	Time	Topic	Location
Thurs., Aug. 14	LEC meeting	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Utility business model	Room 10 State Office Building, St. Paul
Rescheduling Thurs., Sept. 25	LEC meeting	1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Biogas	Room 5 State Office Building, St. Paul
Thurs., Nov. 13	LEC meeting and site visits	All day. Exact times TBD.	Meeting: Alternative fuel vehicles Tour: Biogas	Room 10 State Office Building, St. Paul
Wed., Dec. 10	LEC meeting	1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Propane supply and alternatives	Room 10 State Office Building, St. Paul

Further meeting information may be found at <http://www.lec.leg.mn/meetings.html>.