

## Idaho Energy Infrastructure Task Force Meeting

Friday, July 29, 2022

1:00 pm

Attendees:

**Office of Energy and Mineral Resources Staff:** Richard Stover, Administrator, George Lynch, Legal Counsel (Moderator), Marissa Warren, Energy Program Manager, Andrew Mentzer, Policy Analyst, Alexa Bouvier, Policy Analyst

**Energy Infrastructure Task Force Members:** Paul Cooperrider, Stacey Satterlee, Alan Prouty, Chanel Tewalt, Patty Bowen, Chantel Greene, Johanna Bell, Jeff Hough, Dick Fosbury, Jim Woodward, Kevin Keyt, Stephen Goodson, Josh Haver, Michael Eldred, Ben Roeber, Melissa Boyd, Collins Sprague, Richard Garlish, Will Hart, Hailey Lewis, Nathan Bingham, Aimee Betts, John Sullivan, Carmen Achabal, Alex LaBeau, Scott Luekenga, Herbert Romero, Michael Baskin, Philip Reppert, Marc Gibbs, Rebecca Casper, Wendolyn Holland

**1:00:** Introduction of all task force members and OEMR staff members present on the call.

**1:15:** Overview of Idaho Strategic Energy Alliance (ISEA) creation, continuation, and objectives of the organization.

Goal of task force: Identify what Idaho's critical energy needs are and where this fund could be spent most effectively.

**1:20:** Introduction of each working group- three total

*Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Working Group:* Objectives: review provisions of BIL related to energy efficiency and alternative energy to identify opportunities for strategic investments to improve energy conservation and affordability in Idaho. This will require the group to review state and local energy needs and develop recommendations for programs or project development to support energy affordability throughout the state.

Funding Options:

- 1) State Energy Program (SEP) (Sec. 401109)- Application opens end of August.
- 2) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) (Sec. 40552)- Estimated application opens Q4 2022-
- 3) Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Full Capitalization Grant Program (Sec. 40502)- Estimated application opens Q4 2022- The Energy Infrastructure task force team will primarily focus on this loan.

*Grid Modernization & Resilience Working Group:* Objectives: review provisions of BIL related to grid modernization and resilience to identify opportunities for strategic investments to improve energy resilience in Idaho. Maintaining resiliency and modernizing the electrical grid is a key priority for the State of Idaho.

1) Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid (Sec. 40101)

-Responsibilities include setting up a rubric and collecting data to incorporate in the application.

Examples of programs: Weatherization and fire protection the grant can be used for.

2) Electric Grid Reliability and Resilience Research, Development, and Demonstration- (Sec. 40103)

-Complements Sec. 40101

-Eligibility: PUCs, State, and local governments

-Purely competitive loan program

3) Deployment of Technologies to Enhance Grid Flexibility (Sec. 40107)

-\$3 million grant under "Smart Grid Investment Matching Grant Program"

Competitive Grant Working Group: Objectives: focus on state and local government energy infrastructure needs. Provide information and technical assistance for Idaho municipalities and businesses seeking to pursue energy improvements.

-Responsibilities include recognizing all of the grants and collecting data on eligible and interested applicants.

-Outreach and technical assistance will be required to support and assist eligible grant recipients.

Ex: Energy Auditor training program, rural and municipal utility advance cybersecurity grants, battery recycling grants, clean school buses

**1:40: Comments and Questions:**

Mike Baskin: Is there data on state government, school municipalities, local jurisdictions that identify how energy is being used?

Gwendoline: Benchmarks- How do we identify who can benefit the most? Data needs to be collected and a process needs to be identified to ensure we meet our objective.

How do we identify and contact underserved communities? Requirements associated with the Justice40 initiative within the BIL should address this need to serve the underserved communities.

Rebecca Casper: We should benchmark where Idaho is and identify the accomplishments made after we have implemented the federal dollars received. Clarify what are Idaho's current goals in addition to the federal goals already identified. What is the timeframe that we are working under?

OEMR response: Notice of Funding opportunities should be issued until the end of 2023. We expect to work with the working group until at least the end of 2023. As for process, each working group will have their own meeting timelines and needs between each member. The group will roughly be meeting once a month and a few hours of critical thinking on their own time will be expected. A staff member will be assigned to each working group.

**1:55: Next Steps:**

- Each working group should receive a doodle poll within the next 72 hours to arrange working meetings within the next few weeks.
- Marissa will send a concise draft of Idaho's current energy goals.
- A list of email addresses should be sent out along with the Doodle poll.

**2:00: Meeting Adjourn**