

Attachment E

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Strategy for States

As detailed in Part 1 of this announcement, all applicants must submit an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS). States must submit the EECS at the time of application. The format is contained in Attachment E. This form should be saved in a file named "UIC-Strategy.pdf" and click on "Add Optional Other Attachment" to attach.

Grantee: Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

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1. Describe your State's proposed Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS). Provide a concise summary of your measurable goals and objectives, which should be aligned with the defined purposes and eligible activities of the EECBG Program. These goals and objectives should be comprehensive and maximize benefits statewide. Provide a schedule or timetable for major milestones. If your State has an existing energy, climate, or other related strategy please describe how these strategies relate to each other.

Describe Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS)

The Commonwealth's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS) directs all of the state's allocation of \$16.1 million in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds to benefit localities and devotes two-thirds of the funds to create and encourage enduring, self-sustaining programs to improve energy efficiency in public and private buildings. One third of EECBG funds will finance renewable energy systems for local public facilities and help to stimulate the private market in Virginia for solar thermal, photovoltaics (PV) and small-scale wind energy systems.

The strategy focuses on energy efficiency approaches – community building energy conservation programs and energy saving performance contracting – that have the following attributes:

- high potential to leverage non-federal dollars
- ability to find and harvest "low-hanging fruit" (short paybacks, high ROI)
- capitalize on existing resources that can assist implementation
- build enduring infrastructure to support these and other energy efficiency initiatives
- complement goals of other energy efficiency efforts
- potential for replication, ease of adoption by diverse communities
- potential to be self-sustaining, requiring no continued federal subsidy
- potential to benefit greatest number of Virginians
- potential to produce substantial economic, energy and environmental benefits

The renewable energy system program is intended as a market transformation initiative that also will pay back Recovery Act investments with enduring economic, energy and environmental benefits to localities. Newly purchased clean energy assets also will provide educational and lead by example (LBE) leveraging opportunities for local governments and schools to use their "demonstration" systems to encourage wider understanding and acceptance of the benefits of renewable energy generation to stimulate greater and more widespread demand for these systems in the public and private sector.

The renewable systems for localities program, and similar programs that are included in Virginia's State Energy Program funded by Recovery Act money, will be key support and

demonstration of demand-side incentives to help energize state and local efforts to attract or expand businesses and industries that provide renewable energy products and services.

Summary major goals and objectives, with milestones

- Create 105 jobs **(July 15, 2010 – Milestone)** (if all \$9.7 million in sub-grants to smaller localities funds community programs to improve building energy efficiency)
- Support 10 community programs **(September 15, 2010 – Milestone)** to improve building energy efficiency and identify \$10 million **(September 15, 2011 – Milestone)** in non-federal funds invested in building retrofits for improved energy efficiency to produce 109 jobs, 209,656 million source Btu in annual energy savings and avoid 14,682 metric tons of annual GHG (CO₂e) emissions.
- Test and identify needed corrections or modifications **(November 15, 2009 - Milestone)** to improve new mechanisms to finance community building energy improvements for residential and commercial property owners and pay back loans with property tax or utility fee surcharges.
- Refine one or more program development templates **(January 15, 2010 – Milestone)** (to make it easier for additional communities to replicate the process of starting a community energy conservation retrofit program for buildings).
- To quickly stimulate the market for renewable energy systems with the investment of \$5.2 million in EECBG funds **(February 15, 2010 – Milestone)** to create 58 jobs, generate 63,908 million source Btu annual renewable energy and avoid 4,475 annual metric tons of GHG (CO₂e).
- To support creation of 50 **(July 15, 2010 – Milestone)** self-sustaining renewable energy public demonstration/education centers attached to renewable energy generation system demonstrations to promote long-term interest in and understanding of such systems through education and LBE to stimulate greater public demand for renewable energy systems.
- To support creation of 15 **(Sept. 15, 2010 – Milestone)** self-sustaining school- or community-based demonstrations that leverage renewable energy systems for community education and also incorporate renewable energy systems into curricula designed to prepare the renewable energy workforce and users of the future.
- To characterize gaps **(April 15, 2010 – Milestone)** in standards for installation work and equipment, adequacy of credentials to ensure energy worker qualifications and needs for training programs and other energy workforce development support in order to inform policy change decisions.
- Support 60 ESPCs **(March 15, 2012 – Milestone)** for local government facilities averaging \$500,000 each. This will create 334 jobs, 643,651 annual million source Btus of energy savings and 45,074 annual metric tons of avoided GHG emissions (CO₂e).

Relationship to other strategies

Virginia's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy is an important part of a larger and broader energy program, which includes, at a minimum, the following additional components and relationships:

- The Virginia ***State Energy Program-ARRA*** and the EECBG programs were developed in concert to provide a balance between efficiency and renewable energy, breadth of program availability to diverse economic, industry and societal sectors, and broad geographical coverage, and to maximize integration with other new and existing energy and economic development initiatives of the Commonwealth. Management of the programs is centralized within the Department of Mines, Minerals

and Energy and coordinated formally with partner agencies of the Commonwealth and supporting partners and contractors. Communication and coordination among the various agencies, stakeholders, partners and contractors will be accomplished by using email groups, public websites, telephone conferences, meetings, ad hoc working groups, and an existing policy-level interagency body – the Governor’s Energy Policy Advisory Council.

- Coordination with **ARRA programs and projects by large and small localities** will be accomplished using email groups, public websites, telephone conferences, meetings, ad hoc working groups, and extending the reach of communications by partnering with and sharing the communications tools and channels of organizations that represent or support local government, such as the Virginia Municipal League, the Virginia Association of Counties, the Virginia School Board Association and the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions.
- The architecture and content of the Commonwealth’s energy strategy is largely guided by or based on the recommendations and goals of the **Virginia Energy Plan**. Managers, sub-recipients, partners and contractors working on ARRA-funded energy programs in Virginia will be required to identify how the programs or projects support or complement specific VEP goals and objectives.
- Managers, sub-recipients, partners and contractors working on ARRA-funded energy programs in Virginia also will be required to identify how the programs or projects support or complement specific recommendations in the December 15, 2008 final report of the **Virginia Commission on Climate Change**.
- **Renew Virginia** was launched by Gov. Timothy Kaine in December 2008 as a year long initiative of legislation and executive actions to make Virginia a leader in energy efficiency and conservation and protecting the environment. It included formation of an interagency task force that recently developed a **Virginia Energy Marketing Plan** to attract green jobs to the Commonwealth. ARRA-funded programs were designed to support the energy efficiency and renewable energy goals enumerated by Renew Virginia. Renew Virginia is very much a moving target; **Executive Order 82, “Greening of State Government,”** was issued June 10, 2009, for example. Hence, managers, sub-recipients, partners and contractors working on ARRA-funded energy programs in Virginia will be required to identify how the programs or projects support or complement specific Renew Virginia recommendations.
- The **Virginia Energy Sense** consumer education and outreach program is a new \$10 million, five-year effort directed by the State Corporation Commission, Virginia’s public utility commission, to increase awareness of energy efficiency benefits. DMME has proposed formation in July 2009 of an ad hoc working group of utilities and other stakeholders to coordinate various energy efficiency programs offered by utilities and ARRA-funded programs administered by DMME and localities to reduce duplication and improve effectiveness of the multiple programs, and provide input to the managers of the Virginia Energy Sense program.
- DMME supports a pilot program of the U.S. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency to test a “sponsor-less” **Home Performance with Energy Star** program in six Northern Virginia localities. Stakeholders of this effort have been included in state ARRA program development and will continue as partners with DMME in the implementation of energy efficiency initiatives, in order to improve program coordination and effectiveness.

- Dominion Virginia Power launched a **Smart Grid** initiative in Charlottesville on June 16, 2009. Also, various just-emerging **utility energy efficiency programs** of Dominion, AEP, ODEC, VNG, Columbia and Washington Gas offer collaborative opportunities as well as creating the need for coordination. DMME has proposed formation in July 2009 of an ad hoc working group of utilities and other stakeholders to coordinate various energy efficiency programs offered by utilities and ARRA-funded programs administered by DMME and localities to reduce duplication and improve effectiveness of the multiple programs
- An **Energy Star appliance rebate** program solicitation funded by ARRA is expected to be released in June or July 2009. A Virginia program is planned, which clearly will demand coordination with utilities and other ARRA-funded building energy efficiency programs offered by the state or localities.
- Managers of Virginia's **\$94 million Weatherization Assistance** program are sharing planning information with DMME and other state agencies to facilitate coordination of building energy efficiency initiatives and green workforce training needs related to programs planned or offered by the state, localities and utilities.
- DMME managers of the state's ARRA-funded energy programs also are participating in a work group that is reviewing **Virginia's strategy on energy workforce development** to make sure that state practice and policy are well-aligned with and supportive of current and anticipated Commonwealth energy initiatives, and that regional coordination with neighboring states is examined for possible advantages.

2. Describe your State's proposed implementation plan for the use of EECBG Program funds to assist you in achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the strategy described in question #1. Your description should include a summary of the activities submitted on your activity worksheets, and how each activity supports one or more of your strategy's goals/objectives. (Milestones designated by bold, italic, underline type)

- Sub-grants to local governments for community energy planning and other qualifying activities will be competitively awarded to some of the state's 295 eligible localities in one or more rounds of awards beginning on ***September 1, 2009*** and continuing until all funds have been obligated or committed, but not later than 18 months after Virginia's EECBG program approval start date that is established by DOE.
 - Localities may propose programs and projects in any of the activity areas that comply with program guidelines contained in the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). However, program design, proposal ranking criteria and technical support mechanisms will encourage localities to create multi-jurisdictional alliances to develop community-based building energy conservation programs. Such programs fall under Activity 6 in the FOA, "energy efficiency and conservation programs for buildings and facilities."

It was assumed in the activity worksheet that all of approximately \$9.7 million in Recovery Act funding allocated to this program would support community energy programs. While this is not likely to occur, there is no reasonable basis for estimating how the funds might be allocated to various qualifying activities proposed by localities. Also, assigning all available funds to this single activity was a conservative approach to estimating potential benefits. The calculator provided by DOE for this purpose projects the number of jobs (105) created by this activity, but does not estimate specific energy savings or environmental benefits.

- This activity supports the following EECS goals or objectives:
 - Create 421 jobs (if all \$9.7 million in sub-grants to localities funds community programs to improve building energy efficiency and the average leverage ratio is \$3 nonfederal to \$1 federal.)
 - Support 10 community programs to improve building energy efficiency and document \$10 million in non-federal funds invested in building retrofits for improved energy efficiency to produce 109 jobs, 209,656 million source Btu in annual energy savings and avoid 14,682 metric tons of annual GHG (CO₂e) emissions.
 - Test and identify needed corrections or modifications to improve new mechanisms to finance community building energy improvements for residential and commercial property owners and pay back loans with property tax or utility fee surcharges.
 - Refine one or more program development templates to make it easier for additional communities to replicate the process of starting a community energy conservation retrofit program for buildings.

- Sub-grants to local governments for renewable energy systems

Sub-grants to local governments for renewable energy systems will be competitively awarded to some of the state's 323 eligible localities in one or more rounds of awards beginning on **September 15, 2009** and continuing until all funds have been obligated or committed, but not later than 18 months after Virginia's EECBG program approval start date that is established by DOE.

- i. Proposals for funding of renewable energy systems will document long-term benefits that are intrinsic to generation of renewable energy, such as jobs created, the quantity of renewable energy produced and fossil energy replaced, the money thus saved by the local government and its tax payers, and the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that are avoided. To leverage additional enduring returns from these assets, the program and proposal ranking criteria will be designed to encourage linking renewable energy systems to LBE and educational initiatives to promote acceptance, understanding and adoption of the technology by others in the community.

It was assumed in the activity worksheet that \$3 million would be awarded to fund 1,500kw of solar PV in about 50 installations averaging 30kw each; that \$1,000,000 would fund 1000kw of solar thermal in about 66 installations averaging 15kw each; that \$1,285,769 would fund 430kw of small wind in about 43 installations averaging 10kw each. The DOE calculator, using these assumptions, predicted the following benefits: 58 jobs, 63,908 annual renewable energy generation (million source Btu), and 4,475 annual metric tons of avoided GHG (CO₂e).

- This activity supports the following EECS goals or objectives:
 - To quickly stimulate the market for renewable energy systems with the investment of \$5,285,769 in EECBG funds and \$15,857,307 in leveraged non-federal funds to create 229 jobs, generate 63,908 million source Btu annual renewable energy and avoid 4,475 annual metric tons of GHG (CO₂e).
 - To support creation of 50 self-sustaining renewable energy public demonstration/education centers attached to renewable energy generation system demonstrations to promote long-term interest in and understanding of such systems through education and LBE to stimulate greater public demand for renewable energy systems.

- To support creation of 15 self-sustaining school- or community-based demonstrations that leverage renewable energy systems for community education and also incorporate renewable energy systems into curricula designed to prepare the renewable energy workforce and users of the future.
- To characterize gaps in standards for installation work and equipment, adequacy of credentials to ensure energy worker qualifications and needs for training programs and other energy workforce development support in order to inform policy change decisions.

- Performance contracting technical support for local governments

The Commonwealth will begin to offer energy saving performance contracting (ESPC) technical support services to local governments beginning on September 30, 2009 and plans to continue the program indefinitely. During the first year, the Commonwealth will design a fee-based source of revenue that will have a minor impact on the economic benefits of ESPC for localities but produce enough revenue to sustain the program after Recovery Act funds are expended.

- i. The following assumptions were the basis of inputs into the DOE benefits calculator. Two ESPC technical support "circuit riders" each will support 50 local facilities annually for the first three years of the program (300 facilities). At least one in five localities (60 in three years) that receive ESPC support will follow through with a performance contract and spend on average \$500,000 on improvements to the energy efficiency of local government buildings (\$30 million).

- This activity supports the following EECS goals or objectives:

- Support 60 ESPCs for local government facilities averaging \$500,000 each. This will create 334 jobs, 643,651 annual million source Btus of energy savings and 45,074 annual metric tons of avoided GHG emissions (CO₂e).

3. Summarize your performance metrics from Attachment B1 – Project Activity File: Proposed Number of Jobs Created, Proposed Number of Jobs Retained, Proposed Energy Saved and/or Renewable Energy Generated, Proposed GHG Emissions Reduced (CO₂ Equivalents), and Proposed Funds Leveraged.

Project activity	Jobs created	Jobs preserved	Fossil energy saved (million source Btu annually)	Renewable energy generated (million source Btu annually)	GHG reduced (metric tons CO2e annual)	Leveraged funds
(6) Distribute sub-grants to localities	421					\$29,061,540
(13) Renewable systems for locales	229			63,908	4,475	\$15,857,307
(5) Performance contracting for local government	334		643,651		45,074	\$30,000,000
(14) Admin. Support		5				
Totals	984	5	643,651	63,908	49,549	\$74,918,847

4. Describe your State's established process for providing sub-grants to units of local government that are not eligible for direct EECBG formula grants from DOE.

The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) will manage a competitive process to award 60 percent of its EECBG allocation, approximately \$9.7 million, to qualifying localities. DMME will review and rank proposals submitted by localities using a list of criteria to ensure that high-ranking programs and projects to spend EECBG funds conform to the letter and spirit of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the requirements of the Funding Opportunity Announcement and the goals and objectives of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Eligible localities already have submitted numerous proposals to Stimulus.Virginia.gov, a website established by Gov. Timothy Kaine in February 2009 to solicit ideas from all Virginians on ways to create jobs by investing in energy projects and programs that also will improve energy security, the environment and the economy. The first round of awards will be made from this pool. Qualifying localities will have an opportunity to "perfect" proposals

submitted to Stimulus.Virginia.gov and to submit new programs and projects for consideration.

DMME will design a request for proposals where a qualifying entity may chose to submit a new proposal or perfect a prior proposal for a project or program to be funded by EECBG funds.

DMME intends to provide a template for basic activities to make it easier for smaller localities to apply. DMME will encourage multi-jurisdictional collaboration, and has proposed or created alliances with the Commonwealth's 21 Planning District Commissions; the Department of Housing and Community Development, which administers the Community Development Block Grant program; and other locality support organizations like the Virginia Municipal League and Virginia Association of Counties. Technical and administrative support will be provided to the extent possible using these existing locality support and communication channels.

The following list, while not intended to be exhaustive, includes the types and sources of program and project development and implementation guidance that will be incorporated into a competitive RFP to smaller localities; the ARRA requirements for transparency and accountability that will "flow down" from DMME to all sub-recipients; and the criteria that will be used to rank competitive proposals from localities for EECBG grant funding:

- Project ranking criteria:
 - All from the FOA that are needed for compliance with ARRA
 - Explain how the Leadership By Example role of government is leveraged to create enduring value to a wide segment of the community, by providing energy efficiency and renewable energy education, for example, or using the visibility of the project or program to encourage and enable continuing and future effective energy conservation measures by others.
 - DMME may award discretionary points to proposals:
 - To achieve geographical balance
 - To improve equity of distribution by community population size
 - To favor economically distressed areas based on unemployment
 - To achieve project/program diversity and balance
- Special terms and conditions attached to ARRA funds, from Page 4 of the FOA
- EECBG purposes, derived from legislative intent, from Page 5 of the FOA
- Core principals to guide programs and planning, from Page 5 of the FOA
- Desired Outcomes, from Page 6 of the FOA
- Virginia strategies that should be complemented or supported (See answer to question 1 above, relationship to other strategies.)
- Examples of 14 eligible activities, from Page 7, FOA
- Performance metrics must be measured and verified, from Attachment C, Pages 4-6
- NEPA requirements for activities 4,5,7D,11,13,14
- Limitations on administrative costs and revolving funds

5. Describe how this strategy has been designed to ensure that it sustains benefits beyond the EECBG funding period.

- **Sub-grants to local governments for community building energy conservation programs and other qualifying activities**

Virginia's program to distribute sub-grants to some of the 295 qualifying smaller localities in the Commonwealth recognizes that one size does not fit all. Hence, the program will provide flexibility for localities to propose programs and projects in any of the activity areas that comply with program guidelines contained in the FOA and the Recovery Act's special conditions and provisions. However, program design, proposal ranking criteria and support mechanisms will encourage localities to create multi-jurisdictional alliances to develop community-based energy conservation programs that engage wide segments of the community to promote and enable community-wide energy efficiency and conservation practices using approaches that can be self-sustaining after federal grant funds have been expended.

The Commonwealth has begun a long-term process of building infrastructure to enable and support community energy conservation initiatives. Here are a few examples:

- Legislation passed in 2009 authorizes localities to create financing mechanisms to fund energy efficiency measures for buildings that can be paid back by property owners in the form of voluntary surcharges to property tax bills or municipal utility fees.
- The state now is revising a strategy for developing and supporting a green energy workforce to service demand that will be stimulated by \$300 million in Recover Act-funded energy programs as well as new and existing economic development efforts that target energy businesses and industries.
- The Commonwealth is supporting community programs to improve building energy efficiency and implementation of pilot programs to help produce a template program that can be replicated across the state. The goal is to build one or more model programs that are based on sound business plans that will be financially sustainable without continued government subsidy.

Localities also will be free to propose projects such as energy efficiency improvements to public buildings. Proposal ranking criteria will be designed to ensure that projects document economic, energy and environmental benefits that will endure after the expenditure of federal funds. Localities also will be encouraged to leverage one-time energy improvement measures by attaching educational and leadership by example efforts to capital improvements.

- **Sub-grants to local governments for renewable energy systems**

Proposals for funding to install renewable energy systems must document long-term benefits that are intrinsic to generation of renewable energy, such as the quantity of renewable energy produced and fossil energy replaced, the money thus saved by the local government and its tax payers, the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that are avoided. To leverage additional enduring returns from these assets, the program and proposal ranking criteria will be designed to encourage LBE and educational benefits to promote similar actions by others in the community. The intent of the program will be to ensure that installations of solar or wind energy systems at public facilities are used as public demonstrations of the benefits of these renewable energy systems and to improve understanding and acceptance of renewable energy systems community-wide. Local government facilities, including schools, have many attributes that qualify them as promising energy technology demonstration sites. They are visited regularly by large numbers of people from all segments of the community, they have space for meetings and other public gatherings that provide educational and LBE opportunities and they have the roof and land space needed to install renewable energy systems that do not easily fit onto more confined residential and commercial properties.

This program is intended to quickly stimulate the market for renewable energy systems with the investment of \$5.2 million in EECBG funds and to push long-term interest in and understanding of such systems through education and LBE to stimulate greater public demand for renewable energy systems after federal funds are expended.

- **Performance contracting technical support for local governments**

Energy saving performance contracting is perhaps the best example of an energy conservation program that will endure without continued federal subsidy and which is highly effective at leveraging non-federal resources. The Commonwealth already has created much of the infrastructure needed to sustain ESPC programs for local governments after Recovery Act dollars are expended. Localities have the authority to access low-cost financing from the Virginia Resources Authority to pay for energy efficiency improvements to government buildings. That state has operated an ESPC technical assistance program for state agencies for two years and already has key tools that localities can use, including a list of pre-qualified ESCOs, template contracts and an experienced and well-qualified staff and manager.

The Commonwealth plans to design a fee-based source of revenue that will have a minor impact on the economic benefits of ESPC for localities but produce enough revenue to sustain the program after Recovery Act funds are expended. Based on ESPC program experience with state agencies, the Commonwealth projects that a very small investment in a program to provide technical assistance will produce much larger investments in energy efficiency improvements to government buildings, which will continue after the expiration of federal subsidy to create jobs, save money for localities and their tax payers, and provide enduring energy security and environmental benefits.

6. The President has made it clear that every taxpayer dollar spent on our economic recovery must be subject to unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability. Describe the auditing or monitoring procedures currently in place or that will be in place (by what date), to ensure funds are used for authorized purposes and every step is taken to prevent instances of fraud, waste, error, and abuse.

The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME), which administers SEP and EECBG energy programs, is hiring an additional fiscal position that will be funded with Recovery Act funds to operate a financial control desk at DMME, to ensure compliance with ARRA and Virginia requirements to segregate ARRA funds from other funds, operate with transparency and accountability and control against waste, error, fraud and abuse.

The disbursement of ARRA funds will require various levels of review prior to processing. DMME has implemented these levels of review first with program manager, the DMME Control Desk, and finally by the fiscal disbursing staff. This control system already is in place.

DMME's Division of Energy currently monitors federal and state requirements attached to the two ARRA grant programs it administers, the State Energy Program and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program. Requirements contained in the federal guidance for each program and additional special conditions and provisions of ARRA include requirements for transparency, proof of performance, accountability, compliance with Buy America, compliance with Davis-Bacon provisions, data collection and verification and reporting of key metrics and progress of programs and projects. These requirements will be

incorporated into contracts and agreements with other parties and support contractors and will “flow down” to all sub-recipients or vendors. DMME also will disseminate these requirements to staff and contractors and establish check-off systems to ensure compliance.

The Virginia Department of Accounts also has established ARRA control systems. It uses questionnaires, agency site visits and its website to communicate financial control recommendations and requirements, and to provide other direction to state agencies and divisions that manage ARRA funds. DMME will monitor the DOA website and ensure that staff, sub-recipients and vendors are aware of and monitor the site. DMME also will ensure that monitoring the DOA website and complying with guidelines or requirements that might be disseminated on the DOA website are requirements that will be incorporated into contracts and agreements with other parties and support contractors and will “flow down” to all sub-recipients or vendors. DMME also will disseminate these requirements to staff and contractors and establish check-off systems to ensure compliance.

A state ARRA team of administrative personnel has been formed to work with the Division of Energy. Constant communication, either verbal or written, is shared. The Division of Energy will ensure that staff and supporting consultants, contractors and other partners receive and acknowledge receipt and understanding of communications on ARRA requirements. These communications will be distributed by email, discussed during project and management meetings and be posted on the DMME website. ARRA requirements also will be incorporated into contracts and agreements with sub-recipients, contractors and recipients of ARRA funds.

The Recovery Act requires measurement of jobs created or preserved and fossil energy saved (by efficiency) or displaced (by renewable energy sources). Virginia SEP and EECBG ARRA programs will require measurement and verification of actual jobs and energy benefits, using calculators that the U. S. Department of Energy has supplied. Automated systems will assist in the collection of much of this information.

The DMME internal audit department will perform audits very early in the process and at regular intervals to completion. The audits will test for risk, compliance and effective procedures.

DMME has made provisions to ensure a high degree of transparency, accountability and accessibility to all ARRA programs, primarily using its website and links to the state’s primary electronic portal – www.Stimulus.Virginia.gov. For example, the May 12 application narrative for the State Energy Program proposal to U.S. Department of Energy was posted on the DMME website the day after it was submitted. Other applications and programs will be treated in a similar fashion.