

State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee

Sen. Thomas C. Alexander, Chairman
Rep. Harry F. Cato, Vice Chairman
Elizabeth H. Atwater, Esquire
Erin B. Crawford, Esquire
Sen. C. Bradley Hutto
Rep. Harry L. Ott, Jr.
Sen. Luke A. Rankin, Sr.
Rep. William E. Sandifer, III
John Steven Simmons, Esquire
Helen T. Zeigler, Esquire



Post Office Box 142
Columbia, South Carolina 29202
(803) 212-6625

Nancy V. Coombs
Chief Counsel
Jennifer Parrish Robinson
Committee Counsel
Heather Anderson
Committee Counsel
Debra D. Hammond
Committee Staff

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON ENERGY AND ENERGY POLICIES **October 17, 2008**

SUMMARY: The State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee requests comments on energy issues and policies.

DATES: Comments must be received by November 17, 2008. Reply comments must be received by December 1, 2008.

ADDRESS: The Review Committee invites the public to submit written comments in paper or electronic form. Persons providing comments must provide full citations to any supporting documentation. Electronic comments should be sent to coombsn@scsenate.org. Electronic comments should be submitted in Microsoft Word format, and supporting documents may be submitted in .pdf format. Written comments and supporting documents may be mailed to Heather Anderson, State Regulation of Public Utilities Review Committee, Post Office Box 142, Columbia, SC 29202.

Comments received will be posted on the S.C. Statehouse website at <http://www.scstatehouse.net/citizensinterestpage/EnergyIssuesAndPolicies>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

For a number of years, the United States Congress has been considering legislation addressing global climate change and greenhouse gas emission. On October 7, 2008, John Dingell, Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Rick Boucher, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, released a discussion draft of climate change legislation. They believe that Congress should design a regulatory program needed to address greenhouse gases and that “the only remaining question is what form that regulation will take.” (Reference: Memorandum to Members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, dated October 7, 2008.)

The discussion draft would establish an economy-wide cap on emissions of greenhouse gases and set up trading mechanisms that would establish incentives for the development of new energy and

abatement technologies. Id. Representative Dingell's and Representative Boucher's goal is "to craft a bill that can be enacted quickly and lead to regulations that can be implemented with a minimum of administrative or legal impediments." Id. They recognize that "reaching a consensus on a national approach to addressing climate change will be difficult under the best of circumstances" and believe their "task as legislators is to see that [a successful climate change policy] is accomplished in the most effective and minimally disruptive fashion." Id.

It is important that policymakers know how their decisions will affect our state. A national approach to addressing climate change could have significant impacts on South Carolina residents and businesses. The purpose of this inquiry is to elicit the information necessary to allow our state policymakers to provide guidance to our Congressional delegation and others as to the most appropriate way to steer our country toward energy independence and encourage wise energy use and development that will benefit South Carolina and our nation.

QUESTIONS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: The public is free to comment on any issue related to energy and energy policies; however, the Review Committee is particularly interested in receiving input on the following questions:

1. What action do you anticipate from the U.S. Congress as to climate change legislation? What impact may this have on South Carolina?
2. Does South Carolina have governmental resources available to study, plan, or act upon current or future energy policies? Are these resources sufficient? Are these resources appropriately empowered to act? Is there any overlapping of roles?
3. How do we use electricity in South Carolina? How is our use different from other states, with respect to amount of use and type of use? What factors drive this usage? What can we do to better use our energy resources? What demographic or other factors prohibit or inhibit our ability to be more energy efficient?
4. What types of renewable sources of energy are available in South Carolina? What is the expected cost to produce and transmit electricity from those resources?
5. What types of non-native renewable resources are available to South Carolina? What is the expected cost to transmit electricity from those resources to South Carolina?
6. What programs that promote energy efficiency exist in our state? Are these programs affordable to all South Carolinians? Should they be affordable to all South Carolinians? Are energy efficiency measures a cost-effective alternative to the construction and operation of generation facilities? How should energy efficiency incentives be designed?
7. The heavy use of concrete and steel to construct coal and nuclear generating facilities in China, India, and other developing nations and the importation of fuel needed to create energy from those facilities has increased the price of these raw materials and commodities beyond most projections. Is this level of growth sustainable? Will prices continue to be driven by this global demand? How will South Carolina be affected by this global demand?
8. How has the current economic situation affected the projections for energy use?

NOTE: The Review Committee will also provide the public an opportunity to provide oral testimony at a future meeting. Individuals who indicate a desire to be heard on their submitted written comments will be given preference on the agenda.

Please provide the following information with your written comments:

- (1) Name
- (2) Company or Organization
- (3) Address
- (4) E-mail Address
- (5) Phone Number
- (6) Would you like to provide oral testimony at the Review Committee hearing?