

West Virginia Public Energy Authority Annual Report: FY 2008

The West Virginia Public Energy Authority is required by 5D-1-8 of the *West Virginia Code* to submit an annual report on its activities to the Governor and Legislature after the close of the fiscal year. This submission addresses the Authority's activities for the period of July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008.

The purpose of the organization is to promote “reliable and dependable markets for the state’s coal, natural gas and other natural resources...” through “means and measures ... for the financing, building and operation of the facilities ...” (*West Virginia Code* 5D-1-2). The seven members of the committee include the Governor or designee; the Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection or designee; the Director of the Economic Development Authority or designee; and four members representing the general public appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Director of the Division of Energy serves as executive director of the Authority. The members of the Authority during the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year were:

- John F. “Jeff” Herholdt, Jr. (chair)
Director, West Virginia Division of Energy
- Stephanie R. Timmermyer (July 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008)
Cabinet Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection
- Randy C. Huffman (May 1, 2008)
Cabinet Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection
- David Warner (treasurer)
Executive Director, West Virginia Economic Development Authority
- Joseph Freeland, public member
- I.L. “Ike” Morris, public member
- The Honorable Mike Ross, public member (July 1, 2007 – Jan. 13, 2008)
- Alan S. Tweddle, public member

The Authority conducted nine meetings during the fiscal year. Below are activities undertaken by the Authority during the fiscal year:

July 19, 2007: Governor Joe Manchin III introduced Jeff Herholdt as the director of the West Virginia Division of Energy and appointed him chair of the West Virginia Public Energy Authority. Presentations on sustainable agricultural energy crops were provided by Dr. Albert Magro of Fairmont State University and Dr. James Kotcon of West Virginia University. Dr. Richard Bajura provided a presentation on the proposed WVU Energy Center at the South Charleston Dow Center.

Aug. 23, Sept. 27 and Oct. 25, 2007: A series of three public meetings in Charleston allowed Authority members and the public to discuss “West Virginia Energy Opportunities: A Blueprint for the Future, Resources for Economic Growth and Energy Security,” West Virginia’s energy plan. Each meeting focused on an energy technology addressed in the document. The August meeting focused on energy efficiency activities supported through the Division of Energy. The September meeting addressed renewable energy opportunities. The third meeting, held in October, addressed opportunities from coal-based technologies. Approximately 50 people attended each session. Copies of all presentations are available online at www.energywv.org or from the West Virginia Division of Energy.

Dec. 13, 2007: Governor Joe Manchin III highlighted his vision of how energy could be maximized in an environmentally safe manner. Randall Harris and Dr. Carl Irwin also provided presentations on carbon sequestration and industrial energy efficiency, respectively.

Jan. 17, 2008: The West Virginia Environmental Council presented its “Citizens Energy Plan.” Gamesa Energy provided a presentation on an industrial view of wind energy development and wind opportunities in West Virginia. Three other presentations focused on West Virginia Division of Energy funded programs. The first addressed concentrated solar panel technology and impacts of net metering in West Virginia. The second presentation discussed development of a West Virginia energy database. The final presentation provided insight on biochemical and biofuel technologies and their potential opportunities for West Virginia.

March 22, 2008: The meeting, which addressed hydrogen fuel opportunities, featured speakers from the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Energy Technology Laboratory and West Virginia University. The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce’s Energy Committee also provided a presentation on its priorities and desire to work with the Authority on energy issues. David Huber of West Virginia State University discussed WVSU’s anaerobic digester program.

April 17, 2008: Most of the meeting at the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey’s (WVGES) Mont Chateau Research Center included a review of research by the WVGES and WVU to map West Virginia’s energy infrastructure. WVGES and WVU’s National Research Center for Coal and Energy provided reports on mapping gas and oil pipelines, carbon sequestration and coal-to-liquids research. WVU’s West Virginia Water Research Institute provided a presentation on mapping water/energy relationships and future needs. Kelly A. Bragg of the Division of Energy reported on upcoming commercial and residential energy efficiency workshops.

Robert Orndorff of Dominion Resources provided a brief overview of Dominion Transmission's Morgantown Energy Authority's refinancing offer that may be presented at a future meeting.

May 22, 2008: The final FY 2008 meeting of the PEA began with an approved motion that the new WVDEP Secretary Randy C. Huffman be named vice chair to replace the former WVDEP secretary. The meeting featured presentations by Quingyun Sun of WVU on China's clean coal activities; Drew Spradling of Touchstone Laboratories on Touchstone's research on algae for CO₂ mitigation and coal gasification, and Kourosh Sedghisigarchi of West Virginia University Institute of Technology on his research for the Division of Energy on net metering using solar power.