

ENERGY ASSURANCE

by

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The State of Louisiana received a grant from DOE under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) State and Local Energy Assurance Program (SLEAP) to develop new or refine existing energy assurance and emergency preparedness plans. These plans were to contribute to the resiliency of the energy sector by focusing on the entire energy supply system. Energy assurance planning requires the involvement of federal, state, local and private-sector participants. Timely and accurate information is critical during emergency events.

The deliverable for the program is a State Energy Assurance Plan which is intended to be incorporated into or used in concert with State Emergency Response Plans. The Louisiana State Energy Office partnered with the NIMSAT Institute at the University of Louisiana to accomplish the goals of this project. The NIMSAT Institute is uniquely qualified to deliver on the project's tasks because of its partnership with the Office of the Governor and the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP).

The project goal was to create expertise within Louisiana on energy assurance planning, and build regional energy assurance capability with other Gulf of Mexico states. The final Energy Assurance Plan is due to be submitted on October 14, 2012. Following are accomplishments with the goals and objectives:

State Energy Plan (Draft) – completed February 11, 2011

Energy Supply-Demand Model – completed February 15, 2011

Participated in the 2011 Southern Regional Energy Assurance Exercise March 1-2, 2011

Interstate Exercise After-Action Report – completed March 31, 2011

Participated in the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness sponsored "Louisiana 2011 New Madrid Exercise Series" – July 14-15, 2011

Intrastate Exercise After-Action Report – completed August 2, 2011

Participated in the National Energy Assurance Conference on June 28-29, 2012 – the final event for the four regional energy assurance exercises held in 2011

State and local governments participated in a series of regional energy assurance exercises held throughout 2011. These events were designed to help states meet the grant requirement to participate in an interstate exercise. Louisiana participated in the Southern Regional Energy Assurance Exercise – *Red Earth*, Raleigh, NC, March 2011. The exercises had strong state and local participation and generated the following key elements learned:

- Communications – Know who the key points of contact are and establish relationships in advance of emergencies; have robust communication technologies and protocols in place; and develop plans for communicating with the public.
- Interdependencies – State and local governments need to understand energy industry interdependencies and prepare for them; this will improve recovery time.
- Collaboration & Coordination – Federal, state, and local government and the private sector need to work together, share information, and communicate effectively in both preparation and response.
- Resource Allocations – Identify and establish resource priorities and maintain strong situational awareness so allocations can be made effectively if and when they are needed.

Louisiana is a significant exporter of energy in the United States and impacts to Louisiana's energy infrastructure are felt nationwide. Almost all of the energy consumed in Louisiana is produced in Louisiana so the infrastructure is critical to the state's energy assurance. Hurricanes are the most likely threat to the state's energy assurance. When the petrochemical infrastructure is shutdown either in anticipation of a hurricane or as a result of storm damage the impacts are felt nationwide.

Louisiana has built public-private partnerships to address energy emergencies. The Louisiana Fuel Team is one of those partnerships. It is a cooperative effort between the state Department of Natural Resources and industry and trade organizations. The Fuel Team Play Book focuses on emergency evacuation fuel availability. The Fuel Team works with GOHSEP and the state Emergency Operations Center.

A national conference, held on June 28-29, 2012 was attended by more than 250 people, including representatives from 46 states, Washington D.C, and Puerto Rico. It was the final program of the ARRA SLEAP intended to recap the results of the three-year program and discuss a path going forward to sustain energy assurance planning at the national, state and local levels. New sources of funding will be required to continue to support Energy Assurance Planning. Key Points follow regarding what type of effort will be required:

- Review and update plans every one to two years.
- Require annual updates to state, local, and energy industry contact lists.
- Reference the plan in the state's emergency response plans.
- Include energy assurance-specific duties in position descriptions of staff with those responsibilities.
- Require training for new staff and periodic refresher training for existing staff.
- Hold exercises (state and regional) to validate the plan.