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Date: April 23, 1998

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Office of Emergency Management, U. S. Department of Energy

Chester Smith, Chairman *CS*
National Association of State Energy Officials

From: Jeffrey Pillon, Chair, Energy Security and Data Committee *JJP*
National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)

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Energy Information Administration, U. S. Department of Energy

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Office of Emergency Management, U.S. Department of Energy

Subject: Energy Emergency Information Coordinators Program

On February 27, 1996, you signed an "Agreement for Energy Market Assessments During Emergencies," a copy of which is attached. The agreement specified that it should be evaluated two years following its implementation to determine if it should be continued or modified. In response to this provision we have under taken an evaluation of the program and based on this evaluation recommend its continuation.

In January 1998 a set of survey questions were sent to the Energy Emergency Information Coordinators (EEIC) who serve as the designated state contacts for this effort. As of March 18, 1998, 24 states had responded to the survey. The results of this survey show states are enthusiastic supporters of the EEIC program, with 96 percent indicating that the program provided useful information and 100 percent believing the program should be continued. Attached a copy of the results of this survey.

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The Energy Information Administration has used the system to distribute numerous reports of market analyses related to supplies and prices of heating oil, propane, gasoline, and electricity. For example, during the price **runup** of propane and heating oil during the 1996/97 winter, EIA provided states with several price and supply status reports. Recently, EIA was able to assess whether states located in the New England area had experienced any energy supply disruptions during the devastating Ice Storm. States prepared daily situation reports which were exchanged with neighboring states as well as EIA. EIA has also used the system to distribute information obtained from conferences, such as the Winter Fuels, and to notify states of upcoming meetings and events.

An example of the effectiveness of the EEIC exchange was the continued flow of information during problems with western railroad service. Problems moving rail cars around Houston rippled throughout the southwest, until rail service was almost at a standstill. Numerous electric utilities in the southwest were unable to get coal shipments and were in danger of shutting down. EEIC members provided local information on utility coal inventories and rail movement that was valuable in assessing overall rail shipments.

At the state level, information from the Department of Energy has been shared with state emergency management agencies and public utility commissions. Information on the energy impacts of state natural disasters occurring over the last two years has been shared with DOE and surrounding state. Following Hurricane Fran in the Carolinas in 1996, Federal and state energy offices and utilities set up information exchanges that fostered a more smooth coordination of repair efforts and faster system restorations.

The National Association of State Energy Officials, Energy Security and Data Committee met on February 11, 1998 and discussed the continuation of this effort, and the need to work towards improved regional communications. As a result of these discussions the committee supports the continuation of this effort. It has been **helpful** in opening up communications between states and encouraging the sharing of information.

Based on our evaluation we recommend to you, as the signatories to the agreement, the continued operation of the Energy Emergency Information Coordinators program.

Energy Emergency Information Coordinators
(EEIC) Survey – Summary of Responses
January 1998

In January 1998, a questionnaire was sent by the Office of Emergency Management to the NASEO/DOE Energy Information Coordinators asking for impressions of the first two years of the EEIC program. Of the 55 members, 24 responses were received to some of the questions. The following is a compilation of responses received as of March 18, 1998.

1. Has the EEIC provided you with useful information?
96% **favorable**
2. Has the EEIC improved or changed the level of regional communication?
65% **favorable**
3. Has the EEIC provided you with a useful means for communicating with DOE?
96% **favorable**

Please answer the following questions with a “yes” or “no” or a number.

1. Have you sent information to the EEIC at your own initiative?
25% **have sent information**
If so how many times? **Average 2-5 times**
2. Have you responded to DOE’s request from information to the EEIC?
83% **have responded**
If so how many times? **Average 2-5 times**
3. Should the DOE continue to provide a separate electronic emergency information mailbox?
96% **agreed**
4. Should the EEIC be continued?
100% agreed

5. Should the State work towards improving regional communications or is the level of communications about right?
82% **agreed**
6. Have you looked at or used the EEIC listing on the NASEO Web site?
71% said yes
7. Would an automated distribution list help you send information to other states or groups of states?
96% **agreed**

Please give us feedback on the following two questions.

1. Do you have any specific energy information requirements or requests?
41% **had requirements.**
 - Supply data
 - Daily Situation Reports during energy emergencies
 - Maintenance schedules of refineries or disruptions at refineries
 - Training for EEIC Coordinators
2. If the EEIC is continued, do you have any suggestions on how EEIC listing on the NASEO Web site might be improved?
8% **had suggestions.**
 - The reference was not the first place I looked for EEIC of the current choices - other sites or a new choice that is EEIC.
 - More information from states on energy emergency situations they dealt with, how national and international incidents affect electricity, petroleum, and national gas supply in the US.
 - More information on **Hotlinks** on the World Wide Web to organizations that could help the states assess the energy situation.

B. Watson
March 18, 1998