Energy Emergency Assurance Coordinators Program

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Credit: NREL Image Gallery

NASEO
National Association of State Energy Officials

June 2020
What is the Energy Emergency Assurance Coordinators Program?

Cooperative effort between the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, NASEO, the National Governors Association, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and National Emergency Management Association

State and territories designate primary and secondary contact(s) for each sector (petroleum, electricity, natural gas) to serve as points of contact in event of an energy emergency

Provides credible, accurate, and timely source of information and updates on actions taken

Goal is to improve information sharing and communication, lower response times, and enable better multi-state coordination during planning and operational phases
The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), the National Governor’s Association (NGA), and the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) do hereby agree to implement the following actions as further explained in the attached titled “Terms of Reference to the Agreement on Federal and State Energy Emergency Coordination, Communications, and Information Sharing”, dated: June 24, 2015.

1. DOE’s Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration Division (OE/ISER), NASEO, NARUC, NGA, and NEMA will work with the states to encourage voluntary participation to develop, maintain, and distribute the contact lists of state and federal officials responsible for energy market monitoring, consequence assessments, and energy emergency response. States and DOE OE/ISER will update the list at least annually with names, titles, organizations, work addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses as well as other government contact information as may be relevant. States will be responsible for updating the list any time there is a change or turnover in staff designated as points of contact. The list will be accessible through a restricted website maintained by DOE OE and will be accessible by those officials whose names appear on the list.

2. NASEO, NARUC, NGA, and NEMA will support participating states in the implementation of this agreement. Participating states will agree to provide timely situational assessments in the event of a disruption to energy supplies to facilitate effective coordination, communications, and information sharing. States will share their assessments of energy disruptions with surrounding states and DOE using (1) a restricted website maintained by DOE OE/ISER, (2) email, and (3) conference calls and other means as appropriate. States should consult the websites of the U.S. Energy Information Administration and OE to access publicly-available energy data, information and analysis, emergency situation reports, and other available information. State should compile information on impacts and consequences in their state including input from energy suppliers.

3. DOE will provide in a timely manner to states information about the risk of significant regional, multi-state, or state-level energy market disruptions as it becomes available to DOE. When an event that could have or has had a significant impact on energy infrastructure and/or supply occurs, DOE OE/ISER will share with affected states and regions situational assessments that provide details about the consequences of the disruption, its severity, geographic scope, and duration and federal action taken. These assessments will draw upon information gathered by states as well as other information, data, or analysis available to DOE.

4. The communication system shall be tested and evaluated by DOE and states every two years.
Energy Emergency Assurance Coordinators (EEAC) Program Partners
Federal Energy Emergency Structure and Authorities

- U.S. Department of Energy is the Coordinating Agency for Emergency Support Function (ESF) #12-Energy and the Sector Specific Agency (SSA) for energy

- Within DOE, ESF-#12 and SSA responsibilities are led by the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response

- Sector Specific Agency
  - PPD-8: Preparedness
  - PPD-21: Infrastructure
  - PPD-41: Cyber
  - FAST Act

- Emergency Support Function #12-Energy
  - National Response Framework
  - Stafford Act
What Role Does the EEAC Serve?

- Collect and analyze timely, accurate and verifiable information (local, state, and regional level)
- Assess state energy markets in the event of a disruption or emergency as well as on an ongoing basis
- Respond to requests for information from public and private sector partners in a timely manner
- Provide accurate and timely information to public and monitor social media for misinformation
- Provide decisionmakers with regular situation reports
- Serve as point of contact for DOE, industry, and local communities during emergencies
- Share relevant information with public and private sector partners
- Facilitate multi-state coordination with other EEACs (through meetings and calls) to increase response and recovery
What Every EEAC Should Know

- **State Emergency Plans**
  - Energy security/assurance plan(s)
  - Emergency preparedness plan(s)
  - Disaster/emergency plan(s)

- **State Level Energy Data**
  - Current status of energy supply, demand and prices
  - Energy profile and energy infrastructures
  - Capacity and flows

- **Federal Framework Documents**
  - National Response Plan
  - National Infrastructure Protection Plan
  - Energy Sector Specific Plan

- **State and Local Government Contacts**
  - State agency decisionmakers
  - Other state/territory EEAC contacts
  - Local and state emergency managers
  - Local energy/sustainability offices

- **Private Energy Sector Contacts**
  - Petroleum suppliers, gas and electric utilities
  - Distribution companies
  - Energy industry associations

- **Declarations and Authorities**
  - Procedures for declaring emergencies and other applicable authorities (state and federal) that may aid in the response
EEAC Communications Protocol: What are the Mechanics?
When and How to Use ESF-#12/EEAC Coordination and Communication

Emergent market indicators suggesting potential supply issue

Event affecting energy supply/demand/price

International Event

Training and Exercises

ESF-#12 OR states should use the EEAC

Log into ISERnet

Draft E-Mail to EEAC

Send E-Mail

Two-way information sharing!

In the email, summarize:
- Purpose: situation awareness, questions or requests
- Nature of problem (scope, size, duration)
- Potential solution or process to solve
- Information source

Send e-mail to selected EEAC group/FEMA region
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information that quantifies size, scope and potential duration of problem</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geographic area, population and sectors affected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on upstream and downstream effects in the energy supply and distribution systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public statements and press releases made by state officials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific actions taken by state or local governments to mitigate impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests from industry for assistance and response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-state media reports that accurately describe problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-proprietary information (confidential information should not be shared via email)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Importance of Emergency Communications

- Regardless of cause, structured communications during emergencies are important to understand severity, magnitude and consequences of energy disruptions.

- Communication plans and procedures should address how information is shared with the public (e.g., news organizations, press releases, social media) and how to respond to misinformation.

- Internal communications within state government agencies and external communication with local communities and the private sector are key to providing consistent messaging and ensure all facts have been collected, organized and assessed.

- Inter-state communication is an important tool to share information, enhance situational awareness, improve decision making and coordinate response actions for energy disruptions caused by events which effect multiple states.
Lessons Learned: Communications

- Maintain updated information and relationships
- Identify primary and back-up communication technologies and information to be communicated
- Establish more robust communication technology to improve response and ensure availability of alternative communications methods in case electricity and cellular telecommunications are impacted
- Maintain hard copy of energy security/assurance plan and list of contacts at office and home
- Establish effective communication plan in coordination with local communities and private sector to manage public expectations
Informational Resources

- **DOE EAGLE-I**: Situational Awareness Tool
- **Energy Information Administration**
  - Special Disruptions Website ([https://www.eia.gov/special/disruptions/](https://www.eia.gov/special/disruptions/))
  - Petroleum Reports ([https://www.eia.gov/petroleum/supply/weekly/](https://www.eia.gov/petroleum/supply/weekly/))
  - Energy Outlooks ([https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/](https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/))
- **Gasbuddy** (external)

THE GASBUDDY (EMERGENCY) GAS TRACKER
State Energy Emergency Preparedness Checklist

- Update Energy Emergency Assurance Coordinators (EEAC) contact information in ISERnet (https://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ISERNET/login.aspx)

- Verify state’s most recent energy security/assurance plan is listed in ISERnet

- Use EEAC listservs to communicate within regions

- Verify EAGLE-I Login Information (https://eagle-i.doe.gov/login)

- Review DOE’s Energy Waiver Library (http://www.energy.gov/ceser/energy-waiver-library)

- Know your DOE Regional Coordinator

- Visit CESER website during an emergency for DOE Situation Reports (https://www.energy.gov/ceser)