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**Federal Regulatory Updates**

* **[Murkowski Resolution Fails](%09http:/www.vnf.com/news-alerts-471.html) (June 11):** With a vote of 53 to 47 the Senate defeated Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)’s resolution that would have removed the EPA’s ability to regulate GHG emissions under the provisions of the Clean Air Act. Even if the Senate had passed the resolution it seemed unlikely that it would have passed in the House and the President voiced his opposition to the measure before the vote.

* **[Minerals Management Service Reorganized into Bureau of Ocean Energy](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/06/29/bureau-of-ocean-energy-ma_n_629916.html) (June 21):** The former Minerals Management Service is being restructured as the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (BOE for short). Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar swore in former Justice Department Inspector General Michael Bromwich to lead the reform efforts to strengthen oversight and monitoring of offshore energy developments

* **[EPA Updates GHG Reporting Rules](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghgrulemaking.html) (June 28):** On May 27 the EPA released an update with technical corrections and clarifying other amendments. On June 28 the Director signed two new actions: finalized reporting requirements for several sectors including magnesium production, underground coal mines, industrial wastewater treatment, and industrial landfills, and declares that ethanol production and food processing are not distinct subparts, and does not include coal suppliers; a second action defines confidentiality of reported data.

* **[EPA Proposes Cuts to Power Plant Pollution in 31 States to Increase Air Quality](http://www.newsroomamerica.com/story/31265/air_news_release_%28hq%29:_epa_proposal_cuts_pollution_from_power_plants_in_31_states_and_d.c./rule_would_reduce_smog-_and_soot-forming_emissions_contributing_to_unhealthy_air.html) (July 6):** New regulations would severe limit NOx and SO­2 emissions by 2014. These new regulations would yield immense health benefits in the form of fewer premature deaths, nonfatal heart attacks, cases of acute bronchitis, and aggravated asthma. These new regulations would replace the 2005 CAIR program**.**

* **[Fannie and Freddie Threaten Viability of PACE Programs](http://www.fhfa.gov/webfiles/15884/PACESTMT7610.pdf) (July 6):** The Federal Housing Finance Agency announced concerns over the safety of PACE loans. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have warned lenders that the seniority of PACE loans creates significant risks for lenders and the mortgage industry. The agencies call for a pause in PACE programs until concerns can be addressed. DOE asked Retrofit Ramp-Up Awardees to consider other activities for sue of EECBG monies (contingency plans). California has filed a lawsuit against Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for blocking PACE programs which would create thousands of jobs: <http://ag.ca.gov/newsalerts/release.php?id=1951>.

* **[Appeals Court Upholds Lower Court Ruling to Lift Moratorium](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/09/us/09drill.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=drilling%20moratorium%20court%20ruling&st=cse) (July 8):** The New Orleans Federal Court granted a request for an injunction preventing the enactment of the six month moratorium on deep water drilling that the federal government enacted after the Deepwater Horizon explosion in June. The federal government began the appeals process July 8 with oral arguments. The panel ruled that they will not enforce the moratorium during the appeals trial. The federal government has said that it will issue a revised moratorium to address the court’s concerns.

* **[EPA Proposes 2011 Renewable Fuels Standards](http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/e77fdd4f5afd88a3852576b3005a604f/3d17d69ada4c71da8525775e005ac40a!OpenDocument) (July 12):** The EPA announced their proposed 2011 standards for renewable fuels including biomass-based fuels, advanced biofuels,cellulosic biofuels, and total renewable fuels. The EPA also proposed two changes to RFS2 regulations including dates of production qualifying for compliance, and criteria for foreign feedstocks.

**Federal Legislative Updates**

* **[Senate Democrats to Pursue a Smaller Energy Bill](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/15/us/politics/15energy.html?_r=1&hpw) (July 14):**President Obama and Senate Democrats have decided to press ahead in the next two weeks with a scaled-back energy bill that limits carbon pollution by power plants but not by other industries in an effort to salvage the legislation before midterm elections.

**Federal Budget Updates**

* **[HUD/DOT TIGER II Program funding notice](http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa10/huddotnofa.cfm) (pre-applications due July 26, 2010):** HUD and DOT have released an announcement for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery II program. The grant will provide $35 million to projects that invest in public and private transportation infrastructure in a way that will reduce barriers to creating affordable, economically vital, and sustainable communities. MWCOG is leading a proposal; for information contact Monica Bansal at [mbansal@mwcog.org](mailto:mbansal@mwcog.org).

* **[EPA Climate Showcase Communities funding notice](http://www.epa.gov/air/grants/csc_2010rfp_v3_6_3_10.pdf) (due July 26, 2010):** The EPA announced the availability of $10million in funding for the Climate Showcase Communities program. Projects must show documentable greenhouse gas emissions reductions. MWCOG will be submitting at least one proposal for this grant; for information contact Anne Mariani or Jeff King.

* **[HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant funding notice](http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=55456&mode=VIEW) (applications due August 23, 2010):** HUD announced $100 million in funding, with individual awards up to $5 million, available for regional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments. MWCOG is leading a proposal for this grant; for more information contact John Mataya at [jmataya@mwcog.org](mailto:jmataya@mwcog.org).
* [**EPA MarketBased Approaches to Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions funding notice**](http://www.epa.gov/air/grants/cppd_marketbased_rfp_7-13-10_final.pdf) **(applications due September 2, 2010):** This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits proposals that advance national, regional, state, and local energy efficiency programming by utilizing market-based approaches to program design and delivery. The grant has $5.3 million and is expected to divide among 10 grants of $60,000-$80,000 and 4 cooperative agreements of $300,000 to $1.2 million.

* **[EDA Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive Fund funding notice](http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=48106) (applications due September 30, 2010):** $14.7 million in funding available from Economic Development Administration for projects that foster economic competitiveness while enhancing environmental quality. MWCOG is leading a proposal for this grant; for more information contact Monica Bansal at [mbansal@mwcog.org](mailto:mbansal@mwcog.org).

**State Government updates**

* **[Virginia and Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Consortium Agreement with DOI](%09http:/www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/Salazar-Signs-Agreement-with-10-East-Coast-Governors-to-Establish-Atlantic-Offshore-Wind-Energy-Consortium.cfm) (June 8)**: 10 states entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of the Interior to establish the Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Consortium. The regional energy office will be located in Virginia. The goal is to establish task forces to develop wind, solar, and other renewable energies on the Outer Continental Shelf.

* **[Maryland Vetoes Advanced Meter Deployment](http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2010/06/23/1/) (June 23):** The Public Service Commission rejected Baltimore Gas & Electric’s proposal to install smart meters and allow electricity rates to fluctuate based on demand. The Commission is worried about how it will affect groups such as low-income and the elderly, and said that they would support a BG&E proposal with modifications.

* **[Maryland Installing Electric Charging Stations](http://wtopnews.com/?nid=25&sid=1990319) (June 27):** The Maryland Energy Administration has directed $500,000 in stimulus funds to install 55 car-charging stations along the Interstate 95 corridor and a dozen more in Baltimore parking garages.

**Local Government updates**

* **[DOE Electric Vehicles Project Expands to Include DC](http://www.ecotality.com/pressreleases/06172010_LA_DC_DOE_Project_Expansion.pdf) (June 17):** $30 million of added ARRA and private funding for the ECOtality project will allow them to deliver home and commercial charges for Nissan LEAF and Chevrolet Volt electric vehicles. A total of 13 cities will now benefit from the project that launched in October 2009 with nearly $100 million in funding for the EV Project.

* **[Montgomery Shuts Down Government Car Sharing Program](%09http:/www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/Montgomery-shuts-down-car-sharing-program-97199414.html) (June 27):** Montgomery County stopped their partnership with Enterprise-Rent-A-Car that allowed them to use a car share program for County vehicles rather than maintaining a private fleet. They ended the program due to under utilization that made the program too expensive to maintain.

* **[University Park ARRA Funding](http://www.upmd.org/?t=ce_news&mode=dialog&id=165) (June 11):** University Park, MD received nearly $1.5 million in funding and is among 20 communities selected to receive $60 million in DOE funding under the ARRA, administered through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program to create a community energy transformation program with multiple projects.

* **[DC RFP for PACE Program](http://green.dc.gov/green/lib/green/pdfs/rfppace10r0076.pdf) (June 30):** DC has issued an RFP for a firm to provide management, insight, and coordination of a PACE program for one year with two extension options. Proposals due August 19, 2010.

* **[DC RFP for Sustainable Energy Utility Contractor](http://green.dc.gov/green/lib/green/seu_rfp_-_07-02-10.pdf) (July 2):** DC has issued an RFP for a Sustainable Energy Utility Contractor with an option for up to 6 years of contracted services. The contractor would develop, coordinate and supply sustainable energy programs in the District. Proposals are due September 1, 2010.

**International news**

* **[US Submits Fifth Climate Action Report to UNFCCC](http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rls/rpts/car5/index.htm) (June 1):** The report outlines the US’ commitment to address climate change and outlines projected GHG emissions and provides infrastructure and funding for action.

* **[Biomass Now Sweden’s Largest Energy Source](http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2010/06/biomass-generates-32-of-all-energy-in-sweden) (June 2):** Biomass has replaced oil as Sweden’s largest energy source, reaching 32%. Their goal is to reach 50% non-oil energy sourcing by 2020.

* **[Global CO](%09http:/www.pbl.nl/en/news/pressreleases/2010/20100701-China-and-India-nullify-global-reduction-in-CO2-emissions.html)[2](%09http:/www.pbl.nl/en/news/pressreleases/2010/20100701-China-and-India-nullify-global-reduction-in-CO2-emissions.html) [Reductions Are Steady](%09http:/www.pbl.nl/en/news/pressreleases/2010/20100701-China-and-India-nullify-global-reduction-in-CO2-emissions.html) (July 1):** There was no growth in total global CO2­ ­emissions for 2009. Savings in industrialized nations made up for increased emissions in China and India. Those nations who have signed the Kyoto Protocol (the US has not) are on track to reach reduction goals.

* **[Germany Announces All Electricity Will Come From Renewable Fuels by 2050](http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6662UQ20100707?loomia_ow=t0:s0:a49:g43:r2:c0.153846:b35492416:z0) (July 7):** Germany generates 16% of its electricity from solar, wind, and other renewable sources. They announced that by 2050 100% of their electricity will be generated from renewable sources; Federal Environmental Agency president Jochen Flasbarth says it is a realistic goal and achievable with current technology. This will help Germany reach its goal of 40% emissions reductions from 1990 levels to 2020, and 80% emissions reductions by 2050.