



Legislative Energy Commission

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Executive Director Updates

September 16, 2014

Propane Alternatives Inquiry

The 2014 omnibus energy bill (H.F. 2834) requests the LEC “investigate the feasibility of converting propane gas users to natural gas or other alternative sources of energy.” Any recommendations will be prepared by staff for the Legislature by January 15, 2015 as requested. A conference call was held on August 6 to discuss the approach with legislators, industry stakeholders and interested members of the public. Stakeholders or others with input are encouraged to contact Annie Levenson-Falk at the email or phone number listed below.

Energy Future Framework

M.S. 3.8852 directs the LEC to develop a framework for Minnesota to transition to a clean energy economy. The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources has recommended \$1 million in funding to support in-depth data analysis; a draft work plan is due October 15. The 2015 Legislature must act to finalize this recommendation. The Dept. of Commerce has submitted a separate proposal to the U.S. Department of Energy for shorter-term energy planning, which could feed into the larger scope of LCCMR-funded work. The LEC has also applied to the McKnight Foundation for communications and outreach support. Should these proposals be approved, the LEC plans to issue RFPs for data collection and analysis, stakeholder engagement, public engagement, and/or communications support in 2015.

National Governors Association Clean Energy and Economic Development Policy Academy

The LEC is a partner on Minnesota’s effort, and has been especially engaged with the smart grid sector. The State is working with industry partners in the solar, wind, energy efficiency, bio, and smart grid sectors, as well as conducting an analysis of Minnesota’s clean energy businesses. More than 250 people participated in the July 17 Clean Energy Economy Summit.

EPA Clean Power Plan Proposed Rule

The Legislative Energy Commission received a briefing on the EPA’s proposed carbon regulations for existing power plants on June 30, 2014. Staff is staying up to date through a Pollution Control Agency stakeholder group. The EPA is accepting comments on the proposal until October 16, 2014, and will issue the final rule by June 2, 2015. State implementation plans are due July 1, 2016, with the possibility of a 1- or 2-year deadline extension.

Upcoming LEC meetings

Date	Description	Time	Topic	Location
Thurs., Nov. 13	LEC meeting and site visits	All day. Exact times TBD.	Meeting: Alternative fuel vehicles Tour: Biogas	Room 10 State Office Building, St. Paul Tour sites TBA
Wed., Dec. 10	LEC meeting	1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Propane supply and alternatives	Room 10 State Office Building, St. Paul

Further meeting information may be found at <http://www.lec.leg.mn/meetings.html>.

For more information or to provide input on any of the above, contact Annie Levenson-Falk: annie.levensonfalk@lec.leg.mn, 651-297-7137.