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# **A Thrill-Packed Introduction to** **ARRA Funding Impacting** **Public Utility Commissions**

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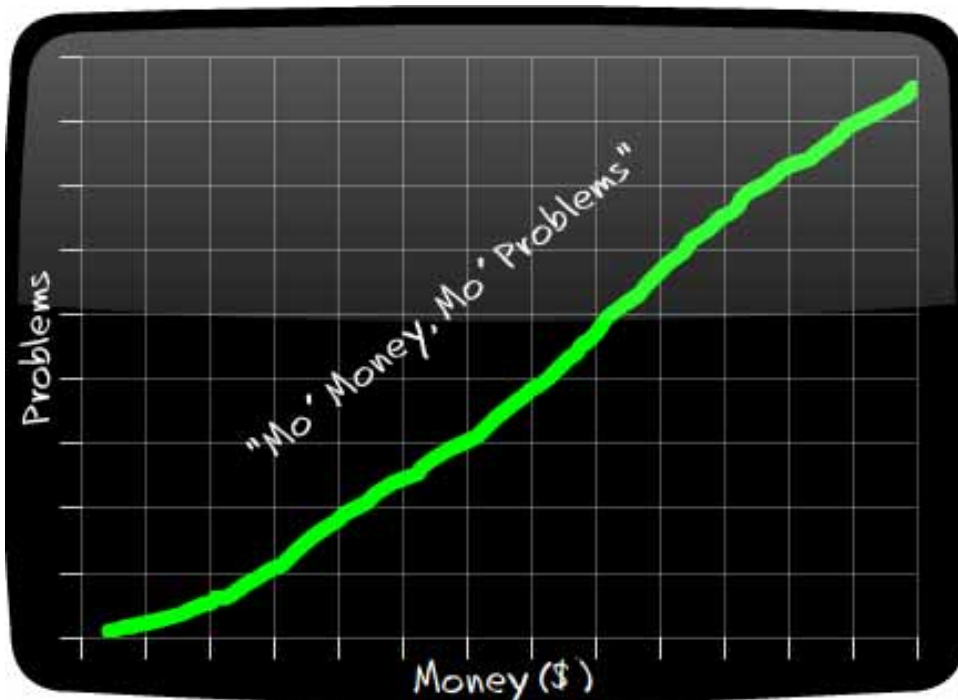
## ARRA FOAs

- ARRA is the American Reinvestment & Recovery Act
- FOA: Funding Opportunity Announcement
- There's three of them:
  - Assistance to State Regulators (\$46 million to NARUC State & DC commissions, divided 51 ways)
  - Energy Assurance (\$39 million to State Energy Offices, divided 56 ways)
  - Interconnection-wide Planning (\$60 million, divided regionally and in two issue-areas)



# Why are we seeing this money?

- With increased electricity sector spending resulting from the stimulus, Commissions will have a role in approving billions at a time when regulatory capacity is constrained by the recession.





## The 46 Million FOA: The Basics

- **Get a copy of the FOA at [www.fedconnect.net](http://www.fedconnect.net).**
- **Awards will range from \$763,577 to \$1,686,869**
- **Funding Opportunity Number:**
  - **DE-FOA-0000100**
- **Application Due Date:**
  - **08/31/2009 at 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time**



## The \$46M FOA: What can I apply for?

- funding is for PUCs to hire additional staff to ensure appropriate technical expertise will be dedicated to regulatory activities pertaining to ARRA electricity-related initiatives.
- ARRA electricity-related activities include but are not necessarily limited to:
  - energy efficiency,
  - electricity-based renewable energy,
  - energy storage,
  - smart grid,
  - electric and hybrid-electric vehicles,
  - demand-response equipment,
  - coal with carbon capture and storage, and
  - transmission.
- You can pay for fringe, benefits, ODCs, training, and support for these staffers.



## Limitations!

- The funding is spendable within four years
- Salaries and benefits and training costs aren't prescribed, you will apply for them within the pool that's available to you
- “The intent of the funds made available through the ARRA State Electricity Regulators Assistance Initiative is to supplement, not supplant, normal state appropriations for PUC staffing, expressly for the purpose of addressing the significant increase in PUC workload created by ARRA electricity-related initiatives.”



## Before you get started

- You'll need:
  - A DUNS number (can take 10 days)
    - <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>
  - A Central Contractor Register (CCR) registration
    - <http://www.ccr.gov>
  - A Fedconnect login and password. Register at [www.fedconnect.net](http://www.fedconnect.net)
- Must apply online.
  - Get the application package at [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov)
  - Submit the application package at [www.fedconnect.net](http://www.fedconnect.net).



## What you'll submit

- Form SF 424 - Application for Federal Assistance that comes in the application package you get at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
- A 3 page maximum project narrative file that uses much of the same language that's in the Statement of Project Objectives that's in the FOA already
- A budget using the SF424a excel spreadsheet format that comes in the application package you get at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
- Must apply online.
  - Get the application package at [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov)
  - Submit the application package at [www.fedconnect.net](http://www.fedconnect.net).
- Hint: Apply for all the money you're eligible for.



# Once you've been awarded money,

- You'll need to file a few things.
  - A Project Management Plan
    - Details the work elements (e.g., administration of the grant, opening and managing dockets, conducting workshops)
    - Due after 60 days and updated “regularly”
    - This Plan will also document the 4-year plan and project budget for carrying out all Tasks
  - Workforce Development Plan
    - Details development of in-house expertise within the PUC funded by this FOA.
    - Due 90 days after award
    - The Plan will address acquiring/hiring, retaining, and training personnel in electricity topic areas.
  - Quarterly reports summarizing the status of all ARRA electricity-related PUC activities
    - (e.g., typical PUC work products, such as dockets, final orders, legal findings, workshops, etc.)
    - Due quarterly



## Also: ARRA has Hoops & Strings

- Be advised that special terms and conditions may apply to projects funded by the Act relating to:
  - Reporting, tracking and segregation of incurred costs;
  - Reporting on job creation and preservation;
  - Publication of information on the Internet;
  - Access to records by Inspectors General and the Government Accountability Office;
  - Prohibition on use of funds for gambling establishments, aquariums, zoos, golf courses or swimming pools;
  - Ensuring that iron, steel and manufactured goods are produced in the United States;
  - Ensuring wage rates are comparable to those prevailing on projects of a similar character;
  - Protecting whistleblowers and requiring prompt referral of evidence of a false claim to an appropriate inspector general; and
  - Certification and Registration.
- The special terms and conditions can be found at [http://management.energy.gov/policy\\_guidance/1672.htm](http://management.energy.gov/policy_guidance/1672.htm).



## How you'll be measured

- The results of the funding provided for the projects will be assessed according to the following performance metrics:
  - Number of electricity specialists hired by state PUCs
  - Number of state PUC electricity specialists trained in ARRA electricity-related topical areas
  - Number of ARRA electricity-related dockets managed by PUCs

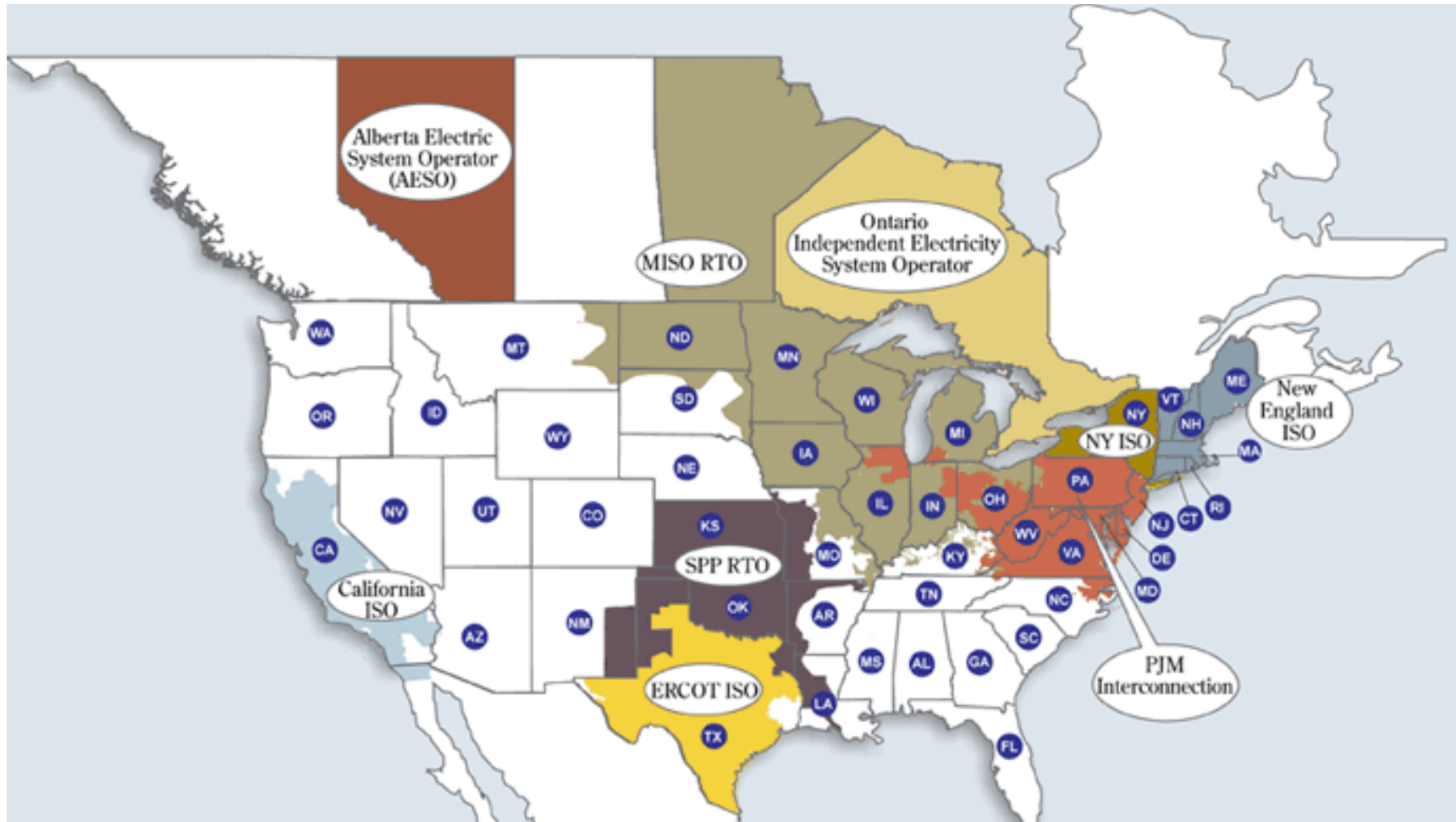


## The Second FOA: Energy Assurance

- \$39 Million has been made available to the State Energy Offices (SEOs) to write and implement energy assurance plans
- This affects not only electricity but also gas, oil, other energy sources
- PUCs often are the lead for energy assurance, but...
  - ...are not awardable agencies under this program unless they are also the SEO
- You'll need to contact your SEO and see if you can take part in the grant as part of their application...
  - ...which is due July 30.
- Who is your SEO? Look it up online at:
- <http://www.naseo.org/members/states/default.aspx>



# FOA #3: Interconnection-Wide Planning





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# The Interconnection-Wide Planning FOA

- Eighty million in two buckets
- Applications due August 15, 2009
- Topic B provides \$60 million to support long-term interconnection plans in each of the regions, including collaboration among states within an interconnection on meeting long-term electricity supply needs.
- Three regions eligible to divide the money: West, East, ERCOT
- Eastern Interconnection efforts being led by four Commission Organizations linked to RTOs and the Southeast Commissions; more info after June 29.
- Contact the Western Interstate Energy Board for more information on the West



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## A fourth pot: more money for later

- NARUC's Grants & Research Dept will administer additional resources in the Fall for:
- Hiring expert consultants for docketed proceedings at PUCs.
- Developing training curricula with our academic, regulatory research & assistance, and consulting partners
  - My intent is to create transformational, gap-filling opportunities for training on areas like independent analytic capability, risk management, and issue areas left externalized by the status quo.



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# **I Will Now Confront Your Most Challenging Questions!**



**Or! Later if you prefer!**

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