## SEIA Member Update - January 16, 2009

## Detailed Update on Solar Energy Provisions in the House Appropriations Committee Proposed *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*

As reported earlier today, the House Appropriations Committee released draft language for the proposed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 late yesterday. House Ways and Means Committee also released a statement outlining tax language. Congress plans to hold several hearings next week to debate proposed legislation. See House Appropriations Committee full bill language and the House Ways and Means Committee statement.

The monies provided in this stimulus package are in addition to any appropriation the department receives for Fiscal Year 2009. (Most departments are currently operating under a continuing resolution for FY 2009; full appropriations have not been completed.)

**Department of Energy Programs** (Title V, p. 69)
- **$18.5 billion** for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, which includes:
  - o $2 billion for energy efficiency and renewable energy research, development, demonstration, and deployment activities. ( p. 69) DOE can use this money to supplement the R&D it currently funds by solar companies, as well as increasing the amount of solar research done by the national labs.
  - o $3.5 billion for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants. These grants are made to states, local governments, and Indian tribes, which in turn can spend the money on programs to increase energy efficiency or increase conservation efforts. Installation of solar energy technologies is an approved use of the money. (p. 72. The block grant program was originally authorized in EISA, Subtitle E. 42 USC 17151.)
- **$4.5 billion** for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability to modernize the electric grid and increase grid reliability. (p. 71)
- **$8 billion** for a new component to DOE's Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program. (p. 73) The Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program, originally created in EPAct 2005, provides loan guarantees for "innovative technologies" that avoid or reduce greenhouses. A solar example of this is the power tower design for a concentrating solar power plant. The stimulus bill establishes a temporary program where renewable energy systems and electric power transmission systems qualify for the loan guarantees, even if they don't meet the "innovative" standard. Loan guarantees may be issued for projects that begin construction by September 30, 2011. (Section 5003, p. 79)

**Electricity Transmission**
- Authorizes the Western Area Power Administration to borrow money (up to $3.25 billion), allowing Western to construct or finance electric transmission lines to/from its service area. This money can also be used delivering or facilitating the delivery of power generated by renewable energy sources like solar. (Section 5004, p. 80)
- Increases Bonneville Power Administration's borrowing authority to $3.25 billion. Again, this money will be used for financing or constructing transmission within BPA's territory. (Section 5006, p. 86)

· Directs the Department of Energy, when preparing its 2009 National Electric Transmission Congestion Study to include an analysis of renewable energy sources that are prevented from accessing electricity customers due to a lack of adequate transmission. The study will also contain an analysis of why transmission has not been developed in those areas and make recommendations for achieving adequate transmission capacity. (Section 5007, p. 86)

## Solar on Federal Government Property
· **$6 billion** for the construction, repair and alteration of Federal buildings to increase their energy efficiency. (Title VI, p. 87)
· **$950 million** for non-recurring maintenance projects, including energy projects, at medical facilities run by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. These energy projects could include installation of solar energy or solar heating equipment. (Title X, p. 211)

## Solar for the Military
· **$350 million** for Department of Defense research, development, testing and evaluation of projects that will lead to improvements in energy generation and transmission. (Title IV, p. 63)

## Solar for Schools, Colleges, and Universities
· **$14 billion** for grants to public schools to modernize, renovate or repair their facilities. Schools can use the money to install renewable energy generation and heating systems, including solar or photovoltaic systems. (Section 9301, p. 171)
· **$6 billion** for grants to institutions of higher education to modernize, renovate or repair their facilities. This includes buildings used for instruction, research and student housing. Colleges and universities can use the money to install renewable energy generation and heating systems, including solar or photovoltaic systems. (Section 9302, p. 187)

## Green Collar Jobs
· **$500 million** to fund the Green Jobs Act. The Green Jobs Act provides money for job training programs that prepare workers for a career in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. These funds could be used to train workers as solar integrators and installers. (Title IX, p. 132. The Green Jobs Act was authorized as part of EISA, Section 1001.)
· **$300 million** for rehabilitation and construction projects on Job Corps Centers, including energy efficiency equipment. The Job Corps is a network of residential facilities serving at-risk youth. Funds may also be used to provide the residents with training for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.

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