

2019 Quarter 4: October – December

SEEA’s [Quarterly Highlights](#) provide stakeholders with brief, timely and relevant information on energy efficiency and related topics throughout the Southeast. For more information or to provide input, contact Emmeline Luck, policy associate, at eluck@seealliance.org.

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State, Local, and Utility Policy Highlights

Alabama

- **Additional Generation Capacity:** In September, Alabama Power [requested](#) approval of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to increase its generation capacity by approximately 19%. The proposed additions include the construction of a new natural gas unit, the acquisition of energy from other natural gas plants and some solar and battery storage facilities, and 200 megawatts (MW) of demand-side energy management. The Commission scheduled a public hearing on the matter for February 18. *Docket No. 32953*.

Arkansas

- **SWEPCO Rate Increase:** In October, the Southwest Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) [filed](#) a settlement agreement to increase rates by 8.8% for residential customers. Under the settlement, costs originally recovered through riders relating to environmental controls and generation construction would move into base rates. The net annual increase in non-fuel base rates set in the October 15 tentative settlement agreement totaled \$24.1 million and was [revised](#) to \$23.9 million in the Commission's final decision issued December 27; the rate increase took effect as of December 31. [Docket No. 19-008-U](#).

Florida

- **Florida Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (FEECA) Proceedings:** This cycle's energy efficiency goals proposed by the seven utilities subject to FEECA were much lower than previous cycles. On November 5, the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) [voted](#) to reject the utilities' proposals and to maintain the last round of targets established in 2015 while the Commission investigates ways to improve or replace FEECA. At the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact Conference on December 6, state Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried [announced](#) that her climate and energy council will consider how to improve FEECA. Nominations for the council were due December 24. [Docket Nos. 20190015, 20190016, 20190017, 20190018, 20190019, 20190020, 20190020](#).
- **Energy Planning Legislation:** [SB 144](#), currently before the senate, would establish an Energy 2040 Task Force within the FPSC to project the state's energy needs and to determine how it will meet those needs.
- **Energy Choice Amendment:** The [proposed constitutional amendment](#) for the November 2020 ballot would limit the jurisdiction of investor-owned utilities to the construction, operation, and repair of electrical transmission and distribution systems in order to open the market to competitive power suppliers. As of January 1, 2020, the petition has over 550,000 signatures; it [needs](#) 766,200 signatures to make the November 2020 ballot.
- **Florida Power and Light Rates:** In November, Florida Power and Light (FPL) [announced](#) that customers will see a decrease on their bills in 2020. Average bill reductions will be almost \$4 per month for residential customers and 3%-7% monthly reductions for commercial customers.
- **Potential Sale of Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA):** JEA had [invited](#) outside entities to make offers to buy the municipally-owned utility by September 30. JEA [announced](#) on October 14 that nine of the sixteen bidders had moved to the second round of consideration. Bidders included Duke Energy, NextEra Energy, and JEA Public Power Partners, among others. Any sale would require approval by the Jacksonville City Council and Duval County voters in a referendum. On December 24, the JEA Board unanimously [voted](#) to reject all nine bids.
- **PACE Projects:** In December, Ygrene Energy Fund [announced](#) that it has completed nearly 40,000 property assessed clean energy (PACE) home upgrade projects in counties across the state.

Georgia

- **Georgia Power Rate Case:** Georgia Power had requested a rate increase of \$2.2 billion over the next three years; on December 11, Georgia Power and stipulating parties filed a settlement agreement on an alternative rate plan that resolves most of the issues in the proceeding. On December 17, the Public Service Commission [approved](#) a \$1.77 billion rate increase on rates from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. Customers will see increases in fixed costs and base rates that will ramp up annually. The settlement agreement directs the Company to work with Commission Staff to market a time-of-use (TOU) rate and, starting in 2021, this TOU rate will be the default rate for all new construction. In addition, the final order requires that the Company further investigate the need for and the costs associated with providing hourly usage data to customers. The final rate plan includes provisions for electric vehicle charging (see page 10). [Docket No. 42516](#).
- **Plant Vogtle Construction Monitoring:** Georgia Public Service Commission staff and consultants [said](#) in a November 23 filing that the November 2021 and November 2022 in-service deadlines may not be attainable at the current rate of progress. Georgia Power responded on November 26, maintaining that construction is on schedule to meet the approved dates. [Docket No. 29849](#).

Kentucky

- **Gubernatorial Election:** In a close race, Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear (D) [defeated](#) incumbent Governor Matt Bevin (R) on November 5 and has [begun](#) making appointments.

Louisiana

- **Energy Efficiency Rules:** On October 8, the Louisiana Public Service Commission [released](#) the second version of its energy efficiency rules that would replace the “Quick Start” rules currently in place. The Commission [decided](#) on November 13 to extend the recently-expired Quick Start rules through 2020 while it finalizes replacement rules. The proposed rules would require utilities to notify the Commission by November 1, 2020 if they intend to participate in rule development. The rules establish requirements for program design, cost-effectiveness testing, evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V), savings targets, and performance incentives, among others. The rules allow for the hiring of third-party administrators and turns over administration of the “public entities” program to utility administration in order to better align its operation with other energy efficiency programs. SEEA submitted comments on phases [one](#) and [two](#) of the draft rules. [Docket No. R-31106](#).
- **Gubernatorial Election:** Louisiana incumbent Governor John Bel Edwards (D) narrowly [defeated](#) challenger Eddie Rispone (R) on November 16.
- **State Legislature Election:** The Louisiana House of Representatives and State Senate [held](#) general elections on November 16; both chambers remain in control of the Republican party.

Mississippi

- **Energy Efficiency and IRP Rules:** The [final rules](#), filed on November 22, would replace the “Quick Start” energy efficiency rules and would require utilities to file integrated resource plans (IRPs) for the first time in the state. SEEA submitted comments in phases [one](#) and [two](#) of rule development and several recommendations were adopted into the final rule. The final IRP process includes two mandatory public meetings to take place before a utility files its IRP and extended deadlines for party comment and discovery. In addition, utilities must test cost-effectiveness of energy efficiency and demand-side management (DSM) programs at the portfolio level. The Commission approved the rules on December 11. The revisions to Rule 29 will be included in the next publication of the Public Utility Rules of Practice and Procedure. After two IRP cycles are completed under these new rules, the Commission will reopen the docket to evaluate the efficacy and fairness of the rules. [Docket No. 2018-AD-64](#).
- **Public Service Commissioners:** on November 5, Brent Bailey (R) was elected to be the Central District Commissioner, Dane Maxwell (R) was elected to be the Southern District, and incumbent Brandon Presley (D) won reelection for the Northern District. All three four-year terms began on January 1, 2020.
- **Gubernatorial Election:** Mississippi Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves (R) [defeated](#) state Attorney General Jim Hood (D) in the gubernatorial race on November 5.
- **State Legislature Election:** The Mississippi House of Representatives and State Senate [held](#) general elections on November 5; both chambers remain in control of the Republican party.

North Carolina

- **Public Utility Commissioners:** On October 31, former SEEA Board Member Jeff Hughes, along with Kimberly Duffley and Floyd McKissick, were [confirmed](#) to the North Carolina Utility Commission (NCUC) to six-year terms that began November 1, 2019.
- **Ratemaking Legislation:** Governor Cooper signed [Senate Bill 559](#) into law on November 6. This legislation allows regulated utilities to recover costs related to storm repairs through securitization. The contested second part of the bill, which would have allowed the NCUC to approve rate increases up to three years in advance, was ultimately [dropped](#) before passage.
- **DSM and EECR:** On December 12, the NCUC approved Dominion’s demand-side management proposal and associated energy efficiency cost recovery rider (EECR). [Docket No. E-2 Sub 577](#).
- **Duke Energy Rate Cases:**
 - **Duke Energy Carolinas:** On September 30, Duke Energy Carolinas (DEC) filed a notice to increase rates by about 6%; DEC will update its application by the end of January. The NCUC [scheduled](#) four public hearings at locations around the state from January 15 through January 30. [Docket No. E-7 Sub 1214](#).
 - **Duke Energy Progress:** On October 30, Duke Energy Progress (DEP) filed a request for approval of a rate increase of about 12.3% as well as a rate of return on equity of 10.5%.

An initial round of five public hearings to collect feedback are scheduled from February 3 through March 4 across the state. [Docket No. E-2 Sub 1219](#).

South Carolina

- **Energy Efficiency Roadmap:** In December, the State Energy Office [launched](#) the South Carolina Energy Efficiency Roadmap after a November stakeholder workshop. The roadmap initiative aims to evaluate new and existing opportunities for energy efficiency, align opportunities with state priorities, and identify next steps. This initiative was designed in partnership with the Duke University Nicholas Institute, which recently led a similar process in North Carolina. The roadmap is expected to be complete by October 2020.
- **Integrated Resource Planning:** South Carolina planning cycles for DEC and DEP began in September and November, respectively. Public comments on DEC's IRP were due by December 27; a public hearing is scheduled for January 29. South Carolina Electric & Gas (SCE&G)'s IRP cycle begins in March. The Commission will conduct a generic workshop regarding IRP filing requirements under the Energy Freedom Act on January 30; stakeholders interested in presenting at the workshop should inform the Commission by January 22. *Docket Nos. [2019-224-E](#) and [2019-289-A](#) (DEC), [2019-225-E](#) and [2019-362-A](#) (DEP), and [2019-226-E](#) (SCE&G).*
- **VC Summer:** On October 21, Dominion [requested](#) that Santee Cooper cover some of the costs that Dominion incurred during legal disputes over the canceled nuclear reactor project. As a result of the canceled project, state lawmakers directed the Department of Consumer Affairs to hire a consumer advocate to represent ratepayers in proceedings. The [search](#) is underway.
- **Santee Cooper Business Model:** After conducting a [study](#) on the potential sale of the state-owned utility, Santee Cooper's Board of Directors [finalized](#) a plan on November 21 that would keep the utility under state ownership. The proposal will be considered by state legislators in the 2020 session.

Tennessee

- **Efficient Lighting:** In November, the City of Knoxville [completed](#) the installation of over 28,000 energy-efficient LED lightbulbs throughout the city. Knoxville is the first Southeast city of its size to upgrade to LED streetlights and Mayor Madeline Rogero says it will save the city millions.
- **City of Knoxville Leadership:** [Erin Gill](#), previously the Sustainability Director for the City of Knoxville, has been promoted to Chief Policy Officer for the city. Erin has served on SEEA's Policy Committee since its inception.
- **Energy Efficiency Workshop:** On November 14, Socially Equal Energy Efficient Development (SEED) held a free [workshop](#) for customers of Kentucky Utilities Board featuring energy-saving tips and opportunities for home energy audits.

Virginia

- **State Legislature Election:** On November 5, Virginia Democrats [gained](#) a 55-45 majority in the House of Delegates and a 21-19 majority in the State Senate.
- **Grid Modernization:** On October 4, Commissioners scheduled a public hearing on Dominion’s grid modernization proposal for January 27, 2020 in Richmond. [Docket No. PUR-2019-00154](#).
- **Dominion Profits:** On November 21, State Corporation Commissioners [rejected](#) Dominion’s request to increase its rate of return from 9.2% to 10.75%. This comes after an August [status report](#) by the SCC on the implementation of the [Virginia Electric Utility Regulation Act](#), which found that Dominion Energy collected over \$277 million more than it was authorized in 2018.
- **Dominion DSM Update:** On December 19, Dominion filed for approval of its annual DSM update. The SCC scheduled a public hearing on the matter for April 29. [Docket No. PUR-2019-00201](#).

Regional & National Policy Updates

- **Affordable Clean Energy Rule:** On June 19, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its final [Affordable Clean Energy \(ACE\) regulation](#) repealing the 2015 Clean Power Plan. In August, lawyers for twenty-two states and seven cities filed a [lawsuit](#) against EPA in the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit asking to halt the ACE regulation and environmental groups filed a [petition](#) against the rule with the Court of Appeals. On November 22, the Court [denied](#) requests from the administration to expedite a lawsuit challenging the ACE rule and also [denied](#) requests from opponents for a temporary hold.
- **Appliance Standards:** On October 10, the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit [directed](#) the Department of Energy (DOE) to implement energy efficiency standards for four products that have been delayed for years. On December 3, the agency [said](#) it plans to comply with the court order to publish the standards in early January. On October 16, a coalition of thirteen attorneys general [filed](#) public comments with DOE citing flaws in the proposed efficiency standard for dishwashers.
- **Lightbulb Standards:** In September, DOE [issued](#) a rule eliminating efficiency standards for general service lamps, which account for about half of the six billion light bulbs used in US homes and businesses. The rule rescinds a 2017 light bulb definition that would expand the standards to cover the full range of bulb shapes and sizes used in our homes, including candle- and globe-shaped bulbs and reflector bulbs used in ceiling fixtures or track lighting. Also in September, DOE released a notice of proposed determination and request for comment on the proposal to eliminate the 2020 standards for “A-lamps,” the pear-shaped bulbs that account for the nation’s other three billion light bulbs. If finalized, this notice would prevent automatic standards enacted by Congress in 2007 from taking effect. On November 4, sixteen state Attorneys General [filed](#) a lawsuit stating that the administration’s rollback of lighting standards would imperil states’ efforts to reduce emissions and pollution. On December 20, DOE [issued](#) a final determination that the current standards for general service incandescent lamps will not be updated. On December 31, a US District Court for the Eastern District of California [ruled](#) that the state may prohibit sales of general service lamp bulbs less than the forty-five lumens per watt standard.

- **Department of Energy Leadership:** In October, Rick Perry [announced](#) his resignation as the US Secretary of Energy. On December 2, the Senate confirmed Louisiana native Dan Brouillette to take over the role. Brouillette was [sworn into office](#) on December 11.
- **NARUC Leadership:** The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) convened for its annual meeting November 17-20. At the meeting, the association elected Brandon Presley, a Mississippi Public Service Commissioner, as the president for 2020. Presley has [identified](#) cybersecurity, rural broadband access, and increasing communication between federal and state regulators as priorities. On December 5, Presley [announced](#) the appointment of Southeast commissioners from Florida, Louisiana, and Tennessee to the NARUC Board of Directors. Presley also appointed Southeast commissioners from Arkansas, North Carolina, and Virginia to the [Executive Committee](#). SEEA's Mandy Mahoney attended the NARUC meeting.
- **Advocacy Leadership:** The president of the Alliance to Save Energy (ASE), Jason Hartke, has stepped down. Clay Nessler of Johnson Controls [began](#) the role of interim president on December 9. The Board is in the process of identifying a new president. On November 5, the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) [announced](#) Gina McCarthy, former administrator of the US EPA under the Obama administration, as its new president and CEO.
- **Federal Appropriations:** On December 16, Congress [released](#) a \$1.4 trillion spending package that [includes significant increases for energy efficiency](#) programs. President Trump [signed](#) the budget on December 20.
- **States and FERC:** On October 28, Attorneys General from eleven states, including Joshua Stein of North Carolina, [wrote](#) to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) urging the commissioners to “advance, not impede” state clean energy policies.
- **Women in Clean Energy Awards:** In November, DOE [recognized](#) nine women as leaders in clean energy. Dr. Michelle Kidder, a research staff scientist in the Energy and Transportation Science Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, received the Research Award.
- **Utility Carbon Reduction Goals:** In early November, New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer [filed](#) shareholder resolutions at Southern Company, Duke Energy Corp, and Dominion Energy, Inc, asking that the utilities institute independent Board Chairs to help them navigate the transition to a low-carbon economy.
- **Carolinas Electric Market:** In late September, South Carolina state senator Tom Davis [called for](#) the establishment of a regional transmission organization that would connect both of the Carolinas into a restructured competitive market.
- **Entergy Business Model:** An article by E&E News [recognizes](#) Entergy as an energy leader in the Southeast. It highlights projects on residential solar power, nuclear power, and on-site commercial energy generation that poise the company to meet future demands.

- **Report – Peak Demand Impacts from Electricity Energy Efficiency Programs:** A November research report from Lawrence Berkley National Labs [found](#) that energy efficiency is a least-cost resource for peak demand management.
- **Report – 12 Strategies to Step Up Global Energy Efficiency:** On December 3, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), along with the European Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ECEEE) and the India-based Alliance for an Energy-Efficient Economy, released a [report](#) on twelve strategies to advance global energy efficiency.
- **Report – Impact of Energy Efficiency:** On December 17, ACEEE, ASE, and the Business Council for Sustainable Energy [published](#) a comprehensive [Energy Efficiency Impact Report](#) that finds that investments in energy efficiency have prevented a 60% increase in energy use and carbon emissions since 1980, but that rate of progress has been slowing down.
- **Report – World Energy Outlook:** On November 13, the International Energy Agency (IEA) [released](#) its annual report that forecasts global energy trends up to 2040. The report concludes that the current growth in clean energy isn't yet fast enough to take control of the changing climate.
- **Relevant Federal Legislation:** There are currently many bills before Congress pertaining to energy efficiency, resilience, electric transportation, infrastructure, and energy workforce development.
 - [HR 2041](#) would reauthorize DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program
 - [HR 2088](#) would reauthorize the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program
 - [HR 2119](#) would reauthorize grants for energy efficiency in public buildings
 - [HR 2741](#) would provide funds for energy efficiency retrofits, among other provisions
 - [HR 3702](#) would require communities to use stronger building codes when using federal funds to restore damaged structures
 - [HR 3962](#) would strengthen national model building codes
 - [HR 4506](#) would reinstate and extend the energy efficiency tax credit for residences
 - [HR 4646](#) would extend the new home energy efficiency tax credit to more builders
 - [HR 4986](#) would establish a Green Climate Fund
 - [HR 5142](#) would require the federal government to get 100% of its energy from renewable sources by 2050
 - [HR 5221](#) would set a national goal of achieving 100% clean economy by 2050
 - [S. 1706](#) would encourage the use of energy savings performance contracts
 - [S. 2288](#) would establish a nationwide energy efficiency standard
 - [S. 2302](#) aims to improve transportation infrastructure resiliency and reduce highway emissions, among other provisions
 - [S. 2334](#) would establish a "21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board" at DOE
 - [S. 2335](#) would support the transition to smart buildings
 - [S. 2873](#) would extend clean energy credits and create tax incentives for EVs and storage

Built Environment State Updates

- **Florida Storm Protection Rules:** On October 3, the Commission approved proposed storm protection rules that require utilities to create ten-year storm protection plans in order to reduce restoration costs and outage times. On November 3, the Florida Public Service Commission held a public hearing on the rules and subsequently [decided](#) to move forward with implementation of the rules. [Docket No. 20190131](#).
- **Florida Report – Our Homes, Our Health:** In December 2019, Human Impact Partners and Manufactured Housing Action [released](#) a report on climate and housing justice for Florida’s manufactured home communities.
- **Georgia Energy Code:** Georgia’s [new building energy code](#) formally took effect on January 1. The new code, which was adopted in 2019 by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, is based on the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with significant amendments for residential buildings, and the 2015 IECC/ASHRAE 90.1-2013 with minor amendments for commercial buildings.
- **Georgia Kendeda Building:** Georgia Tech’s [new living building](#) is one of the most efficient and sustainable buildings in the Southeast. SEEA Conference attendees had the opportunity to tour the building in October and Marlon Ellis, the Area 6 Maintenance Manager for Georgia Tech responsible for managing operations at the building, has joined the SEEA Built Environment Committee.
- **Virginia DOE Award:** In November, DOE [recognized](#) the City of Roanoke as the 2019 Better Buildings Challenge Goal Achiever based on the city’s 23% reduction in its energy footprint and \$400,000 annual savings on taxpayer utility bills since 2012.

Built Environment Regional & National Updates

- **Southeast Sustainability Directors Network (SSDN) 2019 Grantees:** On November 25, the SSDN [announced](#) funding for five projects in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. The Memphis project will increase capacity to serve low-income households through energy efficiency training and workforce development and the Miami project will disseminate Disaster-Ready and Operations Efficiency toolkits to multifamily residential buildings.
- **USGBC Greenbuild:** The built environment team attended the US Green Building Council’s [annual conference](#) in November where they learned about healthy and resilient buildings and the water-energy nexus. Former President Barack Obama served as the keynote addressing sustainable housing.
- **CDBG-Mitigation Grants Issued:** In August, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [announced](#) the grantees of the \$6.875 billion of [Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\)-Mitigation](#) funds. Funds were allocated proportionately based on natural disasters occurring between 2016 and 2018 and a portion of all the funds must be invested in “most impacted and distressed” areas. In the Southeast, funding was allocated for Florida,

Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and West Virginia. States must submit action plans early this year to receive funding.

- **Model Building Codes:** In December, government officials from around the country [approved](#) the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), the newest model national building code for residential and commercial buildings. Despite a stay in efficiency gains in the past few IECC cycles, the 2021 IECC marks a significant step forward for building energy efficiency. Voters approved new requirements that include pathways to zero energy, building electrification, more efficient insulation, EV charging infrastructure in the home, more stringent lighting requirements, and standards for water heating equipment. The new code also provides builders with flexibility by allowing them to choose from different efficiency configurations in order to comply. The 2021 IECC represents best practice energy code and is not legally binding until it is adopted by a state.

Energy Efficiency Transportation State Updates

- **Florida VMT Funds:** Florida [intends](#) to use 70% of its share of Volkswagen mitigation trust (VMT) funds to transition public transit and school buses to electric and alternative fuel vehicles. In October, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection collected input on a \$116.4 million initiative intended to retire old internal combustion engine buses through a public Request for Information.
- **Florida Electric Vehicle (EV) Bills:**
 - **SB 1346 and SB 1230:** SB 1346, sponsored by Senator Brandes, would require an additional registration fee of \$135 for electric vehicles weighing less than 10,000 pounds and \$235 for vehicles weighing more than 10,000 pounds. Half of the fees would be directed to Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Grant program, to be established via SB 1230, if passed.
 - **SB 7018:** SB 7018 would require the PSC to work with the state Department of Transportation and Energy Office to develop and recommend a plan for the development of EV charging infrastructure along the state highway system.
 - **SB 452:** SB 452 would require the Florida Department of Transportation to create a plan to install EV chargers.
- **Georgia Power Rate Case:** Georgia Power's rate case, approved on December 17, included provisions allowing the Company to recover costs relating to EV-ready and EV charging infrastructure. The approval allows Georgia Power to recover up to \$2 million annually on EV charging infrastructure investments and up to \$6 million annually on EV-ready infrastructure over the next three years. [Docket No. 42516](#).
- **Georgia Co-ops and EVs:**
 - **Oglethorpe Power's Take Charge with Electric Vehicles:** On December 10, Anne Blair presented to more than twenty cooperative representatives with resource guides for rural transportation electrification at a meeting in Forsyth, Georgia. SEEA is working with local electric membership corporations (EMCs) to develop EV programs and events.
 - **EMC:** Walton EMC is [expanding](#) their EV efforts.
 - **Coweta-Fayette EMC:** Check out this EMC's latest [news and video](#).

- **Kentucky EV Pilot:** Duke Energy Kentucky filed a pilot program as part of its rate case with the Kentucky Public Service Commission on September 13. Duke proposed five three-year pilot programs including rebates and/or incentives for the electrification of non-road vehicles and residential and commercial EV chargers. It also proposed a fast charging program and EV transit bus charging program, in which Duke will install, own, and operate the charging infrastructure. [Docket No. 2019-00271](#).
- **North Carolina VMT Funds:** Governor Cooper and the state legislature have yet to [agree](#) on control of the VMT settlement funds. Members of the legislature believe it should appropriate the funds in the state budget, but the Governor believes that these funds do not fall under legislative purview. In 2017, the General Assembly adopted budget language stipulating that the funds cannot be spent until it was appropriated through the typical budget process. Governor Cooper vetoed the legislature's proposed budget and the legislature currently doesn't have enough votes to override the veto.
- **North Carolina Duke Grants:** Duke Energy will [support](#) the state's Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) Plan with two grants totaling \$300,000 to help offset the cost of installing electric bus chargers.
- **Duke North and South Carolina EV Pilots:** The NCUC held a hearing on Duke's proposed EV charging infrastructure program on November 21. On July 5, the NCUC Public Staff [recommended](#) that the Commission reject the proposal, holding that the program is a way for the companies to gain pre-approval of ratepayer-funded infrastructure. On December 17, the Commission ordered that Duke and the public staff must submit proposed final orders by February 3, 2020. Advocates continue to express support in North and South Carolina dockets. Regulators have not acted in the SCPSC dockets since the April [report](#) from the Office of Regulatory Staff. [NCUC Docket No. E-2 Sub 1197, SCPSC Docket Nos. 2018-321-E and 2018-322-E](#).
- **South Carolina Commissioner Meeting:** On November 7, Anne Blair [presented](#) information on EVs and effective programs to the SC Public Service Commission in an ex parte briefing.
- **Virginia Smart Charging Pilot:** Dominion Energy Virginia filed a petition for approval of a suite of grid transformation projects, including a smart charging pilot, on September 30. If approved, the proposed plan would provide rebates and incentives for EV charging stations and would allow Dominion to install, own, and operate charging infrastructure within its territory as well as within competitive market segments. [Docket No. PUR-2019-00154](#).
- **Virginia Autonomous Vehicles:** On November 7, Dominion Energy [announced](#) that EasyMile will provide the vehicles to be used in the autonomous vehicle pilot.

Energy Efficiency Transportation Regional & National Updates

- **Car Emissions Rules:** The federally proposed Safer Affordable Fuel Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles rule has faced contention since its release in 2018. Vehicle manufacturer [investors](#) and [electric vehicle groups](#) have recently stated their opposition to the rollback and its intent to preempt state law. In September, EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) [established](#) the One National Program, the first of two parts of the SAFE Vehicles rule that revokes California's

authority to set emissions standards. See the [previous Quarterly Highlights](#) for additional context. In October, the Department of Justice requested that US Court of Appeals DC Circuit court dismiss the legal challenge over the administration’s proposed preemption of California’s clean cars program. On October 25, the court ruled that the states do not have jurisdiction for the suit until the rules are finalized. The Association of Global Automakers had [intervened](#) in the lawsuit supporting the administration. On November 15, a group of twenty-three states, including North Carolina and Virginia, [filed](#) a lawsuit on the jurisdiction of the legal cases related to the rules. On November 22, a coalition of environmental advocacy groups filed another [lawsuit](#), asking the court to review the final rules once released. On November 26, a group of thirteen states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, and West Virginia, filed a [motion to intervene](#) in the case in support of the administration. On December 4, several power utilities filed a [motion](#) supporting California’s right to set its own emissions standards. On December 18, EPA and the Department of Transportation [requested](#) that the DC Circuit Court expedite the legal battle over the rules in order to hold oral arguments on the rules in April.

- **Southeast EV Forum:** On January 15-16, SEEA and partners will co-host [the Future of Electric Transportation: Southeast Policy Forum](#) at Georgia Tech and will feature a keynote by NARUC President and Mississippi Commissioner Brandon Presley.
- **Electric Transportation Conference:** On March 30-31, [e-Motion Miami: the Present and Future of Electromobility](#) will take place in Miami, Florida. SEEA’s Anne Blair will be a speaker.
- **Clean Cars Proposal:** Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer [introduced](#) the “Clean Cars for America” proposed initiative on October 24. If adopted, it would provide rebates for consumers trading in internal combustion engine cars for electric vehicles.
- **EV Rates Study:** The Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) [released](#) a study that found that special rate designs for EV charging could help balance load.
- **SCCEBA:** On November 7, Anne Blair presented to the [South Carolina Clean Energy Business Alliance](#) (SCCEBA) on utility electric vehicle policy.
- **SEEA Resources:** This quarter, with the help of Energy Efficient Transportation intern Maddy Clowse, SEEA completed a series of resources on electric vehicles.
 - [EV Tools and Incentives Across the Southeast](#)
 - Available EVs & PHEVs in Georgia
 - EV Range Fact Sheet
 - Benefits of EVs Fact SheetComplete member access coming soon.