



AMEA *Communiqué*

Power That Works For You[®]

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P.O. Box 5220
Montgomery, AL 36103-5220

804 South Perry Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

www.amea.com

(334) 262-1126
(334) 262-2267 (Fax)

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MISSION STATEMENT

AMEA's mission is to provide for our Member communities a reliable and economical source of electric power, enabling them to preserve and enhance the benefits of municipal utility ownership for their citizens and the electric customers they serve. We strive to offer services that our Members need and can adapt to provide the best value for their communities and customers.

AMEA hosts Fall SAPPA Meeting in Montgomery

AMEA hosted the Fall South Alabama Public Power Association (SAPPA) Meeting in Montgomery this month.

Approximately 35 public power officials from municipals and electric cooperatives, as well as vendors, were on hand Nov. 5 and 6.

Speakers for the business meeting on Nov. 6 included:

- ✓ Dave Douglas, Utility Warning Source, ANSI standards/OSHA compliance of warning decals;
- ✓ Sean Strickler, Alabama Rural Electric Association, state and national legislative update/FEMA issues;
- ✓ Mike Moak, Power Partners, transformers;
- ✓ Michael Gudger, Tracy Hall & Associates, how manufacturers are adjusting and coping with economic conditions.



Mike Moak of Power Partners discusses transformers with attendees at the Fall SAPPA Meeting in Montgomery.

The next SAPPA meeting will be held at the Marriott Grand Hotel, Fairhope, Feb. 11 and 12, 2010. For more information about SAPPA, visit www.sappa.us.



AMEA participates in Renewable Energy Conference in Auburn this month

AMEA will participate in the 6th Annual Alabama Renewable Energy Conference at the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center, Nov. 17 and 18, in order to learn more about renewable energy initiatives in the Southeast, particularly those

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initiatives involving public/private partnerships.

"It's important for us to keep up with current technology trends and opportunities that may be industry requirements in the future," said Arthur Bishop, AMEA's Senior Operations Engineer, who will be in attendance for the conference.

The conference, sponsored by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) and by the Natural Resources Management & Development Institute at Auburn University, will feature a series of panel discussions and speakers on topics that include, but are not limited to:

- Federal and State Policies Related to Renewable Energy and their Impact;
- Federal Biomass Crop Assistance Program;
- Carbon Sequestration Opportunities in Alabama;
- Overview of Renewable Energy Initiatives in the Southeast;
- Profiles of Success – an overview of renewable energy projects around the state that successfully combine the resources and expertise of ADECA, Auburn University, local municipalities and/or local entrepreneurs and land owners to positively impact communities.

Senate Democrats advance climate bill without GOP

Senate Democrats sidestepped a Republican boycott last week pushing a climate bill out of committee in an early step on a long and contentious road to passage.

Other committees still must weigh-in on the measure, but the partisan antics early on threatened to cast a pall over

the bill - one of President Barack Obama's top priorities - as it makes its way to the Senate floor and as nations prepare to meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, next month to hammer out a new international treaty to slow climate change.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, chairman of the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee, had delayed the crucial vote for days because of a Republican protest over whether the cost of the legislation had been fully examined. But the California Democrat moved quickly to pass the bill last week, which for the first time would set mandatory limits on heat-trapping gases, without any of the seven GOP senators on the panel present. The measure cleared the panel on a 11-1 vote.

Boxer said the Republican demand for more analysis was "duplicative and waste of taxpayer dollars." Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has agreed to do a full analysis on the final version of the legislation.

"Advancing the bill is a necessary step on the road to garnering the 60 votes we need," said Boxer, who introduced the bill along with Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass. in late September. "We are pleased that despite the Republican boycott, we have had the will to move this bill forward."

Former Vice President Al Gore, in town to promote his new global warming book, "Our Choice," said in an interview with The Associated Press that he doubted Boxer's move would have any lingering consequences.

"She clearly made the right decision and because the requested analysis is in fact going to be forthcoming ... it was obviously the right way to go," Gore said.

Bill

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Gore seemed to lower his expectations for Senate action before the Copenhagen conference, saying that a draft "that reflects consensus support, carrying realistic expectation of 60 votes" would make the chances better than 50-50 that 192 nations could reach a binding agreement.

"That's the threshold that will enable the United States to play the leadership role the rest of the world expects of us," he said.

Earlier this year, Gore called on Congress to overcome partisan differences and pass a bill.

Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma, the ranking Republican on the committee, said in a statement that the Democrats' action would signal "the death knell" for the Kerry-Boxer bill. Before the vote, he implored the panel to not proceed with what he called a "nuclear option." He left shortly after making his statement.

Of the 11 Democrats present at the vote, only one - Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont. - voted against the legislation, saying that concerns he had with the bill were not fully addressed. The "yes" vote of Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., was added after the vote.

Baucus specifically cited the bill's call for a 20 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020.

He said he would like to see that target lowered to 17 percent, with a trigger to raise it to 20 percent if other countries adopted similar measures.

"I am going work to get climate legislation that can get 60

votes through the U.S. Senate and signed into law," Baucus said.

To move the bill out of committee without Republicans present meant the Democrats could not amend the legislation, and many Democrats on the panel expressed disappointment that they did not have a chance to improve the bill.

"The failure of the Republicans to participate means we cannot offer amendments. This is a very good start, but as the chair has acknowledged it is a start and only a start," said Sen. Arlen Specter, D-Pa.

"It is regrettable that we could not move forward in a more constructive way."

Specter said that the vote would send a signal to other countries in advance of a climate change conference next month to hammer out a new international treaty.

"It is not the best signal, but it is a signal that the Senate is ready to move forward," he said.

Now the legislation will be merged with legislation written by at least five other Senate panels. And in the hopes of broadening support, Kerry announced he was working with Connecticut independent Joe Lieberman, South Carolina Republican Lindsey Graham and the White House to secure votes.

The House narrowly passed its version of the bill in June.

Source: The Associated Press

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