NASEO State Energy Financing Committee Call Thursday, November 13, 2013; 3:00pm-4:00pm ET

Attendees

- Alabama Energy Division Alaska Energy Authority Baker/Tilly Buildings Performance Institute Cadmus Center for Climate and Energy Solutions Delaware Division of Clean Energy and Climate Energy Programs Consortium Hannon Armstrong Maine Governor's Energy Office Maryland Energy Administration Missouri Division of Energy Nebraska Energy Office
- New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning New Mexico Energy Conservation and Management Division New York State Energy Research and Development Authority Oklahoma Office of Community Development Project Energy Savers Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources SAIC Tennessee Office of Energy Programs Virginia DMME Energy Division Walmart Wisconsin State Energy Office

Announcements

Financing Committee Co-Chair Al Christopher, Energy Division Director in Virginia, opened the call and reviewed the agenda.

Introducing the New York Green Bank

Financing Committee Co-Chair Jeff Pitkin, Treasurer of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), delivered a presentation on NYSERDA's plan to launch a \$1 billion New York Green Bank. Launched in September 2013 by Governor Andrew A. Cuomo with a petition to use approximately \$165 million in uncommitted funds for its initial capitalization, the Green Bank is expected to be operational by early 2014 and will be operated as a division of NYSERDA.

The Green Bank's vision is to accelerate deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy by addressing barriers in financing, undertaking partnerships with private sector entities, and driving market confidence for the private sector to ultimately take on clean energy financing independently. A major priority of the Green Bank is to broaden access to capital in order to support projects that are economically viable but not financeable in the market currently. In the residential market, this may mean offering financing to a lower tier of FICO scores than is currently served; and, in the commercial market, the Green Bank will serve more Class 3 businesses than current market conditions enable. Unlike regulated banks, the Green Bank may hold loans with long tenors on their balance sheet, allowing it to offer innovative financial products that serve a broader customer base.

NYSERDA has identified three potential products and activities that the Green Bank may specialize in: credit enhancement, direct lending, and the development of secondary markets. Through these activities, the Green Bank will leverage private capital while serving as a prudent steward of ratepayer funders by incorporating strong risk management, internal controls, accountability, and performance measurement into its financing practices. The Green Bank is anticipated to "recycle" funds (i.e., to deploy and redeploy capital into new investments as it recoups investments from prior projects), enabling it to preserve and grow its capital base in successive rounds of investment.

Mr. Pitkin also discussed the issuance of \$24.3 million of revenue bonds as part of NYSERDA's Green Jobs-Green New York (GJGNY) program. The bonds were rated AAA/Aaa by Standard and Poor's and Moody's and are guaranteed by the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) program. In March 2013, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted concurrence for NYSERDA to qualify residential energy conservation projects as an eligible project qualified for financial assistance by the State Revolving Fund. NYSERDA issued the bonds, which were designated as Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECBs), to finance and refinance loans funding energy efficiency improvements in one-to-four family residential structures, and expects to receive a direct subsidy reimbursement from the United States treasury for a portion of the interest costs on the bonds.

<u>Mr. Pitkin's presentation</u> is available on NASEO's Financing Committee page, along with <u>NYSERDA's</u> petition with the Public Service Commission to provide capitalization for the Green Bank and a report by Booz & Co. summarizing findings from its market research to assess the viability of the Green Bank.

Committee Action Items

Please contact Sandy Fazeli (<u>sfazeli@naseo.org</u>) if you have questions about state energy financing or would like to share your story with the committee.

The next Financing committee call is scheduled for January 2014. An agenda and announcement will be posted on NASEO's website and newsletter in advance of the call.