

## **Overall Energy Bill Passes**

### **The House passed H.R. 3221**

Most notably, the House adopted an amendment by Congressman Tom Udall (D-NM) to create a national Renewable Energy Standard. The RES would require utilities to provide 15 percent of their power from renewable sources by 2020, allowing 4 percent of the requirement to be satisfied with electricity efficiency measures. The RES does not pre-empt state RPS requirements or statutes.

### **Solar Provisions in H.R. 3221, the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act**

- **Title III - Small Business Committee** Sec. 3005: Provides grants, subject to appropriation, and authorizes technical assistance to small businesses to assist them in evaluating the suitability of using solar energy resources.
  
- **Title IV – Science and Technology Committee** Sec. 4301- 4308: *The Solar Energy Research and Advancement Act of 2007*, provides funds, subject to appropriation, to support the research, development, and commercial application of solar energy technologies. Special emphasis is placed on concentrating solar power thermal storage research, solar lighting and cooling and advanced photovoltaic technology development.
  
- **Title VII – Natural Resources Committee**
  - Sec. 7302: Directs the Bureau of Reclamation to inventory lands under its jurisdiction for suitability for solar energy development projects.
  
  - Sec. 7304: Establishes a Strategic Solar Reserve Program that seeks to identify lands under the Bureau of Land Management's jurisdiction that can accommodate up to 25 GW of solar energy development. Provides favorable terms and conditions for permitting, leasing and site identification.
  
- **Title IX – Energy and Commerce Committee**
  - Sec. 9072 - 9075: Authorizes the Department of Energy, subject to appropriation, to assist state, county, local government, schools, universities, airports and other qualifying entities, to provide technical assistance to increase the deployment of solar energy systems.
  
  - Sec. 9086: Authorizes 25 year federal power purchase agreements for solar energy (current maximum duration is 10 years).
  
  - Sec. 9321- 9328: Authorizes heightened cooperation between the U.S. and Israel on innovative energy technologies, including solar.

## **Adopted Amendments**

- **Renewable Electricity Standard (RES)** -- Requires electric suppliers, other than governmental entities and rural electric cooperatives, to provide 15 percent of their electricity using renewable energy resources by the year 2020. It would allow 4 percent of the requirement to be satisfied with electricity efficiency measures. For distributed generation (electric energy generated by a renewable energy resource at an on-site eligible facility, used to offset part or all of the customer's requirements for electric energy), including distributed solar, the Secretary of Energy shall issue three renewable energy credits to such customer for each kilowatt hour generated.
- **Solar Energy Industries Research and Promotion Board** -- Creates a Solar Energy Industries Research and Promotion Board to increase consumer awareness nationwide of solar energy options and appropriate certifications. The solar program would be funded entirely by a small portion of industry revenues. No appropriations are authorized.

## ***Outlook***

When Congress returns from the August recess, we anticipate that the House and the Senate will appoint conferees and start combining their respective versions of the energy bill. We expect that leadership in both the House and Senate will push to include a tax title in the compromise version. Regarding the solar tax credits, The GEC will advocate for a "best combination" policy that combines the improved incentive structure in the House version with the long-term extension for both commercial and residential solar that was contained in the Senate version.