

The Governor of South Dakota, M. Michael Rounds, has written to the Public Utilities Commission of South Dakota. He has requested the PUC consider additional actions to promote energy efficiency, consistent with the federal statutory language contained in the American Recovery and Renewal Act of 2009 (H.R. 1) (ARRA) and their obligations to maintain just and reasonable rates, while protecting the public. In addition, he has contacted the South Dakota Legislature and requested they consider actions to improve building energy codes, consistent with state law and state Constitutional requirements, and to consider the statutory language contained in ARRA. The state Energy Office intends to provide funds through a grant opportunity to develop building code standards for South Dakota.

South Dakota is prioritizing our energy investment to take advantage of existing programs and to expand programs where appropriate. South Dakota plans to leverage our ARRA funds with a revolving loan fund for energy improvement projects to existing state owned buildings. The energy improvements in our existing buildings will improve energy efficiency and promote energy conservation.

Currently, the Office of the State Engineer manages projects conducted at state owned facilities. All building contracts require that construction meet the most current building codes, including ASHRAE 90.1 and IECC. In addition, all new building construction must be designed and built to meet the LEED silver standard.

The Governor will establish an energy code taskforce to promote and plan a statewide energy code program for the state of South Dakota and develop legislation to implement the program. The taskforce will consist of interested stakeholders appointed by the Governor.

The state Energy Office will collaborate with the South Dakota Building Officials to provide continuing education in IECC 2006 standards. The South Dakota Building Officials will hold a one-day seminar on implementation of the IECC 2006 standards in July.