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Date: 6/2/2015 4:24:33 PM
Subject: June Webinar Update

Register Now for Upcoming June Webinars

June Webinar Update

This June, the Southern Office of The Council of State Governments will host three webinars relating to energy and the environment, rural development and education, and fiscal affairs and government operations. Respectively, these webinars will cover challenges and opportunities in storing spent nuclear fuel, education and the rural "brain drain," and performance-based budgeting in the Southern states. Read on for more information and registration links, or visit slcatlanta.org/webinars.

Upcoming Webinars

Spent Fuel Storage – Challenges and Opportunities

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

3:00-4:00 PM EDT

[Register now »](#)

Using Education for Rural Development

Thursday, June 18, 2015

2:00-3:00 PM EDT

[Register now »](#)

Performance-based Budgeting in the SLC States

Thursday, June 25, 2015

2:00-3:00 PM EDT

[Register now »](#)

Spent Fuel Storage – Challenges and Opportunities

Tuesday, June 16 | 3:00-4:00 PM EDT

All used nuclear fuel produced by the United States nuclear energy industry in the last 50 years of operation—approximately 71,790 metric tons—would, if stacked end to end, only cover an area the size of a football field to a depth of about seven yards. Spent fuel is a solid material that is stored safely and securely at nuclear power plant sites, either in enclosed, steel-lined concrete pools filled with water, or in steel or reinforced concrete containers with steel inner canisters. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission determined that used fuel could be stored safely at power plant sites or central storage facilities for at least 120 years. However, this storage was never intended to be permanent. Although the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 established a national program for the safe, permanent disposal of highly radioactive wastes, there currently is no disposal site in the United States for spent rods from more than 100 operating commercial nuclear reactors across the country.

In 2002, Congress approved a site at Nevada's Yucca Mountain. However, that project was

stalled and defunded in 2010. As the nation moves to reduce carbon emissions, nuclear energy may become an increasingly important element in the stability of the U.S. power system, intensifying the need for a permanent solution to spent fuel storage. This webinar will review current storage practices and explore challenges and opportunities for a permanent storage solution for the nation's high-level radioactive spent fuel.

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Using Education for Rural Development

Thursday, June 18 | 2:00-3:00 PM EDT

Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that, between April 2010 and July 2012, nonmetropolitan counties, as a whole, experienced a decrease in total population for the first time. What this statistic does not detail, however, is the long-term trend of youth emigration from these rural areas and what impact these population shifts have on the vitality of rural communities. In fact, rural communities in the South continue to face serious challenges in getting highly educated students to return home after college graduation.

Research indicates that education may be a cause and effect for this rural "brain drain" phenomenon, and also the key to reversing the trend. Studies have shown that efforts to improve rural education contribute to rapid economic development in those areas, while a more educated community can serve as a catalyst for business expansion and increased civic engagement. This webinar, presented by the Southern Office, will highlight the impact of education on rural development and examine initiatives in rural communities to entice educated former residents to return and invest in their hometowns.

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Performance-Based Budgeting in the SLC States

Thursday, June 25 | 2:00-3:00 PM EDT

In the aftermath of the Great Recession, an increasing number of states, including several in the SLC region, are focused on increasing accountability and transparency in the disbursement of taxpayer dollars. In this regard, there is renewed focus in a number of states on enacting budgeting techniques that promote clearly specified outcomes more efficiently and effectively. Performance-based budgeting is one such technique that has emerged as a very viable tool with the focus on outcomes (such as completing highway projects on schedule or improving student performance on statewide assessments) and away from routinely funding government operations on a pro forma basis. As noted by Mississippi Speaker Philip Gunn "[T]he idea is to stop spending on programs that don't produce results – and, in some in cases, spend more on programs that do produce results."

This webinar will provide an overview of the renewed focus in states across the country on PBB as a budgetary technique alongside presentations from Oklahoma and Mississippi on specific measures initiated in these two states to enhance PBB in their settings.

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The Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) of The Council of State Governments was established in 1947 and comprises presiding officers and key legislators from 15 Southern states. The SLC is a non-partisan organization located in Atlanta, Georgia.

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