

## Key Facts

- Congress has passed a wide-ranging, bipartisan infrastructure bill which includes billions of dollars for broadband deployment, electric vehicle infrastructure, cyber security, grid resiliency, clean energy development including CCUS, and RD&D programs at the Department of Energy.
- As Congress continues to negotiate the separate “reconciliation” package, NRECA is advocating for inclusion of RUS repricing legislation, direct pay for energy tax incentives, and a voluntary USDA-based clean energy transition program.

## Clean Energy

### *Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage*

- **Pilot Projects and Demonstrations:** Provides \$3.5 billion for large-scale carbon capture pilot projects and six demonstrations projects (two each at coal power plants, natural gas power plants, and non-power industrial plants).
- **CO2 Pipelines and Storage:** Authorizes and provides \$5 billion for the SCALE Act, which would enable more CO2 capture by building out storage infrastructure, increasing resources for CO2 storage well permitting, and creating a financing program for CO2 pipelines.

### *Nuclear Energy*

- **Existing Nuclear Reactor Financial Support:** Provides \$6 billion at DOE for financial support (bid process), for nuclear reactors in competitive electricity markets at risk of closure due to economic factors.
- **Advanced Reactors Program:** Provides \$2.54 billion in funding for DOE’s Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program (for projects already selected to date), supporting the development and deployment of advanced reactor concepts.

### *Hydropower*

- **Existing Production & Efficiency Incentives:** Authorizes and provides \$125 million for hydroelectric production incentives, while also authorizing and providing \$75 million for hydroelectric improvement incentives. Authorizes and provides \$553 million for up to 30% of capital costs for maintenance or upgrades of spillways, dam stability improvements, upgrades or replacements of floodgates or natural infrastructure restoration to improve flood risk reduction or environmental improvements, water quality or promotion of downstream sediment transport process and habitat maintenance.
- **Dam Removal:** Includes language that reaffirms that the bill shall not be construed as providing any new authority to remove, breach, or otherwise alter the operations of a federal hydropower dam and dam removal projects shall include written consent of the dam owner if ownership is provided.

## Other Clean Energy Technologies

- **Energy Storage RD&D Funding:** Provides \$355 million for DOE's Energy Storage Demonstration Projects and Pilot Grant program and an additional \$150 million for an energy storage long-duration demonstration initiative.
- **Renewable Energy RD&D Funding:** Provides \$400 million for wind energy RD&D and \$320 million for solar energy RD&D at DOE.
- **Demand Response:** Directs DOE to promote demand response in federal buildings and makes demand response technologies eligible for various government programs, including state energy conservation plans (grants). Also includes PURPA 111(d) consideration for states.
- **Energy Data Collection:** Directs the Energy Information Administration to create an online database tracking operation of the bulk power system (later include hourly operating data), expand consumption surveys to include energy end use data, and collect data on bi-directional EV integration with the grid.

## Broadband

- **States Grants for Infrastructure Deployment:** Creates and provides \$42.5 billion for the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program. States will distribute the money in accordance with the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) and statutory rules prioritizing unserved (<25/3 Mbps) areas, then underserved (<100/20 Mbps) areas with minimum build-to speed requirements of 100/20 Mbps, with a priority for scalable networks. Areas must be 80% unserved or underserved to be eligible. Funds may also be used for mapping and broadband adoption.
- **USDA Broadband Program Funding:** Provides \$2 billion for USDA broadband programs such as ReConnect. Adjusts eligible areas to mean 50% of the area is rural and without existing service at 25/3 Mbps. Adds that pole attachment and replacement fees charged by co-ops are eligible uses of the funds.
- **Middle Mile Broadband Deployment Grants:** Creates a new \$1 billion middle mile broadband infrastructure grant program at NTIA.
- **Digital Equity and Inclusion Grants:** Provides \$2.75 billion over five years for two NTIA-administered digital equity and inclusion grant programs for communities that lack the skills, technologies and support needed to fully utilize broadband connections. Electric co-ops are eligible for one of the programs.
- **Broadband Affordability:** Provides \$14.2 billion to the Affordable Connectivity Benefit program, previously called the Emergency Broadband Benefit program. Adjusts the subsidy from \$50 to \$30 per month but it remains \$75 on tribal lands. Also requires "consumer broadband labels" and directs the FCC to adopt rules to address digital discrimination.
- **Tribal Broadband Funding:** Provides \$2 billion and makes limited technical corrections to the newly created Tribal Broadband Program at NTIA.
- **Private Activity Bonds:** Authorizes state use of private activity bonds to finance broadband deployment where a majority of households do not have access to broadband.
- **Appalachian Regional Commission Deployment Initiative Funding:** Provides \$1 billion over five years to the Appalachian Regional Commission for a high-speed broadband deployment initiative. Funds may be used for technical assistance, activities to increase broadband adoption, and to construct broadband infrastructure.

## PMAs

- **Bonneville Power Administration Borrowing Authority:** Increases the borrowing authority for BPA by \$10 billion, with additional provisions to ensure customer engagement.

- **Western Power Administration Funding:** Provides a one time, additional \$500 million payment for purchase power and wheeling transmission services, which is reimbursable by preference customers.

## Grid Modernization

- **Energy Efficient Transformer Rebates:** Provides \$10 million for rebates to replace energy inefficient transformers with energy efficient ones.
- **Siting of Interstate Electric Transmission Facilities:** Expands FERC's authority to site transmission facilities in National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors.
- **Transmission Facilitation Program:** Directs DOE to establish a \$2.5 billion revolving loan fund to serve as an "anchor-tenant" to facilitate the development of high-voltage transmission lines. DOE would buy a certain portion of the planned capacity (not more than 50%), and it would collect the costs through rates charged to customers benefitting from the transmission capability.
- **Smart Grid Investment Grants:** Provides \$3 billion for the Smart Grid Investment Matching Grant Program at DOE, which provides a 20 percent match for eligible activities, including investments in utility communications, optical fiber, and wireless broadband communications networks.

## Physical and Cybersecurity

- **Rural & Municipal Cybersecurity Grants and Technical Assistance:** Authorizes a 5 year \$250 million (\$50m/year) rural & municipal utility advanced cybersecurity grant and technical assistance program at DOE for utilities to detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity threats and to encourage cybersecurity investments by electric co-ops, municipal utilities, in addition to IOUs that sell less than 4 million megawatt-hours of electricity per year.
- **State Energy Security Plan Assistance:** Provides assistance to states for the development, implementation, review, or revision of State Energy Security Plans to ensure that the state has reliable, secure, and resilient energy infrastructure against physical and cybersecurity attacks. The plans can also address risks from energy supply disruptions to the state and enhance the response to, and recovery from, energy disruptions. The language includes consultation and coordination with owners/operators.
- **Grid Security Public-Private Partnerships:** Directs DOE to provide cybersecurity training, information sharing and technical assistance, including through existing public private partnerships (could include initiatives like NRECA's Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities Program (RC3)) to promote and advance the physical security and cybersecurity of electric utilities, with consideration of different sizes and regions. This section also requires a report to Congress on improving the cybersecurity of electricity distribution systems.
- **Energy Cyber Sense Program:** Establishes a voluntary Energy Cyber Sense program to test the cybersecurity of products and technologies intended for use in the energy sector. This essentially codifies the existing CyTRICS program at DOE.
- **Advanced Cybersecurity Technology Investment Incentives:** Directs FERC to conduct a study and then establish incentive-based (including performance) rate treatments for cost recovery of some advanced cybersecurity technologies and participation in cybersecurity threat information sharing programs not later than one year after completion of the study.

## Grid Resiliency

- **Grid Resiliency Grants:** Provides \$5 billion for resiliency grants to supplement existing grid hardening efforts, reduce the risk of power lines causing wildfires and the likelihood/consequences of disruptive weather events. 30 percent is set aside for utilities that sell 4 million MWh or less of electricity per year.

- **Wildfire Mitigation:** Adds wildfire events to FEMA's Hazard Mitigation program, specifically allowing funds to be used to install fire-resistant wires and infrastructure and the undergrounding of wires. Provides \$3.4 billion for wildfire risk reduction.
- **Grid Reliability and Resilience RD&D:** Provides \$5 billion to state/local governments and PUCs for innovative demonstration projects to harden and enhance resilience/reliability for transmission, storage and distribution infrastructure and to enhance regional grid resilience implemented through states by public and publicly regulated entities. Directs DOE to help improve the resilience, safety, reliability and environmental protections of energy in rural areas (10,000 or less). Provides \$1 billion to rural areas.
- **FEMA Flood Mitigation:** Provides \$3.5 billion for the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, which allows funding to go to elevate, relocate or floodproof utilities, including equipment serving structures.
- **FEMA Disaster Relief Fund:** Provides an additional \$1 billion for this program.
- **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Revolving Loan Funds:** Provides \$500 million for this program.

### Buildings (Energy Efficiency, Electrification and Resiliency)

- **Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and EV Grants (Schools):** Provides \$500 million in grants to a one local educational agency and one or more: school, nonprofit organization (501(c)(3) and 501(c)(12)), for-profit organization or community partner, for school upgrades, repairs or renovations to reduce energy costs, improve health, install renewable energy technologies, install zero-emission vehicle (EV) infrastructure (for school bus/fleets or general public), and to purchase or lease zero-emissions vehicles.
- **Energy Efficiency Grants (Nonprofit Buildings):** Establishes a \$50 million pilot program to award grants to nonprofit organizations to install energy efficient products, equipment or systems.
- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance:** Adds \$100 million to the program each year for five years.
- **Weatherization Assistance Program:** Provides \$3.5 billion for this program.
- **Energy Efficiency Loans (Building Owner):** Creates a \$250 million grant program for states to create revolving loan funds for commercial and residential building owners to conduct energy audits and to carry out recommended upgrades and retrofits.

### Electric Vehicles

- **EV Charging Infrastructure Funding:** Provides \$7.5 billion for EV (and alternative fuel) charging infrastructure. Funding goes to states to partner with private entities, including electric co-ops.
- **Electric School Bus Funding:** Provides \$2.5 billion for zero-emission buses.
- **PURPA 111(d) Consideration for EVs:** Directs states to consider measures to promote electrification of the transportation sector, including rate design to promote affordable and equitable charging, reduce charging times, accelerate third-party investment in public charging stations and recover marginal costs of delivering electricity to EVs and EV charging infrastructure.

### National Environmental Protection Act

- **Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC):** Permanently authorizes the FPISC, which coordinates the NEPA process across federal agencies to reduce permitting timelines and costs for large projects, including energy production, electricity transmission, and broadband.
- **Permitting Improvements:** Sets a two-year goal for NEPA permitting and encourages agencies to use one document to track permitting decisions.
- **Wildfire Exclusion:** Establishes a categorical exclusion for fuel breaks along linear features such as roads and transmission lines up to 3,000 acres to create a defensible space for wildland firefighters, to protect communities, and slow the spread of wildfire.