

## REGIONAL REPORT – NEBRASKA, USA – AUGUST 2009



### Project Management Update from Omaha

*By Ted Koval, PMP, CSM*

*International Correspondent for PMForum & PM World Today  
Omaha, Nebraska, USA*

### Midwest, USA States Use Federal Stimulus Funds for Water, Environmental and Green Projects

As part of the USA federal economic stimulus package, known as the the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) the federal government challenged states to find ways to create programs that will enhance water and environmental projects. To that end, states in the Midwest, USA are utilizing federal funding to invest in projects that are intended to not only create jobs but benefit the environment. In this month's PMForum Midwest, USA Regional Report, I will highlight some of the investments Midwest, USA states are making to utilize federal stimulus funds for energy, environmental and green projects.

According to information on the Illinois Recovery website, \$43 billion dollars of the ARRA is appropriated for investments in energy, including the Weatherization Assistance Program; repair of federal buildings to increase energy efficiency; fossil energy research and development; research in renewable energy; programs in alternative fuels, smart and energy efficient appliances; and modernization of the electric grid.

Recently, according to the U.S. Government's Recovery website (<http://www.recovery.gov/?q=node/738>) U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced that the Department of Energy will provide up to \$30 billion in loan guarantees, depending on the applications and market conditions, for renewable energy projects. Another \$750 million will support several billion dollars more in loan guarantees for projects that increase the reliability, efficiency and security of the nation's transmission system.

Specific energy and environmental goals of the ARRA, according to the federal website, include:

- Revive the renewable energy industry and provide the capital over the next three years to eventually double domestic renewable energy capacity;
- Undertake the largest weatherization program in history by modernizing 75 percent of federal building space and more than one million homes;

The following are some of the projects and investments states in the Midwest, USA are implementing:

**Nebraska:**

<http://www.recovery.nebraska.gov/>

U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu recently announced \$12.3 million in Recovery Act funding to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Nebraska, according to the state's Recovery Website. Under DOE's State Energy Program, Nebraska proposed a state-wide plan that prioritizes energy savings, creates or retains jobs, increases the use of renewable energy, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

**Recovery.Nebraska.gov**

"This funding will provide an important boost for state economies, help to put Americans back to work, and move us toward energy independence," said Secretary Chu. "It reflects our commitment to support innovative state and local strategies to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy while insisting that taxpayer dollars be spent responsibly."

**South Dakota:**

<http://recovery.sd.gov/>

Gov. Mike Rounds announced Thursday that the state Board of Water and Natural Resources has approved more than \$48 million in grants and low-interest loans for drinking water, wastewater, and storm water projects.

The \$48.46 million total includes a \$6.3 million State Water Resources Management System grant for the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System, two Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program grants totalling \$361,440; seven loans from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program totalling nearly \$11 million, with \$1.8 million of that in principal forgiveness; and seven

loans from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program totalling \$30.8 million, with nearly \$3.8 million of that in principal forgiveness according to the states Recovery website.

### **Colorado:**

<http://www.colorado.gov/recovery/>

According to the state's website, in a move to reduce diesel emissions and protect human health and the environment for people of Colorado, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded \$2.8 million in grants to the Denver Regional Air Quality Council, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the City and County of Denver to install clean diesel technologies on hundreds of trucks, buses and vehicles throughout the state.

Colorado's Headquarters for the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act



INVESTING IN COLORADO'S FUTURE



Governor  
Bill Ritter

Photo Source: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/OIT-2/OIT2/1228122039636>

These clean diesel projects, according to the website, will create jobs while protecting Colorado's air quality.

"These Recovery Act projects significantly advance efforts to secure clean-diesel technologies for our nation's school buses, construction and farm equipment, long-haul trucks and other diesel vehicles," said EPA Acting Regional Administrator, Carol Rushin. "In Colorado, our partners will use these funds to reduce toxic pollution from hundreds of vehicles and will help create and maintain jobs in communities across the state."

### **Kansas:**

<http://www.governor.ks.gov/Recovery/>

According to a release on the state's recovery website, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, The Agency has awarded \$1.73 million to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The funding can be used to support clean diesel projects and loan programs to address the nation's existing fleet of over 11 million diesel engines.

"These cost-effective projects will help Kansas speed its journey to recovery,"

Acting Regional Administrator William Rice said. "This funding will bolster the state's economy and create new, green jobs that will improve air quality in Kansas."

**Iowa:**

<http://www.iowa.gov/recovery/>

Governor Chet Culver announced recently that 15 Iowa communities will receive more than \$24 million in federal recovery funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for water and sewer projects in that state, according to the state's Recovery Website.

**Michigan:**

<http://www.michigan.gov/recovery>

U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu recently announced the selection of 28 new wind energy projects for up to \$13.8 million in funding – including \$12.8 million in Recovery Act funds. These projects, according to the Department's website, will help address market and deployment challenges including wind turbine research and testing and transmission analysis, planning, assessments.



Along with the new awards, Secretary Chu announced the release of DOE's 2008 Wind Technologies Market Report, detailing \$16 billion in investment in wind projects made in the U.S. in 2008 – making the U.S. the leader in annual wind energy capacity growth, as well as cumulative wind energy capacity.

Projects specifically identified in Michigan include:

**Michigan Aerospace Corporation** - *Turbine Reliability and Operability Optimization Through the Use of Direct Detection LIDAR (Ann Arbor, MI)* - **\$748,002**

**Regents of the University of Michigan** - *Techniques for Voltage Control and Transient Stability Assessment (Ann Arbor, MI)* - **\$413,534**

**Wisconsin:**

<http://www.recovery.wisconsin.gov/index.asp?locid=164>

Governor Jim Doyle announced recently that Wisconsin has been approved for \$28 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act federal funds for its State Energy Program (SEP), according to the state's Recovery website. The funds are the first part of the \$55 million in Recovery Act funding the state is receiving for this program.

"With these funds, Wisconsin can work with state businesses and take a leadership role in clean energy manufacturing and create good jobs," Governor Doyle said. "Wisconsin is the only state to target its SEP funds exclusively to manufacturing. Wisconsin has a larger percentage of employees in manufacturing than any other state, and we can leverage our innovative, high-skilled workforce to create clean energy products and processes."

The Department of Commerce will administer the program. Eligible activities will include:

- Reducing fossil fuel use in manufacturing by deploying renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies;
- Retooling Wisconsin businesses to enable them to produce components of renewable energy systems and energy efficient products; and
- Investing in renewable energy projects.

Projects must create or retain jobs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce fossil fuel use, and/or deploy renewable energy.

**Illinois:**

<http://recovery.illinois.gov/>

According to the state's Recovery website, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) will realize a substantial increase in federal infrastructure funding as a result of the federal economic recovery package recently approved by President Obama. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the Act) includes significant funding for loan and grant programs currently administered by the IEPA. The Agency will administer available funds under these programs:

- The Water Pollution Control Loan Program (WPCLP), providing assistance for wastewater projects,
- The Public Water Supply Loan Program (PWSLP), providing assistance for drinking water projects,

- The Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA), providing assistance to the Illinois Clean Diesel Grant Program and the Illinois Clean School Bus Program,
- The Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Program

Illinois will receive \$180 million for wastewater infrastructure projects, according to the website.

**Minnesota:**

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/recovery/index.html>

Minnesota will solicit project proposals for the 20 percent set-aside for projects that address green infrastructure, energy and water efficiency improvements or other environmentally innovative activities, according to the state's Recovery website.

**Indiana:**

<http://www.in.gov/>

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the state of Indiana will receive \$131.8 million in stimulus funding for energy conservation (weatherization) efforts. The IHEDA is seeking qualified and responsive proposals from non-profit organizations and local units of government willing and able to administer the Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program to families under 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. Services include but are not limited to determining client eligibility, conducting client intake, performing audit services, weatherizing dwellings, and managing data entry.



The Indiana Finance Authority, through the State Revolving Fund (SRF), will oversee the distribution of \$94,447,485 to fund wastewater infrastructure projects and \$27,212,000 to fund drinking water infrastructure projects.

**Ohio:**

<http://recovery.ohio.gov/>

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, working with funding provided through U.S. EPA, awarded \$19.3 million to 11 villages, counties and cities to refinance already approved projects using stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) according to the state's Recovery website.

In addition, according to the website, Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director Sean Logan announced today that the Ohio Division of Forestry is currently accepting applications for the first class of 132 jobs that will be available as part of the newly created Ohio Woodlands Job Corps, made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

## Ohio Department of Natural Resources

---

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR

SEAN D. LOGAN, DIRECTOR

---



Photo Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Corps members will work a total of 1,000 hours and gain work experience and woodcraft training at one of seven different state forests, according to the website. Corps members will remove invasive species on state forests, learn how to fight wildfires and receive extensive training and certification.

"This program will help improve both our forests and our economy," said Governor Strickland. "The stimulus dollars used to fund the Ohio Woodlands Job Corps is a wise investment that will encourage healthier forests while creating jobs in regions of our state that are severely challenged by underemployment.

**About the Author:****Ted Koval, PMP, CSM***Author**International Correspondent**Based in Omaha, Nebraska, USA*

**Ted Koval**, PMP, CSM is an International Correspondent for PMForum and *PM World Today* in Nebraska, USA. He is also an a Business Project Manager for Mutual of Omaha, a Fortune 500 insurance and financial services company based in Omaha, Nebraska. Ted has 13+ years of experience as a Project Manager both in State government and in IS/IT project management in the United States. Ted has managed campaigns and outreach for several Pennsylvania State Representatives, served as Director of the Policy Committee for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and was project manager for the first nationally recognized centralized voter registration system in the USA. Ted subsequently became project manager and Director of PM for the largest provider of enterprise class voter registration and election systems in the United States. Ted was name "*PMP of the Year – 2008*" by the PMI-Heartland Chapter. For more information visit <http://www.pmforum.org/pm%20forum%20team/index.htm>. Ted Koval can be contacted at [takoal@cox.net](mailto:takoal@cox.net).