



OASA (IE&E)

Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army
Installations, Energy and Environment



Regional Environmental and Energy Office - Southern (REEO-S) Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report



Sustaining Readiness in
Partnership with States



On the cover, clockwise from top: Live fire training at Galloway Range, Ft Benning GA (photo by John Helms); Prescribed fire at Ft Benning (photo by Vince Little, The Bayonet; Tank Trail at Fort Benning (photo by Aquaterra/SERDP), 101st Airborne refueling maneuvers over Ft Campbell (photo by Senior Airman Julianne Showalter)

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Executive Summary

This report highlights REEO-S Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 activities and actions in support of the Army/DoD mission. In outlining state and installation-specific REEO-S activities across Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4, the report demonstrates successful collaboration between internal customers at Army installations, state and federal agencies, and nongovernmental organizations. This document illustrates regional legislative and regulatory trends and presents succinct numerical data on REEO-S legislative and regulatory screening, tracking and reporting activities. It also highlights REEO-S's participation in diverse outreach efforts, and reveals the office's focus and strength in partnering.

The Army's Strategy for the Environment sets forth the triple bottom line plus of sustainability: mission, environment, community and economic benefit. REEO-S works to reach this bottom line by opening lines of communication, coordinating efforts, and facilitating solutions to ensure the readiness of the Army and the well-being of people and the environment, now and into the future. The REEO-S is a highly focused team that helps the Army and its installations anticipate, rapidly respond to, and resolve environmental and energy issues that might adversely affect military operations.

Beginning in 2012, REEO-S broadened its portfolio to incorporate the Army Energy Security Implementation Strategy; thus, expanding the tools, practices, and ideals laid out in the Strategy for the Environment, and adapting them to an energy security context. This improves operational capability, and enhances the ability of the Army to carry out its primary missions in the region.

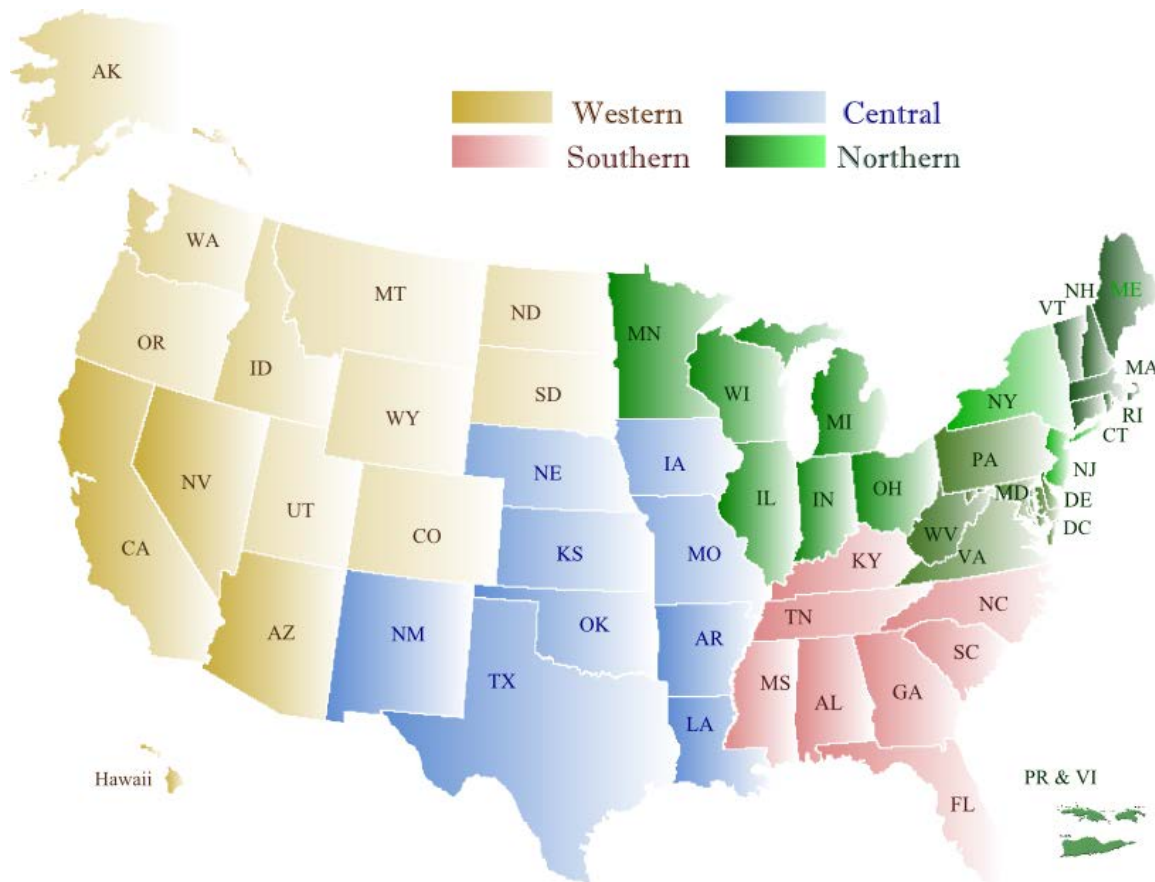
REEO-S supports the Army and DoD by working with military leaders, legislators, and regulators to ensure the military can carry out its training and operations mission, while complying with all applicable environmental requirements and enhancing the military's ability to tackle energy security.



Regional Environmental and Energy Offices (REEOs)

The Regional Environmental and Energy Offices (REEOs) were established in September 1995 to support Army and DOD readiness and training. Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4715.02, updated in August 2009, establishes the Regional Environmental Coordinator (REC) function within the REEOs. The RECs serve as the REEOs' direct link with state regulatory and legislative bodies. RECs work as part of a multi-disciplinary team that includes legal, policy, engineering, and science experts. The team understands state regulatory and legislative climates and interacts directly with Army installations and the other Service RECs. Each REEO Director serves as the DoD lead REC in an assigned region. The four Army REEOs are located in Denver, CO (REEO-W), Edgewood, MD (REEO-Northern), Fort Levenworth, KS (REEO-Central), and Peachtree City, GA (REEO-Southern).

Army REEO Mission: *To fulfill responsibilities as DoD RECs, engage with state legislators, federal and state regulators, and nongovernmental organizations, on behalf of the DoD and the Army to enable the conduct of activities on our installations required to build readiness to execute the Army's global mission. Conduct strategic communications for the purpose of promoting greater understanding of the Army's commitment to sustainable practices and energy security.*



Each REEO supports various Federal EPA Regions throughout the United States.

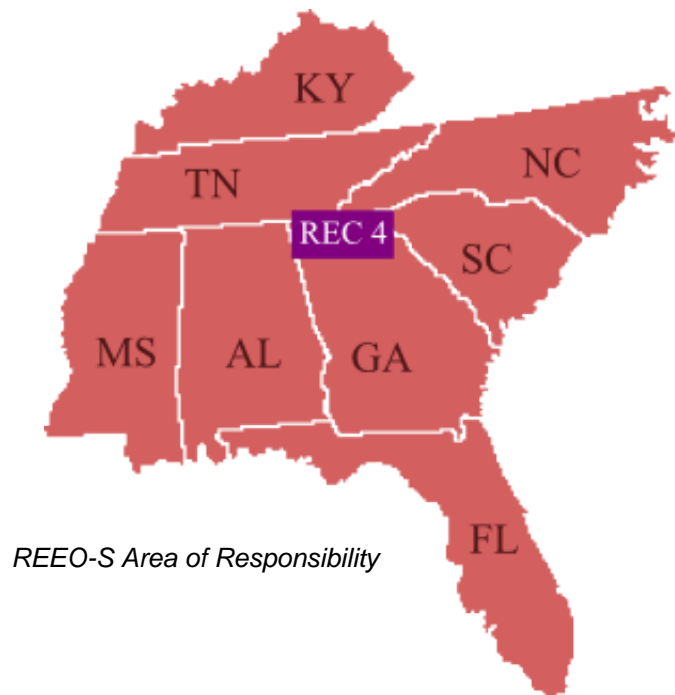


REEO-S

REEO-S is staffed with four Department of Army Civilians: Susan Gibson, Director; Cynthia Jester, Deputy Director; David Blalock, Regional Counsel; and Marshall Williams, Army REC. The REEO-S Army REC is also the Contracting Officer Representative (COR) for the REEO support contract. One Army REC position has been vacant since December, 2011. REEO-S is staffed with one contractor, Rebecca Shanks, Regulatory Affairs Specialist (RAS), Plexus Scientific Corporation. Prior to January, the contract was held by Horne Engineering, and three contractors worked in the office.

In December, REEO-S selected new office space, and relocated from Atlanta to Peachtree City, GA. With this relocation, REEO-S has reduced its footprint from 3,382 square feet to 2,475 square feet.

REEO-S is responsible for the eight states in EPA Region 4: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. According to Army Times "Installations Worldwide 2012 Guide," there are 65 active military installations in the REEO-S area of responsibility (AOR), which constitutes approximately 26% of the national military force.





REEOs primarily support Army and DoD readiness and training through:

- **Legislative and Regulatory Support**

Monitoring and engaging on state regulatory and legislative activities in the eight states of the REEO-S AOR

- **Mission Sustainment Support**

Coordinating and communicating Army/unified DoD positions, facilitating programs or projects, and addressing issues that can affect military sustainment

- **Energy Program Support**

Monitoring state legislative and regulatory efforts that affect the Army's energy security, renewable energy and Net Zero programs

- **Outreach and Partnerships**

Developing cooperative partnerships and educating stakeholders on issues that support long-term sustainability of the military

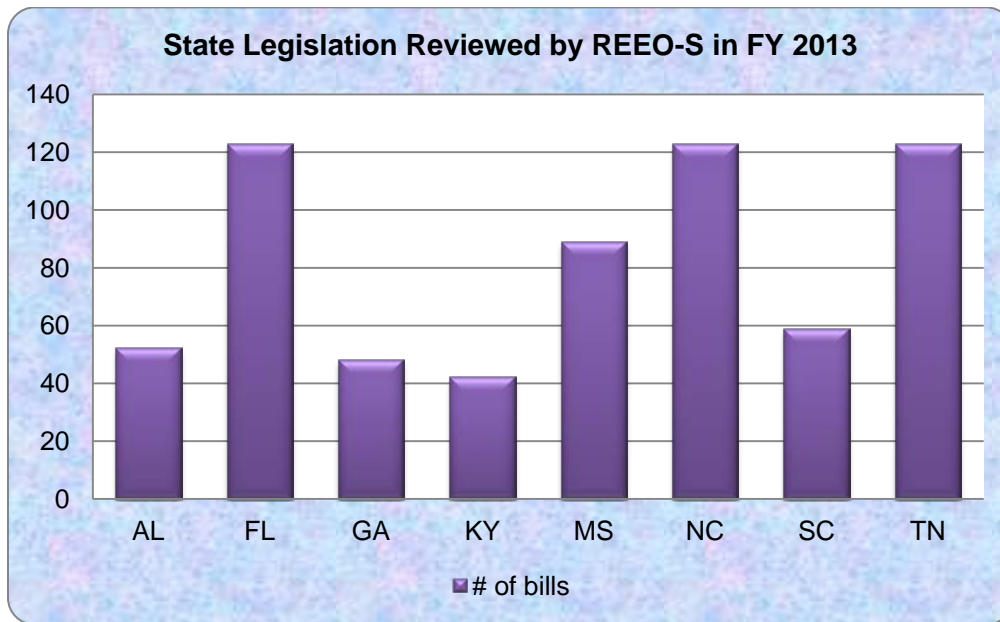
Legislative and Regulatory Support

Monitoring and engaging on state regulatory and legislative activities

Legislative Summary

Through execution of the state Environmental Legislative and Regulatory Analysis and Monitoring Program, REEO-S works to ensure state environmental laws and regulations proposed and adopted by states do not result in adverse impacts on military training or testing, and new requirements are applied equitably to all entities in the regulated community. REEO-S also screens proposed laws and regulations for proposals in energy, water, quality of life, transportation, and other areas with potential military impacts.

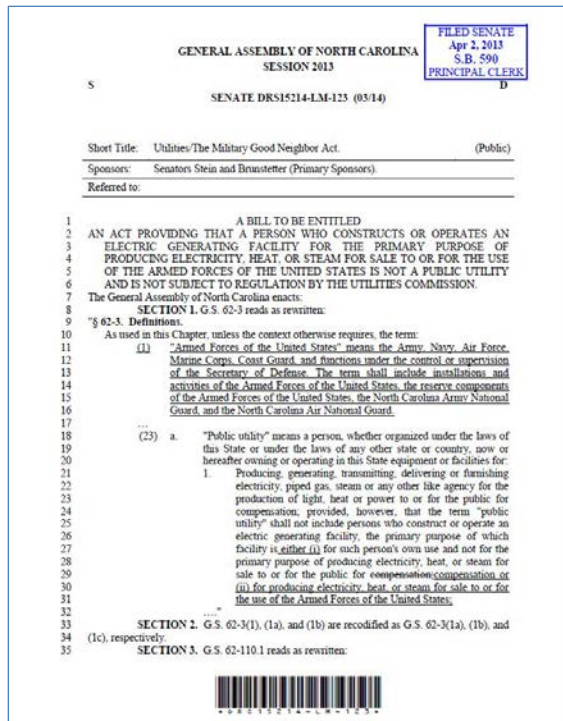
During 2013, all eight states in the REEO-S AOR had full legislative sessions. With regard to environmental legislation, the priorities in many states included greenhouse gas reductions, energy transmission and alternative/renewable energy sources, water rights laws, and stormwater priorities. REEO-S screened 659 environmental and energy-related legislative measures from the states in its AOR. A total of 203 of these legislative actions were deemed relevant to the military and were reported in the monthly *Southern Review*.



Legislative Highlights

Throughout FY13, REEO-S focused heavily on energy initiatives in Region 4. Since Region 4 is home to a 26% of the country’s military forces, REEO-S identified the necessity for state rules and policies that encourage development of energy projects in the region. REEO-S has undoubtedly advanced regional energy security initiatives for installations through its legislative engagement and outreach. REEO-S continues to

build upon relationships with state officials and other energy stakeholders around the region to advance DoD energy imperatives.



North Carolina Renewable Energy

In December 2012, REEO-S, North Carolina officials and renewable energy groups began assessing a proposal to meet with state legislators and seek legislative action allowing renewable energy pilot projects on one or more military installations. State electric utility law currently protects regulated monopolies and restricts power purchase agreements (PPAs) with independent power producers.

In April, North Carolina Senate Bill (SB) 590, “Utilities/The Military Good Neighbor Act,” was introduced. REEO-S conducted outreach, then participated in drafting the bill designed to lift state law restrictions on third-party PPAs



when for the benefit of a military installation. A companion bill, House Bill (HB) 679, was introduced a week later. The bills would have facilitated third-party PPAs with DoD by exempting energy developers from utility regulations and removing the requirement to obtain consent of the servicing electric utility. They would also support the Army's efforts toward its 1-gigawatt renewable energy goal. REEO-S organized a meeting with state legislators to discuss the Army Energy Program and how SB 590 and HB 679 could benefit Fort Bragg. REEO-S continued to communicate with stakeholders and North Carolina state legislators in support of North Carolina HB 679 throughout the 2013 legislative session. REEO-S also submitted talking points to the legislative sponsor of the bill. While the 2013 session ended before the bill was given consideration in assigned committees, REEO-S has continued its outreach with sponsoring legislators. Because North Carolina has a two-year legislation session, the bill may receive further consideration in 2014. Sponsoring legislators have committed to pushing this legislation forward. REEO-S also responded to and provided information to North Carolina state legislators who testified before the committee on legislation designed to protect military operations from wind energy encroachment, providing Army background and Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) history with respect to encroachment and general legislative development. The information was used to support two separate encroachment bills introduced in 2013: HB 433, "Land Use Surrounding Military Installations," and HB 484, "Permitting of Wind Energy Facilities." (The companion bill to HB 484 was SB 491.) In May, North Carolina HB 484 passed with a vote of 112 in favor and two opposed. The bill is designed to ensure that DoD is notified of construction, operation, or expansion activities associated with wind energy facilities in North Carolina. The bill was later passed by the Senate and signed by Governor McCrory. REEO-S briefed the legislation to the OSD Siting Clearinghouse.

REEO-S worked diligently with North Carolina state legislators to introduce bills aimed to protect the military mission in the state.

REEO-S responded to questions and provided military information and insight on North Carolina SB 491, "Permitting of Wind Energy Facilities," which was traveling through the general assembly in May. The bill aims to protect the military mission by requiring developers to submit to a robust permitting process, including coordination with DoD activities in the state. Interested parties wanted to ensure the bill was consistent with DoD's Siting Clearinghouse review process and was otherwise supported by DoD.

In summary, REEO-S worked diligently with North Carolina state legislators to introduce bills aimed to protect the military mission in the state.

HB 679/SB 590, "Utilities/The Military Good Neighbor Act," remains in the House Public Utilities and Energy Committee and Senate Rules and Operations Committee pending further action during the 2014 session.

HB 433/SB 389, "Land Use Surrounding Military Installations," was signed by Governor in June (Session Law 2013-206).



HB 484/SB 491, "Permitting of Wind Energy Facilities," was signed by Governor in May (Session Law 2013-51).

Alabama Wind Energy Encroachment

HB 676, "Wind Energy Permitting-Baldwin County," authorizes the Baldwin County Commission to establish standards, specifications, criteria, and conditions on the permitting, construction, placement, and operation of wind turbines, wind mills, wind farms, and any other wind-generated energy production facilities or equipment operated in the unincorporated areas of Baldwin County.

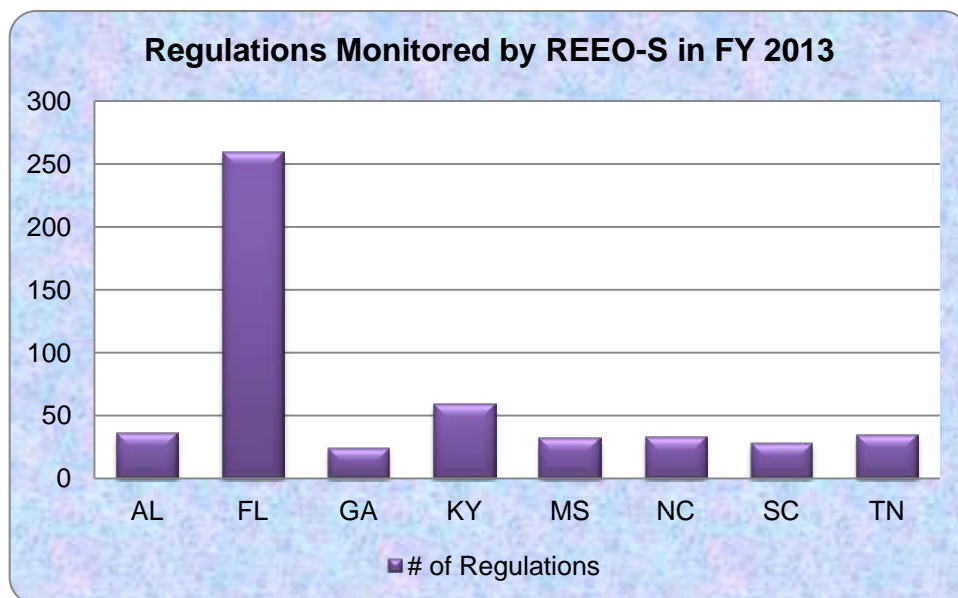
REEO-S engaged the bill sponsor to express support for the bill. Baldwin County is on the Gulf Coast bordering Florida. As such, HB 676 provides an opportunity for the military to engage county officials during the permitting process and inform stakeholders of potential impacts to military operations, to include operations associated with Eglin Air Force Base, Pensacola Naval Air Station, Fort Rucker, and several outlying landing fields in the region. HB 676 was enacted in May.

Alabama Land Use

HB 392, "Military Land Use Planning Act," was introduced in March. HB 392 would have required the local government to notify military installations of land use changes that could affect military operations. REEO-S contacted the bill sponsor to express support and inform the sponsor that HB 392 could create a critically important and beneficial framework for protecting various national security missions in Alabama. The bill passed the House, was reported favorably from the assigned Senate committee, but failed to get a floor vote in the Senate before the legislative session ended. REEO-S will seek to have the bill reconsidered during the next legislative session.

Regulatory Summary

During FY 2013, REEO-S screened 506 new environmental and energy-related regulatory measures from the eight states in its AOR. A total of 149 of these regulations were deemed relevant to the military, and were reported to DoD customers in the *Southern Review*.





REEO-S represented Army/DoD interests to rule writing groups and task forces organized by DoD and the states to develop and influence regulations to insure appropriate alignment with DoD interests and objectives. In addition, REEO-S participated in and led regional partnerships with state and federal natural resource conservation agencies involved in the implementation and enforcement of regulations.

Regulatory Highlights

North Carolina Air Toxics Rules

In October 2012, REEO-S forwarded consolidated service comments regarding the North Carolina Air Toxics Rules to the Department of Air Quality of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The DoD comments highlighted concerns with amended North Carolina Air Toxics Rules and how the changes were creating additional undue administrative burdens for new construction and renovation activities. The new permit requirements adversely impacted the US Marine Corps and other service projects by increasing costs and significantly slowing progress on new construction. It was also indicated that many small combustion sources at issue are currently regulated under other federal programs and should, according to the state's own law, be exempt from the state toxics rule. REEO-S continues working with the state and affected installations.

Georgia State Wildlife Action Plan Revision

In May, REEO-S participated in the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR) Georgia State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) update. Participants included the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Army installations, and other state and federal agencies. The two-year revision process will identify and address changing environmental and natural resource conditions, as well as develop a regulatory and conservation



Prescribed fire at Fort Benning, GA (photo by Kristin Molinaro, The Bayonet)

framework intended to recover and restore species deemed at risk. Current conservation themes include prescribed fire, conservation banks, private landowner initiatives, invasive species management, and land protection. All efforts under consideration could negatively impact the military if implementation is not coordinated.

Georgia Inert Landfill Rules

Regulations related to inert waste landfills and implemented by the GADNR caused a negative impact to DoD installations in Georgia during 2012. REEO-S provided comments during the rulemaking process that requested clarifications to requirements



and included changes that would have benefitted the DoD. However, the rule was adopted, including a key aspect that precluded continued operation of various existing DoD inert waste landfills even if the contents and operation posed no risk to human health or the environment. The Georgia legislature responded to voiced concerns, and in early 2013, GADNR amended the new rules. Amendments define a provision and path that affords DoD (and others) the option to continue using landfills that meet specified requirements.

Florida Stormwater Permit Revisions

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FLDEP) revised and proposed amendments to several stormwater permits, to include the Multi-Sector Generic Permit (MSGP) for Stormwater Discharge Associated with Industrial Activity, the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Phase II permit, and the Large and Small Construction Generic Permit (CGP). These could negatively impact DoD staffing and funding. REEO-S coordinated comments from all services and the Florida Army National Guard and provided them to FLDEP for consideration and incorporation. Final permits are not yet published, although FLDEP is addressing comments. REEO-S continues to monitor the amendments' progress.

Mission Sustainment Support

Coordinating and communicating Army/unified DOD positions, facilitating programs or projects, and addressing issues that can affect military sustainment

Supporting the mission of Army installations, thus enabling them to conduct activities required to build readiness to execute the Army's global mission, is a cornerstone of the REEO operation. The Army dealt with budget constraints in 2013 in part by restricting travel for all field operating offices, including the REEOs. Inability to interact one-on-one with installation personnel limited the effectiveness REEO-S has demonstrated in the past in helping installations with specific state policy makers.

Nonetheless, the REEO-S worked within budget limitations to maintain relationships important to sustaining the mission.

Listing of Fort Gillem on National Priority List

Because of EPA's interest in adding Fort Gillem to the National Priority List (NPL), REEO-S identified and assessed risks associated with cleanup activities at the installation. REEO-S facilitates ongoing discussions between the EPA, Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD), Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (ACSIM), Office of General Counsel (OGC), Environmental Law Division (ELD) and Army Environmental Command (AEC), the Local Reuse Authority (LRA), and the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) environmental office, among others. The property transfer is underway, and involved parties are focused on continued cleanup, as well as protection of human health and the environment. A final decision regarding the fate of the property may occur in FY14.



Anniston Army Depot RCRA Permit

In September 2012, REEO-S joined the Army Materiel Command (AMC), the Army AEC, and Anniston Army Depot (ANAD) personnel to form a team that negotiates changes to a controversial draft environmental permit proposed by Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). The permit's purpose is to regulate contaminated site clean up on ANAD. The draft permit elicited negative reactions from both EPA and Army staff, and led the EPA Regional Administrator to call the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Energy & Environment) directly. The main concern was perceived regulatory overreach by ADEM with the potential to upset ongoing contaminated site cleanup as previously negotiated between the Army, EPA, and ADEM.

REEO-S counsel continues to work with agency counsel from the Army, EPA, and ADEM to negotiate and resolve legal concerns associated with changes to the environmental permit at ANAD. REEO-S continues to participate in the ADEM-Army working group, established to address key concerns with the permit and seek consensus on appropriate permit terms.

Former Fort McClellan Clean-Up

REEO-S is working with BRAC personnel to resolve Notice of Environmental Use Restrictions (NEUR) implementation issues for contaminated sites that remain federally owned and continue to undergo cleanup. The primary purpose of a NEUR is to provide notice of land use restrictions that have been implemented to protect human health and the environment. ADEM requires federal facilities to record a NEUR in local property records for contaminated sites that cannot be completely remediated due to cost or technical limitations. REEO-S communicated legal concerns with the draft NEUR that ADEM sought to enforce, and requested a phone conference with ADEM staff to seek appropriate revisions. ADEM agreed to the changes requested by REEO-S. Resolution allows installation cleanup programs to move forward without associated continued delays.

Resolution allows installation cleanup programs to move forward without continued delays.

Redstone Arsenal (RSA) Project

REEO-S is assisting Department of Army Headquarters (HQDA) Counsel in evaluating and resolving apparent legal and OSD policy impediments that could impede the progress of a waste-to-energy (WtE) project at Redstone Arsenal. Additional coordination with OSD may be necessary to successfully push the project forward. The project explores the potential retrofit and expansion of the City of Huntsville, AL, Solid Waste Disposal Authority-owned WtE steam plant for cogeneration of steam and electricity. The Army Energy Initiatives Task Force (EITF) is evaluating the project's potential to help the Army achieve its goal of 25% renewable energy production by 2025. The REEO-S Counsel is assisting the EITF with the project.



EPA-AAFES Underground Storage Tank Program

At the request of the EPA, REEO-S facilitated documentation and emphasized agency concerns regarding Underground Storage Tank (UST) management practices at Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) fuel stations on military installations. Environmental program personnel from the EPA UST program, Army and Air Force, as well as AAFES national and regional environmental personnel met to discuss previous violations and ongoing program deficiencies. REEO-S continues to work with installation and AAFES personnel to facilitate communication and UST program adjustments to improve operational activities and prevent future violations.

Construction Project Delays at Fort Gordon, GA

Several construction projects at Fort Gordon were unable to proceed due to Soil and Erosion Control permit deficiencies and processing delays. Continued delays jeopardized funding. At the request of Fort Gordon, REEO-S organized a meeting between installation personnel and officials from the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Division of the Augusta, GA, Engineering Department. The group discussed paths forward, and made agreements regarding plan reviews, expedited comment coordination, and changes to work flow processes, which resulted in a more effective and efficient permit process for military construction projects. Within two weeks of the meeting, three long delayed permits were approved allowing these projects to move forward.

Energy Program Support

Monitoring state legislative and regulatory efforts that affect Army's renewable energy, energy security and Net Zero programs



EITF Projects in the Southeast

REEO-S provides ongoing legal support to the Army EITF. As the point of contact for the EITF, the REEO-S Counsel worked throughout the year with EITF Planning and Execution Divisions to implement cost-effective, large-scale renewable energy projects, leveraging private sector financing. EITF focuses on renewable energy projects – solar, wind, geothermal and biomass – that are

10 megawatts or greater and located on US Army installations.

REEO-S works with the EITF on planned renewable energy projects at Fort Benning and Fort Stewart, GA; and Redstone Arsenal, AL. REEO-S participates in the weekly EITF planning and execution conference calls, and provides legal support to address issues affecting the various projects.

- REEO-S participated with EITF staff in a site visit and meeting held at Fort Benning to initiate and explore the potential for a WtE plant with the City of Columbus; biomass with Georgia Power and/or MeadWestvaco; and to gain additional insight on the state regulated environment.



- REEO-S and EITF participated in a site visit at Fort Benning to further discuss the potential for a WtE plant with Columbus and photovoltaic (PV) as part of a natural gas combustion turbine project with Georgia Power.
- REEO-S continued to work with the EITF on planned renewable energy projects at Redstone Arsenal. Additional coordination and outreach was conducted with North Carolina officials to assess potential projects at Fort Bragg. Preliminary planning for a site visit to Fort Campbell, KY, was also carried out.
- Further REEO-S and EITF discussions addressed acquisition concerns and legal impediments that could delay the WtE project at Redstone Arsenal and site visits to Fort Campbell and Fort Bragg.
- REEO-S participated with EITF staff in a site visit and meeting held at Fort Campbell, to assess renewable energy opportunities, engage key stakeholders, validate project viability, and identify a path forward for EITF. Initial discussions identified the potential for a WtE plant with Bi-County Landfill in Tennessee; biomass plant in Tennessee, and/or solar PV in Kentucky and Tennessee. Participants included officials from Montgomery County, TN (landfill authority), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and Pennyrile Electric Cooperative.
- REEO-S continued to provide legal support to the EITF for a proposed Combined-Heat and Power (CHP) project at Redstone Arsenal. REEO-S participated in the Redstone Arsenal Realty Governance Board (RGB) pre-brief, a preliminary step for seeking HQDA approval to lease government land for the construction of an energy project. The RGB was held in June and the board thereafter approved the project. The Request for Proposal (RFP) should be published soon.
- REEO-S attended a meeting between the EITF and Georgia Power to discuss Army installation participation in Georgia Power's 2014 Advanced Solar Initiative (ASI). Issues discussed included reconciling how the Army could make installation land available to potential developers selected under Georgia Power's ASI competitive process.

Georgia Power could release the 2014 RFP as early as December 2013. The anticipated ASI timeline would require the Army to quickly identify potential development sites at Forts Benning, Stewart, and Gordon; complete necessary studies; and gain outgrant approval in order to take advantage of the 2014 ASI offering.

- REEO-S participated as a member of the EITF Red Team¹, established to evaluate and decide upon the most appropriate real property leasing option to pursue as Fort Stewart prepares to participate in Georgia Power's 2014 ASI.

¹ In the EITF context, Red Teaming is a structured, iterative process conducted by trained and practiced team members that independently evaluate planning assumptions, concepts, and effective approaches for executing a large-scale renewable energy project.



Critical issues concerned reconciling the Army's outgrant process, and when potential developers are independently competing under Georgia Power's ASI. The Red Team ultimately decided on a prequalification concept where multiple developers could compete in the ASI, with the Army conducting a subsequent competition among successful bidders or seeking a waiver of competition.

REEOs Support EITF Review and Planning Team Kickoff

At the request of the EITF, the REEOs participated in the February EITF Planning Team Kickoff meeting that focused on roles and responsibilities, current projects, challenges, strategies, goals, objectives, and tasks. The REEOs participated in the internal review of EITF operations, procedures, achievements, and challenges for the task force. REEOs also provided regional background and perspective regarding the EITF installation assessment list for an additional dimension of analysis and a shared demonstration of the EITF project teams' capabilities, concerns, and potential value added. The information exchanges and interactions promote increase communication and focus for both teams, improve prioritization and resource allocation for installation assessments, and speed project course of action development and analysis.

DoD Siting Clearinghouse

The DoD RECs briefed the DoD Siting Clearinghouse Coordination Group in April. Each REC presented a regional overview on current state and local legislative initiatives for renewable energy project development as it impacts military testing, training, and operations.

In June, REEO-S briefed the Executive Director of the DoD Siting Clearinghouse and staff on the notification process of certain activities using the Nation Wide Permit (NWP) program. Discussions included the REEO process used upon receipt of Pre-Construction Notification Form and/or NWP verification letter from US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) districts, and how the information is screened and forwarded to the DoD Siting Clearinghouse. This process will assist in identifying renewable energy projects that could impact DoD readiness across the country.

REEO-S is working with REEO-W to coordinate service component REC comments on the draft DoD Siting Clearinghouse DoDI. OSD requested REC input on the draft DoDI to formalize and clarify the DoD REC role in Mission Comparability Assessment, associated with proposed energy projects.

Georgia Solar Energy Association Forum

REEO-S represented the Army and DoD at the February Georgia Solar Energy Association (GSEA) Solar Forum in Atlanta, GA. Attendees included Georgia Power Corporation, Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC), solar manufacturers, legislators, regulators, industry representatives and scientists. Georgia Power announced that by 2015, the state's current allowable solar capacity would increase from 55 megawatts (MW) to over 260 MW through the use of PPAs for projects that range from less than 100 kilowatts (KW) up to over 10 MW in generating capacity.



REEO-S worked with the EITF and three installations within Region 4 to establish a process that will allow DoD to implement solar energy systems within Georgia using the newly adopted Georgia Power process. The negotiations continue due to the complex regulatory environment and restrictions placed on DoD when attempting to use innovative procurement methods currently in use by the private sector.

Piedmont Green Biomass Plant Site Visit



In July, REEO-S and representatives from Air Force, EPA, US Forest Service, and the Georgia Forestry Commission toured the Piedmont Green Power Biomass Plant in Barnesville. The newly completed plant will provide approximately 53 MW of new biomass capacity to Georgia Power, made possible through a 20-year PPA with Rollcast Energy, Inc., and under which Georgia Power will receive all generation output. The plant began commercial operation in April after two years of construction (\$200 million). It will provide enough electricity to power more than 35,000 homes. The plant itself sits on about two acres, and the overall site is

approximately 50-acres, such that adequate buffers are maintained. Biomass generation process at Piedmont Green Power will create energy using forestry byproducts (waste materials) found in places such as logging areas and land clearings — materials that would otherwise end up in landfills or be left to decompose naturally. The plant estimates that it will process 500,000 tons of woody biomass annually, 100 percent of which will come from areas around the plant (75-mile radius). The owner will retain all renewable energy credits.

North Carolina Military Energy Roundtable

The North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association and the North Carolina Military Business Center hosted the September roundtable that focused on military renewable energy efforts and its interplay with the local economy. REEO-S discussed EITF activities, renewable energy barriers, and pathways to overcome those barriers. Of particular interest was the discussion of the North Carolina Utilities/The Military Good Neighbor Act, introduced during the 2013 legislative session. Although the legislation failed, lawmakers in attendance stated they are considering how best to provide the military additional flexibility to pursue energy initiatives. Further stakeholder discussions are planned.

Outreach and Partnerships

Developing cooperative partnerships and educating stakeholders on issues that support long-term sustainability of the military

A core mission of REEO-S is to communicate the Army/DoD message to stakeholders through forums, in-person meetings, and publications. In turn, REEO-S reports input from stakeholders to senior policy officials at HQDA and the OSD. Southern Region efforts to inform, educate, and partner with government officials and other centers of



influence in the region promotes greater understanding and builds trust that aids in sustaining the military mission while protecting the environment in a responsible and cost-effective manner.

Outreach

USACE South Atlantic Division Commander Brief

In December 2012, REEO-S met with the new USACE South Atlantic Division Commander, BG Donald Jackson, Jr., a key REEO partner in the southeast. REEO-S briefed BG Jackson and his staff on the REEO mission and current goals for the region. BG Jackson expressed his understanding and appreciation for REEO-S assistance to the USACE in resolving regional environmental concerns and issues. BG Jackson expressed a need for assistance in understanding the energy goals and direction for the region.

Partnerships

REEO-S participates in a number of partnerships and organizations associated with energy and the environment. Beneficial relationships that result from various partnering and outreach efforts afford REEO-S more success in efforts to enhance military training opportunities, while maximizing energy efficiency, and sustaining the environment. Many of the partnerships and relationships improve the REEO-S state advocacy role, as staff attempt to influence the state legislative and regulatory processes. In 2013, REEO-S continued to execute its energy mission by creating and maintaining new partnerships with the energy community, while building upon existing relationships and collaborations established in the environmental community.

REEO-S promotes respect and integrity to facilitate networking for regional and state issues. The office personalizes and promotes Army/DoD sustainability to foster understanding and connectivity across various levels. Partnerships allow REEO-S to identify and sometimes prevent problems early on. REEO-S objectively frames issues, facilitates solutions, recognizes opportunities, and leverages resources to act as change agents who advance the military mission. Through its extensive coordination, REEO-S successfully led and engaged in various partnering activities throughout FY13.

Gopher Tortoise Team



Gopher tortoise entering burrow.
([Gary2863 at en.wikipedia](#))

The gopher tortoise is endemic to the southeastern US, and has been in population decline in recent years. REEO-S led the effort to develop a Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) for a species being considered for threatened status under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). State and federal representatives from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina (states within the non-listed range of the tortoise) partnered and



developed a CCA for the gopher tortoise. The Gopher Tortoise CCA was the first to cross state lines and federal boundaries. Signed by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) (DASA (ESOH)) in October 2008, the CCA serves as the mechanism to implement management actions to protect gopher tortoise habitat and current populations. The team meets annually, and continues to encourage and improve gopher tortoise conservation and recovery efforts. This year, REEO-S participated in the 5th Annual Gopher Tortoise Meeting with representatives from federal and state natural resource agencies in the region.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

REEO-S is a member of the State Technical Advisory Committee within North Carolina, Florida, and Tennessee. REEO-S met with NRCS State Program Directors and State Resource Conservationists in an effort to more closely align the DoD and NRCS. REEO-S also participated in State Technical Advisory Committee meetings.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Longleaf Stewardship Fund)

In September, REEO-S participated as the DoD representative at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) event at the Oxbow Meadow Environmental Learning Center in Atlanta, GA. As part of the NFWF Longleaf Stewardship Fund, grants in the amount of \$3.15 million will be distributed among 15 projects across seven southeastern states to restore 13,500 acres and enhance over 140,000 additional acres of longleaf pine habitat. DoD installations that will benefit include Fort Benning, GA; Tyndall AFB, Eglin AFB, and Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Florida; and the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point, NC.

Region 4 Fish and Wildlife Service Partnering

REEO-S is fully engaged with several working groups in the USFWS Region 4 office. As such, REEO-S provides updates and conveys DoD positions to enhance coordination and provide in-depth understanding of possible secondary and tertiary effects of USFWS threatened and endangered species and species-at-risk management actions. Discussions pertaining to critical habitat designation and its effects on installations and mission requirements are routine. Another commonly explored topic involves DoD habitat and species management, and the ability to integrate efforts and initiatives outside installation boundaries. This ongoing coordination is tremendously effective in species management, as well as relationship-building; both are key factors in successful execution of natural resource programs throughout the DoD. These working groups afford REEO-S informal and formal access to Region 4 USFWS project leaders and program managers.

South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

REEO -S is the current South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative chairman. This position provides opportunities to capitalize on landscape conservation efforts and maximize the effectiveness of limited DoD conservation funds. Participation strengthens existing, and forges new relationships with state, local, and federal partners involved



directly or indirectly with landscape scale conservation efforts concerning the DoD. Participation also enhances DoD opportunities to share resources through collaboration and knowledge of current projects outside military installations, and improves DoD's ability to influence and participate in natural resource policy development and implementation. Credibility and trust is advanced through working with local and state and federal agencies in the cooperative.

Southeast Diesel Collaborative Military Clean Diesel Forum

Decreasing idling on DoD installations, constructing truck holding areas with anti-idling stations that allow operators to turn off engines while waiting to load or unload cargo, and decreasing exposure to adults and school children during bus rides are key to DoD installation compliance and leadership in the area of responsible diesel use. REEO-S has supported the Southeast Diesel Collaborative (SEDC) for years and is vested in assisting in implementation of clean air technologies at DoD installations where it facilitates health, is cost effective, and does not impact training. As a steering committee member, REEO-S with EPA, state agency personnel, and private industry representatives planned the agenda for the SEDC Partners' Workshop held in Atlanta, GA, in September.

Southeast Natural Resources Leaders Group



REEO-S continues to serve as a principal at Southeast Natural Resources Leaders Group (SENRLG). REEO-S

represents the interests of the DoD at SENRLG meetings, and participates in a capacity that coordinates DoD conservation efforts with those of the other major federal agencies (i.e., NOAA, USFS, Federal Highways, EPA, DoD, USACE, USGS, National Park Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, NRCS, and USFWS).

In June 2013, REEO-S hosted the SENRLG Principals' Meeting at Fort Benning, GA. Senior executives from participating natural resource agencies were briefed on various, overlapping topics of interest in the southeast to include in-stream flow, prescribed fire, the Chattahoochee Fall Line Conservation Partnership and cultural resources. The group took a guided tour of the National Infantry Museum. The meeting included overviews of Fort Benning and its environmental challenges, as well as the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program. Attendees were bussed around the installation for a physical tour. Participants visited the Maneuver Center of Excellence and were able to operate simulators used by soldiers in training. Attendees visited King's Pond for presentations regarding conservation activities, and threatened and endangered species at the installation. The meeting provided an invaluable forum to obtain feedback and collaborate on concerns/issues in the southeast, which is instrumental to achieving success and minimizing conflicts with the DoD missions.



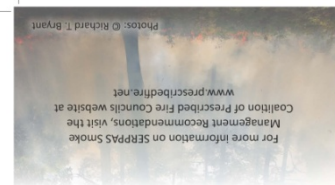
REEO-S prepared an article titled, “Federal Agency Leaders Discuss Environmental Stewardship,” published in Fort Benning’s *Bayonet & Saber*, Vol. 1, No. 14. The article highlights the SENRLG Principals’ Meeting.

Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability

The REEO-S Director represents the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (ESOH) for all SERPPAS functions. During 2013, REEO-S continued to participate on the SERPPAS Smoke Management and Air Quality Subcommittee. This coordinated effort to address the issues of prescribed fires and public health in the southeast is nationally recognized as a model to be emulated. Prescribed fire is used on installations to manage forest conditions that could lead to fire from exploding ordinance or other

training actions. Uncontrolled fires affect not only the ability to train, but can threaten civilian neighbors directly, and create unsafe or unhealthy conditions through impacts to air quality. Controlled burning is also critical for DoD to satisfy its responsibilities under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. It is broadly recognized that prescribed burns should be conducted in a manner that is protective of air quality by incorporating management practices that mitigate potential or perceived health impacts from the resulting emissions.

- Understand and follow local, state, federal, and tribal prescribed fire laws and regulations
- Identify, map, and avoid impacting smoke sensitive areas
- Match appropriate smoke impact screening tools to burn complexity
- Notify appropriate parties (neighbors, public agencies, authorities) of intent to burn
- Use test fire to verify expected smoke dispersion
- Only burn when smoke dispersion conditions are favorable
- Be aware of other burning activity and sources of pollution in your area
- When feasible, use ignition patterns and methods which minimize smoke production
- Monitor changing weather conditions and respond to unintended smoke impacts
- Minimize impacts from smoldering smoke
- In high smoke risk areas, explore alternative methods to burning
- Enhance smoke management skills through training and experience



Prescribed Fire
Smoke Management
Pocket Guide

The Smoke Management Pocket Guide is distributed to federal, state, local and private fire practitioners.

REEO-S published, “Prescribed Fire Strategy for the Southeast, the Work of Many Partners” in [Natural Selections, Spring 2013](#) edition. The article highlights that through SERPPAS, representatives from DoD, EPA, USFS, USFWS, state agencies, NGOs, and academic institutions have collaborated to develop a comprehensive regional strategy for prescribed burning. Implementation of the comprehensive strategy will provide benefits to numerous partners and the region

REEO-S also continues to support the SERPPAS Biomass Issue Team, whose goal is to identify opportunities and benefits for the production of renewable energy and bio-based products as a compatible land use around military installations and suitable habitat for threatened and endangered species. The team brings together federal and state agencies together across the southeast to help identify and address current and emerging issues, share successes and lessons learned, and broaden the technology landscape relevant to biomass projects in the region.



Southern Regional Strategy Committee

REEO-S represents DoD interests on the Southern Regional Strategy Committee (SRSC), a subcommittee of the national Wildland Fire Executive Council (WFEC). DoD participation assists the committee in understanding unique military requirements, and allows DoD to provide expertise toward development of strategies that will affect its ability to conduct prescribed fire and manage wildland fires on military installations. National and regional strategic plans are final and implementation efforts are ongoing.

Tiered Partnering

Over the course of FY13, REEO-S participated in two Tier III meetings and seven Tier II meetings (Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina). REEO-S and USEPA co-chair the Tier III meetings.

National and Regional Public Policy Organizations

REEOs work with public policy organizations in an effort to identify organizations' legislative and political priorities during early formative stages. During 2013, REEO-S was involved on various levels with the following public policy organizations:

Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice

REEO-S, in coordination with the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Installations and Environment) represents Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps RECs on the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice.

The National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) is a federal advisory committee that provides independent advice, consultation, and recommendations to the USEPA Administrator on matters related to EJ. Under this charter and the Federal Advisory Committee Act regulations, the NEJAC is authorized to conduct public comment sessions to obtain formal input from individuals or representatives of organizations concerned about EJ issues. REEO-S represents the region and OSD as a local representative to the NEJAC, and as such, REEO-S attended the September NEJAC meeting held in Atlanta, GA.

National Council of State Legislatures

The annual Legislative Summit was held in August, and participation was curtailed because of budget restrictions. REEO-S spoke to legislators at the summit held in Atlanta, GA, as OSD requested that the Director address the Task Force on Military and Veterans Affairs and discuss how to work with the military. Over 30 state legislatures were in attendance along with staff and NCSL leadership. Representatives from Alaska and North Carolina requested contact information to work on renewable energy issues in their states. Sessions on education, fiscal policy, health care, immigration, veteran's affairs, elections, and more were the focus of the four-day meeting. REEO-S participation with NCSL will continue to include outreach, education, and coordination.



Challenges

Due to sequestration, the continuing resolution, and overall budget constraints, REEO travel was significantly curtailed, and conference and meeting attendance was drastically reduced. REEO-S was unable to participate in person with the following organizations:

[The Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials](#)

The Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials Mid-Year Meeting convened in April 2013 in Billings, MT. “Maximizing Green Remediation” was the theme, and the meeting drew 162 state and territorial members, federal partners, industry partners, and non-profit partners from 42 states and three territories, as well as three federal agencies and five NGOs.

[Environmental Council of the States](#)

During the September Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Annual Meeting in Arlington, Virginia, ECOS members adopted 12 resolutions regarding topics ranging from Toxic Substances Control Act reform to green infrastructure.

[Gulf of Mexico Alliance](#)

REEO-S represents the Army/DoD within the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, and is part of the National Ocean’s Policy Council.

[Longleaf Alliance](#)

REEO-S continues to partner with the Longleaf Alliance and enhance longleaf recovery efforts on and off our installations.

[National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners](#)

REEO-S participation with National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners involves outreach, education, and coordination with regional and national state utility officials and industry leaders in support of REEO and Army EITF missions.

[National Association of State Energy Officials](#)

The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) affords REEO-S the opportunity to help shape potential programmatic solutions and initiatives. REEO-S maintains contact with NASEO members as the office develops its energy mission and explores opportunities to advertise Army/DOD requirements, programs, and successes.



*Longleaf pine forest
(photo by Chuck Barger, University of Georgia)*



National Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils

REEO-S attends National Coalition of Prescribed Fire Council's meetings to convey DoD's perspective and seek opportunities to collaborate on regional issues, such as air quality regulation, that could unduly impact effectiveness of prescribed fire programs.

REEO-S prepared an article titled, "Prescribed Fire Strategy for the Southeast, The Work of Many Partners" that was published in *Natural Selections*, Spring 2013. The article highlights that through partnership, representatives from DoD, EPA, USFS, USFWS, state agencies, NGOs, and academic institutions collaborated to develop a comprehensive regional strategy for prescribed burning. Implementation of the strategy will provide benefits to numerous partners and the region.

South Carolina/DoD Sustainability Alliance

Southern Governors Association

The annual meeting of the Southern Governors Association brings state chief executives together with private-sector counterparts and members of the international community for high-level discussions on issues central to progress and prosperity of the region. The meeting provides REEO-S the opportunity to reinforce the DoD/Army's presence in the region.

Southern Legislative Conference

The annual meeting held in July 2013 in Mobile, AL, brought together legislators from across the south to discuss topics and concerns from water management and agriculture to regulation of greenhouse gas emissions. This meeting of regional state officials consistently provides innumerable, productive conversations among legislators, and reinforces the DoD/Army's presence and collaborative partnering in the region.

Southern States Energy Board

REEO-S participation with the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) currently involves outreach, education, and coordination with SSEB members in support of Army/DoD missions. SSEB offers access to senior officials from across the region, provides routine snapshots of emerging state-energy issues across the southeast, and allows REEO-S to be part of and help shape potential programmatic solutions and initiatives

Publications

Southern Region Review of Legislative and Regulatory Actions

REEO-S produces the *Southern Review* to provide current information in regard to environmental actions and events throughout Federal EPA Region 4. Published information may be relevant to U.S. Army

Southern Review
of Legislative & Regulatory Actions
October 2013

The U.S. Army Regional Environmental & Energy Office

POST AWARDED LONGLEAF CONSERVATION GRANT
By Anna Hinton

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced \$3.1 million in grants will be awarded to 15 partners of Chattahoochee Fall Line Conservation Partnership in support of assessing the longleaf pine ecosystem, including \$350,000 to aid Fort Benning's restoration efforts.

The announcement was made 4 Sep 13 at Oakdale Meadows Environmental Learning Center. Grants are funded through Longleaf Stewardship Fund, which aims to restore more than 14,000 longleaf pine habitats and 140,000 acres for management practice, technical assistance and education to private landowners.

The Department of Defense assists in funding the program to create buffers around military installations to prevent encroachment from incompatible land uses such as residential development, said Corbin Jester, deputy director of the Army's Regional Environmental and Energy Office. Speaking on behalf of John Genger, acting deputy under secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, Jester said the Department of Defense will add 5,000 acres of new longleaf pine forest and enhance more than 63,000 acres of forests protecting Fort Benning, Tyndall and Eglin Air Force Bases, Naval Air Station Whiting Field and the Military Ocean Terminal at Sunny Point.

Partners of the conservation program include private land owners, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, elected officials and community leaders from West Georgia and East Alabama. According to information provided by the Chattahoochee Fall Line Conservation Partnership, partners will encourage the protection, restoration and management of up to 40,000 acres around Fort Benning explicitly for conservation purposes by the year 2020.

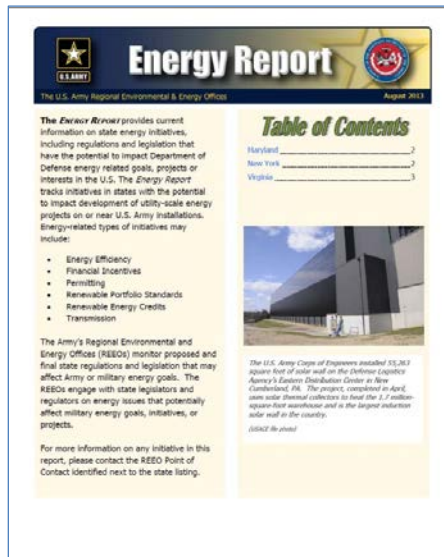
Please visit the US Army's environmental news site for the full text of this article.

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and other military services' activities and operations. The *Southern Review* is designed to alert environmental decision makers, planners, and program managers of developments potentially relevant to overall responsibilities. When used within the framework of ISO14001, the *Southern Review* can satisfy Section 4.3.2 (Legal and other requirements) of ISO14001. The *Southern Review* is electronically distributed to nearly 1,000 readers on a monthly basis.



REEO Energy Report

In the fall of 2012, the REEOs began developing regional *Energy Reports* designed to provide a snapshot of state legislative and regulatory activity related solely to energy issues for EITF. The *Energy Report* tracks energy initiatives in states with the potential to impact development of utility-scale energy projects on or near US Army installations. The offices consolidated the reports early in calendar year 2013, and in March, they issued the first report that covers all states.

Goals and Outlook for 2014

Mission Sustainment

- Climate Change - Monitor and report on state climate change adaptation efforts. Promote Federal Agency Climate Change Adaptation Planning Implementing Instructions in development of state and regional adaptation strategies.
- Cleanup - Continue to support Environmental Restoration Program requirements. Coordinate with regulatory officials and Service personnel with regard to accomplishing installation cleanup goals.
- Energy - Support OSD Energy Siting Clearinghouse and the Army Energy Initiatives Task Force through direct regional representation and engagement.
- IMCOM/ACSIM Integration - Identify, evaluate, and communicate regional regulatory and legislative trends or developments that affect installation operations.
- Natural Resource Issues - Aid in developing and enhancing innovative conservation strategies for the gopher tortoise and other at-risk species so as to preclude the need to list species under the Endangered Species Act.
- Ocean Policy - Participate in Regional Planning Body efforts to collaboratively address planning challenges and coordinate federal agency actions in support of regional objectives in accordance with the Instructions and the Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.



- Smoke Management - Advocate DoD prescribed fire program positions and practices to EPA, state and local officials in order to harmonize air quality regulation with natural resource management. Participate in regional activities of Southeast Regional Strategy Committee and SERPPAS Smoke Management and Air Quality Subcommittee.

Outreach and Advocacy

- Communication - Promote DoD successes and programs through a developed and comprehensive outreach strategy.
- Partnering - Support strategic imperatives, like Net Zero, through early engagement and collaboration within the region. Establish regional partnerships with public and private stakeholders to integrate regional energy planning efforts.
- Relationships - Establish and foster productive relationships with elected and appointed public officials. Ensure the military mission end-state through the pursuit of mutually-beneficial outcomes that enhance environmental and energy programs across the region. Define and inform states' legislative and regulatory initiatives.

Regulatory and Legislative Engagement

- Greenhouse Gases - Monitor state legislation and rules. Coordinate critical developments with headquarters and engage states when necessary.
- Energy Development - Enhance energy security initiatives through engagement with state officials to emphasize the need for state regulations and utility policies that encourage development of public-private energy projects in the region.
- Regulatory Containment - Track, monitor, shape regulatory activities related to environmental matters that affect DoD programs and policies (i.e., federal citations in state permits, cleanup, and storm water fees).
- Water Use - Monitor state legislation and regulations for water use and planning to evaluate how they might affect the military mission.

Partnerships

- ASTSWMO - Maintain activity with this member-driven organization whose mission is to enhance and promote effective state and territorial programs for waste and materials management, encourage environmentally sustainable practices, and affect relevant national waste and materials management policies.
- EJ IWG - Collaborate with regional EJ IWG to improve interagency coordination and develop processes and procedures to allow communities



that are experiencing environmental issues an effective means to communicate with federal agencies.

- SRSC - Collaborate strategic activities on the regional, state, and local level to enhance use of prescribed fire on DoD installations while addressing the negative perceptions of fire on people, property, and natural resources.
- SALCC - Collaborate with conservationists and scientists to develop a conservation “blueprint” and create a forum to leverage conservation actions and conservation funds throughout the SALCC region.
- SENRLG - Maintain membership with network of regional directors from 12 federal agencies to promote cooperation and collaboration on regional natural resource issues.
- SERPPAS - Continue active role in this state and federal agency partnership that promotes collaboration in making resource-use decisions supporting conservation of natural resources, working lands, and national defense.
- Tier II and Tier III Restoration Partnerships - Coordinate/encourage participation in tiered working groups designated to facilitate progress of restoration, munitions response, and compliance-related cleanup on military installations and at formerly used defense sites.

Regional Perspective

- Provide continuity through maintaining a regional presence and continued communication between installations, state and federal agencies in the face of persistent organizational changes, BRAC, and other initiatives.