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Description of document:	General Services Administration (GSA) notes from the meetings of the Interagency Sustainability Working Group (ISWG) 2019
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Posted date:	16-May-2022
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May 6, 2022

This letter is in response to your U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request number (GSA-2020-000070), submitted on October 19, 2019, in which you requested the following:

"A copy of the meeting agenda, meeting minutes and handouts from each meeting of the Interagency Sustainability Working Group (ISWG) which is led from GSA's Office of High Performance Buildings. You may limit this request to meetings held between April 10, 2019 and present."

Enclosed please find the documents responsive to your request. Please note, since minutes are not taken for ISWG meetings, we have included copies of the follow-up messages to the Federal Green Building (FedGB) listserv). These messages are brief summaries which include links to the meeting presentations and materials.

In processing your request, GSA has withheld the cell phone numbers of private individuals and sensitive email addresses pursuant to the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). This was done because public disclosure of this information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

As we have redacted information referenced in the above paragraph(s) with the aforementioned FOIA exemption, this technically constitutes a partial denial of your FOIA request. You have the right to appeal the denial of the information being withheld. You may submit an appeal online at the following link (https://www.foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home) or in writing to the following address:

U.S. General Services Administration FOIA Requester Service Center (LG) 1800 F Street, NW Washington, DC 20405

Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of the response to your request. In addition, your appeal must contain a brief statement of the reasons why the requested information should be released. Please enclose a copy of your initial request and this denial. Both the appeal letter and envelope or

> U.S General Services Administration 1800 F. Street, NW Washington, DC 20405 Toll Free: (855)-675-3642 Fax: (202) 501-2727

online appeal submission should be prominently marked, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

This completes our action on this FOIA request. Should you have any questions, please contact Ken Sandler at (202) 280-9670 or by email at ken.sandler@gsa.gov. You may also contact the GSA FOIA Public Liaison, Seth Greenfeld at (202) 501-4560 or by email at seth.greenfeld@gsa.gov for any additional assistance and to discuss any aspect of your FOIA request.

Sincerely,

Travis Lewis

Travis Lewis FOIA Program Manager Office of the General Counsel General Services Administration

Enclosure(s)

INTERAGENCY SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP MEETING Thursday, March 7, 2019 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. EST GSA Central Office Building, 1800 F St. NW, Washington DC, Room 1408

Remote Attendance:

- WebEx: (b) (6) Meeting ID: (b) (6) Password: highperformance
- Call*: (b) (6) Participant code: (b) (6) *Recommended log-on process for WebEx participants: 1) Open WebEx URL, then 2) choose "Call Me" option when prompted to choose Audio Mode. **Reminder: press *6 to unmute yourself, *6 to re-mute; keep phone muted when not speaking, and please do <u>not</u> put the conference call on hold

AGENDA

FEDERAL OFFICIALS ONLY SESSION 1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

- 1:00 1:05 Opening Remarks and Updates Co-chairs: Nicolas Baker, DOE Federal Energy Management Program Ann Kosmal, GSA Office of Federal High-Performance Buildings
- 1:05 1:20 Energy Exchange 2019 Update Nicolas Baker, DOE-FEMP
- 1:20 1:45 Building Rating Systems for Resilience Ann Kosmal, GSA-OFHPB
- 1:45 2:05 Agency Updates
- 2:05 2:30 Networking Break

OPEN SESSION 2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

- 2:30 3:00 Liquid in the Rack: Liquid Cooling Your Data Centers Dale Sartor, LBNL; and Otto Van Geet, NREL
- 3:00 3:30 Smart Labs Ventilation Management Program Otto Van Geet, NREL; and Tom Smith, 3Flow
- 3:30 Adjourn

NEXT ISWG MEETING: May 16, 2019

Nearest Metro Station: Farragut West

Building Directions: From the Farragut West Metro (18th street exit), walk straight down 18th Street to F Street. The building will be located on the right-hand side. Please check in with the security desk upon arrival. Walk straight down the middle hallway and take a left to reach the suite of conference rooms on the right.

Dear FedGB:

Thank you to all who joined us for the March 2019 Interagency Sustainability Working Group (ISWG) meeting.

Slides from the March meeting will be available on the <u>ISWG section of SFTool.gov</u> (Sustainable Facilities Tool) as soon as possible. In the meantime, if you would like to receive PDFs of the March 2019 ISWG slides, email Matt Roney at (b) (6). Please visit the SFTool site for past ISWG presentations.

Please also mark your calendars for the next ISWG meeting, May 16, 2019.

Speaker and presentation information:

Energy Exchange 2019 Update

Nicolas Baker, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Management Program (DOE-FEMP) – <u>Nicolas.Baker@EE.Doe.Gov</u>.

For more information, visit the Energy Exchange 2019 website, <u>https://www.energy-exchange.com/</u>. To register, visit <u>https://www.energy-exchange.com/registration/</u>.

Building Rating Systems for Resilience *

Ann Kosmal, GSA Office of Federal High-Performance Buildings (GSA-OFHPB) – <u>ann.kosmal@gsa.gov</u>

*No slides will be available for this presentation.

For more information, see the U.S. Resiliency Council website (<u>http://usrc.org/building-rating-system</u>); and the U.S. Green Building Council's RELi 2.0 Rating Guidelines for Resilient Design and Construction (<u>https://www.usgbc.org/resources/reli-20-rating-guidelines-resilient-design-and-construction</u>). See also pp. 110-122 of the Government Accountability Office's 2019 High Risk List, available at <u>https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-19-157sp</u>.

Liquid in the Rack: Liquid Cooling Your Data Centers

Dale Sartor, Laurence Berkeley National Laboratory (<u>dasartor@lbl.gov</u>); and Otto Van Geet, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (<u>Otto.VanGeet@nrel.gov</u>)

For more information, visit the U.S. Department of Energy's Center of Expertise for Energy

Efficiency in Data Centers, hosted by LBNL at <u>https://datacenters.lbl.gov/;</u> and visit the ESIF page on NREL's website, at <u>https://www.nrel.gov/esif/</u>.

Laboratory Ventilation Management Program

Otto Van Geet, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (<u>Otto.VanGeet@nrel.gov</u>); and Tom Smith of 3Flow (b) (6).

For more information, visit the DOE Better Buildings Smart Labs Accelerator website, <u>https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/accelerators/smart-labs</u>.

Highlights and information from the meeting:

- The FEMP Re-Tuning Challenge Webinar has been rescheduled for April 4, 2019. To register, visit this updated GoToWebinar link: <u>https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5202986176675814403</u>. If you have questions, please contact FEMP's Nael Nmair, <u>Nael.Nmair@ee.doe.gov</u>.
- In late 2018, GSA's Office of Leasing issued guidance (https://www.gsa.gov/cdnstatic/Real_Estate_Acquisitions/Leasing_Alert_18-10_Modification_to_Energy_Star_Requirement_11_15_18_c.pdf) regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's temporary suspension of ENERGY STAR® certifications and how this affects GSA leases, which are statutorily required to earn the ENERGY STAR® label. If you have questions, please contact GSA Leasing's Alexandra Kosmides, <u>alexandra.kosmides@gsa.gov</u>.
- Asad Gilani of the Department of Veterans Affairs encouraged federal agencies to participate in FEMP's DOE Scholars Program for Veterans, which places veterans in summer internships at agencies in the Washington, DC, area. To learn more, visit <u>https://www.energy.gov/eere/femp/federal-energy-management-program-veteran-internships</u>, or email the DOE Scholars Program at <u>doescholars@orau.org</u>.

Upcoming events of potential interest (mention does not imply endorsement):

- The 2019 Sustainable Water Management Conference is in Tucson, AZ, from March 31 to April 3. Registration here: <u>https://www.awwa.org/Events-Education/Sustainable-Water-Management</u>.
- The Spring 2019 Federal Utility Partnership Working Group (FUPWG) Seminar is in San Diego, CA, from May 2 to 3. Registration here: <u>https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-spring-fupwg-seminar-registration-56587595020</u>. The cut-off for FUPWG hotel room block reservations is Friday, March 29.
- FEMP will hold a two-day Comprehensive Utility Energy Service Contract (UESC) Training in San Diego just prior to FUPWG. Registration for that is here: http://www.wbdg.org/continuing-education/femp-courses/fempws04302019.
- The 2019 Joint Engineer Training Conference & Expo will be in Tampa, FL, from May 7 to 9. Registration here: <u>https://www.samejetc.org/registration_information.cfm</u>.
- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Energy Worldwide Energy Conference is in National Harbor, MD, from May 20 to 22. Visit <u>http://www.wwenergyconference.com/</u>

to learn more and to register.

• The Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council Annual Summit will be held in Portland, OR, from May 20 to 22. Registration here: https://www.regonline.com/registration/Checkin.aspx?EventID=2537979.

Take care, Nic

Nicolas Baker, LEED AP Legislative Affairs |Training |Outreach | Sustainability Federal Energy Management Program U.S Department of Energy 202-586-8215 nicolas.baker@ee.doe.gov

INTERAGENCY SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP MEETING Thursday, May 16, 2019 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. EDT GSA Central Office Building, 1800 F St. NW, Washington DC, Room 1408

Remote Attendance:

- WebEx: (b) (6) Meeting ID: (b) (6) Password: highperformance
- Call*: 1 (b) (6) Participant code: (b) (6)
 *Recommended log-on process for WebEx participants: 1) Open WebEx URL, then 2) choose "Call Me" option when prompted to choose Audio Mode.
 **Reminder: press *6 to unmute yourself, *6 to re-mute; keep phone muted when not speaking, and please do not put the conference call on hold

AGENDA

FEDERAL OFFICIALS ONLY SESSION 1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

- 1:00 1:05 Opening Remarks and Updates Co-chairs: Nicolas Baker, DOE Federal Energy Management Program Ann Kosmal, GSA Office of Federal High-Performance Buildings
- 1:05 1:25 GSA Recommendations: High-performance Building Certification Systems Patrick Dale, GSA-OFHPB
- 1:25 1:55 E.O. 13834 Implementing Instructions Discussion Dee Siegel, White House Council on Environmental Quality
- 1:55 2:15 Agency Updates
- 2:15 2:30 Networking Break

OPEN SESSION 2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

- 2:30 2:40 Energy Exchange Planned Tracks and FEMP Workshops Nicolas Baker, DOE FEMP
- 2:40 3:00 Solar Decathlon Program Updates Holly Carr, DOE Building Technologies Office
- 3:00 3:30 Laboratory Benchmarking Tool Overview Alison Farmer, Ph.D., kW Engineering; and Paul Mathew, Ph.D., Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

3:30 Adjourn

NEXT ISWG MEETING: July 25, 2019

Nearest Metro Station: Farragut West

Building Directions: From the Farragut West Metro (18th street exit), walk straight down 18th Street to F Street. The building will be located on the right-hand side. Please check in with the security desk upon arrival. Walk straight down the middle hallway and take a left to reach the suite of conference rooms on the right.

Dear FedGB:

Thank you to all who joined us for the May 2019 Interagency Sustainability Working Group (ISWG) meeting.

Slides from the May meeting will be available on the <u>ISWG section of SFTool.gov</u> (Sustainable Facilities Tool) as soon as possible. In the meantime, if you would like to receive PDFs of the May 2019 ISWG slides, email Matt Roney at (b) (6). Please visit the SFTool site for past ISWG presentations.

Please also mark your calendars for the next ISWG meeting, July 25, 2019.

Speaker and presentation information:

High-Performance Building Certification Systems Review

Patrick Dale, GSA Office of Federal High-Performance Buildings (GSA-OFHPB) – patrick.dale@gsa.gov

For more information, see the GSA HPBCS Review website at <u>https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/organization/office-of-governmentwide-policy/office-of-federal-highperformance-buildings/policy/high-performance-building-certification-system-review.</u>

Executive Order 13834 Implementing Instructions Discussion *

Dee Siegel, White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Office of Federal Sustainability (OFS)

*No slides available.

For more information, see the Executive Order at <u>https://www.sustainability.gov/eo-efo.html</u> and review the Implementing Instructions at <u>https://www.sustainability.gov/pdfs/eo13834_instructions.pdf</u>.

Energy Exchange 2019 Update

Nicolas Baker, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Management Program (DOE-FEMP) – <u>Nicolas.Baker@EE.Doe.Gov</u>.

For more information, visit the Energy Exchange 2019 website, <u>https://www.energy-exchange.com/</u>. To register, visit <u>https://www.energy-exchange.com/registration/</u>. And the

Agenda-at-a-Glance is available at <u>https://www.energy-exchange.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-at-Glance-EEx2019-v5.pdf</u>.

Solar Decathlon 2020 Briefing

Holly Carr, DOE Building Technologies Office (BTO) - holly.carr@ee.doe.gov

For more information, visit the DOE Solar Decathlon site: <u>https://www.solardecathlon.gov/</u>.

Laboratory Benchmarking Tool Overview

Alison Farmer, Ph.D., kW Engineering ((b) (6)); and Paul Mathew, Ph.D., Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) (<u>pamathew@lbl.gov</u>)

The speakers gave a live demonstration of the tool during their presentation. For more information, and to try it out for yourself, visit the Laboratory Benchmarking Tool at https://lbt.i2sl.org/.

Highlights and information from the meeting:

1. Key points from the EO 13834 Implementing Instructions presentation:

- a. CEQ published the Implementing Instructions on April 30, 2019.
- b. CEQ will continue to measure sustainable buildings as both the percentage of buildings qualifying and the percentage of gross square feet (GSF) qualifying. The threshold for GSF—previously greater than or equal to 5,000 GSF—is now greater than or equal to 10,000 GSF. (See <u>Implementing Instructions</u> (PDF), p. 18)
 - i. Sustainable buildings of less than 10,000 GSF can still be counted, i.e., agencies will get credit for them.
- c. "GSA will review and, where appropriate, issue updated standards and practices to promote Federal sustainable buildings in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 17092(c)." See this and other Implementation Actions on p. 20 of the Implementing Instructions (PDF).
- d. If you have questions about these items, please email Nic Baker, <u>Nicolas.Baker@EE.Doe.Gov</u>.

2. The 2019 <u>Federal Environmental Symposium</u> call for presentation abstracts has been extended to May 31 at 11:59 p.m. EST. Visit this <u>FedCenter link</u> to submit your proposal. The event will be held at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD, from October 30 to 31.

3. DOE BTO recently released two funding opportunity announcements. Visit the <u>BTO site</u> to review open funding opportunities.

4. USDA's Cathy Broad invites agencies to begin an informal task team dedicated to sharing best practices, lessons learned, challenges, etc., for Guiding Principles compliance. If you would like to participate or learn more, please email her at <u>catherine.broad@usda.gov</u>.

5. David Wiley of the Forest Service invites suggestions for a moderator for the civilian agencies panel at Energy Exchange. If you have ideas, please email him at <u>davidrwiley@fs.fed.us</u>.

6. If your agency would like to partner with the DOE Solar Decathlon—as a sponsor, volunteer, student team event host, etc.—email Holly Carr at <u>holly.carr@ee.doe.gov</u>.

Upcoming events of potential interest (mention does not imply endorsement):

ACEEE Health, Environment and Energy webinar series presents "Designing Buildings that Improve Occupant Health," on May 30 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. EDT. Registration available <u>here</u>.

The 2019 <u>ASHRAE Annual Conference</u> will be held in Kansas City, MO, from June 22 to 26. Registration <u>here</u> (you will need an ASHRAE login).

The 2019 DOE <u>Better Buildings, Better Plants Summit</u> is in Arlington, VA, from July 10 to 11. You can register <u>here</u>, and learn about the summit's "showcase building tour" opportunities in the DC area <u>here</u>.

The New Advanced Clean Energy Summit (<u>ACES 2019</u>) will be held in Denver, CO, from September 16 to 17. Registration available <u>here</u>.

The <u>Microgrid and DERS Summit</u> will be held in Alexandria, VA, from September 17 to 18. Registration <u>here</u>.

The 2019 <u>ASHRAE Building Performance Analysis Conference</u> will be in Denver, CO, from September 25 to 27. Registration <u>here</u> (you will need an ASHRAE login).

Take care, Nic

INTERAGENCY SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP MEETING Thursday, July 25, 2019 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. EDT GSA Central Office Building, 1800 F St. NW, Washington DC, Room 1151

Please RSVP to Matt Roney (b) (6) (6) by 7/23/19 COB to attend remotely or in-person.

Remote Attendance:

WebEx: (b) (6) Meeting ID: (b) (6) Password: highperformance

Call*: 1 (b) (6) Participant code: (b) (6) *Recommended log-on process for WebEx participants: 1) Open WebEx URL, then 2) choose "Call Me" option when prompted to choose Audio Mode. **Reminder: press *6 to unmute yourself, *6 to re-mute; keep phone muted when not speaking, and please do <u>not</u> put the conference call on hold

AGENDA

FEDERAL OFFICIALS ONLY SESSION 1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

1:00 – 1:10	Opening Remarks and Updates Co-chairs: Nicolas Baker, DOE Federal Energy Management Program Ann Kosmal, GSA Office of Federal High-Performance Buildings
1:10 – 1:20	Energy Exchange 2019 Final Updates! Co-chair: Nicolas Baker, DOE Federal Energy Management Program
1:20 – 1:55	 Open Discussion Agency Strategies and Solutions for Meeting Federal Sustainability Requirements and Directives ISWG Program Review Moderated by the Co-chairs

- 1:55 2:15 Agency Updates
- 2:15 2:30 Networking Break

OPEN SESSION 2:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

- 2:30 3:00 GBI's Green Globes and Guiding Principles Compliance Jenna Morgan Hamilton and Micah Thomas, The Green Building Initiative
- 3:00 3:30 The Latest on LEED 4.1 Corey Enck, U.S. Green Building Council

3:30 Adjourn

Nearest Metro Station: Farragut West

Building Directions: From the Farragut West Metro (18th street exit), walk straight down 18th Street to F Street. The building will be located on the right-hand side. Please check in with the security desk upon arrival. Walk straight down the middle hallway and take a left to reach the suite of conference rooms on the right.

Dear FedGB:

Thank you to all who joined us for the July 2019 Interagency Sustainability Working Group (ISWG) meeting.

Slides from the July meeting are available on the <u>ISWG section of SFTool.gov</u> (Sustainable Facilities Tool) at the links below. Please visit the SFTool site for past ISWG presentations as well. If you're looking for a past presentation and can't seem to find it, please send a request to Matt Roney at (b) (6). (Note that Matt's email has changed.)

Ournext ISWG meeting will be in October – See you in FY2020!

Speaker and presentation information:

Energy Exchange 2019 Final Updates

Nicolas Baker, U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Energy Management Program (DOE-FEMP) – <u>Nicolas.Baker@EE.Doe.Gov</u>

Slides (PDF)

For more information, visit the Energy Exchange 2019 website, <u>https://www.energy-exchange.com/</u>. To register, visit <u>https://www.energy-exchange.com/registration/</u>. And the Agenda-at-a-Glance is available at <u>https://www.energy-exchange.com/wp-content/uploads/Agenda-at-Glance-EEx2019-v5.pdf</u>.

Open Discussion: Agency Strategies and Solutions for Meeting Federal Sustainability Requirements and Directives; ISWG Program Review*

Ann Kosmal, GSA Office of Federal High-Performance Buildings (Moderator) - ann.kosmal@gsa.gov

*No slides available.

GBI's Green Globes and Guiding Principles Compliance

Jenna Morgan Hamilton, Green Building Initiative (GBI) – (b) (6)

Slides (<u>PDF</u>)

For more information, visit GBI's Green Globes (<u>https://thegbi.org/green-globes-certification/</u>) and Guiding Principles Compliance (<u>https://thegbi.org/guiding-principles-compliance-</u> <u>certification/</u>) webpages. In addition, GBI will host two upcoming feds-only webinars:

"Introduction to GBI's Green Globes and GPC Webinar" September 18 at 1pm Eastern: Registration at <u>https://zoom.us/s/158025661</u>

"Updates to the Green Globes Programs" December 3 at 1pm Eastern: Registration at <u>https://zoom.us/s/754474822</u>.

LEED v4.1

Corey Enck, U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) – (b) (6) Slides (PDF)

Visit USGBC's LEED v4.1 (https://new.usgbc.org/leed-v41) website for more information.

Highlights and information from the meeting:

1. Marking the launch of its Deep Decarbonization Initiative, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine hosted a workshop entitled "Deployment of Deep Decarbonization Technologies" on July 22-23 in Washington, DC.

a. In case of interest, you can see the event details here: <u>http://sites.nationalacademies.org/DEPS/BEES/DEPS_192385</u> And the full agenda here: <u>http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/depssite/documents/webpage/deps_192594.pdf</u>.

b. Recordings of the webcast will be posted within 2-3 weeks after the event.

2. DOE-FEMP has issued the "Assisting Federal Facilities with Energy Conservation Technologies (AFFECT) 2019" Federal Agency Call (FAC):

a. FEMP anticipates individual awards of between approximately \$200,000 and \$1 million, adding up to approximately \$3.5 million in all.

b. Interested agencies must register and submit materials via the EERE Exchange website: https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/default.aspx#FoaIdb72fe43e-fbe9-4c0d-bbc7-8f4761cdd853. This page contains a full description of the FAC as well as supporting documents.

c. Please direct any questions to <u>AFFECT2019@ee.doe.gov</u>.

3. Energy Exchange 2019 is upon us! Everything you need to know for the event in Denver, CO, August 20-22, is at the Energy Exchange website, <u>https://www.energy-exchange.com</u>.

a. Don't forget about the free pre-conference workshops on Monday, August 19; you must register for those via the FEMP website: <u>https://www.energy.gov/eere/femp/2019-energy-exchange-pre-event-workshop-series</u>. The links there will take you to the Whole Building Design Guide (WBDG) website to complete registration.

b. One ISWG-relevant session that provides a useful follow-on to the July meeting presentations is Track 3, Session 3: "Federal Sustainable Design Approaches." It includes speakers from USGBC / Green Business Certification Inc (GBCI) and GBI. You can find more information on this and all other technical sessions at <u>https://www.energy-exchange.com/training-agenda/</u>.

4. The open discussion portion of the meeting produced very thoughtful conversation, insights, and ideas for how FEMP, GSA, and the ISWG community can better help agencies meet their sustainability goals. We extend a heartfelt "Thank you!" to everyone who participated in the room

and online.

a. If you could not attend the meeting, did not want to share in the group setting, or thought of something afterward, and have suggestions for ways ISWG can work better for your agency, please submit them to Nic Baker (Nicolas.Baker@EE.Doe.Gov) and Ann Kosmal (ann.kosmal@gsa.gov).

Upcoming events of potential interest (mention does not imply endorsement):

- The ACEEE <u>2019 Summer Study on Energy Efficiency in Industry</u> is in Portland, OR, from August 12 to 14. Registration available <u>here</u>.
- The New Advanced Clean Energy Summit (ACES 2019) will be held in Denver, CO, from September 16 to 17. Registration available <u>here</u>.
- The <u>Microgrid and DERS Summit</u> will be held in Alexandria, VA, from September 17 to 18. Registration <u>here</u>.
- The 2019 <u>ASHRAE Building Performance Analysis Conference</u> will be in Denver, CO, from September 25 to 27. Registration <u>here</u> (you will need an ASHRAE login).

Take care, Nic