
Press Release

Southern States Energy Board

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Musgrove Leads Regional Forum on Energy Security

(Biloxi, Mississippi) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove serves as the Chairman of the Southern States Energy Board, a regional organization that includes southern governors and state legislators from 18 states. In that role, he will keynote a high-level, regional meeting of state, federal and industry officials at the Beau Rivage on Thursday and Friday. His “Chairman’s Conference” focuses on “Energy Security and the Changing Role of State Officials” since the destruction of the World Trade Center last September 11.

“In developing our vision for this conference, it is clear that America’s security is a national priority for all of our states,” said Musgrove. “The increased potential for terrorist activity in our country presents a frightening new threat to our critical infrastructure, particularly our power generation facilities and our electric transmission system. Mississippi is prepared to meet these challenges and we need to ensure that other states are engaged as well.”

A key element of the two-day meeting is to define priority actions on energy, environment and transportation coordination in the South. Musgrove believes all three areas are interrelated. “With the growing number of vehicles on our highways, we continue to increase our use of imported oil. At the same time, air pollution has escalated due to the challenges involved in economic growth as well as continued vehicle emissions. It makes sense to examine these energy, environment and transportation issues in a coordinated fashion,” said the Governor.

The Southern States Energy Board’s regional Committee on Coal and Advanced Power Systems also will be meeting at the Beau Rivage in conjunction with this Forum. This group examines new opportunities to utilize coal as a key fossil fuel while protecting the environment through new technologies that minimize pollution. Mr. Wilbur Dees, Director of Power Delivery for Mississippi Power Company, serves as Chairman of the Committee.
