

Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Advisory (RE&EEAC) Committee Meeting

February 12, 2014

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee (RE&EEAC or Committee) was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Ryan Mulholland, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), who welcomed the participants and facilitated introductions. Mr. Mulholland highlighted the tremendous work of the Committee over the past year and provided a recap of news from across the U.S. Government in support of RE&EE exporters since the Committee's previous meeting.

Planning for Presentation on Recommendations

John Smirnow, Committee Chair, Solar Energy Industries Association

Mr. Smirnow led a discussion aimed at preparing the Committee for its presentation of 14 approved recommendations to acting Deputy Secretary Patrick Gallagher. The Committee agreed to allow each subcommittee chair time to discuss their subcommittee's recommendations. A PowerPoint presentation was approved to visually express the recommendations as well.

Mr. Smirnow noted that Gordon Brinser was no longer with Solar World and therefore could not be on the RE&EE Advisory Committee going forward. Mr. Smirnow thanked Mr. Brinser for his service, as well as David Rosenberg, who also is no longer with the Committee.

Discussion of Next Steps Future Recommendations

John Smirnow, Committee Chair, Solar Energy Industries Association

The Committee then turned to a discussion of its next steps and the creation of future recommendations to be developed in the remaining months of its charter. Jennifer von Bismarck, the chair of the Committee's Finance Subcommittee noted that her committee needed to develop actionable recommendations and would spend the remaining months of the RE&EE Advisory Committee's charter seeking to fine-tune recommendations that would be both meaningful and impactful. She urged the rest of the Committee to also focus on developing financing-specific recommendations – something that the Committee agreed was important.

Several Committee members highlighted that the Committee's work had not focused as much as it could on ExIm and OPIC financing, suggesting that this was an area of distinct interest within the RE&EE industry. Members also noted that financing-related issues consistently impact U.S. competitiveness and that the U.S. Government could do a better job promoting U.S. competitiveness to international financial institutions that fund and finance key renewable energy projects in emerging markets.

As a result, the Committee agreed to refocus its four subcommittees. The U.S. Competitiveness subcommittee will seek to develop recommendations related to ExIm and OPIC financing. The Trade Policy subcommittee will focus its work on multi-lateral development banks and other international institutions. The Finance subcommittee will work to create recommendations related to new products that could interest private investors. And the Trade Promotion subcommittee will turn its attention to the role of government policy in promoting RE&EE financing. Each of the subcommittees agreed to hold a call in the next 2-3 weeks to begin the process of developing recommendations.

Presentation of Recommendations

Dr. Patrick Gallagher, NIST Director Performing the Duties of the Deputy Secretary of Commerce

The Committee met with Dr. Gallagher to offer 14 consensus recommendations on improving the export competitiveness of the U.S. RE&EE sector. The presentation lasted slightly over an hour. Dr. Gallagher thanked the Committee for their service and noted that many of the recommendations seemed highly impactful and achievable. He vowed to support their implementation whenever possible, nothing that they fit well within Secretary Pritzker's priorities. The Committee made the following recommendations. Each recommendation was connected with a fact sheet noting specific background information, the Committee's metric for tracking success, and the recommendation's intended impact.

Recommendation 1: The Secretary of Commerce should direct ITA to work with DOE/NREL, the Department of State and other interagency partners to further develop an internal catalog of U.S.-manufactured renewable energy and energy efficiency products and services for use by U.S. facilities overseas. The Secretary should work with the State Department and military branches to ensure that access to the guide is provided for procurement officials and contractors and others working on procurement of RE&EE items.

Recommendation 2: The Department of Commerce should recommend that the World Customs Organization (WCO) establish specific Harmonized System (HS) tariff codes for renewable energy and energy efficiency equipment, components, and products.

Recommendation 3: The Secretary of Commerce should work with USTR to bolster and accelerate efforts to eliminate or reduce import duties or tariffs on renewable energy and energy efficiency products and services by seeking to expand voluntary regional initiatives like the APEC Environmental Goods and Services Agreement into global and/or mandatory trade pacts.

Recommendation 4: The Secretary of Commerce should encourage USTR to press

ahead with negotiations on binding plurilateral or multilateral agreements to reduce localization barriers that inhibit trade in renewable energy and energy efficiency goods and services.

- Recommendation 5:** The Department of Commerce should work with USTR, the State Department, and industry to increase its monitoring and publicizing of local content requirements and other localization barriers in newly proposed renewable energy and energy efficiency programs (such as FITs, RFPs and Renewable Energy Portfolio requirements) in key export markets. When barriers are identified, appropriate action should be taken to effectively reduce or eliminate barriers before they impact U.S. renewable energy and energy efficiency exporters.
- Recommendation 6:** The Secretary of Commerce should direct ITA to more strategically focus trade missions with the input of ITA's Renewable Energy Top Prospects Study. If multi-sector missions are scheduled, they should include only complementary sectors.
- Recommendation 7:** The Secretary of Commerce should direct ITA to work with USDITA, USAID, and the State Department to develop country and regional renewable energy and energy efficiency Integrated Resource Plans, which would support local development and U.S. export efforts.
- Recommendation 8:** The Department of Commerce should facilitate briefings for the U.S. Executive Directors of the Multilateral Agencies and the staffs at these institutions with U.S. renewable energy and energy efficiency industry representatives to highlight current U.S. industry capabilities and competitiveness.
- Recommendation 9:** The Department of Commerce should work with industry and other technical experts to increase education and training for the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, the Economic Development Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and other relevant agencies about the U.S. renewable energy and energy efficiency industries and their competitiveness.
- Recommendation 10:** The Secretary of Commerce should direct ITA to work with the Department of Energy's Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative (CEMI) to establish a U.S. Clean Energy Manufacturing and Distributed Energy for the World

(CEMDEW) Public Private Partnership to promote U.S. RE&EE export competitiveness.

- Recommendation 11:** The Department of Commerce should seek to develop and integrate a multi-year, interagency comprehensive competitiveness roadmap for the RE&EE industries, based on input from the DOE RE&EE industry technology memos and in collaboration with industry representatives. The process should bring together, expand on, utilize, and leverage existing and new programs across relevant agencies. This roadmap should outline strategies necessary to develop RE&EE-friendly domestic market conditions and support the global competitiveness of domestic industries.
- Recommendation 12:** Promotion efforts through the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Export Initiative should be broadened to include goods and services intended to increase power infrastructure resiliency and address risks to public infrastructure.
- Recommendation 13:** The Secretary of Commerce should direct ITA to create a standard U.S. Country Commercial Guide template for sector analysis with common terminology, data points, and research references across markets. Where energy is identified as a leading sector, the template should include information on energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities, best practices for U.S. exporters, and contact information for key government and regulatory officials. An assessment of U.S. manufacturing and service provider capability and competitiveness should be reflected in the listed “Leading Sectors for U.S. Export and Investment” section through consultation with ITA industry analysts, industry representatives, and other relevant agency initiatives such as the DOE’s Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative.
- Recommendation 14:** An interagency effort led by the Department of Commerce, with support from the Departments of State and Energy, should develop planning standards and policy options to ensure that international transmission investments consider and support U.S. RE&EE exports. The Secretary should urge that the standards developed be utilized by U.S. government agencies and representatives promoting RE&EE exports or when considering transmission investments.

Following the presentation, Deputy Secretary Gallagher again thanked the Committee for their work, saying he was “Optimistic because of the Committee’s focus on actionable

recommendations.” He noted that he was “committed to acting on them; and that the recommendation’s impact will be broader than just the Department of Commerce.”

Public Comment Period

There were no comments made during the public comment period.

Committee Business

The Committee agreed to host three future meetings under its current charter. The full Committee will meet again April 8, 2014, in Washington, DC. The meeting will be hosted by the Solar Energy Industries Association and offer a call-in line to facilitate participation from members outside of Washington, DC. The Committee will host a conference call to consider future recommendations on May 15, 2014. And it will hold its final meeting to present additional recommendations on June 12, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36pm.