

**Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2011
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, DC**

Committee Members Participating:

Karl Gawell, Chair	David Rosenberg
Edward Lowe	Joey Neuhoff
Jeffrey D'Souza	Jason Hartke
Jessica Isaacs	Mohammed Alam
Andy Kruse	Trey Taylor
John Smirnow	Tamara Nall
Brendan Herron	Terry Fry
Frank Wolak	Jim Crouse
Linda Church Ciocci	James Bradbury
Martha Duggan	Nicole Poindexter
Bryan Ashley	Asif Ansari

Committee Members Absent:

Mary Burgoon
John Collett
William Gleason
Doug Miller
Scott Sklar
Michael Weaver
Tom Weirich

Other Participants:

Brian O'Hanlon, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. Department of Commerce
Ryan Mulholland, U.S. Department of Commerce
Catherine Vial, U.S. Department of Commerce
Jennifer Derstine, U.S. Department of Commerce
Cora Dickson, U.S. Department of Commerce
Michelle O'Neill, Deputy Under Secretary for International Trade, U.S. Department of Commerce
Henry Kelly, Acting Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy
Norman Bishop, Senior Vice President, Knight Piesold and Co.
Matt Horowitz, Manager for Government Affairs, Solar Energy Industries Association
Jennivine Kwan, Vice President of International Operations, U.S. Green Building Council

Others in Attendance:

Blake Bisson, American Superconductor Corporation
Maria Amodio, International Technology and Trade Association

Lawrence Molloy, Foundation for Geothermal Innovation
Julia Rotondo
Doug Norlen, Policy Director, Pacific Environment
Keith Curtis, International Commercial Service, U.S. Department of Commerce
Patrick Kerrigan, Senior Advisor to Secretary Locke

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by the Chair, Karl Gawell. Members of the RE&EE Advisory Committee (Committee) briefly introduced themselves. At 9:19 a.m., Gawell delivered an overview of the agenda.

The first item of business was a Memorandum from Gawell and Tom Weirich, Vice-Chair, regarding the Proposed Direction for Full Committee and Subcommittee Interaction & Procedure, dated January 26, 2011, and circulated to the Committee via email on that date. During the December 7, 2010 meeting, the Committee agreed to establish three Subcommittees: Domestic Policy Subcommittee, Chaired by Edward Lowe; Trade Policy Subcommittee, Chaired by John Smirnow; Trade Promotion Subcommittee, Chaired by Jeffrey D'Souza. Brian O'Hanlon, the Committee's Designated Federal Officer (DFO) is required to join every meeting, both at the Subcommittee and Full Committee levels. The Memo establishes that Gawell and Weirich are essentially ex-officio members of each Subcommittee, tasked to listen in on all discussions.

The Memo identifies the Full Committee as the forum for group discussion, to get input, and to ask questions. The Full Committee provides possible points of action for the Subcommittees to follow up on, but most of the groundwork will happen at the Subcommittee level. The Full Committee should take time at and during each meeting to point out where the Committee can make constructive recommendations to Secretary Locke. Gawell reiterated that the Committee does not have to wait to put out a final report, but can move forward with actionable items as they arise to meet the Committee's charge as laid out in the charter.

The Committee discussed holding future meetings in locations other than DC. It was decided that the Committee would explore holding its next meeting scheduled for June 1 in New York and the meeting scheduled for September 15 in San Francisco.

It was noted that finance appears to rise to the top of the RE&EE interest, and was identified by a number of Committee members as a key issue for RE&EE technologies. It was proposed that the group work within the Subcommittee structure to meet with finance-related organizations. This would serve to educate Subcommittee members on finance issues and lay the groundwork for discussion at the next Full Committee meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

Subcommittee Chairs John Smirnow (Trade Policy), Jeffrey D'Souza (Trade Promotion) and Edward Lowe (Domestic Policy) presented to the Committee work done to date and summarized intended next steps.

John Smirnow, Chair, Trade Policy Subcommittee

Trade Policy Subcommittee Members:

Bryan Ashley
Terry Fry
Jessica Isaacs
Scott Sklar
Trey Taylor
Michael Weaver

The Trade Policy Subcommittee held its first meeting on February 15. The Subcommittee proposes to adopt a collaborative approach to trade policy, promote trade policy that is prospective, and develop policy to precede trade action. The Subcommittee will explore how U.S. industry can collaborate with the U.S. government, and with international governments, to get ahead of trade conflict.

The Trade Policy Subcommittee identified two action items related to identifying financial mechanisms to help companies compete internationally:

1. Work with the Department of Commerce to convene a meeting with representatives to the World Bank, IEDB, Asian Development Bank, Export-Import Bank, OPIC, and others to discuss financial incentives as mechanisms to level the competitive playing field. Information gathered in this exchange could be taken to the international level, allowing the U.S. to speak with one voice. Discussions could be elevated to get OECD and primary manufacturing countries involved.
2. Develop advocacy talking points to carry the message that collaboration is a basis for a prospective trade policy. The Subcommittee will map this out in coming months.

Jeffrey D'Souza, Chair, Trade Promotion Subcommittee

Trade Promotion Subcommittee Members:

Brendan Herron
Andy Kruse
Doug Miller
Tamara Nall

The Trade Promotion Subcommittee has been looking at two sets of questions:

1. Where do federal agency programs work?
2. Where do both financial and non-financial gaps exist within and among these programs?

Subcommittee discussions have focused on resource gaps in terms of information, policy, and coordination among agencies, not solely financial resources. To address this, the Subcommittee is developing a matrix of available resources by agency. Brendan Herron discussed an initial draft of this resource map, “Draft – Existing Government Support Programs at Stage of Development” presented to the Committee. The matrix identifies financing resources available by project stage and technology and considers the lifecycle steps required in implementing a new project or technology before achieving status as a proven technology. The process is to identify a.) the stages of development b.) which resources exist and c.) where gaps in available resources exist.

Ed Lowe, Chair, Domestic Policy Subcommittee

Domestic Policy Subcommittee Members:

Mohammed Alam
James Bradbury
Mary Burgoon
Linda Church Ciocci
John Collett
Martha Duggan
Bill Gleason
Jason Hartke
Joey Neuhoff
Nicole Poindexter
David Rosenberg

The Domestic Policy Subcommittee presented a guiding principles statement setting forth the Committee’s view that “the successful expansion of RE&EE exports is dependent on robust domestic policy that will create demand for renewable energy and energy efficient technologies in the United States.” The statement was followed by specific actions and a list of issues the Subcommittee deemed too vast to act on immediately, but worthy of further discussion. Neither the guiding principles statement nor the specific recommendations received unanimous consensus to be adopted by the Full Committee and will therefore return to the Subcommittee for revision and review.

Michelle O’Neill:

Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, Michelle O'Neill, discussed DOC efforts to increase export competitiveness for RE&EE technologies and to reassure the Committee that these are priorities for ITA, DOC, and the Administration. O'Neill also briefly covered the NEI, the role ITA plays in executing that program, how ITA/DOC is structured, and where needs intersect with expertise at the Department.

Henry Kelly:

Acting Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Henry Kelly, discussed DOE's goal to restore manufacturing in the United States. Mr. Kelly reiterated that DOE views itself as both a technology development and deployment agency.

The Committee heard industry presentations from the following:

Norm Bishop, Hydropower
Karl Gawell, Geothermal
Jessica Isaacs, Wind
Matt Horowitz, Solar
Jennivine Kwan, Green Buildings

At 2:45 pm the Committee returned to new business.

The Committee agreed to explore holding its next meeting in New York. The Chair, Vice-Chair, Subcommittee Chairs, and DFO will develop a draft agenda.

The Committee returned the statement on guiding principles for the domestic market to the Domestic Policy Subcommittee for further revisions. In terms of specific actions, there was general agreement on the need for better data gathering and analysis to capture the value of all exports, including non-manufactured goods and services. It is also generally agreed that DOE is and ought to be dually responsible for technology deployment and commercialization.

At 3:02 p.m. the Public Comment period was opened.

Doug Norlen with Pacific Environment expressed concern that, since the Export-Import Bank, as an example, has an energy portfolio that is 90 percent fossil fuels and increasingly coal, the President's export initiative may unfortunately carry with it a perverse incentive to target really big-ticket items (such as building a coal plant in Africa) that will allow the US to meet its increased export goals over RE&EE projects that are smaller in size, but important.

With no further comments, the public comment period was closed at 3:03 p.m.

The Subcommittees were tasked to develop actionable items for the June 1 meeting. If the Committee reaches consensus on a statement on domestic policy early, the Chair will ask the DFO to schedule an additional meeting before June 1.

To Chair also agreed to set up a Subcommittee call about finance prior to June.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Holm
Recording Secretary
March 24, 2011

We hereby certify that to the best of our knowledge, the foregoing meeting summary is accurate and complete.

Submitted by:

Brian O'Hanlon
DOC, DFO

Karl Gawell
RE&EEAC Chair