

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

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

9:30 am – 4:30 pm

RE&EEAC Members Present:

Ameet Shah	Kelly Beninga
J. Brendan Herron	Kenneth P. Kramer
Brian J. Lombardozzi	Kenneth Foladare
Bruce Bauchmire	Linda Church Ciocci
Bryan Ashley	Maja Wessels
Cindy Thyfault	Mary Burgoon
Dan Delurey	Michael Sachse
David Rosenberg	Mita M. Burke
Frank Wolak	Paula Stern, Ph.D.
Frank C. Shaw	Robert Rose
James D. Crouse	Roy Dunbar
Jeffrey D'Souza	Scott Sklar
Jennifer von Bismarck	Sunil Pancholi
John Smirnow	Sylvia Minton
Joseph O. Neuhoff III	Terry Fry
Karl Gawell	Todd Foley
Keith Derrington	Trey Taylor

Committee Members Absent:

Gordon Brinser
John Purcell

Other Participants and Members of the Public:

Rebecca Blank, Deputy Secretary of Commerce
David Danielson, Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Nicole Lamb-Hale, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Manufacturing and Services
Adam O'Malley, U.S. Department of Commerce
Catherine Vial, U.S. Department of Commerce
Ryan Mulholland, Designated Federal Officer, U.S. Department of Commerce
Andrew Bennett, U.S. Department of Commerce
Cora Dickson, U.S. Department of Commerce
Andy McCready, Office of General Counsel
Andrew David, U.S. International Trade Commission
Lisa Alejandro, U.S. International Trade Commission
Jennifer Derstine, Capstone Turbine Corporation

Jennifer Prescott, U.S. Trade Representative
Brian O’Hanlon, Overseas Private Investment Corporation
Keith Curtis, U.S. Department of Commerce
Robert Sandoli, Department of Energy
John Cabaniss, Department of Energy

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee (RE&EEAC or Committee) was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Ryan Mulholland, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), who welcomed the participants and facilitated introductions.

Overview of the International Trade Administration

Adam O’Malley, Director, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries

Adam O’Malley provided an overview of the International Trade Administration (ITA) and ITA’s Office of Energy and Environmental Industries (OEEI). OEEI works to build interagency cooperation in support of U.S. RE&EE export competitiveness, garnering specific industry feedback that is provided to policy-makers across the U.S. Government. The two best examples of this work are Advisory Committees – like the RE&EEAC – which provides industry guidance on trade promotion activities, and the Trade Policy Coordinating Committees (TPCC), which brings together various U.S. Government export agencies. O’Malley also described the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Export Initiative (RE4I), an interagency effort in response to the President’s National Export Initiative that is designed to provide increased financing for RE&EE exporters; enhanced market access for American-made technologies and services; more strategic trade promotion programs; and improved two-way communication with the RE&EE industry.

Legal Requirements of RE&EEAC

Andy McCready, Office of the General Counsel

Andy McCready, an attorney with the Commerce Department’s Office of the General Counsel, outlined ethics rules by which federal advisory committees are bound. He noted that duties of the Committee are set forth in the RE&EE AC’s charter, which also lays out a particular scope of activities. The Committee’s purpose is advisory only; it is not responsible for implementation of its recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce. McCready noted that meetings of the full committee are open to the public and must be announced in the *Federal Register*. Although subcommittee meetings do not need to be open to the public, any materials must be presented to and deliberated by the full committee and thus are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Lessons Learned from Previous RE&EE Advisory Committee

Karl Gawell, former chair of RE&EE Advisory Committee

Karl Gawell outlined key factors for successful RE&EE AC recommendations. Gawell noted the success of the previous RE&EE Advisory Committee’s recommendation to challenge local content requirements in key markets globally, which was crucial to the U.S. Government initiating a WTO case against India’s solar local content requirements. Returning members of the committee also noted the need for

recommendations that focus on substantive actions that have the ability to be implemented by specific agencies.

Meeting with Rebecca Blank, Deputy Secretary of Commerce

Deputy Secretary of Commerce, Rebecca Blank, welcomed and thanked the members of the Committee for their commitment. Deputy Secretary Blank highlighted the critical role the U.S. renewable energy and energy efficiency sector can play in increasing U.S. competitiveness and discussed the Administration's continued commitment to ensuring U.S. leadership in the sector. She also commended the previous Committee's work, noting several recommendations that led to U.S. Government action. For example, the Committee recommended that the U.S. Government use international forums to address protectionist policies in foreign markets. She noted that last year the U.S. Government successfully negotiated an agreement within the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) that will eliminate local content requirements and reduce tariffs to no more than five percent on a list of environmental goods and services across the region. Finally, Deputy Secretary Blank offered guidance for the RE&EEAC in completing its mission and welcomed future recommendations that would ensure long-term competitiveness and innovation in the industry.

Working Lunch: Discussion of U.S. RE&EE Industry – Competitiveness, Challenges, and Opportunities

Nicole Y. Lamb-Hale, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Manufacturing and Services

David Danielson, Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Assistant Secretaries Nicole Lamb-Hale and David Danielson – the co-chairs of the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency – joined the Committee for a discussion of the U.S. renewable energy and energy efficiency industry, as well as U.S. Government policies and activities that promote competitiveness in the sector. Topics of discussion included options for regulatory actions to improve financing for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects; the role of the Commerce Department and Department of Energy in supporting research and innovation; the need to improve links between various U.S. Government efforts to benefit domestic manufacturing; and the need to improve methods of quantifying trade flows and supply chain issues.

Committee Business

In discussing organization of the Committee, several members noted differences in the challenges that various industry subsectors face. The Committee agreed to create four temporary teams based on technology areas, including: renewable energy, biofuels, energy efficiency, and storage. Each team was tasked with creating a presentation highlighting the key challenges the technology faces, the priority markets for exports, areas of support from the U.S. Government, and the macro-economic conditions affecting opportunities for each type of technology. Each team will present its findings at the next Committee meeting, which is scheduled for May 1, 2013.

The Committee elected John Smirnow of Solar Energy Industries Association as Committee Chair and Scott Sklar of The Stella Group, Ltd. as Vice-Chair.

Future RE&EEAC meeting dates were decided as follows:

- Wednesday, May 1, 2013
- Tuesday, September 10, 2013
- Tuesday, December 3, 2013

All meetings will be held at the U.S. Department of Commerce Herbert C. Hoover building in Washington, D.C.

The Committee also agreed upon a tentative agenda for the next meeting, including presentations from the four temporary teams; a working lunch with representatives from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Export-Import Bank of the United States; and a briefing by the Department of Defense on its current focus in renewable energy and energy efficiency and its target international markets, including goals and needs in these markets.

Public Comment

There were no comments by attending non-members during this segment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.