

TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

**Meeting of the
Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee
To the Secretary of Commerce**

January 13, 2015

1pm – 2pm

ATTACHMENTS: LETTER TO SECRETARY PRITZKER_CHINA TRADE MISSION
RECOMMENDATION
SUB-SECTOR INPUT FOR TRADE MISSION
“STRAWMAN” FOR COMMITTEE STRUCTURE DISCUSSION

- **Welcome and Roll-Call (Drew Bennett, *Designated Federal Officer*)**
 - **Approximately 33 Committee members and 7 members of the public on the call (see attached: *Teleconference Participants_20150113*).**
 - **Participants either introduced themselves on the call, or emailed the DFO to confirm participation.**
 - **DFO noted that documents under discussion were currently draft working documents of the Sub-Committee. Following the meeting, they will be circulated to the public.**

- **Meeting opening and statement of objectives (Joe Desmond, *Committee Vice-Chair*)**
 - **Overview of Sub-Committee process to develop letter to Secretary of Commerce regarding upcoming Trade Mission to China.**
 - **Sub-Committee objective to highlight opportunity for Secretary to ensure that reciprocal trade is a principle that helps drive renewable energy and energy efficiency partnerships and shared climate change goals between the U.S. and China.**
 - **Vice-Chair read the draft letter.**

- Maja Wessels raised the point that “reciprocal trade” needs to be more specifically in the letter and that the “ask” should be stated early.
- Vice-Chair consented and confirmed edits that could accomplish this.
- At Vice-Chairs request the DFO provided further details regarding additional input pertaining to relevant sub-sectors and other specific issues that should be addressed through the Trade Mission. This input will be compiled and received by ITA’s energy office as industry input contributing to preparations for the Trade Mission. This input will be published along with the Teleconference minutes within 30 days of the meeting.
- Vice-Chair consented to this approach.
- Vice-Chair called for additional comments and edits to the letter and received statements of supports for the letter as is, with edits noted earlier.
- Vice-chair received approval to submit the edited version of the letter without dissent.
- Discussion of Interim Sub-Committee Recommendations on Priority Issues (Joe Desmond, *Vice-Chair*)
 - Overview of Sub-Committee discussions regarding Committee structure, which should reflect energy and grid transitions taking place around the world and serve to strengthen U.S. competitiveness in providing RE and EE solutions during these transitions.
 - Presentation of “Strawman” structure for the Committee, including potential for the following sub-committees
 - GLOBAL ENERGY DELIVERY: electric and thermal energy via smarter grids generation, as well as distributed energy (community and household power and zero energy buildings)
 - RESILIENCY & INFRASTRUCTURE: which includes energy & water nexus, where grids (pipelines and wires and cell towers & data centers) can better withstand stress – resource interruption, intense weather patterns,

terrorism, equipment failure & human error), geological events (ie earthquakes, tsunamis) or climate change.

- **SMART TRANSPORTATION:** biofuels, electric and fuel cell vehicles, electric bicycles, surrounded by resilient energy and infrastructure supporting it
- **SMART COMMUNITIES/CITIES** – as cities and communities are built or rebuilt, or sections of cities are renovated and expanded – bringing together the three components (Committees) above

○ **Discussion of “Strawman” and other comments regarding Committee structure included:**

- **Paula Stern:** highlighted value of proposed structure for reflecting the “consumer point of view” and being more focused on U.S. competitive advantage as opposed to last year, which was a critique of trade and relevant USG operations.
- **Bruce Bauchmire :**Questions on where certain industries fall under proposed categories.
- **Mukesh Dulani:** request to clarify industry alignment noted by Vice-Chair.
- **Linda Church Ciocci:** noted that the proposed structure does a good job of holding industry accountable to develop globally in these areas.
- **Jennifer von Bismark:** expressed support for structure that makes RE&EE part of the dialogue – for example, when it comes to transmission development, and other industries like defense and health care.
- **Fred Sisson:** recommended break-outs w/in sub-committees for various issues and areas of focus.
- **Joe Desmond:** agreed and noted that Power Africa or other regional breakouts would make sense; also echoed Jennifer von Bismark’s urge to be proactive on transmission issues.
- **Karl Gawell** stated that the structure needs to embody utility scale transmission – which also fits into resilience and infrastructure.

- **Committee request to re-circulate charter to ensure new structure meets Secretary's mandate.**
- **Cindy Thyfault noted that the Committee should ensure that the structure aligns well with industry and government marketing efforts and to ensure that existing trade promotion programs can be addressed and their marketing enhanced.**
- **Vice Chair requested that further discussion on the structure take place "off-line" and offered to develop an online survey to complete Committee input on the issue and confirm a structure, including assignments to sub-Committees, in advance of the next face to face meeting.**
- **Committee and DFO consented to this approach.**

➤ **Public Comment**

- **DFO opened the call for the public comment period.**
- **There were no public comments.**

➤ **Other Topics and Committee Close (DFO and Vice-Chair)**

- **Tracking of past recommendations continues and DFO will provide new tracking document that will be a part of ongoing work.**
- **DFO highlighted RE3 Exporter Survey and app development and will provide more information to the Committee and the public on this opportunity.**
- **Discussion of potential future speakers:**
 - **Vice-Chair Suggested DOE's Eric Lightner to discuss Future of the Grid Initiative.**
 - **Maja Wessels recommended outreach to the new head of the U.N. Special Envoy on Climate Change, Michael Bloomberg.**
 - **DFO noted that as follow-up to letter to Secretary that ITA's energy office would also seek to have Secretary's staff participate in next meeting.**

- **Vice-Chair called for additional comments and closed the meeting.**

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Commerce

Additional input re: the Join China Smart Cities Business Development Trade Mission

January 16, 2015

- Data centers are a highly energy intensive commercial building application. The business development mission to China could be an opportunity for the data center and electric utility industries to explore innovative applications for energy efficiency in data centers such as utilizing data centers for demand response applications through technologies such as Tier 4+ a Silicon Valley based IT and software company
- Sustainability in commercial buildings is a stated area of focus for the China Trade Mission. The Trade Mission could be an opportunity to further collaborate on energy efficiency in commercial buildings through promotion of industry standards such as the US Green Building Council LEED Commercial building rating system.
- Energy is the lifeblood of every economy in the world. The China Trade Mission could be an opportunity for the US and China to collaborate on methods to improve the sustainability of the energy sector and the environment through such as through the US based utility Performance Excellence in Electricity Renewal (PEER) rating system. <http://go.usgbc.org/peer-contact>
- The 7/11/14 press release on the SED frames one of the commitments on expanding opportunities for US services providers in a way that reveals how China erects what EE delegation participants perceive as soft barriers:
 - "In order to foster the development of the services sector as announced at the Third Plenum, China pledged to accelerate *revisions of its foreign investment catalogue* to further open up to U.S. and other foreign investment. China further committed to revise regulations that would result in opening the construction, engineering, and design services sectors to foreign services providers."
 - China already does something similar with EE product catalogs, which involve multiple Chinese agencies to review and approve. Chinese companies wanting to import such goods subsequently have to check that things are okay and get necessary approvals, etc., resulting in enough delay/obstruction to kill off many opportunities. That is, IF the prospective goods supplier has the foresight and wherewithal to apply for inclusion in the catalog in the first place.
 - Goods suppliers perceive current practices as an instance of soft barriers. Services suppliers were wary of the same thing occurring. That is, the foreign investment catalogue is seen as more a barrier to foreign investment and trade than an instrument that helps to promote investment & trade. This obviously has broader implications than just the context of RE&EE or sustainability goods/services.

PROPOSED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE APPROACH FOR THE
(DOC) RE&EEAC ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

PURPOSE: In concert with an attempt to orient the Advisory Committee from just issuing recommendations, to a more focused approach which could be characterized by strategically inserting our industries' solutions both:

- 1) internally within DOC (and other federal agencies) into their already-announced initiatives
- 2) externally to international trends or multilateral programs where our industries' solutions add to the value

APPROACH: Establish working subcommittees that are focused on distinct growing market trends, which we have pooled into four buckets that we believe carries the broad portfolio of industries comprising the Advisory Committee - energy efficiency, renewable energy (distributed, grid-interconnected), energy storage and smart grid, and vehicles including biofuels, electric and fuel cell vehicles.

- GLOBAL ENERGY DELIVERY: electric and thermal energy via smarter grids, generation, as well as distributed energy (community and household power and zero energy buildings)
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Since financing and US government program support is focused on the “type” of markets, and therefore not generic, the traditional way we have divided our Committees may be less practical at this time, and we can address needs and focus by this type of market segmentation and focus..

Respectfully submitted, Scott Sklar, Chairman 1/10/15