

U.S. Department of Commerce
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee
Fourth Charter, 2016-2018

December 1, 2016
In-Person Meeting
Herbert. C. Hoover Building, Rm. 1412
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

- Vickie Gunderson, Designated Federal Officer of the REEEAC, U.S. Department of Commerce
- Vickie Gunderson welcomed the REEEAC members on behalf of the Secretary and the Department of Commerce and thanked them for their service.
- REEEAC members each introduced themselves and the organization represented as part of the Committee (see attendance)
- Members of the public and other U.S. government officials introduced themselves (see attendance)
- Acting Under Secretary Ken Hyatt further welcomed new and returning Committee members to the Department and thanked them for their service. He noted the unique timing of this Federal Advisory committee and its potential to engage and provide guidance to the incoming Administration. Hyatt emphasized the importance of the work of this committee to the Department and its ability to meet the needs of industry to better level the playing field for U.S. business globally. He noted he would be back at the close of the meeting to hear how deliberations had proceeded and the group's next steps.

Ethics Briefing

- Christine Hammer, Attorney Advisor, Ethics Law & Programs Division, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Commerce
 - Christine Hammer outlined the role of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) members as “representatives.”
 - Hammer underscored the role of not abusing the government position as a committee member

- She encouraged members to contact her directly, or through DFO Gunderson, with any questions

REEEAC Operations: Briefing & Discussion

- Vickie Gunderson, Designated Federal Officer of the REEEAC, U.S. Department of Commerce
 - Gunderson walked through the provided powerpoint presentation on the REEEAC
 - She discussed resources available to all FACA committees, the REEEAC Charter, the Committee structure during its three previous charters – including sub-committee structure
 - Gunderson briefly reviewed the process for Committee workflow and previous recommendations by the REEEAC

REEEAC I, II, and III Deep Dive: Panel Presentation & Discussion

- Vickie Gunderson, Designated Federal Officer of the REEEAC, U.S. Department of Commerce
- Karl Gawell, REEEAC I Chair
- John Smirnow, REEEAC II Chair
- Scott Sklar, REEEAC III Chair
 - Gunderson opened the panel and asked each previous REEEAC chair to provide a few minutes of remarks, then the group would proceed with Q&A
 - Karl Gawell spoke first on the panel. He noted the role of the Committee to educate senior government officials on industry trends and composition. He emphasized the diversity of REEEAC members and the need to speak for the market. He noted that most work is accomplished in the subcommittees and each one may be diverse. He encouraged the group to think through novel meeting processes, such as off-site meetings. For example, the REEEAC held a meeting in New York during the first charter. He noted staff and the committee can partner to help unlock bureaucracy. He encouraged the group to pick 2-3 key strategic issues to focus and that key themes may be jobs, competitiveness, and manufacturing.
 - John Smirnow emphasized that the committee is what the members make of it. He underscored the importance of actionable recommendations and that in the past there was a core group of members that pushed the agenda forward. He underscored members should be vocal and work to push the group forward if they have a good idea. Smirnow noted the timing of this committee and its ability to shape influence incoming senior officials. He encouraged the group to look at existing documents and event transcripts (e.g., an Indiana University workshop) to begin to understand the potential

policy path of the new administration. Smirnow further encouraged the group to socialize and get to know each other through pre-meeting dinners and other activities.

- Scott Sklar noted that the REEEAC in its third charter formed subcommittees around global market themes. He emphasized the role of financing to the industry and the discussions regarding the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM). He noted the third charter was focused on the quality of recommendations over quantity.
- The discussion was then open to comments and questions by REEEAC members including:
 - The global playing field is not flat and that all actors do not play by the rules. There is a need for engagement.
 - The importance of the diplomatic context to support deployment of global clean technologies (e.g., Paris Agreement). An important role may be for the group to convey the business context to these discussions and the importance of the global market signal for clean technology (low-carbon) investments under the Paris Agreement.
 - Education being a key factor to increasing capacity of policymakers – especially incoming political officials
 - The role of renewable energy and energy efficiency exports in increasing U.S. jobs
 - That these sectors have bipartisan support and RE&EE companies are successful in “red states.”
 - Emerging economies as a key markets for opportunity
 - The role of investors to increasing exports as well as being an exporter
 - Underscoring that job creation can be segmented and the role of skilled jobs.
 - The dependence on exports and global opportunities to the success of U.S. businesses and in turn, their ability to sustain operations that support both overseas and domestic business
 - The cross-over and synergies of RE&EE with oil and gas and other energy sector technologies

Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee Working Group on Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency (TPCC-REEE): Brief Introduction

- Vickie Gunderson, Designated Federal Officer of the REEEAC, U.S. Department of Commerce
- Elena Berger, Senior Policy Advisor, International Programs, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy
 - Through the TPCC_REEE 101 presentation, Gunderson provided an overview of the working group’s history and relationship to the

REEEAC. This included discussing the start of the working group in 2010, the launch of the REEEAC as a deliverable under the TPCC-REEE, and the rejuvenation of the group in 2016 per recommendation. She underscored that following the break will be a series of presentations by the interagency to serve as an introduction to the group.

TPCC-REEE Leadership

- Ted Dean, Acting Assistant Secretary for Industry & Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce
- David Friedman, Acting Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy
 - Acting Assistant Secretary Dean provided opening remarks to the group. He welcomed the new committee and thanked the members for their service. He encouraged the group to think big, but still prioritize actionable recommendations. He noted that much of the job of senior officials is listening and learning from industry to support and bring their efforts into the interagency process. He further noted the role of the TPCC-REEE and his predecessor convening the last principal's meeting with DOE in July.
 - Acting Assistant Secretary David Friedman of DOE provided opening remarks. He noted the importance of promoting and supporting U.S. business in the development of RE&EE technologies and the close collaboration of the U.S. interagency to aiding exporters. He noted that although the REEEAC advises the Secretary of Commerce, DOE is listening to those recommendations provided to Commerce as well. He encouraged the group to consider carbon copying DOE on communications and noted his team is actively working with DOC to enhance collaboration. Friedman underscored that the RE&EE sectors are in a different place than 8-10 years ago. As articulated in the recent DOE "Revolution NOW" report, costs have dropped dramatically and this has changed the conversation for this industry.

TPCC-REEE Panel 1: DOC, DOE, USDA, & STATE

- U.S. Department of Commerce
 - Man Cho of the Department of Commerce provided brief introduction to the agency structure, the role of the International Trade Administration, and the activities and efforts of the Office of Energy and Environmental Industries.
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE/EERE)
 - Elena Berger of the Department of Energy explained the technical program areas within the Office of Energy Efficiency and

Renewable Energy (EERE) and the role of international R&D to engagement. She highlighted the role of the national laboratories to these efforts and the work under the Clean Energy Manufacturing Analysis Center as being particularly relevant to the REEEAC.

- Department of Energy (DOE/OE)
 - Devin Gladden of the Department of Energy walked through the structure of the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability and the diversity of mandates. He noted the role of international engagements and recent efforts such as the roundtable on energy storage trade policy co-chaired with Commerce as an example of moving technologies from the lab, to supported deployment, to export.
- Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 - Paul Trupo of the Department of Agriculture discussed the organizational chart and offices/bureaus in the Department. He highlighted the programs that support exports and encouraged the group to reach out.
- U.S. Department of State (State)
 - Loc Le of the Department of State provided remarks on the Partnership program with Commerce and Embassies/Consulates around the world to promote U.S. business. He discussed Direct Line calls and noted increasing these for key posts/sectors was a recommendation of from the Environmental Technologies Advisory Committee.
 - Katy Clarke of the Department of Energy noted the various policy and program activities of the Bureau of Energy Resources. She noted the partnerships with the interagency and ongoing efforts that intersect with the business community.

TPCC-REEE Panel 2: AID, EXIM, OPIC, TDA, & USTR

- U.S. Agency for International Development (AID)
 - Matt Rees of USAID discussed the Power Africa program, its goals, and the importance of the private sector to moving forward transactions.
 - Sarah Lawson of USAID highlighted the role of the Bureau of Economic Growth, Education, and Environment and the diversity of programs She underscored that much of the programmatic activities are driven by the USAID missions and there is robust work related to clean energy.
- Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM)
 - Craig O'Connor of EXIM bank discussed the services and financing programs offered by the bank. He noted the lack of board quorum and the inability of EXIM at this juncture to finance large projects as a result

- Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)
 - Nadia Rhazi Khawar walked through the programs and services at OPIC and the differences between EXIM and OPIC funding requirements.
- U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA)
 - David Ross of USTDA discussed the programs and opportunities offered by their agency. He emphasized recent examples of international projects completed in the RE&EE space.
- Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR)
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 - Jean Kemp of USTR noted their ongoing activities including TTIP and EGA as agreements with discussions relevant to the RE&EE sectors.

REEEAC Leadership, Structure, and Priorities: Discussion

- Gunderson opened this session noting three goals: (1) nominate a Chair/Vice Chair, (2) discuss subcommittee structure, and (3) discuss priority issues.
- Cindy Thyfault was recommended to be chair of the REEEAC. No other suggestions were presented. REEEAC members unanimously recommended her.
- Thyfalut recommended that the “executive leadership” of the REEEAC include the immediate past-chair of the committee, Scott Sklar. There were no objections.
- Rani Chatrath, Bruce Bauchmire, and Matt Card were recommended as potential vice-chairs for the REEEAC. Bauchmire declined the nomination. Upon voting, Chatrath received more votes for the recommendation.
- REEEAC members proceeded to discuss potential sub-committee structures and priorities. Suggested paths included:
 - Division of committees by regional or geographic focus
 - Waiting until the new Administration enters office in order to align to respond to their first 100 day priorities and goals
 - Including supply side (domestic competitiveness) and demand side (market access)
 - A potential education committee
 - Structure by market segment or functional area – manufacturing, services, etc.
 - Organization by cross-cutting functionalities – e.g., financing, trade barriers, domestic competitiveness, and export innovation
- No conclusion on sub-committee structure was derived during the discussion.

- The group discussed the importance of presenting themselves to the new administration early and that a letter would be a good approach. Ken Kramer agreed to lead the charge on drafting via a task force.
- Task force volunteers included Laura, Arthur, Subhash, Kevin, Trey, Paula, and Bruce.

Conversation with Department of Commerce Leadership

- Bruce Andrews, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce
 - Deputy Secretary Andrews welcomed the committee and thanked them for their service on behalf of the Secretary. He noted the importance of the RE&EE industries to the U.S. economy, the global market opportunities, and the role of the Department of Commerce is working to foster U.S. competitiveness abroad. Andrews encouraged the members in their recommendation drafting to be measurable, actionable, and directed at the Executive Branch.
 - The REEEAC noted they had decided to draft a letter to the new Secretary and inquired about when best to send it.
 - Andrews encouraged the group to wait until the new Secretary had a chance to settle into the role – one to two weeks possibly after confirmation. He noted the new Secretary and his/her team will be focused on management issues initially and likely not sector-specific efforts.

Next Steps

- The REEEAC discussed next steps and agreed to make work on drafting a letter that could be approved during a full-committee teleconference. The members decided to set a full committee teleconference for December 22 at 11 AM Eastern.
- Regarding sub-committee formation, Thyfault proposed providing initial recommendations to the group for discussion and that members could note which committees they would like to serve. This would come via email to members and would be a discussion point on December 22.
- The REEEAC determined it preferred to schedule all meetings for 2017. Gunderson provided proposed dates for schedule checking and a decision would be made for the December 22 meeting.
- The REEEAC meeting was then closed and opened to public comment.

Public Comment & Adjourn

- No public comments.
- Meeting was adjourned.

ATTENDANCE

First	Last Name	Organization
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Name		
Adam	Atkinson-Lewis	Natel Energy
Bruce	Bauchmire	DLZ Corporation
Mita	Burke	Sunshine Industries USA
Matt	Card	Sunvia
Rani	Chatrath	Geothermal Energy Association
Mike	Davis	NC Sustainable Energy Association
Kelly	Davis	Renewable Fuels Association
Jen	Derstine	Capstone Turbine Corporation
Subhash	Dhar	XALT Energy
Michael	Dwyer	U.S. Grains Council
Terry	Fry	Nexant
Svetoslav	Gatchev	Delphos International, Ltd.
Phillip	Green	Green Powered Technology
Arthur	Haubenstock	8minutenergy Renewables
Praveen	Kathpal	AES Energy Storage, LLC
Kenneth	Kramer	Rushton Atlantic
Joseph	Mendelson	SolarCity
Greg	Merritt	Cree, Inc.
Gary	Rackliffe	ABB Inc.
Lloyd	Ritter	Distributed Wind Energy Association
Jorge	Sanchez	Sana, Inc.
Frank	Shaw	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, & Flom LLP
Scott	Sklar	The Stella Group, Ltd.
Kevin	Smith	SolarReserve
Paula	Soos	Covanta Energy
Jonathan	Stewart	NEMA
Zolaikha	Strong	Cooper Development Association
Trey	Taylor	Verdant Power Inc.
Cindy	Thyfault	Westar Trade Resources
Laura	Van Wie McGrory	Alliance to Save Energy
Frank	Yang	Stion Corporation
Scott	Smirnow	Global Solar Council
Karl	Gawell	Geothermal Energy Association
Jessica	Marcus	U.S. Industrial Pellet Association
Vickie	Gunderson	U.S. Department of Commerce
Cora	Dickson	U.S. Department of Commerce
Bruce	Andrews	U.S. Department of Commerce
Ken	Hyatt	U.S. Department of Commerce
Ted	Dean	U.S. Department of Commerce
David	Friedman	U.S. Department of Energy

Man	Cho	U.S. Department of Commerce
Elena	Berger	U.S. Department of Energy
Devin	Gladden	U.S. Department of Energy
Paul	Trupo	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Loc	Lee	U.S. Department of State
Katy	Clarke	U.S. Department of State
Matthew	Rees	U.S. Agency for International Development
Craig	O'Connor	Export-Import Bank of the United States
Nadia	Rhazi Khawar	Overseas Private Investment Corporation
Jean	Kemp	Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
Philana	Grant	U.S. Department of Commerce
David	Ross	U.S. Trade and Development Agency
Sarah	Lawson	U.S. Agency for International Development
Drew	Bennett	U.S. Agency for International Development