

**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
**Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee**  
**(REEEAC)**

Fourth Charter, 2016-2018

June 21, 2017

Full-Committee Teleconference

MINUTES

**Welcome, Introductions, & Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- Cindy Thyfault, REEEAC Chair
  - Ms. Thyfault opened the meeting, thanked the group for coming on the call. Walked through the agenda. She underscored that the group should think through recommendations to consider for the July 27 meeting.
- Vickie Gunderson, Designated Federal Officer of the REEEAC, U.S. Department of Commerce
  - Ms. Gunderson provided a brief update that the Department has welcomed new political appointees. This includes Ian Steff, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing as well as Israel Hernandez as Deputy Chief of Staff.
  - Ms. Gunderson noted that Mr. Steff is interested in meeting the member of the Committee at the July 27 meeting.

**Consideration of DRAFT Recommendation for Approval**

- Cindy Thyfault, REEEAC Chair
  - Ms. Thyfault discussed the draft recommendation under consideration – so-called “America First” recommendation. She emphasized this was a continuation on discussions from the May 4 meeting that the group had passed through a few iterations over the last few weeks.
  - Noted that the role of the REEEAC is to include the Secretary of Commerce and noted DOC (Vickie) suggested that references to the Secretary of Commerce be explicit.
  - She further emphasized that she made supported the recommendation to streamline the recommendation as to not include duplicative information from previous REEEAC letters/notes.
- Ken Kramer
  - Indicated he liked the streamlined recommendation.
  - Noted that the May 4 meeting was a bit ago per discussion and asked how the recommendation would go over.
- Vickie Gunderson, Designated Federal Officer of the REEEAC, U.S. Department of Commerce
  - Ms. Gunderson offered no comment at this time. Per past practice, the Department will respond in writing or verbally after any recommendation is potentially approved.
- Arthur Haubenstein, America First Energy Plan Task Force Lead
  - Mr. Haubenstein supported the tightened the recommended.
  - Noted that he met with Secretary Perry in Beijing with a delegation of business leaders. He stated that Secretary Perry went out of his way to meet with the group and expressed an interest in renewable energy.
  - Mr. Haubenstein noted that that he hoped that the comments by the Secretary are reflective of the Administration overall.

*Voted on recommendation: unanimous consent.*

- Cindy Thyfault, REEEAC Chair
  - Noted and appreciated the hard work including from Arthur and Ken for taking the lead on drafting.

**Sub-Committee Updates to Full Committee**

- Scott Sklar, Export Competiveness Sub-Committee Chair
  - Mr. Sklar stated there was no substantive update to provide at this time. The sub-committee submitted recommendations to Cindy and provided comments on NAFTA.
- Slav Gatchev, Finance, Sub-Committee Vice-Chair
  - Mr. Gatchev noted that he just read the tied-aid recommendation. Noted that this recommendation was not discussed in the last plenary and the group worked upon behind the scenes.
  - He stated that this recommendation needs to be discussed and the Finance sub-committee team will need more. Recommend holding a bilateral call with the Finance and Export Competiveness Sub-Committees to discuss the recommendation.
  - Mr. Gatchev noted that he had met with Israel Hernandez in other fora and he is interested in financing issues.
- Zolaikha Strong, Market Outreach & Education Sub-Committee Chair
  - Ms. Strong emphasized that the group has been working with Cora on changes to the website and other efforts. Moving on from there, the subcommittee is discussing an infographic and how to utilize it.
  - The group will have a sub-committee call and afterward, will share the infographic with the broader group.
  - Ms. Strong proposed that the upcoming call be used to strategically look at the work of the sub-committee and think about how to best use the sub-committee to support the other subcommittees. This would include providing enhanced support across the REEEAC on the materials and documents the committee produces.
- Ken Kramer, Finance, Sub-Committee Chair
  - Mr. Kramer noted that the group has not met since May 4 and has been letting things settle after submitting the first recommendation.
  - He emphasized the group would start to revisit recommendations on programs related to the three primary financing agencies: OPIC, EXIM, and AID.
  - He noted the group would like to hold its next call on June 28 and asked Vickie to help schedule
- Jonathan Stewart, Market Access, Sub-Committee Chair
  - Mr. Stewart emphasized that his sub-committee is plugging along and it is unclear if the group will have recommendations before July 27. However, he anticipates recommendations in advance of the fall meeting.
  - Mr. Stewart walked through their work stream areas including:
    - (1) Single exporter window: Jorge Sanchez is diligently working on this and met in May with DOC staff to understand existing capabilities
    - (2) Top market reports: DOC met with a group of staff and discussed ways to get REEEAC involved in the two reports/snapshots being updated. For the smart grid report, Vickie outlined a timeline for potential REEEAC input and questions to potential pose and Cora provided information on a solar snapshot. He noted that it is unclear if this is an explicit recommendation or just adding value to the Department; and

- (3) Standards: Mr. Stewart commented that the group is working on a recommendation concerning the use of internationally recognized standards in U.S. Government funded projects. He stated USTDA program could be used as a model (but scaled down as appropriate) and noted that Vickie has arranged for NIST and ITA to come to the July meeting to talk broadly about standards and this would be applicable to the full group.
- Cora Dickson, U.S. Department of Commerce
  - Noted that DOC will have call on Monday that anyone on the REEEAC could attend to hear more about the solar snapshot and provide commentary.
  - Ms. Dickson noted the report will be completed prior to September's Solar Power International. She will follow-up with an email.
- Cindy Thyfault, REEEAC Chair
  - Ms. Thyfault noted these updates were very helpful and that over the course of REEEAC's charter the goal will be to focus and address recommendations as well as take things in smaller bites, but focus on substantive issues affecting the industries rather than Government staffing issues.
  - Ms. Thyfault emphasized the group should continue to focus on activities in the DOC prevue.
  - She noted that looking forward this charter will expire next June and we have only roughly three more in-person meetings.
  - During the July 27 meeting, she asked the Committee to plan to participate in a strategy session: where should we focus going? What issues are floating to the top? What should we focus more or less time on?
  - She noted that this discussion will include evaluation of the current Committee structure and if there should be any potential restructuring to increase effectiveness.
  - Ms. Thyfault underscored that she wants us to honor effort and time and that each member brings to the Committee and to ensure that all member's participation is meaningful in bringing effective change to enhance the industry's competitiveness in partnership with the new Administration.

## Public Comment & Adjourn

- No public comments.
- Meeting adjourned.

## Attendance

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Mita	Burke	Sunshine Industries USA
Matt	Card	Suniva
Rani	Chatrath	Geothermal Energy Association
Kelly	Davis	Renewable Fuels Association
Jen	Derstine	Capstone Turbine Corporation
Svetoslav	Gatchev	Delphos International, Ltd.
Arthur	Haubenstock	8minutenergy Renewables
Kenneth	Kramer	Rushton Atlantic
Joseph	Mendelson	Tesla
Greg	Merritt	Cree, Inc.
Lloyd	Ritter	Distributed Wind Energy Association

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<b>Jorge</b>	Sanchez	Sana, Inc.
<b>Scott</b>	Sklar	The Stella Group, Ltd.
<b>Kevin</b>	Smith	SolarReserve
<b>Jonathon</b>	Stewart	National Electrical Manufacturers Association
<b>Zolaikha</b>	Strong	Cooper Development Association
<b>Trey</b>	Taylor	Verdant Power Inc.
<b>Cindy</b>	Thyfault	Westar Trade Resources
<b>Laura</b>	VanWie McGrory	Alliance to Save Energy
<b>Jaron</b>	Bass	U.S. Department of Commerce, ITA
<b>Cora</b>	Dickson	U.S. Department of Commerce, ITA
<b>Vickie</b>	Gunderson	U.S. Department of Commerce, ITA
<b>Matt</b>	Goepple-Parrish	U.S. Department of Commerce, ITA
<b>Ken</b>	Hyatt	U.S. Department of Commerce, ITA
<b>Lindsay</b>	Steves	U.S. Department of Commerce, ITA
<b>Ester</b>	Whieldon	Politico

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