

MINUTES

New Energy Industry Task Force Technical Advisory Committee on Clean Energy Source

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Clean Energy held a public meeting on August 15, 2016 at the following locations:

Legislative Building
401 S. Carson Street, Room 2134
Carson City, NV 89701

Videoconference
Grant Sawyer State Building
555 East Washington, Suite 4412E
Las Vegas, NV 89101

1. Call to order and Roll Call: Chairman Kyle Davis called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm, calling roll and confirming a quorum.

Technical Advisory Members Present

Anne-Marie Cuneo, Member
Bob Johnston, Member
Dennis Laybourn, Member
Jennifer Taylor, Vice Chair (in Las Vegas)
Joe Johnson, Member
Josh Nordquist, Member
Kyle Davis, Chair
Tom Polikalas, Member

Technical Advisory Members Absent

David Emme, Member
Starla Lacey, Member
Lisa Briggs, Member
Kathryn Arbeit, Member

2. Public comments and discussion: Mr. David von Seggern from Reno came forward on behalf of the Toiyable Chapter of the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club supports rapid transition from dirty fossil fuels to 100% clean, renewable energy. Reno was recently named as the “fastest warming city in the US”. With the states abundant renewable resource, Nevada is uniquely place among states to do this. The electrical power sector is an easy place to start and the closing of the Valmy coal plant no later than 2020 is a first step in this transition. It is time for the state to set clear goals to eliminated fossil fuels for the power generation industry entirely. He encouraged the committee to look at other western states having done recent examples for a positive transition. This pursuit will have positive economic benefits for our state as well.

In Las Vegas, Ms. Jane Feldman came forward speaking about the resent flooding in Louisiana and wild fires burning throughout the west, heart broken by these events. She has spent years weatherizing her home and added solar panels. She even drove to the meeting in her electric car. But individuals can't do it alone, it has to be a cooperative prompt aggressive action. Ms. Feldman was most interested in the

agenda item on the carbon tax and is looking to the committee to fix this. Nevada needs you to promote a clean energy future.

Mr. Tom Dudas came forward to speak about a July article titled “Understanding the Future of Nevada Electrical Grid”. The article shows power lines all over the US and Canada. He finds it objectionable to spend billions on high voltage lines spread over hundreds of miles to connect power from Wyoming to California. He is interested in the low income energy program bring presented to the committee today and spoke to the committee on energy saving options.

Back in Carson City, Mr. Kevin McGehee came forward. Mr. McGehee is a native Nevadan with a business in Midtown Reno. He recently attended an electric vehicle event in Reno and was impressed by the enthusiasm of the participants. He commented the Governor on bring Tesla and hopes Nevada continues to grow on the electric market.

3. Review and approval of minutes from June 16, 2016 meeting: Chairman Davis asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Nordquist made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

4. Low Income Energy Efficiency Programs in New Mexico: Mr. Steve Bean made the presentation via teleconference. The PNM is the largest utility in New Mexico with over 500,000 customers and a subsidiary in Texas. Legislation created the Efficient Use of Energy Act (EUEA) requiring direct utilities to offer cost-effective programs with low income provisions. Some of the characteristics of the low income program include definition of low income, programs should be affordable, should be accessible and offer non-traditional outreach.

The PNM’s most successful program is the free Easy Savings kit offered to select residential and qualified energy assistance customers. The kit includes energy efficient products for installation and tips on how to save energy and money. They have sent out more than 50,000 kits. Not specific to the low income program but very popular are the in class presentations and take home energy kits. It’s estimated that 40% of students are from low income families in PNM territory. Other programs include the state weatherization program, replacement of inefficient refrigerators, installation of CFLs and LEDs. There’s also a home energy checkup program, which is also free to income qualified customers.

The program has been very successful in New Mexico and also offers commercial and residential rebates.

5. Trading Options under the Clean Power Plan: Mr. Dave Farnsworth, Senior Associate with the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) made the presentation to the members. RAP is a global non-profit team of energy experts advising regulators on the long term sustainability of the power and natural gas sectors. The Clean Power Plan (CPP) standards are set by EPA and states will need to develop plans to comply with. The goals of the CPP are to reduce rate based and mass based CO₂s. Each state’s plan must demonstrate how the program will allow the state’s existing sources to meet the CO₂ goals for 2030. Mr.

Farnsworth's presentation contained a great deal of information. The power point is available on the New Energy Task Force web site.

6. Case for Nevada to create a Carbon Tax: Mr. Richard Bartholet answered questions from the members regarding the paper he wrote presenting a case for Nevada to utilize a carbon tax as a funding source.

7. Discussion on NREL's Regional Energy Deployment System (ReEDS): Chairman Davis explained that ReEDS is a tool that could be used to help evaluate some of the cost of reducing energy usage from fossil fuel and other impacts of the policy. Chairman Davis stated that he and Mr. Nordquist would determine if there is any recommendation to make regarding ReEDS before the next committee meeting.

8. Outline for Completing Final Work of the Technical Advisory Committee and Task Force: Chairman Davis informed the members that this committee needs to have their recommendation finalized. He would like to have a list of recommendations at the next meeting August 29, 2016. At that time, the committee can discuss and vote on the items that will be presented to the Task Force for review.

9. Future Agenda Topics: There was a very brief discussion on the Clean Power Plan.

10. Public Comment and Discussion: In Carson City Mr. John Friedrich with Climate Parents came forward to address the committee. Mr. Friedrich stated that in a recent paper, fossil fuel combustion and associated air pollution is the root cause of children's ill health. The most important action we can take for our children and our future is to cure our addiction to fossil fuel. Moving from dirty to clean energy is a huge opportunity for Nevada. Nevada is blessed with of clean energy resources. Mr. Friedrich urges the committee to take all steps possible for a clean energy future.

No public comment from Las Vegas.

11. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 3:08 PM.

A full account of the meeting was captured in an audio recording, available on the Governor's Office of Energy's website.