

**State Energy Advisory Board**  
**Teleconference Minutes**  
October 21, 2009, 2:00 p.m. – 2:49 p.m.

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

**Designated Federal Officer (DFO):**

- Gary Burch, STEAB DFO, Director of EE Projects Division, Golden Field Office, Denver, Colorado

<b>STEAB ATTENDANCE</b>		
<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Chris Benson</b> , ( <i>Board Chair</i> ) Director, Arkansas Energy Office, Department of Economic Development	X	
<b>Jim Arwood</b> , Director, State Energy Office, State of Arizona	X	
<b>Henry ‘Ted’ Berglund</b> , CEO and President, Dyplast Products (FL)		X
<b>Susan S. Brown</b> , Deputy Administrator, Wisconsin Division of Energy		X
<b>John H. Davies</b> , Director, Division of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Kentucky Office of Energy Policy		X
<b>Roger Duncan</b> , General Manager, Austin Energy – City of Austin (TX)		X
<b>Ryan Gooch</b> , Energy Policy Director, Tennessee Economic and Community Development	X	
<b>Paul Gutierrez</b> , Vice Provost for Outreach Services, Associate Dean and Director, Cooperative Extension Service, College of Agriculture and Home Economics, New Mexico State University	X	
<b>Duane Hauck</b> , Director, Extension Services, North Dakota State University	X	
<b>Elliott Jacobson</b> , ( <i>Board Secretary</i> ) Director, Action Energy, Inc. (MA)	X	
<b>Cecelia Johnson-Powell</b> , Community Development Manager, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority		X
<b>Peter Johnston</b> , Project Manager, Clean Energy Technologies, Burns & McDonnell (AZ)		X
<b>Jim Nolan</b> , Weatherization Director, Department of Public, Health and Human Services (MT)	X	
<b>Larry Shirley</b> , State Energy Office Director, North Carolina Department of Administration	X	
<b>Janet Streff</b> , Manager, State Energy Office, Minnesota Department of Commerce	X	
<b>Patricia Sobrero</b> , ( <i>Vice Chair</i> ) Associate Vice Chancellor, Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development, North Carolina State University	X	
<b>David Terry</b> , Executive Director, ASERTTI (VA)		X
<b>Steve Vincent</b> , Regional Business Manager, Avista Utilities (OR)	X	
<b>Daniel Zaweski</b> , Director, Energy Efficiency & Distributed Generation, Long Island Power Authority (NY)		X

**Contractor Support:**

- Emily Lindenberg (EL), SENTECH, Inc.

**Public:**

- No public representatives participated in this meeting.

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**Agenda Items:**

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Update on Recovery Act Issues:                                       | Chris Benson |
| A. SEP, WAP, Block Grants                                               |              |
| 2. Update on Golden Restructuring:                                      |              |
| A. State and Local Team                                                 | Gary Burch   |
| 3. Continuing Discussion on Recovery Act<br>Preparedness Visits by EERE | Chris Benson |
| 4. November Meeting                                                     |              |
| A. Meeting Agenda – Monday<br>Evening and Tuesday                       | Pat Sobrero  |
| B. Meeting Agenda – Wednesday<br>and Thursday.                          | Chris Benson |
| 5. Public Comments                                                      | Chris Benson |
| 6. Other Issues                                                         | Chris Benson |
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- Chris Benson (CB) began by thanking everyone for taking time for the call and opened the meeting for discussion on agenda items, noting the first item did not, in his opinion, have any updates. Jim Nolan (JN) had a question for Gary Burch (GB) regarding Gil Sperling now being in a new position at DOE.
  - GB elaborated that Gil Sperling is now Special Council to Assistant Secretary Zoi, and Claire Johnson is now the Acting OWIP Program Manager. It was noted that Mark Bailey is still on the OWIP staff, but with Ms. Johnson now the Program Manager, the Board will have to wait and see what changes, if any, will occur as she settles into her new role. GB mentioned she has project management experience from her pre-DOE work, and her early focus at DOE had been on EECBG under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Again, the Board will need to wait and see how OWIP develops under her leadership.
  - A Board discussion ensued on how best to introduce STEAB to Ms. Johnson, and many members believed she should be invited to the November meeting in North Carolina. GB told the Board that a Briefing Book (containing Member Roster, Annual Report, Strategic Direction, etc.) was delivered the day before to her at her offices at DOE per requests from the front office, thus Ms. Johnson has been made aware of the Board's activities. The discussion on staffing changes within EERE concluded with Patricia Sobrero (PS) asking CB to write a letter to Ms. Johnson inviting her to the November Board.
  - CB asked if there were other issues to be raised before moving along with the agenda, and Ryan Gooch (RG) posed questions about how State Energy Programs (SEP), Weatherization Assistance Programs (WAP) and EECBG are dealing with Davis-Bacon, NEPA, and Buy American issues. He would like this issue on the agenda at the November meeting since these issues affect how States and programs will use ARRA funds.
  - GB responded by saying DOE's consensus is that Davis-Bacon issues have been resolved; however, others on the Board made comments about how that opinion may only apply to Weatherization and not to

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SEPs. JN noted his issues in Montana are resolved with Davis-Bacon, but he knows that isn't true across the US.

- CB asked if RG wants these issues on the November Agenda, and RG said 'yes' because the Board can discuss and offer ideas and insight to DOE with regard to these NEPA and Buy American issues.
- Janet Streff (JS) added that something she and her State struggles with is inconsistency in what they are required to do as a State. Different organizations are asking for things that were not required from the initial guidance. RG echoed that same frustration and added that there have been inconsistent interpretations with regard to NEPA at Golden and at NETL, and hopes that these issues can be discussed and ultimately resolved in the coming months.
- CB believed the issue should be broached with Headquarters (HQ) because he has seen many cases of inconsistent interpretation over the years. RG agreed with CB and stated the need for a single, clear message on what they are being asked to provide. GB addressed these concerns and stated that both NETL and Golden can be on a conference call in November to discuss these issues.
- CB and David Terry (DT) continued with this topic by bringing up a response to a NASEO letter sent with regard to 25 States with were facing these exact NEPA issues. DT spoke to the response received, and mentioned that it did not give much clarity to these NEPA issues and added that this response has not yet been shared with all NASEO members. DT elaborated that NASEO sent back a response to the letter received, saying their specific issues are due to a lack of guidance; and it is that which still needs addressing. DT concluded that STEAB should reiterate these concerns to DOE, so that HQ is hearing these concerns from different organizations which helps reinforce to DOE the types of problems that are out there.
- CB concluded that portion of the agenda and moved on to the second topic for discussion, which are the Staffing structure changes at Golden.
- GB mentioned that he just got word that morning that concurrence was completed and he would be allowed to release an organizational map and contact information about the prime contact and back-up for the three program areas of SEP, WAP and EECBG. Golden is still adding staff, and as soon as he hears back from Rita Wells, all of that information will be disseminated.
- JS raised concern about some of the staff being so new to the industry, that they are unfamiliar with the programs in their state and wanted to know if this was the case because it leads to a lot of time spent educating new staff.
- GB responded by saying there are currently 5 legacy staff, and Golden hopes to staff up to as many as 78 in OWIP alone. As the Board can see, they are having a 10-fold increase in staffing, and yes, many are new to the industry and therefore need to be trained on what these programs are about; but he has full confidence the staff is very capable and ready to be trained.
- CB moved on to the next item, and turned conversation to JN who just finished his preparedness visit.
- JN said the Montana visit went well and that Montana was rated as a 'green' state. Peter Roerhig attended with Bob Adams, and JN's only comment was he noted differing opinions between Mr. Roerhig and Mr. Adams on the policies of DOE in terms of reallocating funds.
- JS contributed that her state did not have a site visit, but instead had a 2-hour phone call. She felt it went well, but noted that her State didn't receive any actual feedback at the conclusion of the call. CB added

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that the phone calls are most likely being made moving forward in lieu of site visits due to time constraints and exhaustion on the part of those trying to visit each State.

- GB concluded this portion by mentioning he received the grading sheet yesterday and knows which states got Red, Green, and Blue. There are still 10 states that have not been visited, but at this point he is not authorized to release the results because this information came internally.
- Discussion turned to the upcoming North Carolina visit. CB gave kudos to PS and Larry Shirley (LS) for spending a great deal of time planning and organizing this meeting. CB turned the commentary over to PS who went through the schedule of events for Monday night and Tuesday.
- PS hopes that for anyone who can attend, there will be an unofficial tour of the Solar Center on Monday evening. The Solar Center focuses on renewables and is a State wide program of which LS used to be the director. She is very excited to show the center and hopes to end the tour with a walk around the McKinnon Campus to show the public interfaces with the University.
- LS continued by discussing the Tuesday agenda and mentioned that the University is trying to get the Secretary of Commerce to come and speak because he is committed to a Green Economy in North Carolina. If the Secretary cannot come, they are trying to make sure at least a deputy can speak. PS added that on Tuesday, discussion and presentations would focus on the public/private enterprise and partnerships happening on campus. LS suggested that for those who were able to make the Monday unofficial activities, maybe they would be interested in an unofficial dinner (everyone pays their own way) at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Oyster Bar.
- After a break for lunch, the Board will take a tour of the EnVision center on Centennial Campus, which highlights grid technology. The tour will then take the Board to the College of Engineering, the College of Textiles, and also the Freedom Center Lab which works with Smart Grids. The tour will conclude with a look at the Wildlife Building to show how sustainable energy is maintained through day-lighting.
- CB asked if the Board should take photos on this visit and include them in the annual report for FY10. Everyone agreed that would be a great idea.
- CB concluded this line of discussion by stating the remainder of the meeting will be held to conduct Board business. The Board will discuss Assistant Secretary Zoi's goals, which were highlighted at the August meeting, and hopes to make resolutions based off of those goals.
- CB inquired if there was any member of the public on the call who would like to make comments. GB stated that no requests for comment were received. CB concluded this part of the meeting and closed the meeting to public comment.
- CB asked if there were any additional comments from members of the Board, and EJ brought to the Board's attention that during the first week in December on the WAP side there will be a DOE Evaluation Committee meeting, and Claire Johnson may stop by to give the program their new direction. If the Board could coordinate a visit with her before that meeting, he felt it would be beneficial to meet with her in person. GB thinks that idea should be posed to Mark Bailey on the conference call at the November meeting.
- CB thanked everyone and asked if there were additional questions or comment on this topic. Seeing as there were none, and CB closed the meeting.

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*The State Energy Advisory Board October teleconference call was concluded at 2:49 p.m. EST. Minutes were scribed by Emily Lindenberg (SENTECH, Inc.).*