

# State Energy Advisory Board

## Teleconference Minutes

July 22, 2009, 2:00 p.m. - 2:31 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>	Present	Absent
<b>Chris Benson</b> , ( <i>Board Chair</i> ) Director, Arkansas Energy Office, Department of Economic Development	✓	
<b>Jim Arwood</b> , Director, State Energy Office, State of Arizona	✓	
<b>Henry ‘Ted’ Berglund</b> , CEO and President, Dyplast Products (FL)		✓
<b>Susan S. Brown</b> , Deputy Administrator, Wisconsin Division of Energy	✓	
<b>John H. Davies</b> , Director, Division of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Kentucky Office of Energy Policy		✓
<b>Roger Duncan</b> , General Manager, Austin Energy – City of Austin (TX)	✓	
<b>Ryan Gooch</b> , Energy Policy Director, Tennessee Economic and Community Development		✓
<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		✓
<b>Duane Hauck</b> , Director, Extension Services, North Dakota State University		✓
<b>Elliott Jacobson</b> , ( <i>Board Secretary</i> ) Director, Action Energy, Inc. (MA)	✓	
<b>Cecelia Johnson-Powell</b> , Community Development Manager, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority	✓	
<b>Peter Johnston</b> , Project Manager, Clean Energy Technologies, Burns & McDonnell (AZ)	✓	
<b>James Nolan</b> , Weatherization Director, Department of Public, Health and Human Services (MT)		✓
<b>Larry Shirley</b> , State Energy Office Director, North Carolina Department of Administration	✓	
<b>Janet Streff</b> , Manager, State Energy Office, Minnesota Department of Commerce		✓
<b>Patricia Sobrero</b> , ( <i>Vice Chair</i> ) Associate Vice Chancellor, Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development, North Carolina State University	✓	
<b>David Terry</b> , Executive Director, ASERTTI (VA)		✓
<b>Steve Vincent</b> , Regional Business Manager, Avista Utilities (OR)	✓	
<b>Daniel Zaweski</b> , Director, Energy Efficiency & Distributed Generation, Long Island Power Authority (NY)		✓

- **Tom Plant**, Director, Colorado Governor’s Energy Office

**Contractor Support:**

- Rachna Kumar, SENTECH, Inc.

**Public:**

- No public representatives participated in this meeting.

**State Energy Advisory Board**  
**Teleconference Minutes**  
July 22, 2009, 2:00 p.m. - 2:31 p.m.

**Call Agenda:**

- |                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Update on Recovery Act Issues: | Chris Benson (CB) |
| A. SEP, WAP, Block Grants         |                   |
| B. Davis-Bacon                    |                   |
| 2. August Meeting with EE-1       | Gary Burch (GB)   |
| 3. Logistics for Next Meeting     | Gary Burch (GB)   |
| 4. Public Comments                | Chris Benson (CB) |
| 5. Other Issues                   | Chris Benson (CB) |

**Minutes:**

**1. Update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

**A. SEP, WAP, Block Grants**

*(This update was to be conducted by Golden Field Office staff; however, due to GO staff attending a conference, limited details are available at this time.)*

- GB noted that entities are currently under a political microscope with regards to SEP and WAP funds. The Administration is announcing awards for two to three States each week. Progress is being made, but the amount of staff and resources within States to handle requests and requirements is still a significant issue. GB stated that the upcoming months will be crucial in recognizing subsequent steps.

**B. Davis-Bacon Act**

- EJ mentioned that Davis-Bacon updates are changing on a daily basis. This Act has been a major issue of discussion at the Department of Energy's 2009 National Weatherization Training Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. This conference has workshops on Davis-Bacon with the Department of Labor and the Department of Energy on-hand for explanation and guidance; however, EJ states that achieving clarification is difficult.
- With regards to weatherization, EJ noted that a weatherization labor category (as a concession) is being considered. Surveys are being conducted and data is being compiled on state-wide wage rates. This includes data from unions to help create a new national labor category. EJ considers this a victory for the 19-20 high-cost labor States (including MA), because current wages average out to become the prevailing wage for that State. Nuances and issues with this category that have caused confusion and delays include:
  - reporting requirements,
  - commercial labor rate requirements for buildings over four stories,
  - criteria differences within States' Department's of Labor, and
  - competition within states on which rates should be adopted (MA and CA).

## **State Energy Advisory Board Teleconference Minutes**

July 22, 2009, 2:00 p.m. - 2:31 p.m.

EJ stated that guidance on weatherization would be released; however, it is not likely to cover all of the issues at hand.

- SB noted that Wisconsin's Division of Energy received notice from DOL that the deadline for wage-rate survey submission data was moved from July 15, 2009, to July 31, 2009, due to the State being unable to provide a thorough response by that date. This is indicative of delays not only on DOE's side but also on DOL's end. EJ noted that this deadline changed at the request of the unions.
- EJ clarified that one national weatherization job category was being created (not one overall national rate) and notes that this category is a concession. SB also clarified that these wage rates are being collected county by county. SB mentioned that this would result in weatherization workers being paid the same (due to averaging) unless the unions come out with different numbers. EJ noted that the new category will be an issue across all programs, especially SEP. EJ said that DOE has been playing catch-up due to this issue being a low priority in the previous administration.
- A question was raised regarding a potential reorganization at EERE, especially with regards to Gil Sperling. GB mentioned an unofficial restructuring due to financial and political pressure on OWIP and noted that Gil does not have a "number two" as of yet. LS noted that at last week's NASEO meeting, Gil commented that he would be focusing his efforts on weatherization and that Mark Bailey would be handling SEP; however, these statements were unclear to many others at the meeting. GB said he would try to find out more details and present them at the next call.

### 2. August Meeting with EE-1

- GB noted that he has talked to one of Cathy Zoi's Points-of-Contact who received STEAB's initial request, subsequent forms, as well as an agenda for meeting Zoi.
- GB has continued to check with her office weekly; however, GB notes that Cathy Zoi has been inundated and has not yet accepted the Board's request for a meeting. GB assured the Board that all appropriate steps have been taken, forms have been filled out, and has politely reminded the office that five members will have to travel for this meeting. GB believes that the date chosen by the Board is not an issue; however, STEAB's level of recognition by EE-1 may be delaying the process. The target dates to meet with Zoi are Thursday, August 27, 2009, or Wednesday, August 26, 2009.
- LS noted that Cathy Zoi attended last week's NASEO meeting where she noted that a major issue in her office was the lack of key people being in place, especially her "number two".
- CB suggested that the agenda sent to Cathy Zoi's office be distributed to the Board to further discuss details on what topics the Executive Board should highlight and how they should be presented. GB agreed to send this agenda out with the help of SENTECH, Inc.
- GB noted that if the meeting is accepted, he will prepare a "briefing book" to help guide the discussion and better inform Zoi.

### 3. Logistics for Next Meeting

- CB reminded the Board that a discussion at the June STEAB meeting resulted in an agreement that the next full Board meeting will be held at North Carolina State University on the week of November 9, 2009, and hosted by PS and LS.

## **State Energy Advisory Board Teleconference Minutes**

July 22, 2009, 2:00 p.m. - 2:31 p.m.

- PS mentioned that a preliminary meeting with LS and Bob Koger (President of Advanced Energy) is being set.
- PS noted that the Raleigh Marriott City Center is currently being considered as the hotel for use and The Dorothy and Roy Park Alumni Center for the meeting area. Rooms have been reserved and there is adequate space for the meeting to be held. GB mentioned calls held with SENTECH, Inc., which indicated that the historical seating arrangement for the STEAB meetings will not be possible in the space. PS assured the Board that the meeting arrangements would accommodate the historical structure and noted that her administrative assistant will be working on a plan with the Alumni Center.
- PJ inquired about the need for rental cars as well as the distance from the Hotel to the Alumni Center. PS said that the distance is about four miles and that shuttle vans would be provided for transportation to and from the landmarks on campus.
- CB asked if it was possible to try and get Cathy Zoi to attend the NC meeting. GB said that the Board can send an invitation out but he is skeptical if her schedule would allow her to attend. LS noted that it may be better to issue an invitation from the University so that there is a connection to her and STEAB from the field as well as through the Department via the Executive Board meeting. CB and the Board agreed.
- CB noted that the next meeting would be held on the week of November 9, 2009, which has a Federal holiday on that Wednesday. The Board agreed that this would not cause a major issue regarding attendance.

#### 4. Public Comments

- CB inquired if there was any member of the public on the call to make comments. GB stated that no requests for public comment were received for this teleconference. CB concluded this part of the meeting and closed it for public comment.

#### 5. Other Issues

- The next teleconference call would be at the same time (2:00 p.m. EST) on August 26, 2009, which would be before the tentative date for the Executive Board to meet with Cathy Zoi. Due to this, limited updates are likely to be available on that issue.
- EJ inquired about the additional Board being put together by Gil Sperling. GB mentioned that he had a conversation with Gil after the June STEAB meeting at which, at that point, they were trying to get the new board through General Council. GB noted that this process of implementing a new committee or board is not only difficult but also time consuming and daunting at each step.
- CB and GB noted that the final agenda sent to Cathy Zoi for the Executive Board meeting will be distributed to the entire Board via e-mail through SENTECH, Inc.

*The State Energy Advisory Board June teleconference call was concluded at 2:31 p.m. EST. Minutes were scribed by Rachna Kumar (SENTECH, Inc.).*