

# STEAB TELECONFERENCE

Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012

3:30 – 4:12 PM Eastern Time

## TELECONFERENCE ATTENDEES

**Designated Federal Officer (DFO):**

- Gil Sperling, STEAB DFO, Senior Management Technical Advisor, EERE, DOE.

<b>STEAB TELECONFERENCE ATTENDANCE</b>		
<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b>	Present	Absent
<b>Susan S. Brown</b> , Deputy Administrator, Wisconsin Division of Energy		X
<b>Tom Carey</b> , Director, Energy and Rehabilitation Programs, New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal	X	
<b>Dan Carol</b> , Strategic Advisor/Organizational Consultant	X	
<b>William Vaughn Clark</b> , Director, Office of Community Development, Oklahoma Department of Commerce	X	
<b>John H. Davies</b> , Director, Division of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Kentucky Office of Energy Policy	X	
<b>David Gipson</b> , Director, Energy Services Division, Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority		X
<b>Philip Giudice</b> , Chief Executive Office, Liquid Metal Batter Corporation	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>Robert Jackson</b> , Manager, Michigan Economic Development Office, Michigan Energy Office	X	
<b>Elliott Jacobson</b> , Vice President for Energy Services, Action Energy	X	
<b>Peter Johnston</b> , Project Manager, Clean Energy Technologies, Burns & McDonnell	X	
<b>Maurice Kaya</b> , Hawaii Renewable Energy Development Venture		
<b>Ashlie Lancaster</b> , Director, South Carolina Energy Office	X	
<b>Lou Moore</b> , Chief, Energy and Pollution Prevention Bureau, Montana	X	
<b>Frank Murray</b> , President and CEO, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority	X	
<b>Steve Payne</b> , Managing Director, Housing Improvements & Preservation, Department of Commerce		X
<b>Janet Streff</b> , Manager, State Energy Office, Minnesota Department of Commerce		X
<b>David Terry</b> , Executive Director, ASERTTI	X	
<b>Daniel Zaweski</b> , Assistant Vice President - Energy Efficiency and Distributed Generation Program, Long Island Power Authority		X

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## Public Attendees

- Elizabeth Noll, American Gas Association

## Contractor Support & Other DOE Staff:

- Emily Zuccaro, SRA, International Inc.
- Homes Hummel, EERE, DOE

## Agenda Items:

- Gil Sperling (GS) opened the call and started by asking the group for the Task Force updates. He asked Paul Gutierrez (PG) to discuss the update for the Strategic Planning Task Force.
- PG informed the Board that the group met on December 5<sup>th</sup> with Senior Staff from EERE including Mike Carr and Jason Walsh. The group discussed future strategic initiatives between EERE and STEAB and the need for DOE to recognize the states as partners and not stakeholders in order to accomplish EERE program area goals.
- GS added that the meeting discussed the four focus areas outlined in FY 12 by the Sub-Committee and also discussed the current natural gas initiative. The group also discussed the perceptions of DOE not being supportive of states and SEO's and how EERE agreed there was a lack of information being shared with states. GS reminded the STEAB about the need to use the FACA powers to convene organizations and begin dialogues. This meeting was an initial meet and greet and process meeting of how to move forward and address each of the four areas. There is now a need to flush out a scope of work and bring all the players to the table.
- GS continued noting an additional topic discussed was the utility regulatory reform. He indicated EERE will follow-up after the New Year to talk about next-steps and that topic will be included in the January call.
- PG agreed noting the true next-step for the Task Force and Sub-Committee is figuring out how to regularly engage with EERE on these four key areas and identify one of these as a kick-off area. GS indicated the kick-off would be the grid modernization initiative currently underway at DOE.
- Holmes Hummel was on the call and she thanked the STEAB for their participation in an informational call last week and was excited about the positive feedback DOE had been receiving in response to that call. Since that call she consulted also with the Electricity Advisory Committee and a paper is currently being circulated to those committee members for consideration and deliberation. She asked for continued Board feedback and assistance. She is looking for constructive responses regarding criteria and assurance.
- Dan Carol (DC) asked if it was possible for DOE to share more specifics about this so STEAB could gain a clearer picture of what the initiative may look like so the Board can more easily work through the evaluation process of what the criteria may be for states to be eligible. He added that STEAB should also look at how best to strategically work with DOE and the Office of Electricity to move this forward.
- David Terry (DT) commented DOE has some good ideas but this paper also raised some serious questions. Some of those questions are things like what would the awards be used for, what is the scale of the program, and where are the appropriations coming from? Additionally, states are sensitive to the SEP competitive funding RFP's already as some states are already set up to be able to compete and others begin at a disadvantage. How would those issues be addressed?

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- DC added a comment about how Governor's and the White House are already talking about funding because states know they will receive smaller budgets and have already expressed a willingness to be flexible. That said, however, how does that flexibility fit into this model?
- John Davies (JD) expressed his desire to see more definition with this potential initiative as he sees regulators looking at this and being confused and being concerned.
- Ms. Hummel noted that DOE has talked to the Office of Electricity about this and noted Pat Hoffman has been involved in this from the start. JD followed-up and asked if the model for this program, the Department of Education's "Race to the Top" has actually been successful. The response was that in consultation with Education and Health and Human Services, they have seen success with this over the last five years. DOE is taking the lessons learned and best practices from that model and has learned technical assistance to the states is a key part of the catalyst for states to actively make their own internal changes. One of the lessons learned was states were already intending to make changes, but were not galvanized to do so until incentives came around.
- Frank Murray (FM) reminded everyone the President committed a pot of money to the education department for this program. He asked how realistic it was to expect the same for this initiative out of DOE.
- Ms. Hummel replied the agency and White House are currently engaged in this discussion and believe a large quantity of funding is needed.
- GS reminded STEAB that DOE is looking for feedback on costs and what amount of money will drive the incentive of states to actually get involved. What size incentive would help states?
- Robert Jackson (RJ) asked about the ability to get these as matching grants, and GS noted that DOE is looking at all options including leveraging funding.
- JD asked if it made a difference if the state was regulated or non-regulated, and the response was that there should not be a distinction and that all public power and coops are considered eligible.
- Phil Giudice (PGD) indicated there could be the perception that DOE is paying people to decouple which would make it difficult for regulators to support this effort. GS replied noting that DOE expects this to be successful in areas where there are demand-side customers. While this will not help utilities who are bent on maximizing sales, there needs to be a balance between national interests for clean energy and EE and utility sales.
- GS then asked for an update from the USDA/DOE Task Force.
- Duane Hauck (DH) gave the update noting the SEEP Working Group continues to engage on monthly phone calls. There is a face-to-face meeting planned in March 2013 after the STEAB meeting in DC. Additionally, the MOU between USDA and DOE was signed and right now the group is waiting to hear about how to publicize this signing and move forward.
- Elliott Jacobson (EJ) updated the STEAB on the details of the Weatherization Task Force. He noted the group met with Dr. Danielson in Washington, DC on December 5<sup>th</sup> and the group had a good discussion about what WAP would like to see in terms of funding, and also how to keep the program viable in the short and long-term. The Task Force will reengage with these players at the Board's March 2013 meeting in Washington, DC. GS added to this discussion that Dr. Danielson has committed to getting into the field to see the Weatherization Program at work and there should be availability in January to set that up.
- Lou Moore (LM) updated the STEAB on the activities of the SEP Task Force. She noted the group is waiting on a response from Anna Garcia to outstanding SEP questions, but some details were garnered from the NASEO meeting. Based on those details and the December SEP Task Force call the group wrote a letter to Dr. Kathleen Hogan asking for more details

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on SEP funding, how money is allocated, where the program is going, etc. and is currently awaiting a response. Also, the Task Force is working on a suggestion from Robert Jackson to look at the SEP Evaluation and take it in a different direction and work with NASEO to pull together an independent look at the program since the ORNL/KEMA evaluation seems stalled.

- The Lab Task Force reminded the Board that Resolution 13-01 was sent to DOE in early December and the group is currently waiting on a response from Dr. Danielson. The assumption is this resolution will be accepted and the Task Force can proceed with connection National Labs to SEO's and creating more open lines of communication.
- The meeting then turned to the portion for public comments. GS asked if any members of the public would like to make comments or ask questions. None of the public indicated they wanted to comment, so GS then closed that portion of the meeting.
- GS asked if there was any additional business to discuss.
- An update was provided about the details of the upcoming March 2013 meeting. Hotels were currently being selected and more details would be made available in January. JD asked for someone from EERE to come to the meeting and discuss the budget for EERE and explain to the Board where the funding was going and perhaps that presentation could provide details on what Lab the Board should visit for June.
- GS asked for any additional new business. Seeing as there was none, he thanked the Board for participating in the December call.

*Minutes were scribed by Emily Zuccaro, contractor support for the STEAB.*