COMMENTS FROM THE ENERGY COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY QUADRENNIAL TECHNOLOGY REVIEW FRAMING DOCUMENT

Comments submitted by:
Allison Doman
Deputy Director
Energy Communities Alliance
1101 Connecticut Ave, NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-828-2423
Allison@energyca.org

General comments:

ECA is the organization of elected local government and community leaders from communities, including Community Reuse Organizations (CROs), adjacent to DOE facilities. Our sites are prepared to partner with DOE to achieve the Nation's important and ambitious energy technology goals.

Many of our communities and local governments have already identified site-specific projects that support the President's Clean Energy Initiative. We have been working with the Department's Asset Revitalization Initiative (ARI) Task Force to identify and develop energy projects at our sites (also known as Energy Parks). We feel that these projects can help the Nation increase its energy security and develop, demonstrate and deploy emerging energy technologies. Our communities are uniquely positioned near DOE and national laboratory facilities, have access to extensive assets, and should be considered as prime locations for energy-related RD&D efforts.

Responses to numbered questions in the QTR Framing Document:

1. What do you think of the following mission statement for DOE energy research?

The mission statement should be expanded to include:

Leverage Department of Energy assets to facilitate the invention, refinement, and early deployment of meaningful technologies that enable options for scaling by the private sector toward national energy goals.

The mission statement should explicitly state that DOE's goal is to use its own existing assets and assets associated with DOE sites to facilitate the invention, refinement and early deployment of meaningful technologies. These assets include: national laboratories; land; facilities, including electrical transmission facilities; energy resources (e.g., solar, wind, biomass, geothermal); highly trained and experienced workforce, and a culture of safety; and incentives (e.g., loan guarantees, grants, purchase agreements, tax credits).

2. How can DOE activities best support U.S. leadership in clean energy innovation? In clean energy manufacturing? In clean energy deployment? How do we balance international competitiveness against international cooperation? No comment.

3. What principles should the Department follow for allocating resources among technologies of disparate maturity and potential time to impact? No comment.

4. What are the optimal roles for the private sector, government laboratories, citizens and academia in accelerating technology innovation?

Local governments and communities provide an excellent opportunity to accelerate technology innovation by providing ideal locations for energy development, demonstration and other types of energy-related projects. Energy communities, which surround DOE activities, support the Administration's energy efficiency and clean energy goals. As neighbors to DOE sites, and as partners to many successful projects, these communities are uniquely qualified to partner with DOE, national laboratories, private industry and academia to accelerate technology innovation. Energy communities provide municipal services to DOE (including utilities at many sites), can finance projects and issue bonds, and are experienced with public-private partnerships, and a host of other activities central to the long-term success of energy projects. These communities stand ready to build on existing partnerships with DOE.

DOE can coordinate activities between and among these types of organizations, including local governments and communities, by having clear policies and programs in place to accelerate technology innovation. For example, DOE has established the Asset Revitalization Initiative (ARI) in order to coordinate departmental organizations to transition existing Federal properties and other assets to future beneficial uses. This program should help to establish a framework for collaborative work between DOE sites and Headquarters program offices as well as with local communities, the private sector and other stakeholders. Communities are already planning several energy-related projects under ARI and the establishment of a Department-wide Task Force should help accelerate some of the programs.

5. What are principles and best practices in performing large-scale demonstration projects? No comment.

6. A number of non-technical barriers—including federal, state, and local regulations, market failures, and non-technical risks—impact the rate of deployment of energy technologies. What, if any, role should the Department have in addressing these barriers?

The Department should clarify its own policies on transferring and disposing of real and personal property.

7. Have we correctly identified and structured these six strategies? Yes