

Renewable Energy Committee Webinar and Conference Call

Thursday, December 8, 2011

3:00 – 4:30 p.m. (ET)

Moderator:

Julia Friedman

Participants:

Asa Hopkins, VT Dept. of Public Service
Carolyn Sullivan, OK Dept. of Commerce
Christopher Worley, CO Gov. Energy Office
Frank Murray, NYSEDA
Garth Otto, NASEO
Joe Kramer, Energy Center of WI
Katherine Walters, NC Energy Office
Kevin Lucas, MD Energy Office
Kylah McNabb, OK State Energy Office
Larry Shirley, NC Dept. of Commerce
Laura Wolfe, MO Dept. of Natural Resources
Liz Lowry, BCS Inc.

Maurice Kaya, NASEO
Molly Cripps, TN ECD/Energy Division
Paritosh Kasotia, IA Econ. Dev. Authority
Peter Cappers, LBNL
Rhonda Harding-Hill, OK Dept. of Commerce
Rob Vieira, FL Solar Energy Center
Robert Jackson, MI Energy Office
Sarah Ruen Blanchard, ASERTTI
Shemika Spencer, NASEO
Thomas Wilczek, NV State Office of Energy
Xiaohui Zhou, Iowa Energy Center

Meeting Overview:

The December 8, 2011 Committee Webinar included opening remarks and introductions from NASEO and ASERTTI staff and the joint NASEO-ASERTTI Renewable Energy Committee chairs. A presentation from Peter Cappers, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, was also given, followed by an open discussion involving the Renewable Energy Committee.

Presentation from Peter Cappers, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory:

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) recently conducted a scoping study on mass market demand response as a resource for integrating variable generation into the bulk power system. The study confirms that programs utilizing demand response will be among the important pathways for achieving high penetration of intermittent renewable energy such as solar and wind, and that states may have increasingly important roles to facilitate this integration via policy and regulatory drivers.

For full access to this presentation, please [click here](#)

Joint NASEO-ASERTTI Renewable Committee Discussion:

Julia Friedman, NASEO, opened this discussion by asking if there should be a more formal schedule of calls, webinars, and other activities moving forward. Larry Shirley, NASEO co-chair, stated that the committee is somewhat new, but as NASEO gets deeper into renewables, there will be a need to formalize this committee. At each annual meeting, the committee has included a program of speakers from a variety of fields; however, it is just now starting to work outside of these events, by moving into more regular discussions.

Frank Murray, ASERTTI co-chair, added that especially during the Winter Conferences, there is large attendance, but outside of these we tend to “go into hibernation”. We need to get a clearer sense of members, their feedback, suggestions, etc.

Maurice Kaya, NASEO, has held talks with DOE. For about the last 18 months or so, a good deal of work has been going on through the Office of Electricity (OE). One goal is to better understand the variety of programs available in RE and the second goal is to have states become more active in sharing their experiences and outcomes in RE and RE programs.

Sarah Ruen Blanchard, ASERTTI, held additional meetings with DOE and other Federal Agencies to identify how states and members’ interests and activities can better align with DOE’s goals and initiatives. Below is a brief overview of those discussions:

- DOE, Office of Biomass (OBP)
 - Focus within the office is on logistics and is working to get approximately \$150m for biofuels projects
 - There is also a Biofuels Technology Team (ARPA-E, DOE/SC, and DOE/OBP)
- DOE, Solar Technologies Program
 - Focusing on Sunshot program and how to transform market, as well as R&D
 - Of note:
 - Boise State University received funding for a Geographic Info Systems (GIS) decision support tool to identify utility-scale solar facility sites based on resources, local policies, and physical restraints. (Learn more: <http://news.boisestate.edu/update/2011/09/06/energy-policy-institute-to-research-solar-siting-through-2-8-million-grant/>)
 - SunRun report, *[The Impact of Local Permitting on the Cost of Solar Power](#)*.
 - Lastly, there is a robust 8-module, online training tool for code officials, which is to be released in January 2012
 - There are also plans for releasing a FOA for training in the next 18 months
- DOE, Fuel Cell Technologies Program
 - Focus is R&D
 - MOU signed with Hawaii – scoping out initial activity
- DOE, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE)
 - Focus is on RE integration, modeling, and storage issues
 - There will be funding for smart grid regional hubs in FY12; looking for creative ideas for the value added these hubs can offer
- ARPA-E
 - Focus is on breakthrough R&D (NASEO and ASERTTI might work on this together) as well as a new arm focused on supporting next steps for market-ready technologies
- U.S. Department of Commerce
 - Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge
 - 20 awarded projects (200 applicants); 2-3 are energy-focused
 - Will release again in FY12 with an Advanced Manufacturing focus
 - Interagency WG on Technology Transfer formed

Lastly, there is a new ASERTTI publication, titled “2011-2012 National Guide to State Energy Research Centers.”

Maurice Kaya added that during his meeting with OE and relative to smart grid, NASEO and OE expressed an interest in working with states on outreach. If people are interested in grid integration, this might be a useful topic for a future call or webinar.

Action Items:

- If there are common themes where states can come together through the RE Committee, please submit suggestions to Julia Friedman (jfriedman@naseo.org).
- National Council for Electricity Policy - this is group that has monthly calls on topics such as clean energy standards. It is jointly funded by the U.S. EPA and U.S. DOE. The National Council is comprised of members from NASEO, NARUC, NCSL, and the NGA. More information can be found at: www.ncouncil.org. NASEO members are all invited to join those calls. Email Julia Friedman (jfriedman@naseo.org) if you would like to be put on the National Council listserv.
- There's still room for panels, speakers, suggestions for the separate RE Committee session to be held on the margins of the [NASEO-ASERTTI Energy Policy and Technology Outlook Conference](#) in February 2012 in Washington, DC. Many DOE offices are interested in engaging with our Committee, if it is of interest to members.

Upcoming Meetings: Save-the-Date

- January 11, 2012
- February 23, 2012