

ASERTTI Members Conference Call Summary
Thursday, November 5, 2009 2:00 ET

Call Participants

Frank Murray, NYSERDA
Jake Fey, Washington State University-Cooperative Extension Energy Program
Ken Koyama, California Energy Commission
John Cuttica, University of Illinois Energy Resources Center
Susan Stratton, Energy Center of Wisconsin
Bill Horak, Brookhaven National Laboratory
Miriam Pye, NYSERDA
Henry Kurth, University of Illinois Energy Resources Center
Dan LeFevers, Gas Technology Institute
Ken Dulaney, Advanced Energy
Matt Krumenauer, Oregon Department of Energy
Rob Viera, Florida Solar Energy Center
Ladeene Friemuth
David Terry, ASERTTI
Tracey Kohler, ASERTTI

Call Summary

Executive Director Update

David Terry initiated the conference call and introduced Ladeene Friemuth to provide an overview of the status of the climate bill.

Climate Bill Update

Ms. Friemuth provided an update on the current climate bill – focusing her comments on procedure rather than substance. She noted that the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed the Kerry-Boxer bill; however, the bill was voted on by democrats only. She suggested that while the original goal was to get a bill before Copenhagen, due to partisan issues, it will now be unlikely that a bill will come before the Senate before the end of January 2010. She discussed the bipartisan work that Senators Graham and Kerry and working on and discussed the role that the EPA analysis is playing in negotiations and timelines. Ultimately, the talks in Copenhagen are now being perceived as a step in the process rather than an endpoint.

When asked about the allocations within the bill (i.e. whether allocations were changing in the new drafts in terms of where dollars will go), Ms. Friemuth suggested that while it is not entirely clear, it is something that ASERTTI should definitely keep a close eye on to ensure that projects such as the energy innovation hubs do not get lost within the many changes.

Before continuing with the remainder of the Executive Director update, Mr. Terry introduced the new ASERTTI Chair, Frank Murray, and asked that he provide a few comments for the call participants. Mr. Murray introduced himself and gave a brief overview of his professional background. He highlighted his enthusiasm to be a part of ASERTTI and his desire to work with ASERTTI members to help move ASERTTI forward in several key areas including an expanded national public policy effort, increased coordination with NASEO, and improved outreach to attract more members.

DOE and EPA Changes

Mr. Terry provided a brief update on some of the more recent staff changes at both DOE and EPA including Kathleen Hogan's move from EPA to be DOE to oversee their efficiency programs. The new organizational chart for DOE EERE is attached for additional information.

Follow-up from Fall Meeting

Mr. Terry reminded call participants that the presentations for the ASERTTI fall meeting are now available online and thanked everyone – especially Ken Koyama and Ellen Pettrill – for helping to make the meeting such a success.

Net Zero Energy Commercial Buildings Update

Mr. Terry updated the members on the net zero energy commercial buildings project and noted that the contract has now been signed and the subcontract for ASERTTI should be in place shortly. He noted that Brad Holloman will provide support on the contract.

When asked about the joint ASERTTI/NASEO/CESA project, Mr. Terry said that he anticipates the project to expand to a 3-year project. Ken Koyama volunteered to be part of the initial steering committee group for the project.

University Energy Center Project Update

Mr. Terry discussed the university energy center project and said that ASERTTI had a modest amount of funding to identify universities around the country that have established energy centers in order to help DOE and ASERTTI form a communications network of these organizations. He suggested that the project could serve as a membership building opportunity for ASERTTI. He said that Andrew Spahn and another contractor have been identified to assist on this project.

Energy Outlook Meeting Plans and Agenda

Mr. Terry provided an update on the upcoming joint ASERTTI/NAESO energy outlook meeting planned for February 1-4, 2010. He noted that both ASERTTI and NASEO will have their own websites for administrative reasons but that the websites will be largely identical regarding content. He highlighted the interest from both an ASERTTI and NASEO standpoint to increase the coordination of the agenda; however, he noted that there would still be a few sessions that would target the ASERTTI and NASEO members individually. For example, he said that there would be a large focus on ARRA discussions for the state energy offices as well as a number of technology tracks geared more toward the ASERTTI members. He also indicated that he would like to have presentations from both the NASEO and ASERTTI membership on specific projects of interest. He said that he hopes to have John Holdren, President Obama's science advisor, as a keynote and that he would like to have a speaker from Secretary Chu's office to discuss ARPA-E. Susan Stratton, Jake Fey, John Cuttica and others volunteered to review and provide input on the first draft of the agenda.

Mr. Terry said that there would be time set aside during the meeting to discuss industrial efficiency with partners including ASE and ACEEE to identify how to better coordinate on appropriations issues as well as programmatically. One member suggested contacting Illinois, as they have put significant ARRA money toward industrial efficiency.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 3, 2009, 2:00 ET

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Organizational Chart

