

**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
**Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee**  
Fifth Charter, 2018-2020

February 6, 2020  
In-Person Meeting  
Herbert. C. Hoover Building,  
Library Reading Room (Rm 1894)  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20230

**MINUTES**

Welcome, Introductions, and Updates

- Mr. Kramer opened the meeting and welcomed the committee, emphasizing the day's session as an opportunity to define this charter's legacy, highlighting the various recommendations and achievements of the charter.
- Ms. Gunderson gave an overview of the day's proceedings and introduced the guest speakers. She also provided updates on the Phase One China Deal, trade event promotion program (TEPP), and the energy storage roundtable held recently at Commerce.
- Ms. Gunderson noted that with this being the penultimate meeting of the charter, there may be an out brief at the next meeting on the committee's work for Commerce senior officials.
- Ms. Dickson noted that USTR is accepting public comments on whether to continue the bifacial solar panel exclusion granted under the Section 201 remedy.
- Ms. Gunderson highlighted several upcoming events, including.
  - America Crece industry roundtable at Commerce (Feb. 20)
  - Powering Africa summit in Miami, FL (Feb. 24-26)
  - Asia EDGE trade mission to Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand (March 16-24)
  - Solar PV value chain roundtable at Commerce (March 19)
  - African Utility Week in Cape Town, South Africa (May 12-14)
- Ms. Gunderson introduced Andrew Moyseowicz as a new staff member in the Office of Energy and Environmental Technologies working on the smart grid portfolio.

**Briefing: Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS)**

Adam Vaccaro, CFIUS Coordinator, Industry & Analysis, International Trade Administration,  
U.S. Department of Commerce

Alex Layser, Senior Case Manager, Industry & Analysis, International Trade Administration,  
U.S. Department of Commerce

David Shogren, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Department of the Treasury

- Mr. Vaccaro explained the structure of CFIUS and its role, highlighting its multi-agency composition. He mentioned that there are different processes for CFIUS reviews that

depend on whether a company has voluntarily disclosed information that triggered the review or not.

- Mr. Shogren talked about the importance of CFIUS in enhancing confidence in the United States' open investment policy. He discussed the implications of the 2018 Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act (FIRMA), which subjects some investments—such as certain non-passive, non-controlling investments as well as investments in real estate in sensitive geographic locations—to additional review, except for those made by qualifying investors from the UK, Australia, and Canada.
- Mr. Shogren mentioned two scenarios that might increase the possibility of a CFIUS review for an investment: where the investment is in a company in the critical technology, critical infrastructure, or personal data sectors, and where the investment would allow a foreign national to gain access to non-public information or from such a company or be involved in substantive decision-making at the company.
- Mr. Shogren noted that two aspects of electricity infrastructure in particular are considered critical – bulk power systems and power systems that connect to specified military facilities. Transactions are often allowed to proceed with the incorporation of certain measures to mitigate any national security threat but may be blocked when no such mitigation is viable.

### **Briefing: Power Africa and Prosper Africa**

Fred Stewart, Director, Office of Africa, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

Ned Rauch-Mannino, Global Markets, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

Ja'Nel Edens, International Trade Specialist, Office of Africa, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

Julius Svoboda, Power Africa, U.S. Agency International Development

- Mr. Stewart discussed results of the Prosper Africa initiative so far, including fact-finding trips to four African countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, and Ghana) and MOUs with those countries to work on improving their attractiveness for investment by U.S. companies.
- Mr. Stewart mentioned the competition that U.S. businesses in Africa face not only from China, but also from European companies. Deal teams are big part of the initiative's strategy to better coordinate market intelligence and synchronize U.S. government support of business transactions.
- The speakers also are interested in hearing from U.S. businesses that are not in Africa, what specifically is holding them back, how can incentive structures be changed so that they are interested in seeking out new business in Africa, and what role Power Africa, Prosper Africa, and the U.S. government can play.

### **Briefing: Economic Development Administration, Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (OIE)**

Craig Buerstatte, Director, OIE, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

- Mr. Buerstatte presented on the origins of the OIE, its goals, and its strategies for achieving those goals. OIE was established by the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 and manages several grant competitions that support high-growth entrepreneurship, create jobs, and drive economic growth in communities around the United States.
- Mr. Buerstatte highlighted the Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) program and presented examples of RIS program grantees.
- He noted there will be a new FY20 funding solicitation in the coming weeks.

### **DOC Leadership Update**

Brian Lenihan, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing, Industry & Analysis, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

- Mr. Lenihan introduced himself to the committee as the new Deputy Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing and answered questions from the committee.
- Mr. Lenihan noted that REEEAC has a good implementation track record for the recommendations made throughout its charters and that he is looking forward to seeing more recommendations come out of the committee.

### **Subcommittee Breakouts**

*REEEAC members dispersed into four subcommittees for discussions: Finance, Manufacturing, Market Access and Trade Promotion.*

### **Subcommittee Read-Outs**

#### **Trade Promotion**

- The committee discussed the possibility of an integrated education program for U.S. Commercial Service on distributed energy resources (DER) and integrated grid solutions that goes beyond just the proposed poster, for example with in-person briefings or webinars.
- Mr. Taylor introduced edits to poster recommendation, adding multiple industry sectors that are served by micro grids. Ms. Gunderson provided clarification about website redirection, and it was determined it could be decided on later.
- The committee voted and unanimously approved the recommendation.

#### **Market Access**

- Mr. Higgins introduced a subcommittee recommendation on non-wires solutions/alternatives (NWA).

- Deleted a paragraph to reduce repetition and added language on DERs, DERMS, and microgrids.
- Added in that modern RE&EE technologies add solutions more quickly and at lower cost to consumers.
- The committee voted and unanimously approved the recommendation.
- Mr. Higgins noted that two additional recommendations may be introduced in the following meeting.

### **Manufacturing**

- The committee is working on a recommendation on how to support RE and EE manufacturing in the US to improve the export base for these products, which it hopes to have ready for a vote by the next meeting. Possibly going to recommend more industry-specific roundtables, and potentially industry-specific (e.g. PV, wind) manufacturing advisory committees.
- Ms. Gunderson pointed out the Executive Order to cut discretionary Advisory Committees by a third, and Ms. Dickson pointed out that the subcommittee has an interest in providing a mechanism for formal recommendations on department/U.S. government actions.
- The committee discussed the merits of different approaches to formalizing avenues of input from specific subsectors.

### **Letter to REEEAC VI**

- Mr. Kramer provided an overview of Charter V accomplishments.
- Ms. Thyfault suggested incorporating region-specific discussions.
- Ms. Soos suggested the next charter take up their workforce development recommendation that they didn't have a chance to take on.
- The committee engaged in a discussion on future recommendations for how to push back on China's dominance over international standards relevant to the RE & EE industries

### **Concluding Items**

- Ms. Gunderson provided an overview on the re-chartering process.
- The committee provided recommendations on future speakers, including ARPA-E and TPCC-REEE.
- David Wilbur from Treasury announced the upcoming Energy ministerial in Jamaica.

### **Members of the Public**

- Mr. Terrence Hill offered introductory remarks on himself and to the committee. He recommended the United States look at direct current as an efficient solution to energy problems in the developing world.
- Mr. Kramer adjourned the meeting.

**Attendance**

**REEEAC Membership**

<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Matt	Card	Suniva
Terry	Dittrich	TWD Global Enterprises LLC
Brett	Feldman	Navigant Research
Mark	Higgins	Strategen Consulting
Kenneth	Kramer	Rushton Atlantic, LLC
William	Pott	POWER Engineers, Inc.
Gary	Rackliffe	ABB Inc.
Jorge	Sanchez	Thor Energy
Frank	Shaw	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Scott	Sklar	The Stella Group, Ltd.
Paula	Soos	Covanta
David	Spira	Deloitte Consulting LLP
Adam	Stern	American Wind Energy Association
Trey	Taylor	Verdant Power, Inc.
Cindy	Thyfault	Global Biofuture Solutions, Inc.
Craig	Updyke	National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
Fred	Walti	Network for Global Innovation
Kathleen	Weiss	First Solar
Candice	Wilson	U.S. Grains Council

**U.S. Government**

<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Brian	Lenihan	Commerce
Man	Cho	Commerce
Cora	Dickson	Commerce
Vickie	Gunderson	Commerce
Adam	O'Malley	Commerce
Christian	Herman	Commerce
Andrew	Moyseowicz	Commerce
Jacob	Brunell	Commerce
Beryl	Taylor	Commerce
Adam	Vaccaro	Commerce
William	Hamby-Hopkins	Commerce
Fred	Stewart	Commerce
Ned	Rauch-Mannino	Commerce
Ja'Nel	Edens	Commerce

Craig	Buerstatte	Commerce
Alex	Layser	Commerce
David	Shogren	Treasury
David	Wilbur	Treasury
Julius	Svoboda	USAID