

Renewable Portfolio Standard Stakeholder Meeting
Official Meeting Minutes

150th General Assembly

Friday, May 10th, 2019
10:00 am
House Hearing room, 2nd Floor
Legislative Hall

Meeting Attendance

Committee Members:

Present:

Senator Harris B. McDowell, III
Senator David L. Wilson

Email:

Harris.McDowell@delaware.gov
David.L.Wilson@delaware.gov

Phone:

Absent:

Staff:

James Berryhill

Email:

james.berryhill@state.de.us

302-744-4035

Attendees:

Beth Chajes
Sherri Evan-Stanton
Andrea Kreiner
Kit Zalc
John Sykes
Andrew Slater
William Whipple, III
Heidi Hawkins
Anthony DePrima
Darrin Gordon
Heather Contant
Shi Widom
James Dechene
Emily Greene
William Bennett
Austin Calamon
Tarik Zerrad
Therman Brendlinger
Mary Jane Elliot
Frances Yuhas
David Stevenson
Sam Hemphill
Lisa Oberoof
Kathryn Lanzarotto
Wei-Ming Chen
Alexandra Shull
Rick Moore
Bob Maxwell
Doug Edwards
Allen Rogers

Organization:

DE Sierra Club
DE Sierra Club
DNREC
Progressives of Sussex
DE IPL
DPA
SAFE
Exelon Generation
Energize Delaware
Lewes BPW
DEMEC
Calpine corp
DE State Chamber
DEMEC
City of Seaford
Lewes Board of Public Works
RWA
Clean Air Council
Citizen
TPE
Caesar Rodney Institute
PSC
Delmarva Power
PHI
University of Delaware
MAREC action
DE Interfaith Power

Email/Phone:

beth.chajes@gmail.com
Sheri.evans-stanton@sierraclub.org
akreiner@delaware.gov
Kit.and.bill.zalc@gmail.com
jsykes@delawareIPL.org
Andrew.slater@delaware.gov
wwhipple3@verizon.net
Heidi.Hawkins@exeloncorp.com
tony.deprima@deseu.org
dgordon@lewesbpw.com
hcontant@demec.net
shi.widom@calpine.com
jdechene@dsc.com
egreene@demecinc.net
seafordelectric@seafordde.com
acalamon@lewesbpw.com
Tarik@ruggeriowillson.com
Breadlinger@cleanair.org
mjwelliott@gmail.com
fyuhas@tpoint-e.com
Davidstevenson@caesarrodney.org
Samantha.Hemphill@delaware.gov
Lisa.Oberoof@delmarva.com
Kathryn.lanzarotto@exeloncorp.com
katty@udel.edu
ashull@cgrpartners.com

George Chambers		
Lauren Donovan	CMI Solar and Electric	ldonovan@cmielectic.com
Dale Davis	DSEC	ddavis@cmielectric.com
Margaret McLaughlin	UUDAN	mmclaughlin13123@gmail.com
Charles Garlow	Citizens Climate Lobby	Cgarlow@solartour.org
David Argentar	Sun Edge, LCC	dargentar@sunedge.com
Mark Nielson	Delaware Electric Coop.	mnielson@decoop.com
Cheryl Siskin	Plastic-Free DE	Csiskin@gmail.com
Bruce Burcat	Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy	Bburcat@marec.us
Lori Murphy Lee	PJM	lorimurphy.lee@pjm.com
D. Preston Lee	Lewes Board of Public Works	dpreslee@gmail.com
Kimberly Schlichting	DEMEC	Kschlichting@demecinc.net
Morris Deputy	Town of Middletown	mdeputy@middletownde.org
Anne Lindner	DPL	anne.lindnere@pepcoholdings.com
Glenn Moore	DPL	glenmoore@delmarva.com
John Sertich	Clean Energy USA	john@ceusa.com
John Nichols	Citizen	jnichols@yahoo.com
John Greer	Citizen	Jgreerjr@hotmail.com

Senator McDowell convened the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Agenda:

I.

SYNOPSIS –

Senator McDowell initiated the meeting by explain that this is not a committee meeting but to look for a consensus on a possible target for the next round of the RPS. Background of the current standard and its success was given along with the benefits of renewable energies. Everyone introduced themselves and the organizations they are associated with. The conversation was then turned over to whichever stakeholders would like to speak.

DEMEC- Kimberly Schlichting explained that they would not like for a bill to be introduced this session. They believed that more time and meeting were needed to before a proposal was to be submitted to congress. They also expressed that municipal utilities have great opportunity cost for land use and need to calculate potential costs to customers. They also stated that we should see the impact of current RPS before setting new goals as well as fix its current and known issues with like the net metering regulations.

Del. Faith & Light- John Sykes expressed that we have limited time to act on climate change and need to do so quickly.

John Greer, PE- Climate change isn't real and the cost increases for electricity because of the RPS are not justified.

Caesar Rodney Institute- David Stevenson stated that renewables are now competitive on their own so there should be no new standards set and that capacity for utilities to change power on the grid to renewables is only 30%. They also commented on current legislation related to community solar how it needs to be fixed to bring in utility scale solar. They also believe that there shouldn't be a solar carve out. Increasing RPS targets will raise electricity prices significantly.

Delaware Solar Energy Coalition- Dale Davis said that RPS has brought many jobs and job stability. He also encouraged facilitating instate projects within the legislation and to fix cost cap in the current legislation

DESEU- Tony DePrima had no comment on increasing standard. Simply wanted to state that we should consider giving bonuses for using "brown sites" to develop Renewable Energy Systems.

Sierra Club- Sherri Evan-Stanton stated that new RPS should follow several principles including:

- Reduces emissions in accordance with U.S. Climate Alliance
- Promotes renewable energy industry

- Protects health and safety of citizens
- Assign authority to secretary of DNREC to establish rules and enforce any cost controls set forth
- Include analysis of the cost to reduce adverse health effects of decreased air quality by fossil fuel plants vs renewable energies
- SRECs contracts that last 20 years and require the renewable energy providers to monitor their data annually.
- Maintain a reasonably high ACP
- Provide long term investments in renewable energy
- Establish a climate action plan that:
 - Establish committee
 - Produces annual report on how to reduce carbon emissions and prepare communities to adapt to climate change
 - Details progress in reaching RE targets, energy efficiency targets, emission reduction targets
 - Submit report the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council and Renewable Energy Taskforce
 - Evaluate and make recommendations regarding the overall costs and benefits of moving toward a long-term goal of 100% carbon free/neutral energy

Delmarva- Glen Moore stated that Delmarva supports the state and whatever standards they deem are needed. Delmarva is on course to meet current RPS and said that the prices of RECs are down and projected to go lower. Also, he stated that expensive contracts are set to expire, so in the new RPS, the schedule for increases should be non-linear as some years are better than others to increase standard.

John Nichols- Renewables displace, not replace reliable energy forms. Climate change isn't real.

Senator McDowell made comments about how we cannot affect law outside of our state but we should still pursue making our state cleaner. He also asked about carbon capture and advancing storage technologies that will make renewables reliable and the main power source for us to depend on. Many joined in to talk about short coming and as well as possible future promise on these issues.

Sun Edge- David Argentar chipped into the Delmarva conversation to add that there is no real data on carbon capture when Glenn was asked about it by Senator McDowell.

Clean Energy USA- John Sertich stated that current RPS has increased jobs for their company and the state at large. Solar produces during the day when the most energy is being produced.

DEL. Electric Coop-Mark Nielson expressed they would like increased state incentives for renewable projects. The COOP has installed a lot of solar.

Preferred Electric- Nello Paoli said that current RPS created jobs, job stability, and programs to train students.

NCC councilman-Ken Woods also stated that the RPS supported jobs.

Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition-Bruce Perket wants to support in-state jobs and eliminate carbon emissions. Though out of state renewables help eliminate emissions, we would benefit more economically.

Delaware United- Dustin Thompson IMF reported that \$650 billion dollars in government aid to fossil fuel industries annually.

Lewes Public Works- Derrick Gordmon said that renewables should compete on their own and that current net metering regulations need to be fixed. Wants to have more stakeholder meetings to create better compromise before introducing a new target.

Public Advocate- Drew Slater stated that we need to reduce ACPs and close borders for RECs. Net metering funds should be feeding the green energy fund.

Citizen- John Nichols said that another RPS target should not be pursued until the lawsuit between DNREC and the PSC is resolved that is related to the current RPS.

DEMEC- Kimberly Schlichting rose the concern about large producers of solar energy can demand large checks from Municipalities because of the current net metering policy.

Senator McDowell- open boundaries for purchasing RECs and SRECs have not been a positive experience thus far.

Delmarva- Glen Moore RECs and SRECs can come in from anywhere with PJM and organizations related to them. There is practice of balancing between purchasing in state and out of state RECs. Closed borders significantly increases REC prices and there are major consequences for the cost of Renewables.

DNREC- Andrea Kreiner The governor has made a commitment to reduce emissions so the RPS must be increased to do so. Also stated that we should increase amount of residents who own solar. She also mentioned that we need to clarify the current legislation.

Senator McDowell- initially alternative compliance payments were meant to be extremely high and will surely be lowered there is another round of the RPS.

Secretary to the State Chamber of Commerce- James said that we should always look to reduce subsidies. Asks where will technology be in 5 years?

Turning Point Energy- Frances Yuhas The way that community solar is currently written into law does not work for solar developers. We should develop state programs to support the RPS.

Doug Edwards- Engineer/Designer- RPS provided jobs and we should continue to increase targets

Citizen- Allan Rodgers stated that solar is now competitive on its own

Citizen- we need RPS and carbon tax as 1 million species worldwide are accelerating toward extinction

Citizen- there are many opportunities for solar and wind.

John Nichols- Climate change isn't real and offered to bring 6 whole climate scientist who agree with this.

Chesapeake Utilities- Wanted to use poultry litter as a renewable biofuel

Sierra Club- Beth Chajes \$650 billion in gov't aid to fossil fuel industry that are invisible

Solar Unlimited- George made the case to create RECs for solar thermal systems. Claimed that solar thermal is 4 to 5 times more energy efficient than PV and that Maryland and DC includes solar thermal in their RPS.

The last 45 minutes of the meeting consisted of each person in the room stating their preferred target and target year. The votes were recorded.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 pm.

Minutes prepared by Nick DiNardo on 5/23/19.

This meeting was recorded, and an MP3 audio file is available upon request.