



Renewable Energy Expert Committee (REEC)

Second Meeting: Monday, 20 February 2006
Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico

PROCEEDINGS

Introduction

The meeting began late due to a technical problem with the teleconferencing technology. After welcoming the participants (Annex A: List of Participants) and thanking IIE for co-hosting this meeting, Chantal Line Carpentier (CEC) reviewed the agenda, that was then approved (Annex B: Agenda). The main objective of the meeting was to go over the products generated since the REEC November meeting and discuss what could be the next steps for 2006–2008. Chantal Line gave a brief overview of the role of the REEC as advisors to the CEC Parties. In practice, this means that we make recommendations to the Parties and complete documents that are sent to the Article 10(6) Working Group (made up of trade and environment officials from the three Parties) and the General Standing Committee (government liaison to the CEC). These bodies can modify documents and activities and have the final say on approval and publishing of documents and selecting activities to be undertaken by the group and the budget allocated to these activities.

Renewable Energy Resource Mapping

Two of the authors of the mapping report (“Reviewing Gaps in Resource Mapping for Renewable Energy in North America”), Ricardo Saldaña (IIE) and Chris Boivin (with Ted Ferguson of Delphi Group), introduced their respective sections of the report. The report was generally well received. Some discussion ensued around the information needed to improve maps, the interoperability of data and the maps—especially the Mexican biomass map, the fact that maps are generally available for areas where resources are the greatest, the tendency for US maps to be generally more detailed and more complete, and that ocean mapping is less complete because the technology is less developed. This meeting of experts, especially with the presence of INEGI (*Instituto Nacional de Estadística Geografía e Informática*), was considered a good start for institutions to start talking among themselves, creating links, networking and facilitating discussions regarding what represents good mapping for wind, biomass, solar, etc.

The proposed next steps are:

- Creating a bank of projects with resources to support them;
- Listing potential mapping projects and documenting electricity resources. These should be shared with the public in order to facilitate building support and financing.

Further discussion was postponed for the second day and the request was made that comments should be sent by the end of February.

Financing Small-scale Projects: Case Studies

Chantal Line Carpentier presented the paper prepared by Martin Tampier of Envirochem (“Renewable Energy Financing Case Studies: Lessons to be Learned from Successful Initiatives”). She highlighted the case studies that were documented by Martin and reported that Martin could not find Mexican examples. The project also provides sources, such as contact information or Internet addresses for the programs; and summarizes general tendencies and lessons learned from renewable energy financing programs. David Morillón and Jorge Huacuz have agreed to contact their Mexican colleagues and ask them to document two Mexican case studies that could be added to the report. Meredith will send some links to web resources (tools for practitioners) she has seen that could be useful.

The next steps proposed are:

- **Posting the information on the web.** Combined with the review of policies document (compiled by Véronique Robichaud—see section below), this document will be posted on the CEC web site. More case studies will be added as they are “discovered,” which will slowly build this repository of information on existing financing programs.
- **Bring RE founding groups together to discuss how they can improve their outreach/delivery.** Most case studies involve organizations, at least partially subsidized by states or provinces, with interest in developing RE and other programs, such as the Clean Energy Alliance, the Pollution Probe effort and CESA. As all these efforts are independent, getting them in touch with each other was suggested as a means of assaying their interest in exploring how these programs might best be coordinated to get the most out of the scarce resources available.

Comments should be sent by the end of February.

Supplement the Database with Existing Laws

Chantal Line had distributed the document prepared by Véronique Robichaud (“Report on the Database of Laws and Policies Related to Renewable Energy”) that compiles the Canadian and Mexican federal laws, policies and incentives in the same categories as those found in DSIRE (Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy). Veronique continues to gather more provincial information in Canada to parallel the US state-level information. Her report will be made available on the web site.

Next steps are the same as those that were proposed at the November 2005 annual meeting: 1) develop a search engine for the trilateral database, and 2) further automate the database.

Fostering Green Power Markets

Meredith Wingate (CRS) and Claudio Alatorre (UNAM) presented their report that had been requested at the annual meeting (“White Paper: Fostering Renewable Electricity Markets in North America”). The discussion focused on the typology of renewable electricity, green power, etc. The discussion led to a few decisions, including:

- changing the title of the white paper to reflect its focus on renewable electricity as opposed to renewable energy. “Green power” cannot be used because it means voluntary for most US citizens but is considered non-large-hydro in Canada;
- adding a note that describes what this report does and does not include: clarifying that though large hydro is renewable, the focus of the report is on emerging technologies that still need promotion;
- changing the Mexican section to de-emphasize the proposed renewable energy law (*Ley para el Aprovechamiento de Fuentes Renovables de Energía—LAFRE*) and avoid the impression that nothing happened before that law was proposed;
- explaining the market context within each country that will explain much of the differences in policies and recommendations;
- reducing and better categorizing Canadian recommendations; and
- incorporating the new set of recommendations to the Parties (and not to the CEC Secretariat) as discussed and altered at the meeting (see the attached revised white paper).

The next steps proposed are to:

- commission a white paper on renewable non-electric energy, biofuel, biomass, and thermal applications;
- explore the technology market for renewable electricity development;
- send the new recommendations for the Parties to the entire REEC to ensure everyone is comfortable with them.

Comments should be sent by the end of February.

Calculating Environmental Benefits

The summary report prepared by Craig Hanson was not ready to be presented at the meeting (he received his contract late). The report (“Estimating Avoided Emissions Achieved through Renewable Electricity”) is attached.

The next steps proposed are:

- **Web-based calculator.** By the end of this fiscal year, the CEC will post user-friendly versions of the information discussed above on its web site and provide links to related sites. Beyond that, over the coming years, the CEC should develop a tool for calculating the avoided emissions based on the different methodologies used in our three countries.
- **Calculate other externalities.** The CEC could look at other benefits and externalities. Participants suggested that the CEC evaluate total costs of energy from all sources, including the whole range of externalities.

Comments should be sent by 24th March.

Green Purchasing of Renewable Energy

Susan Hebert (TerraChoice Inc.) went over the work done on renewable electricity under the North American Green Purchasing Initiative (NAGPI). She explained that generally there was a demand for renewable electricity and that renewables could represent a greater share of the institutional procurement. Availability and price are usually the reasons given for not purchasing renewables. Lack of certification was raised as one of the major barriers in Mexico. Yet others thought that it may not be the case and that the WRI experience in the United States could be repeated in Mexico. The idea would be to bring together a few of the large businesses, discuss how best to procure renewables, write contracts, set a goal for the country and negotiate a price together. This could be

done as part of the CEC's ongoing Greening the Supply Chain project. A web site would list companies that do procure renewables and each business could decide to put a logo on their products and/or claim the percent of renewables used in their production. Many believe that there is a demand for a North American logo such as the one used for recycled content.

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Annex A: List of participants



Renewable Energy Expert Committee (REEC) meeting
Reunión del Comité de Expertos en Energía Renovable (CEER)
Monday, 20 February 2006 - Lunes 20 de febrero de 2006

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Annex B: Agenda



Renewable Energy Expert Committee (REEC) meeting

Monday, 20 February 2006

Salon Lirio, Hostería Las Quintas

Bld. Diaz Ordaz No. 9, Cuernavaca, Morelos, México

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| 8:30 | Registration and Continental Breakfast |
| 9:00 | Welcome Address, Background and Review of Agenda (CEC) |
| 9:30 | Round Table Introduction |
| 10:00 | Renewable Energy Resource Mapping (The Delphi Group and IIE) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Overview of draft report and highlights of tomorrow's meeting</i>▪ <i>Comments?</i> |
| 10:20 | Best Practices in Financing Small-scale Projects (CEC) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Review of draft report</i>▪ <i>Comments?</i>▪ <i>Next steps?</i> |
| 11:20 | Sustainable Coffee Break |
| 11:35 | Supplement the Database with Existing Laws (CEC) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Review of draft report</i>▪ <i>Comments?</i>▪ <i>Next steps?</i> |
| 12:35 | Fostering Green Power Markets (Center for Resource Solutions and Claudio Alatorre) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Review of draft report</i>▪ <i>Comments?</i>▪ <i>Next steps?</i> |
| 14:00 | Working Lunch - Government Updates |
| 15:15 | Calculating Environmental Benefits (World Resource Institute) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Review of draft report</i>▪ <i>Comments?</i>▪ <i>Next steps?</i> |
| 16:15 | Links to Green Procurement Work |
| 16:45 | Next Steps (CEC) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Program Plan for 2006-2007</i>▪ <i>Next conference call</i> |
| 17:30 | Adjournment |

