

Power Gen Advisory Panel Meeting
May 3, 2021
Meeting Notes

Attendees

Sarah Osgood – Acting Chair
Annel Hernandez
Betta Broad
Cecilio Aponte
Darren Suarez
Edward Galvin
Emilie Nelson
James Shillitto
Jennifer Schneider
John Reese
Katherine Kennedy
Laurie Wheelock
Lisa Dix
Rory Christian
Shyam Mehta
Stephan Roundtree
Thomas Congdon
William Acker

Introduction

Acting Chair Sarah Osgood welcomed the panelists and attendees, introducing the agenda for the meeting. The goal of the meeting was to summarize public input received and discuss and refine draft recommendations.

Public Input Summary

Sarah Osgood summarized the public input received to date, highlighting broad support for renewables and more aggressive measures, input in support of and against the maintenance and buildout of nuclear generation. She noted the general opposition to natural gas and biofuels, and the critical importance of equity, reliability, and resiliency highlighted in public comments. She also noted the input received from specific interest groups through public outreach. Details can be found on slides 4- 8 of the meeting materials.

Recommendation Updates

Sarah Osgood also summarized the changes made to draft recommendations previously presented as a result of public input. She highlighted the addition of a new enabling initiative for Demand Side Management. Additionally, she highlighted the slight changes and updates made to six of the previously presented recommendations; Technology Solutions, Market Solutions, DG/DERs, Methane Leakage, Retirement of Fossil Fuel-Fired Facilities, Clean Energy Siting & Community Acceptance. A summary of the updates to the draft recommendations are included in the meeting materials with full details of the final recommendations included in the appendix.

Discussion

Sarah Osgood opened the floor for discussion and input on the modified recommendations.

Bill Acker: Thanked Sarah for a good job summarizing the recommendations and the team for a good job of putting these recommendations together. Noted no changes or concerns with advancing the modified recommendations. On the technology solutions area, highlighted that the panel had strengthened a few aspects, particularly around deploying dispatchable solutions as they emerge and as we need them, and demonstration projects tied to long duration storage to reach the state's goals. Feels the panel has made a meaningful step forward with the storage technology recommendations while not changing the spirit of the recommendation. Noted that the recommendation continues to strongly advance storage technology in the state and has been expanded to include starting a docket to create vehicle a for funding storage programs. These are a good set of recommendations and is supportive of them.

Lisa Dix: Expressed that it was a great experience working together to get these recommendations finalized and send to the CAC. Also echoed Bill Acker's comments about storage and getting to our targets. Encouraged continued engagement with the utility group. Noted that if utilities really want to play a role in decarbonizing the electricity sector, they should figure out how to work with state to replace fossil fuel plants and units with creative financing mechanism to bundle non-emitting resources in a great collaborative effort. Emphasized that she was encouraged to hear that utilities really want to lean in and support achieving climate goals.

Emilie Nelson: Thanked Sarah and group, and thanked commenters for their input. Mentioned the strong aspect of these were its iterative nature of the recommendation. Mentioned the importance of how we transition the energy sector and economy over the next 2 decades and how we balance the needs of stakeholders. Highlighted that it is critical to remain engaged throughout period from now until 2030.

John Reese: Thanked staff for pulling this together and thanked panel members for reaching agreement. Noted that the panel has arrived at the core solutions. Noted the need for building on the review and proposals approach to peaker regulations. Emphasized that coordination with the reliability council to ensure the state can get to zero while maintaining reliability is fundamental to the recommendations here.

Katherine Kennedy: Thanked staff and expressed the honor to working with all the members. Thinks the panel has a great set of recommendations that builds on the initial core principles of reliability, affordability, emissions reductions, improved health and equity to take us to 2040. Expressed that this is an iterative process, and our ability to use existing technology and developing new technology to reach our goals. The Energy Demand Response was the final piece of the puzzle and very important to reaching our CLCPA goals.

Betta Broad: Appreciated all of the panel and staff's hard work, and it was an honor to be a part of this process. Appreciated the comments from the public. Feels great about recommendations. Notes that the interdisciplinary nature of the group helped to strengthen the recommendations. Emphasized that she is glad the panel as able to expand the scope of the methane leakage section in particular with the EE&H panel and was excited to work with the excellent staff. Expressed concern about Climate Change

and a lot of hard work went into these recommendations, and if adopted by the CAC, will go a long way. Felt the public engagement section needed a special focus and ensuring that climate education is available to everyone. Noted that it is critical to communicate these recommendations more broadly to ensure they are understood and there is broad public interest in acting upon it. Looking forward to continuing to work together to advance these goals. Thanked Sarah Osgood for her leadership.

Next Steps

Sarah Osgood reminded the panel that this was the final scheduled Power Generation Panel meeting but noted that there will likely be opportunities for the panel as a whole and its members to engage in the ongoing Climate Action Council process. She highlighted the upcoming Climate Action Council meeting on **May 10th at 9:00 a.m. EST** noting that the Power Generation Panel will be presenting its final recommendations to the council during the meeting.

Sarah Osgood thanked the panel for their participation and dedication to the cause. Panel members shared their appreciation for the work of the staff in pulling together the final recommendations and wished Sarah well in her new position at NYSERDA.

Additional comments or inquiries may be directed to PowerGenPanel@dps.ny.gov.