

Just Transition Work Group Meeting 3
November 4, 2020
1-3pm

Working Group Member Attendees

Doreen Harris – Co-Chair
Roberta Reardon – Co-Chair
Commissioner RuthAnne Visnauskas
John Rhodes
Gary LaBarbera
Vincent Albanese
Omar Freilla
Henry Garrido
Patrick Jackson
Michael Padgett
Brian Raley
James Shillitto
Maritza Silva-Farrell
Ted Skerpon
Candis Tolliver
Randy Wolken

Other Attendees

Kaela Mainsah
Adele Ferranti
James Wilcox
Dave Quickenton
Peter Olmsted
Don Applyrs
Lisa Wansley
Alicia Sullivan
Yvonne Martinez
Jamie Dickerson
Kara Allen
Mark Coleman

Meeting Summary

1) **Introduction**

2) Discussion on Just Transition Principles

a. Stakeholder Engagement

- i. Omar: Expressed importance of this category; emphasized meeting law by ensuring community input in a timely manner (info on siting or expansion of facilities has gotten to people just at the moment when things have already moved through review stage, etc.)
 1. Beyond engagement - References an example from New York Power Authority: siting which broke up what would have been 1 peaker plant into 2, just a few blocks from each other. This change went around requirements that would have resulted in a deeper level of environmental study.
 2. Adds importance of meeting letter of the law; abiding by standards for community input; not allowing situations to be undercut; engaging people early in the process so people are aware, not just those "in the game" with immediate interests
- ii. Gary: Regarding the social dialogue process—critical that whatever will move forward focuses on labor standards for middle-class, family-sustaining jobs
 1. References Climate Jobs NY
 2. Importance of involvement early on and incorporating good jobs
- iii. Lara: Larger issue about how to have a coordinated and comprehensive approach (usually we see that individual companies making financial decisions

to shutter): What new renewables sites are going to open, what plants will be shut down, and how can this be coordinated? In most states, only 60-90 days notice is given in advance.

1. Stakeholder engagement has to look at broader climate goals: what are the social, community, and labor impacts?—Work with community groups to map out that transition in a much more holistic way.
2. Recognition that JT has not worked in the US in the past (GI Bill has been closest) & importance of this awareness when entering dialogues; there is a legitimate concern and distrust re: JT
 - a. Historically, transitioning industries have not received widespread support

b) Long-Term Planning

- a. Lara: Echoes Gary's point on labor standards; Emphasis on high-quality, community-sustaining family jobs; the question of how we work together to map out the impacts
- b. Omar: Emphasizes the importance of engagement of all parties/creating opportunities *early* in the planning process so groups aren't just responding to a strategy; encourages considering new strategies; references entrepreneurial sector and underrepresented voices

c) Cultural Sensitivity/Recognition

- a. Henry: Cultural sensitivity is not just language sensitivity (there are nuanced perspectives among those who share the same language)
 - (1) He represents language interpreters in the state
 - (2) Emphasis on sensitivity to indigenous peoples

d) Repairing Inequities

- a. No points raised

e) Equitable Jobs Transition & High-Quality, Family-Sustaining Jobs

- a. Gary: Reemphasis of commitment to good, family-sustaining jobs
 - (1) We know that we will be transitioning to other forms of clean energy, EE, and resilience
 - (2) We are engaging new industries, and these are not unionized (vs oil and gas, which are); in anything we do, labor standards are a must
 - (a) Absent this, we would have a transition where people move from family-sustaining jobs into an industry where jobs may not ultimately be good middle-class careers. From the beginning, we want these considerations to be paramount.
 - (3) Focused highly on new industry, ensuring there is a commitment to creating good family-sustaining jobs. The state can play a significant role.
 - (4) If we transition to lower-paying jobs and less middle-class type careers, we wind up with more problems, more poverty, crime, incarceration. Therefore, emphasis on the importance of lifting people up and keeping them out of poverty.
- b. Lara: Echoes Gary; adds the importance of good standards for the work/projects (Australia's lack of standards led to safety issues and rooftop solar damage; encourages thinking about transition more broadly (e.g. multiple types of workers))
 - (1) We are not only trying to confront climate change but also inequality of income, power, and wealth; we need dual goals of tackling the climate crisis and bringing more equitable clean energy economies.
 - (2) Too many new jobs are low-wage jobs in EE, solar, and wind.
 - (3) Level of pay/benefits in O&G - 14% unionization rate for gas, compared to 3 and 4% in solar and wind respectively.
 - (4) Workers should have democratic collective voice on the jobs, too.

- (5) The reality is that plants are the main economic generator for the reason, so their closure will have a tremendous negative effect on the local budget, etc.
 - c. D. Harris: The team has done a lot of additional research; wants further discussion on success stories, etc.
 - d. Henry: Distinguishes cost-sharing vs gain-sharing (what does sharing costs mean?); adds that sometimes lowest-paid people cannot afford to think long-term
 - (1) Engaging communities of color
 - f) Community Redevelopment
 - a. Omar: Emphasizes the importance of ownership structures that dictate the movement of capital in communities; brings up the OneNYC example—investing in worker-owned businesses as part of the transition and creating new opportunities for businesses; the importance of unionization, quality jobs, and wealth-sharing/distribution
 - g) Low-Carbon Supply Chain
 - a. Lara: There's less work in maintaining solar and wind farms in comparison to fossil fuel infrastructure; emphasizes the importance of commitment to local/regional manufacturing and hiring a local workforce
 - b. DH: We are testing this concept in our open solicitation is based and offshore renewables now.
 - (1) Projects will be scored in part according to the ability to commit to these types of approaches and principles
 - (2) Interested in testing this from the perspective of NY's goals, buying power, etc.: a vehicle to bring the industry forward in this respect.
 - h) Aligning Industrialization and Decarbonization
 - a. Lara: Regarding the supply chain, there is less work in O&M for solar and wind once they are up and running
 - (1) Importance of attracting manufacturing and assembly work & prioritizing proposals that are committed to manufacturing and job creation
 - (2) Emphasis on local manufacturing workforce rather than out-of-state crews (lower carbon footprint, too!)
 - i) Climate Adaptation
 - a. Omar: "this and all of them sound great and wonderful... no pushback on anything that's been said so far" but the question is the *how*
 - (1) What will the infrastructure investment look like?
 - b. Lara: Suggests a comprehensive study of climate impacts on existing infrastructure and new infrastructure with a focus on DACs; emphasizes the importance of high-quality, family-sustaining jobs in adaptation work
 - c. DH: NYSERDA is working on resilience/climate risk including program implementation and broader planning
 - j) Protection of Natural Systems
 - a. Patrick: Look at examples from Europe in this area
 - b. Kara mentions USCA resilience work
- 3) General discussion on JT:
- a) Omar: Question on the distinction between Equitable Jobs Transition and High-Quality, Family-Sustaining jobs?
 - a. Yvonne response: It may be a matter of wanting to put more emphasis in the area of family-sustaining jobs and not losing that particular distinction
 - b. Chris agrees that the two are very closely related

- c. RR: In the fossil industry, there are well-paying jobs, and there is a concern that going forward, those protections will be lost, so we don't want to lose these standards
 - (1) The two are deeply interconnected but have some differences and are both important
 - (2) No one is pushing back on the importance of the pillars!
 - (3) Emphasizes a real need for mapping and strategic thinking globally, so not individually plant by plant or job by job; we have not been good about doing transitions in a bigger, more comprehensive way; this will require a more complex look at transitioning.
 - (a) Questions: How do you get the players involved, make sure people don't get left out, and that communities don't get stuck with the bill?
- d. Michael Padgett: The two seem very tightly linked /also having trouble distinguishing; missing from the examples is language about the location of the replaced jobs (the closer the geographic match, the better to keep the community intact); additionally, in the pillars more broadly there isn't much discussion on costs and measurements
- e. DH: Topics that will be relevant to share with other APs
- f. Omar: Regarding the quality jobs—there is potential for existing jobs in oil and gas to be replaced with lower-quality work /alternative: question—what is in place for cleaner industries that allow them to not pay fair rates/what practices can we put in place that don't take 20-30 years of union organizing to allow for sufficient worker protection?
 - (1) Lara: Agrees with Omar; her team has been collecting examples of ways in which cities and states are ensuring high-quality job creation in the clean energy economy

4) Wrap-Up

- a) RR emphasizes that members can discuss these topics further and any disagreements
 - a. Business impacts (Kara Allen)
 - b. Power plant and reuse (Jamie Dickerson)
 - (1) John: Asking JTWG colleagues to please let us know your thoughts at any time; If you start sharing ideas now, will be early and help shape our thinking around issues and options; Later will be in reaction to the work we start to share with you and will help make it better
 - (2) No comments from Ted and Jim
- c. Jobs study (Mark Coleman)
 - (1) We have gone out to bid and have received proposals (3) under review this week
 - (a) Scoring committee convening next Monday to do the formal ranking and scoring
 - (b) We anticipate that if all goes well, we'll be making an announcement w/r/t winning proposal
 - (c) Contracting will take a few weeks but onboarding in November
 - (d) We are getting into scope and methodology
 - (e) All should offer updates at Dec meeting: potentially brief discussion on scope and methods in Dec for feedback and dialogue.