

Green-e Governance Board Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2010; 1:00 – 3:00 PM PST

Attendees:

Karl Rábago, *Austin Energy, Chair*
Bud Beebe, *Sacramento Municipal Utility District*
Arthur O'Donnell, *Center for Resource Solutions*
Mary Carr Bendeck, *Southern Alliance for Clean Energy*
Barry Friedman, *National Renewable Energy Laboratory*
Alan Noguee, *Union of Concerned Scientists*
Diane Zipper, *Renewable Northwest Project*

Non-Voting Members:

Jay Carlis, *Community Energy, CMAC Chair*
Patrick Keily, *We Energies, UGPAC Chair*

Quorum was established at 1:19 pm.

Items 1 and 2: Welcome and Agenda

Roll call was taken. Since quorum was not yet established, Staff presented on items that did not need a vote, starting with Item 6.

Item 6: Continuation of Discussion on Comments Received for Green-e Energy National Standard

a) Facility Online Date or “New Date”

The updates to the survey for round two of comments were discussed, and Staff presented the new survey language. It was suggested to add that a request must be made within 1 year of the adoption of the revision to the Standard. No motion was needed to add this item to round two.

b) Grandfathering and Revisions to the Standard

Staff is working on the updates to the survey language and will contact the Board by email.

c) Geographic Requirements

Staff presented the new survey language to the Board. It was suggested that the options were made clearer—do not ask stakeholders to “vote” on anything, just “support.”

Quorum was established at 1:19 pm.

Item 3: Green-e Climate Endorsement of the Climate Action Reserve Protocols

Staff presented the information on the endorsement of the Climate Action Reserve (CAR) by Green-e Climate. There has been consistent interest from Green-e Climate stakeholders in endorsement of CAR since the inception of the program, and CAR recently became interested. There was a 60-day stakeholder review period. Green-e Climate has not endorsed a new program since the beginning of the program.

Five comments were received. It was asked what kind of review will there be of CAR going forward. Every time they introduce or update their protocols, Green-e Climate reviews the changes and has the option to remove endorsement. It was explained that new protocols from a program aren't automatically approved; the Board would need to approve them.

Some Board members requested more time to review the materials with their colleagues. Staff would strongly prefer to not hold off on the endorsement until next quarter. Staff offered to help Board members with discussing the information with their colleagues. The item was tabled and Staff will talk with key Board members, with a vote done by email.

Item 4: Inclusion of Solid Biomass in the Green-e Climate Protocol for Renewable Energy

Staff presented the proposed inclusion of certain types of solid waste biomass electricity generation facilities under the Green-e Climate Protocol for Renewable Energy. The Staff recommendation is to include certain types of solid waste biomass. It was noted that Staff revised the proposed language. Currently only gaseous biomass is included in the Protocol, not solid biomass. Three stakeholder comments were received and previously discussed with the Green-e Climate GHG Subcommittee.

It was requested to provide clarification about the proposed footnotes concerning what qualifies as woody waste and what types of projects are being addressed. It was asked what the rationale was for not including perennial woody energy crops on marginal land. A specific land developer was the one that initiated this process. Also, it is consistent with the Green-e Energy national standard. Switch grass, energy crops, and life cycle assessments for solid waste were discussed.

Some Board members had not reviewed the document and would like to discuss the issues with their colleagues. It was noted that biomass is complex and staff time and availability to look at all of the issues is limited; it may be necessary to leave out a few good candidates that need a lot of research.

Quorum lost at 1:54.

It was decided that Board members will confer with their colleagues and table these issues for now. Members will discuss and vote via email.

Item 5: Brief on Initiation of Process to Endorse RGGI Offsets for Green-e Climate

Staff is in the very beginning stages of looking at RGGI offset protocols and will be seeking Board input at a later date.

Item 6 (continued): Continuation of Discussion on Comments Received for Green-e Energy National Standard

d) Facilities' Participation in GHG Cap-and-Trade Programs

This proposed update to the Standard clarifies a footnote about which facilities located in a capped region can sell RECs. The majority of comments received support the change. Calling

out specific programs versus leaving the language general was discussed. Staff will revise the language for the Board's review.

e) General Clarification to Timing of Eligibility of Generators

This proposed update to the definition of eligible renewables is intended to make sure facilities meet the certification standard at time of generation. The majority of comments received support the change, although some requested additional clarification for grandfathering. Staff will add a clarifying comment about grandfathering, and the Board will vote via email.

f) Non-eligible Startup and Maintenance Fuels and Co-firing

Staff explained that this change would make it so the Board would not need to separately approve co-firing for facilities that use less than 5% non-renewable fuels and are not tracked in a tracking system and are not separately metered liquid biomass. One Board member suggested an update to the language to provide clarity: “non-eligible fuels on a percent of heat basis (BTU)” instead of “non-eligible fuels on a BTU basis”, and Staff agreed.

g) Use of Renewable Energy Tracking Systems

Although an update to the Standard was not proposed, stakeholders were asked to provide feedback about requiring the use of renewable energy tracking systems in the future. This issue is not up for a vote, but Board feedback is requested. In general, marketers think it's a good idea and generators think it's too expensive for small generators. Some stakeholders expressed a concern that imports and exports between systems are not currently possible. One Board member would like to figure out a way to accommodate small generators.

h) Capped Pollutants—Mercury

This update to the Standard removes references to mercury as being a capped pollutant. It was decided that the Board could vote on this update electronically.

i) General comments

Stakeholders were also asked to provide general comments on the Standard. There was some support from stakeholders on railroad ties; it may be helpful to put this issue out in the second comment period to gather feedback, although the Board has the ultimate choice and decision. Staff will put together comment language. Hedge products were briefly discussed. A brief discussion was also held on hydro projects, and it may be helpful for the Board to review repowering criteria at a later date.

There was a discussion about whether baseline renewables that count towards an RPS can be counted towards a voluntary utility program. Staff could add a requirement for disclosure to customers for utility green pricing programs if the state requires that the baseline goes to all customers. The Board may want to revisit this issue to review at later date.

Item 7: Updates Since Last Call

There were no further updates given.

Item 8: Next Steps and Adjourn

- Board members will review the Green-e Climate Solid Biomass proposal with their colleagues and provide additional comments
- Board members will review the Climate Action Reserve materials with their colleagues
- A subgroup may try to reconvene on CAR by telephone and make a recommendation back to the Board
- Board members will vote electronically on the inclusion of solid biomass in the Green-e Climate Protocol for Renewable Energy
- Staff will clearly lay out any other issues for the Green-e Energy Standard that need a Board vote

Call adjourned at 2:32 pm.