

**Green-e Governance Board Meeting  
Monday December 7, 2009; 10:30 AM PST**

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**Attendees:**

Bud Beebe, *Sacramento Municipal Utility District*

Lars Kvale, *APX, Inc.*

Jennifer Martin, *Center for Resource Solutions (for Arthur O'Donnell)*

Karl Rábago, *Austin Energy*

Rick Weston, *Regulatory Assistance Project*

*Non-Voting Members:*

Jay Carlis, *Community Energy, CMAC Chair*

Alma Evans, *Santee Cooper (for Pat Keily, We Energies, UGPAC Chair)*

*Quorum was not established. Called to order 10:37 AM.*

**1-3. Vote to Approve Documents**

Attendees do not have corrections to the September 4, 2009 Minutes. Approval of Minutes will be done via email. Minutes were approved via email on December 14, 2009.

**4. Green-e Climate Endorsement of Climate Action Reserve**

Green-e Climate staff provided the Board with information on an upcoming comment period for a potential Endorsed Program. There has been consistent interest in Green-e Climate endorsement of the Climate Action Reserve as a GHG project certification program, and recently CAR expressed interest in being endorsed by Green-e Climate. Endorsement of CAR would mean that selected offset projects approved under CAR's offset project protocols would be eligible to supply Green-e Climate certified offsets. It should be noted that all of CAR's project protocols are approved methodologies under the Voluntary Carbon Standard, which is already a Green-e Climate endorsed program. So, in a sense, Green-e Climate has already indirectly endorsed CAR's protocols as suitable to supply Green-e Climate Certified offsets. Endorsement of CAR would be consistent with the endorsement of VCS, and would significantly broaden and streamline Green-e Climate eligibility without affecting the standard. Considering the amount of interest that's already been expressed to Climate, it is expected that the endorsement of CAR will lead to both increased participation in the program, and an increase in the number of certified offset products.

After meetings with CAR, Green-e Climate began, and recently completed, researching CAR's program and project protocols. The endorsed program forms have been completed, and a stakeholder consultation period on the endorsement of CAR will start later in the week, after which time Green-e Climate will be coming back to the Board for a vote. Feedback during the stakeholder comment period would be appreciated. There will be a 60-day consultation on the endorsement of CAR on Dec. 10 – Feb. 10, 2009. We expect to be ready for a Board vote in the late winter or early spring.

**5. Inclusion of Solid Biomass for the Green-e Climate Protocol for Renewable Energy**

Green-e Climate staff provided the Board with information on an upcoming comment period for a potential revision to eligible resource types under the Protocol for Renewable Energy (PRE). Non-gaseous biomass electricity generation projects are not currently eligible under the PRE. Certified products can be sourced from solid biomass projects, but the project has to be certified under another Endorsed Program like VCS or Gold Standard. For eligibility under the PRE it was determined, after the second stakeholder comment period for the creation of the PRE, that only gaseous biomass should be allowed because Green-e Climate does not have the protocols in place to accurately assess all life cycle impacts and accounting of emissions associated with these types of projects. ‘Life-cycle impacts’ (also called secondary effects) refers to emissions or other environmental impacts associated with the growing, harvesting, processing, and transportation of the biomass.

Green-e Climate staff explained that someone recently came to Green-e Climate with a solid biomass project which was being certified by VCS for non-electricity generation components. Since this particular solid biomass project had already undergone the VCS certification process, it had demonstrated through VCS’s process that there were no or negligible lifecycle impacts, and Green-e Climate was able to satisfy concerns related to lifecycle impacts (specifically, the surplus of waste biofuel available in a region, transportation emissions associated with a project, etc.).

Green-e Climate is proposing amending the PRE to allow solid biomass projects provided that the project has been certified by another Green-e Climate Endorsed Program. Green-e Climate would rely on the endorsed programs’ protocols and standards to address concerns related to lifecycle impacts. Solid biomass projects under the PRE will be limited to projects that utilize a waste or byproduct fuel because the lifecycle impacts appear to be easier to assess in this case. These changes would only apply to projects that involve multiple and separable components (e.g. electricity generation and steam for heat generation), where individual components may be assessed separately, provided the other Endorsed Program certifying the facility allows this and assures no double counting of carbon impacts, and provided that the project proponent is interested in using two different certification programs.

This proposed amendment was taken to the GHG sub-committee of the Board, who recommended moving forward with stakeholder comments. A 60-day stakeholder comment period will start very soon, after which the Board will be asked to approve the changes to the Protocol. The GHG sub-committee expressed some concerns, which will be discussed with them prior to stakeholder review. Feedback from the Board will be much appreciated during the stakeholder comment period, and Green-e Climate staff offered to answer any questions that arise during that time.

## **6. Eligibility of Railroad Ties as Co-firing under Green-e Energy**

Green-e Energy staff introduced the topic of whether and how to allow railroad ties to be burned to generate electricity that would be eligible under the co-firing section of the Green-e Energy National Standard, so long as only the BTUs from wood were factored into renewable electricity generation calculations. As with all instances of co-firing, under which burning of railroad ties would most likely fall if approved, it would be necessary to first gain Board approval of a calculation methodology to subtract out the BTU value of the creosote. The type of creosote

used in railroad ties is a derivative of coal, presenting the argument that burning a railroad tie is like burning waste wood and coal in the same burner.

Green-e Energy staff provided data that 20 million railroad ties per year are produced in the US, and based on a weight of 220 lbs per tie a Board member calculated that up to 4 million MWh of electricity could be generated from burning railroad ties each year. Green-e Energy staff pointed out that 24 million MWh were sold at the retail level in the voluntary renewable energy market in 2008.

The Board discussed how to treat railroad ties and was willing to consider a proposal on how to accurately measure and verify the BTU derived from the wood component of railroad ties. Green-e Energy staff stated that the topic is still in discovery mode and that Board feedback is encouraged throughout the process.

Green-e Energy staff proposed taking the issue to a broader set of stakeholders. This could be achieved by asking the party that had originally asked staff about railroad ties to submit comments in the current survey collecting opinions about possible changes to the National Standard. Based on the comments received, the Board would then vote on a proposal with the final changes to the National Standard. The Board members on the phone agreed, and staff agreed to follow up with the full Board to ensure that this approach was supported. This approach was approved on December 14, 2009, based on an email vote.

## **7. Green-e Energy National Standard Changes**

Comments on the possible revisions to the National Standard are due on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Green-e staff asked Board members to forward the survey of potential revisions to their constituents to help cast as wide a net as possible. Staff reported that all changes in the survey were supported by a majority of responses received as of the time of the call, and that specific comments would be considered as they came in. Selected results were reviewed:

- The rolling 15-year “New Date” which has received the most comments.
- So far there is general support for grandfathering, and the comments will have to be reviewed for specific proposals.
- There is majority support for allowing utilities to use RECs from outside their NERC region. A comment was made that changing geographic boundaries would help boost the REC market; there were also opposing comments.
- Support the idea for requiring tracking systems for Green-e Energy Certified sales at some point in the future was extremely high.

The next Board call will take place after the close of the first comment period, at which time the Board will be provided with survey results, and will vote on how to proceed with revisions to the National Standard language based on such results.

## **8. Application for Certification of its Commercial Green Pricing Program**

A utility is applying for a commercial green electricity program available to commercial customers in its service territory. The comment period for the application ended December 4 and no comments were received. The Board discussed the details of the program and found them to

be acceptable. The program costs a premium of three cents per kWh and it is a 100% wind product.

Due to a lack of quorum, a vote must be conducted outside of the call. Green-e Energy staff will circulate the application for a vote via email. The application was approved on December 14, 2009 after an email vote. The applicant will be a participant in Green-e Energy once it signs the Logo-Use Agreement, which had not happened at the time of the Board vote.

### **9. Updates since Last Call**

CRS has been contracted by ETNNA to work on a project regarding the intersection of renewable energy tracking systems and greenhouse gas registries. CRS hosted a webinar a few weeks ago on this topic and has posted a related white paper on the CRS website.

CRS is also working towards full membership in ISEAL. Final determination to join has not been made by the CRS Board. CRS has another year to go into full compliance.

CRS has elected new members to the CRS Board, who are expected to start in their new roles in late January. Some current members of the CRS Board have been members for long enough that they are starting to resign and CRS has proactively found many new members that will keep the organization moving in the right direction.

Green-e staff reminded the Green-e Governance Board that the next meeting will be possibly span two days to tie in with the end of the National Standard comment period and the CAR comment period.

*Meeting adjourned 11:38 AM.*