

Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC)

March 19, 2019; 8:45 am – 4:30 pm and

March 20, 2019 8:45 am – 2:45 pm

U.S. Department of Commerce

The Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC) convened the first in-person meeting under its new charter at 8:45 a.m. EST on March 19 and 20, 2019 at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC.

ETTAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jack Adams	Dr. Clayton Erickson	Mr. Ashish Raval
Ms. Adina Renee Adler	Ms. Anne Germain	Mr. Gabriel Restrepo
Mr. David Biderman	Mr. Michael Goo	Mr. Kenneth Rogers
(March 19 th)	Mr. Rick Hill	Ms. Clare Schulzki
Dr. Paul Bowen	Ms. Tasha Jamaluddin	Mr. Bryan Stubbs
(March 19 th)	(March 19 th)	Mr. Kevin Summ
Dr. Rasto Brezny	Mr. Nilaksh Kothari	Ms. Susan Sylvester
Mr. Richard Cawley	(March 19 th)	Ms. Pauli Undesser
Mr. David Cetola	Ms. Vanessa Leiby	Mr. George Vorsheim
Mr. Chuck Chaitovitz	Ms. Dana Murray	Ms. Debra Waggoner
Mr. William Decker	Ms. Ramola Musante	Mr. Timothy Williams
Mr. Michael Delaney	Mr. Nicholas Peyton	Dr. Mike Witt
Mr. Gil Dhawan	Mr. Anthony Quinn	Dr. Peter Zemek

Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration (ITA) Officials Present:

Amy Kreps, Designated Federal Officer, ETTAC
Bart Meroney, Senior Advisor, Office of Manufacturing
Adam O'Malley, Director, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries
Elizabeth Goffi, International Trade Specialist, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries
Ryan Russell, Environmental Global Team Leader, U.S. Commercial Service
Patrick Kirwan, Director, Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee
Paul Morris, Deputy Director, Office of Industry Engagement
Aditi Palli, Office of Technology, Services & Innovation

Other U.S. Government Officials Present:

Glenn Harrington, Office of International and Tribal Affairs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mike Lurie, Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science, U.S. Department of State
Ben Campbell, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)
Amy Swers, U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA)
Craig O'Connor, U.S. Export-Import Bank (EXIM)
Rashanda Johnson, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)
Maureen Hinman, U.S. Trade Representative (USTR)
Sujata Emani, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Members of the Public Present:

Laila Sukkariyyah, Water Environment Federation
Jose Luis Garcia Quintana, Water Environment Federation
Carrie Houtman, Dow Inc.

MARCH 19TH (DAY 1) MEETING MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

DFO Kreps welcomed the Committee and provided an overview of ETTAC tasks and activities for the new (2018-2020) charter as well as the two-day meeting schedule. The schedule emphasized introductions to relevant ITA and U.S. Government interagency programs to help provide the new Committee with context for the development of its recommendations for the charter. Day 1 (March 19) included an environmental subsector “brainstorming” session, followed by break-out roundtables with ITA officials. The day concluded with a vote on subcommittee topics. Day 2 (March 20) began with a vote on ETTAC leadership, followed by break-out roundtables with U.S. Government officials from other agencies. The roundtables provided introductions to the U.S. EPA, State Department, MCC, USTDA, EXIM, OPIC and USTR. Day 2 concluded with initial subcommittee discussions and readouts, followed by a brief discussion of next steps led by DFO Kreps. Adam O’Malley, Director of the Office of Energy and Environmental Industries, then gave introductory remarks and thanked the ETTAC members for their service.

ETTAC Overview and Agenda Preview

DFO Kreps briefly recapped the information provided to the committee during the March 7th teleconference. She reviewed the statutory mandate of the ETTAC and highlighted the objectives of the first in-person meeting (March 19 & 20), which included establishing subcommittees, voting on committee leadership and beginning to deliberate on potential recommendations.

Comments on Minutes from Previous Meeting

There were no comments on minutes from the previous teleconference meeting on March 7th.

Break-Out Session on Possible Subcommittee Topics

The committee broke into groups by industry sector and discussed cross-cutting themes for consideration as potential subcommittee topics, including trade promotion, trade policy, U.S. competitiveness, standards and conformity assessment, and international finance.

Drop/By from Office of Manufacturing

Senior Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing, Bart Meroney, stopped by to welcome the new committee members.

Roundtables with ITA Officials

The committee broke into four groups and spent approximately thirty minutes at each table discussing certain ITA programs and activities relevant to ETTAC’s purview and mission. Ryan Russell introduced the committee to the U.S. Commercial Service and Environmental Global Team; Patrick Kirwan introduced the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee (TPCC); Aditi Palli discussed the programs and activities overseen by the Office of Technology, Services and Innovation; and Paul Morris introduced the new Office of Industry Engagement.

Introduction to ITA’s Water Trade Mission to South Africa

Pamela Kirkland from ITA’s Office of Trade Promotion Programs gave a brief introduction to ITA’s then-planned water business development mission to South Africa.

Discussion of and Voting on Subcommittee Topics

The committee approved the following three subcommittees for the 2018-2020 charter:

- Trade Policy and Trade Negotiations Subcommittee
- Trade Promotion and Export Market Development Subcommittee
- Cooperation on Standards, Certifications and Regulations Subcommittee

MARCH 20TH (DAY 2) MEETING MINUTES

Nomination of and Voting on ETTAC Leadership

Bill Decker was elected ETTAC Chair. George Vorsheim was elected Vice Chair.

Roundtables with the U.S. Interagency

The committee broke into four groups, with approximately thirty minutes allotted for discussion and Q&A at each table. At Table 1, committee members met with representatives from the U.S. EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs and the State Department's Bureau of Oceans, Environment and Science. The discussion at Table 1 highlighted how these agencies work to address policy challenges and reduce environmental impacts while maximizing the benefits of trade for U.S. industry, especially regarding bilateral and multilateral negotiations, environmental review, and trade-related capacity building. At Table 2, representatives from MCC and USTDA highlighted the intersection of trade and international development and its implications for the environmental industry. At Table 3, committee members met with representatives from EXIM and OPIC to learn more about the U.S. Government's trade and international finance activities, including the various programs that are available to assist U.S. environmental firms. At Table 4, a representative from USTR's Office of Environment and Natural Resources introduced the role of USTR and noted that the agency is responsible for developing and coordinating U.S. international trade strategy and negotiations with other countries.

Subcommittee Readouts

Trade Policy and Trade Negotiations

- Debra Waggoner was elected Chair; Ramola Musante was elected Vice Chair.
- *Forthcoming Trade Agreements Negotiations* – The subcommittee would like to review existing FTAs and provide input on forthcoming trade negotiations with Japan, the EU, China and the UK. The subcommittee intends to draft recommendation letters, starting with Japan and the EU.
- *U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)* – The subcommittee is interested in supporting USMCA and would like to learn more about the status of potential ratification by Congress.
- Other topics under consideration include tariffs, non-tariff barriers (NTBs) such as IP protection, local content requirements, JVs and partnership requirements, and multilateral agreements such as the WTO Environmental Goods Agreement and Basel – Rotterdam – Stockholm (BRS).

Trade Promotion and Export Market Development

- Nick Peyton and Tim Williams were elected Co-Chairs.
- *ITA's Trade Promotion Programs* – The Subcommittee seeks further information on ITA's "re-envisioning trade events" pilot and the process of developing U.S. pavilions at Certified Trade Shows overseas.
- *Online Tools and Resources* - Having effective and efficient communication between ET industry members and U.S. government is critical, and the Subcommittee believes that the Salesforce initiative and the U.S. Environmental Solutions Toolkit remain valuable tools. The subcommittee would like an update on potential Salesforce access for State Department "Partner Posts" and on the marketing timeline for the rollout of the Toolkit.
- *Enhancing the International Visibility of U.S. Firms* – The Subcommittee would like to review Commercial Service activities such as the Gold Key Service and learn more about the Advocacy Center's work and past successes.
- *Trade Finance* - Trade finance available to U.S. environmental firms can be critical for companies to succeed abroad, and the ETTAC would benefit from more information on how the Multilateral Development Banks and U.S. finance agencies can assist with a firm's work in environmental projects abroad.

- Additional topics under consideration include innovation and technology and life cycle cost vs. lowest bid.

Cooperation on Standards, Certifications and Regulations

- Anthony Quinn and Clare Schulzki were elected Co-Chairs.
- *Trade and Market Barriers* – The subcommittee will seek to identify specific barriers to trade and international market access concerns related to standards, certification and conformity assessment.
- *Focus Markets* - The Subcommittee will focus on markets that do not currently recognize U.S. certification schemes or require unduly burdensome testing and certification processes, such as the EU, Brazil and China and Canada.
- Other topics under consideration include U.S. EPA's former Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Program, the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan, and regulatory conformity.

Public Comment

No issues were raised for public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Amy Kreps
Designated Federal Officer
Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee



Bill Decker
Chair
Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee