

Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee
November 16, 2021, 10:00am – 3:00pm EST
Webex

The Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC) convened the third meeting under its 2020-2022 charter from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST on November 16, 2021 via Webex.

ETTAC Members Present

Mr. Jack Adams	Ms. Vanessa Leiby
Ms. Adina Renee Adler	Mr. Carlos Lemos
Mr. Jim Anderson	Mr. Jim Matharu
Mr. Randy Baerg	Mr. Ashish Raval
Mr. David Biderman	Mr. David Rigby
Ms. Dana Blumberg	Ms. Clare Schulzki
Mr. Chuck Chaitovitz	Ms. Paula Soos
Mr. Bill Decker	Dr. Paula Stern
Mr. Amir Eftekhari	Mr. Stephen Strachan
Mr. Tom Frankel	Mr. Bryan Stubbs
Ms. Anne Germain	Mr. Kevin Summ
Mr. Dick Gust	Mr. Craig Updyke
Mr. Rick Hill	Mr. Joseph Vaglio
Ms. Tasha Jamaluddin	Mr. George Vorsheim
Ms. Debra Johnson	Mr. Peter Zemek

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

Anne Ahrends, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries
Man Cho, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries
David Dennis, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries
Megan Hyndman, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries (Detail)
Lina Scott, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries
Ryan Russell, Global Environmental Technologies Team Lead
Victoria Yue, Office of Energy and Environmental Industries

Other U.S. Government Officials Present:

Megan Barnhart, Environmental Protection Agency
Grant Bromhal, Department of Energy
Christine Brown, Small Business Administration
Andrew David, United States International Trade Commission
Nick Elger, Environmental Protection Agency
Logan Norton, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce
Jamelah Murrell, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce
Craig O'Conner, U.S. Export-Import Bank
Brian Rothblatt, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce

Tsisilile (Tisi) Igogo, Department of Energy
Rick Ziegler, Environmental Protection Agency

Members of the Public Present:

Charlie Townsend, KCE Group
Karen Coble Edwards, KCE Group
Margaret Spiegelman, Inside Trade

Welcome and Committee Business

ETTAC Chair Bill Decker called the meeting to order. DFO Victoria Yue took attendance and asked participants from ITA to introduce themselves.

The committee approved the minutes from the last meeting on September 14 as written. DFO Yue provided brief updates on the timeline for the Mid-Charter Survey, which will be sent to ETTAC members to solicit feedback on the committee's process. Final results are expected in January 2022.

DFO Yue previewed the agenda for the day and then gave an overview of the ETTAC SharePoint site.

Overview of ETTAC SharePoint Site

DFO Yue provided an in-depth overview of the newly released ETTAC SharePoint site. The SharePoint site is a non-public, internal site for ETTAC members to coordinate ETTAC-related activities.

Review of Potential Recommendations

Mr. Chuck Chaitovitz of the Trade Policy and Export Competitiveness Subcommittee introduced a proposed potential recommendation letter on Increased U.S. Participation in Global Environmental Procurement (Recommendation #2) and asked the committee for input/feedback on the letter's content and timeline.

Mr. David Biderman of the Waste Management and Circular Economy Subcommittee proposed a potential recommendation letter on Closing Dumpsites (Recommendation #1) and asked the committee for input/feedback.

The committee voted and approved, as amended, Recommendations #1 and #2.

Overview of EXIM Climate Finance Tools

Craig O'Connor, Renewable Energy & Environmental Exports Officer from the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM Bank), briefed the ETTAC on EXIM Bank financing and services, particularly those related to Energy and Environmental Exports. Mr. O'Connor outlined relevant EXIM Bank projects including an ethanol project in Budapest, Hungary; a distributed solar project in Rio Hondo, Guatemala; a water treatment export project in Monterrey, Mexico; and the export of environmental services to a geothermal project in western Turkey. In response to questions, he discussed EXIM Bank financing related to IP and potential financing

instruments in development specifically related to the Biden-Harris Administration's climate change goals.

Sub-Sector Breakouts

The committee then broke into smaller, 45-minute meetings for the three sub-sectors: Water/Wastewater; Air; and Waste and Recycling.

Water/Wastewater

The water/wastewater sub-sector group proposed that the relevant subcommittees consider recommendations related to 1) the infrastructure bills, 2) addressing supply chain issues including port availability, 3) fixing the H1B visa system to close gaps in the workforce, 4) developing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) for the water sector, and 5) offsets for military contracts.

Air

The air sub-sector group established that air issues are already well represented in current workstreams and suggested that the topics proposed by the water/wastewater sub-sector group, including the infrastructure bills, supply chain issues, and workforce gap issues related to the H1B visa program, are also relevant to the air sub-sector.

Waste and Recycling

The waste and recycling sub-sector group discussed the potentially pending European Union ban on imports and exports of recycled commodities as well as the workstream of the Waste Management and Circular Economy subcommittee. The group additionally agreed that the infrastructure bills and supply chain issues are also relevant for the waste and recycling sub-sector.

Briefing and Discussion on Energy Industrial Supply Chain Report

Dr. Tsisilie Igogo and Dr. Grant Bromhal presented on the Department of Energy's 100-day supply chain review on Carbon Capture and Storage. Dr. Bromhal outlined the study's results, including an overview of the carbon capture, transport and storage supply chain, an assessment of current carbon capture and storage technology, and an initial risk assessment for the transportation and storage of carbon dioxide. Dr. Igogo noted that the Department of Energy will be soliciting public comments on the draft report soon.

ETTAC Subcommittee Breakout Meetings

The committee then broke into smaller, one-hour meetings for the three subcommittees: Trade Policy and Export Competitiveness, Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience Technologies, and Waste Management and Circular Economy.

Subcommittee Meeting Readouts & Discussion of Next Steps

Trade Policy and Export Competitiveness

The subcommittee discussed work force challenges and solutions and will develop a draft letter. It additionally discussed issues on Buy America and agreed to seek a briefing from EPA on the potential implementation of a waiver program meant to relieve sourcing issues.

Climate Change Mitigation and Resilience Subcommittee

Mr. Nick Elger from the Environmental Protection Agency presented on the Global Methane Initiative, the Global Methane Program, and the Global Methane Pledge. The subcommittee discussed drafting a potential recommendation on U.S. energy transition metal and critical mineral supply. The subcommittee is currently reviewing recommendations from the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee (REEEAC) on clean tech competitiveness.

Waste Management and Circular Economy

The subcommittee approved a second recommendation letter on supporting the development of a global instrument for marine litter and ocean plastics. It additionally discussed three draft recommendations in progress including recommendations on wastewater and water reuse, energy recovery from waste, and the U.S. becoming a party to the Basel Convention.

Next Steps

Subcommittees will convene ahead of the next ETTAC meeting on January 18 (held virtually). DFO Yue will send a mid-charter survey to members with responses due by the end of the year.

Public Comment and Adjournment

No issues were raised for public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:43pm.

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



Victoria Yue
Designated Federal Officer
Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee



Bill Decker
Chair
Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee