

Just Transition Working Group, Meeting 8
March 3rd, 2021
1pm-3pm

Attendance:

Working Group Member Attendees

Roberta Reardon, Co-Chair
Doreen M. Harris, Co-Chair
Vincent Albanese
Omar Freilla
Patrick Jackson
Gary LaBarbera
Michael Padgett
Brian Raley
James Shillitto
Maritza Silva-Farrell
Theodore J. Skerpon
Randy Wolken
Henry A. Garrido
RuthAnne Visnauskas
Sarah Osgood

Other Attendees

Alex Karman
Carl Mas
Chris Pinheiro
David Quickenton
Don Applyrs
Jamie Dickerson
Jane Thompson
John Williams
Kara Allen
Josh Williams
Kevin Hansen
Yvonne Martinez
Frank Ciampa
Alex Pozdnyakov
Arianna Menzelos
Chris Hall
Tania Allard
Alicia Sullivan
Guy Rice
Christie Amero

Meeting Summary:

Introduction, Roll Call, and Member Updates

- Commissioner Reardon kicked off the meeting, called the roll, and walked through the meeting agenda. See slide 2 for additional details.
- Commissioner Reardon invited working group members to share recent highlights and other updates.
 - **Henry Garrido:** *Provides an update on DC 37's Green Job Training Initiative, supported by funding from NYSERDA, and thanks NYSERDA for their work and partnership.*
 - **President Harris:** *Thanks Henry for sharing the update and notes that NYSERDA is similarly glad for the partnership.*

Power Plants Subgroup: Site Reuse Opportunities and Inventory Research

- President Harris provides an overview of the Power Plant Inventory and Site Reuse work stream, and introduces the issues & opportunities presented by site reuse. Ted Skerpon, James Shillitto, and Jamie Dickerson provide an overview of each of the identified reuse issues. See slides 4-15 for additional details.
- *Discussion*

- **Omar Freilla:** *Curious about the Electric Generation Facility Cessation Mitigation Fund. Curious if there is any equivalent on the planning end? This is funding to offset the loss of revenue. Is there anything that would provide financial support for planning?*
 - **John Williams:** *One thing Jamie briefly mentioned is a program underway at NYSERDA that is designed to be the first step for the locality to start its own economic development planning. We want to make sure we aren't just looking at this as a facility closure but how the state can support new local economic development. Through this program, NYSERDA will be making turnkey consultant support available.*
- President Harris and Jamie Dickerson provide an overview of the opportunities presented by power plant site reuse. See slides 16-27 for additional details.
- *Discussion*
 - **Henry Garrido:** *In New York City, there has been discussion to convert Rikers Island to one of the centers you presented here. Regarding the plans presented here, would they require state approval if such conversion were to take place?*
 - **Jamie Dickerson:** *Good point, and we have been following the Renewable Rikers Act. Regarding requirements for approval, we're currently just considering the array of opportunities, so we haven't contemplated which requirements might be tied to approval or what project characteristics might have preference. Right now we are mostly identifying the major categories of opportunity.*
 - **Omar Freilla:** *This was a comprehensive overview of the different options. What is the process for making the determination on reuse? Who makes the decision about the final use for that site? Regarding planning for the transition on the local end, the Request for Proposal (RFP)¹ Jamie mentioned is specific to municipalities. The Brownfield Opportunities program is an example of a program that provides funding to local communities at the nongovernmental level – allowing community organizations to develop their own plan. He raises this as something that should be considered.*
 - **Jamie Dickerson:** *We have been talking with colleagues at the Department of State (DOS) that administer this program and have them slotted in to provide an overview on this program. Will need to dig more fully into their model to identify takeaways, but zooming in below municipality is something we can look at. Omar's first question is the million-dollar question. There are multiple decision points that will impact reuse. For privately owned sites, the interest of the site owner impacts the reuse outcome significantly.*
 - **John Williams:** *This is the right question. It helps to start the conversation among municipal officials, planning officials, property owners, and community voices that are looking at outcomes. We need a process that initiates communication with all stakeholders in order to get ahead of a transition that would have bumps in the road. Right now there is no single formal process, but rather we are trying to utilize the procedures that are in place.*
 - **President Harris:** *Appreciative of this summary for her own use and for the group. Many thanks to Jamie and the sub-group for contributing to these draft deliverables.*

¹ The Just Transition Technical Assistance and Planning Services RFP can be accessed at <https://portal.nyserda.ny.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=00Pt000000QSysBEAT>.

Power Plants Inventory

- John Williams and Jamie Dickerson outlined the power plant inventory objectives/approach, provided an overview of research, and presented preliminary findings. See slides 29-41 for additional details.
- *Discussion*
 - **Henry Garrido:** *Notes that the City has an agreement with the New York Power Authority (NYPA) for purchasing power. He asks whether this is included within the analysis by region or if that is a separate analysis? That is a centralized provider for the City government.*
 - **Jamie Dickerson:** *We do have a footnote on that. For those who aren't aware, several NYPA facilities provide power for both state and local government customers. That is reflected primarily in the Zeltmann and Astoria energy 2 plant. The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) zone and City/town columns are just reflecting the location of the plant, but not speaking to where energy is delivered.*
 - **Omar Freilla:** *Raises a question about NYPA peaker plants listed on slide 40. He believes that NYPA has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to close these peaker plants and reuse them for clean energy. He wants to know if his understanding is correct and if these listed here are slated to be closed and/or if there are others on the list to be closed?*
 - **Jamie Dickerson:** *Notes that if you look to the second to last column it references PEAK MOU. The MOU is around exploring a transition to low/no carbon resources at these sites. Folks also might be interested in NYPA's Vision 2030 plan. This column designates which NYPA facilities are operating under that MOU or are referenced in that doc.*
 - **Omar Freilla:** *Since the MOU doesn't commit to closing, he'd like to vocalize support for the transition of those, particularly the two Bronx peaker plants since those are located in a community that is known for having disproportionately high rates of asthma.*
 - **Henry Garrido:** *Wants to echo what Omar said and notes that the same issues apply in Queens near Vernon Boulevard. Recognizes this doc speaks for itself, but wants to emphasize that environmental justice and health disparities are a key component of this effort.*
- Jamie notes that additional feedback from working group members and the public is welcome via email at jtwg@nyscrda.ny.gov. See slide 42 for additional details.

Preview for 3/23 JTWG Meeting

- Emily Grubert of Georgia Tech will present research at the 3/23 JTWG meeting, see slide 43 for details.

Business Impacts Subgroup: Preliminary EITE Identification Results

- Commissioner Reardon introduces this portion of the meeting and passes to Kevin Hansen (from Empire State Development - ESD) who provides a reminder of the concept and implications of Energy-Intensive and Trade-Exposed (EITE) industries, steps to identifying EITE industries, and examples of different EITE definitions. See slides 44-52 for additional details.
- *Discussion*

- **Randy Wolken:** *Glad that Kevin indicated that making sure trade exposure would also consider losing industry to other states. Being more expansive early on will help make the transition smoother without losing jobs.*
- Kevin Hansen next provides an overview of preliminary findings of this research, including data sources, inputs, and methods limitations, as well as energy intensity by U.S. industry (top 30) and trade intensity by U.S. industry (top 30). See slides 53-58 for additional details.
- *Discussion*
 - **Henry Garrido:** *is it possible for this to be shared with us, understanding it would be considered preliminary?*
 - **President Harris:** *Yes, we'll be sure to send an updated PDF.*
 - **Maritza Silva-Farrell:** *In terms of the data analysis, you pointed out it was national. Do you have a sense for how the data for NYS will be collected?*
 - **Kevin Hansen:** *Shares that national data is used for a variety of reasons. In some cases, state level data isn't available. One other thing to keep in mind is that even if an industry isn't large in NYS today, they may be interested in investing in NYS in the future. One of the EITE Advisory Panel's recommended strategies is the collection of state level emissions data similar to what California reports, which helped them in their process.*

Jobs Study Update (BW Research)

- Josh Williams provides a brief update on the status of the jobs study including the project objectives, the employment impact model, the modeling framework overview, and next steps. See slides 61-64 for additional details.
- *Discussion*
 - *No questions*

Next Steps

- Commissioner Reardon outlines next steps for the JTWG, including upcoming meetings.
 - Next JTWG meeting: March 23, 2021.
 - Next CAC meeting: April 12, 2021.
 - Working Group feedback on integration analysis assumptions is due on March 31, 2021.
 - Assumptions are available within the Integration Analysis section of the Resources page of the CLCPA website: <https://climate.ny.gov/Climate-Resources>
 - Feedback will be shared directly with Commissioner Reardon and President Harris.