

# Minutes

**REEC Conference Call: Wednesday, 24 August 2005, 14:00–15:30 EDT**

## 1. Welcome to participants and roll call

William Kennedy, CEC's executive director, welcomed the participants and thanked them for accepting to participate in the Renewable Energy Expert Committee (REEC). Mr. Kennedy briefly described the CEC's history and objectives.

Chantal Line Carpentier then explained the context in which the REEC was created and invited all participants to the conference call to present themselves and their work and express their interest in this initiative. The participants were:

### Participants

Chantal Line Carpentier  
Esther María Carrillo  
Matt Clouse  
Odón de Buen  
Carlos Gottfried  
Ed Holt  
Jorge Huacuz  
Ubaldo Inclan  
William Kennedy  
Florian Laberge

Michel Lesueur  
Juan Mata Sandoval  
Joanne McKenna  
David Morillón  
John Nyboer  
Véronique Robichaud  
Allison Schumacher  
Blair Swezey  
Ramón Carlos Torres Flores  
Peigi Wilson

## 2. CEC background

Chantal Line summarized CEC's work on renewable energy and pointed out that most of it began with the CEC's Article 13 Secretariat report, *Environmental Challenges and Opportunities of the Evolving North American Electricity Market*, published in 2002. This report and all renewable energy documents and databases prepared by the CEC are available on the web at <[www.cec.org/energy](http://www.cec.org/energy)>.

## 3. REEC objectives, functioning, and commitments

The REEC was created in order to ensure that the various stakeholders across North America have an opportunity to give their input and advice on CEC's projects related to renewable energy. Officials from our three countries' environmental ministries suggested a list of representatives from governments, NGOs, industry, academia and First Nations.

REEC members will meet four times a year by conference call and once in a sit-down meeting to review ongoing projects, follow their development and discuss future initiatives.

The CEC Secretariat will be in charge of organizing the conference calls and meeting, preparing agendas, writing short minutes, translating the documents and posting them on <[www.cec.org/energy](http://www.cec.org/energy)>. The functioning of this committee will be based on the model currently used for the North American Green Purchasing Initiative advisory group. REEC members can get a better idea of its functioning by visiting <[www.nagpi.net](http://www.nagpi.net)>.

#### **4. CEC projects for 2005 (see CEC RE-Projects 2005.doc)**

##### **A. Renewable Energy Resource Mapping**

The Secretariat is preparing an assessment of current mapping initiatives in North America with respect to geographic areas and map resolution. A first draft will be sent to REEC members for review by mid-September. Through this analysis, geographic gaps can be identified and discussed at the annual meeting. The assessment will also include a review of capacity building needs and methodologies required for mapping. Mexico underlined the importance of developing local capacities to conduct mapping of this kind.

##### **B. Best Practices in Financing Small-scale Renewable Energy Projects**

The Secretariat is undertaking a literature review of best practices in financing small-scale renewable energy projects. A first draft of this document will be sent to REEC members for review by the end of September. REEC members will be consulted on what is meant by “small-scale renewable energy projects” and asked to provide ideas and guidance on determining the megawattage of small-scale projects. It was also suggested that the committee offer advice on the definition of “finance” and clarified that the review distinguishes between on- and off- grid projects.

##### **C. Supplement the Map of Existing and Planned Renewable Energy Resources**

The Secretariat has developed over the last years a North American Renewable Energy Database (NARED, see <[www.cec.org/energy](http://www.cec.org/energy)> for further information), which presents summary data on a state, provincial or territorial level, aggregated by type of renewable energy source and technology, and by development status. The Secretariat is supplementing this database with information on existing laws and policies in each state and province related to renewable energy. This project will build on the DSIRE database in the United States. By the end of September, the Secretariat will send to REEC members for their review and suggestions a list of laws and policies for potential inclusion in the database.

##### **D. Fostering Green Power Markets**

The objective for 2005 is to develop a white paper that documents Renewable Portfolio Standards and voluntary programs such as renewable energy certificates throughout North America and which will help in understanding current opportunities and obstacles associated with a North American green power market. The paper will also offer additional areas of work and capacity building requirements. It was agreed that the Center for Resource Solutions (CRS), in conjunction with Mexican institutions to be identified by the CRS and

the Secretariat, would be the best candidate to prepare this paper. The Secretariat will be in touch with the CRS and put them in contact with the different REEC representatives from Mexico in order to determine the best way to go forward and which institutions should be involved.

#### E. Calculating Environmental Benefits of Renewable Energy

Over the last two years, the CEC has participated in an effort to develop a set of tools/methods for the calculation of environmental benefits of renewable energy for various common uses. The objective for 2005 is to finalize this work by preparing a web-based interactive document providing simple, objective guidance on calculating environmental benefits. This document will be based on previous work and on current EPA and WRI work in this area. A final meeting will take place to present their work and discuss the final document/tool to be put on the CEC's web site.

### **5. Date for first annual meeting**

Participants in the conference call agreed that it would be a good idea to have the annual REEC meeting right after the 10<sup>th</sup> National Green Power Marketing Conference. Therefore, we will be meeting face-to-face in Austin, Texas, on 27 October 2005. It was also suggested that the final "displacement" meeting take place at the same place on the afternoon of 26 October (immediately following the closing of the Conference).

The CEC Secretariat will confirm whether people can join either meeting through teleconference.

### **6. Larger distribution list**

Given the limited number of members in the REEC and the need to avoid duplication of efforts and engage all key players, participants agreed that a larger distribution list should be created. People on that larger distribution list will receive agendas and materials distributed and be invited to join conference calls. Advice to the CEC, however, will come from the core REEC members. Members are invited to send the Secretariat names of candidates for the larger list.

### **7. Date and time of next conference call**

The REEC will meet via conference call on Monday, 12 December 2005, at 2:00 p.m. EST.