

Clean Heat Standard Technical Advisory Group
October 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Attendees

- Members of the Technical Advisory Group present
 - Matthew Bakerpoole (in place of Alek Antczak), Vermont Department of Public Service
 - Matt Cota, Meadow Hill Consulting
 - Luce Hillman, University of Vermont
 - Ken Jones, Individual
 - Michelle Keller, Fraktalas Energy
 - Casey Lamont, Burlington Electric Department
 - Sam Lehr, Molecule Group
 - Emily Levin, Northeast States Coordinated Air Use Management
 - Emily Roscoe, Efficiency Vermont
 - Jared Ulmer, Vermont Department of Health
 - Floyd Vergara, Clean Fuels Alliance America
 - Rick Weston, Individual
 - Patrick Wood, Ag Methane Advisors
 - Brian Woods, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
- Facilitator
 - Catherine Morris, Consensus Building Institute
- Participating Vermont Public Utility Commission staff
 - Deirdre Morris

Welcome & Review of agenda [Time Stamp 0:00:00]

[Review and approval of 10/03/24 minutes](#)

[Rick Weston moved to approve the 10/3/24 meeting minutes. Ken Jones abstained. None opposed. Motion passed at 9:36 a.m.]

Updates from the PUC [Time Stamp 0:04:00]

[Review of the 2 Opinion Documents circulated for the group's consideration (responses to TRM subgroup questions + approach to the lifecycle analysis of wood) and CHS discussion notes from weatherization providers; Update on OD deliverable timeline (incorporating the latest TAG feedback into the second draft of the TRM – which is scheduled for the end of the month – depends on this group's resolution of issues at this meeting; If individual TAG members (or members of the public) have resources they would like to share with OD, please file them in 23-2220-RULE; Reminder that comments on the draft rule are due 11/1, this goes for the TAG as well. If individual TAG members want to file comments on behalf of their organization (or themselves), please file those in the case by the end of the month.]

Draft TAG position statements on Opinion Dynamics' Draft TRM (shared in advance) [Time Stamp 0:12:00]

- Alignment between EVT and TRM on heat pump hours of operation
- Rate of decline in biofuels' CIs over time
- Definition of Advanced Wood Heat

[See position statements in meeting materials and recording for discussion.]

Public Comments [Time Stamp 1:38:30]

[Public comments included: concern about removing cord wood stoves as a CHM given the public was told it would be included during the development of Act 18; even wood-burning measures that meet EPA standards emit more toxic pollutants and fine particulates than other fossil fuels; and a suggestion that clear language on this matter (defining AWH) is important.]

Vote on TAG position statements (as amended during meeting)

[Group elected not to vote on these issues, the group will return to these issues at the next meeting.]

Break

Presentation from Subgroup on additional TRM issues (draft options memos provided in advance) [Time Stamp 1:55:15]

- Treatment of land use change in biofuels' CIs
- Use of counterfactuals in biofuels' CIs

Test TAG readiness to vote on these topics

[See position statements in meeting materials and recording for discussion.]

Public Comment [Time Stamp 2:48:30]

[Public comments included: how LUC and avoided methane are very different from a systems analysis perspective (in relation to the degrees of certainty as it relates to the lifecycle emissions); California DOES reconcile their lifecycle and state inventory books; CHS is about reducing thermal sector emissions in Vermont, not affecting other industries or sectors; biodigesters only address the manure emissions – we shouldn't incentivize larger herds that could perversely increase methane emissions; Pike shared a report regarding flooding (re: alternatives to wood burning).]

TAG Vote on LUC and counterfactual (if appropriate)

[Group elected not to vote on these issues, the group will return to these issues at the next meeting.]

Introduction to outstanding TAG deliverables (memos outlining issues provided in advance) [Time Stamp 2:54:30]

- Approach to determining wood fuel emission factors
- Public health effects of CHS

TAG clarifying questions and feedback

[Topics were introduced but will ultimately be addressed at the next meeting. Brian will revise wood fuel emission factors memo based on OD wood memo.]

Equity Advisory Group Report [addressed by Emily Roscoe in the meeting chat]

[Provided in the chat by Emily Roscoe: "The EAG mainly discussed the draft rule and writing the EAG report. In the draft rule, the one thing the group wanted to point out or note is what would happen to portable heat pumps, or window insert heat pumps according to the draft rule language of installed measures. Mainly discussed implications around the term "capital investment" and if that excludes this technology (that the group deemed very important for LI VTers and renters, and may address the split incentive in the CHS). This technology is not yet fully in the market, only in a pilot phase at EVT, but when it does hit the market, the group is concerned that this may be introduced and used before the CHS TRM is adjusted. So the questions are does the EAG comment on defining capital investment, how to categorize this technology, and do we consider integrating this technology into the CHS TRM so it is updated when it comes out in the market."]

Other Matters [Time Stamp 3:00:00]

- Schedule Subgroup meeting if needed
- Agenda topics for next meeting
 - Review of PUC draft CHS rule and companion memo
 - Translating CIs to credit value
 - Identifying measures that lower energy costs

[Catherine will poll group for availability to meet next week. In the meantime, TAG members should send any comments they have on any of the topics discussed today to Rick. Rick (and others) will be revising/adding language to some of the options to reflect today's discussion and frame decisions for the next meeting.]

Close

Meeting adjourned 12:43 p.m.