



## **TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Conference Call Summary**  
**Thursday, September 6, 2007**  
**3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

### **Welcome**

*Dr. John Giesy, University of Saskatchewan, Subcommittee Chair*

Dr. John Giesy, Chair of the Technology for Sustainability Subcommittee, welcomed the Subcommittee members to the conference call. He stated that he has received some comments about the draft report and asked that any additional comments be sent immediately.

### **Administrative Procedures**

*Ms. Clois Slocum, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Office of Research and Development (ORD), Subcommittee Designated Federal Officer (DFO)*

Ms. Slocum took roll and then reviewed the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) procedures that are required for all Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) Subcommittee meetings. As the DFO for the Technology for Sustainability Subcommittee, Ms. Slocum serves as the liaison between the Subcommittee, the public, and EPA and ensures that all FACA requirements are met.

Ms. Slocum stated that all meetings and conference calls involving substantive issues, whether in person, by phone, or by e-mail, that include one-half or more of the Subcommittee members must be open to the public and a notice must be placed in the *Federal Register* at least 15 calendar days prior to the call or meeting. The information for this conference call was published on August 20, 2007, and entered into the federal docket management system (<http://www.regulations.gov>; Docket ID EPA-HQ-ORD-2006-1010). The Subcommittee Chair and DFO must be present at all conference calls and meetings.

The Chair will administer the call according to the preapproved agenda and mediate discussions. The Subcommittee Chair must recognize the EPA staff members before they provide comments. Because a notetaker is taking detailed notes of the call, Ms. Slocum asked speakers to identify themselves when making a comment. The summary of this call will be made available to the public after certification by the Subcommittee Chair. The Chair must certify the summary within 90 days of the call. The summary then will be posted on the BOSC Web Site (<http://www.epa.gov/osp/bosc>). The agenda allows time for public comment at 3:20 p.m.

### **Subcommittee Discussion**

*Dr. John Giesy, University of Saskatchewan, Subcommittee Chair*

Dr. Giesy explained that the Subcommittee members needed to accomplish three primary goals during the conference call: (1) provide an overall qualitative score, (2) provide individual rating scores for two areas, and (3) discuss specific written items in the report. He opened the floor for Subcommittee discussion of the draft report.

Dr. Earl Beaver stated that, in regards to Section III.2.8 of the report, his concern was that the wording available at the time of the face-to-face meeting discussion indicated that “all” goals needed to be met or exceeded. Dr. Martin Abraham commented that the description for “Meets Expectations” accounted for his concern. Dr. Ted Tomasi added that the “Exceeds Expectations” requirement had been that the program must meet all goals, and it was important that language be inserted that indicated that the program is exceeding many but not all of the goals. The underlying issue is having a single blanket criterion that does not describe the program uniformly. Most of the program is meeting or exceeding, and he is glad that language was added to indicate this. Dr. Concepción Gonzalez agreed that the new rating is more clear, and she is comfortable with the new rating as it addresses what was discussed at the face-to-face meeting.

Dr. Giesy asked for consensus about the qualitative rating. Dr. Peter Blaze Corcoran asked Dr. Giesy to clarify what specifically he was asking of the group. Dr. Giesy responded that one point of the Subcommittee’s charge was to assign an overall qualitative score based on BOSC scores. He is asking for consensus that the overall rating should be “Meets Expectations.” Additionally, consensus also will be needed for qualitative scores for Long-Term Goals (LTGs) 2 and 3. Ms. Slocum took a roll call of the members, and the decision was unanimous to assign an overall rating of “Meets Expectations.”

Dr. Giesy asked if the paragraph describing the overall rating needed to be wordsmithed. Dr. Beaver suggested that the Tool for the Reduction and Assessment of Chemical and Other Environmental Impacts (TRACI) and Building for Environmental and Economic Sustainability (BEES) projects be mentioned specifically as top-rate efforts. The Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Program also deserves distinction. Dr. Tomasi agreed that these were noteworthy projects.

Dr. Wayne Landis commented that the last bullet under Section III.2.8 should be expanded to include a comment that the program is not well coordinated and not taking advantage of programs and research in other parts of the world, particularly Europe. The program is too U.S.-centric. Dr. Beaver stated that adding a comparison to the quality and speed of European programs will add controversy. It should be acknowledged, but a comparison should not be made. Dr. Giesy added that this point is discussed in the longer discourse about the program. Dr. Gonzalez suggested that a parenthetical “e.g.” be inserted in the bullet to describe examples of what is meant by “outside efforts.” Dr. Tomasi added that he did not intend for a comparison to be made but that the program needs to have an awareness of research being conducted outside of EPA and the United States that can be leveraged. Dr. Abraham added that he is more comfortable with the word “awareness” as opposed to “assessment” in this bullet. Dr. Tomasi agreed. Dr. Giesy asked if there was consensus to change the word “assessment” to “awareness”; the group concurred. Dr. Abraham suggested adding the clause “including those organizations outside of the United States” after “...being done outside of the Agency...”. Consensus was reached regarding this change.

Dr. Tomasi commented that highlighting some projects as “particularly noteworthy” may cause those programs not highlighted to appear as less worthy. Dr. Giesy stated that he would make sure the wording did not imply this. Dr. Beaver added that BEES should be noted because it is the software currently used by federal government purchasers to identify and buy environmentally friendly products. It is a clear example of success. Dr. Gonzalez added that the software is used by academia and companies outside of the United States as well. She believes that it deserves praise but not in the paragraph describing the overall qualitative score; it should be placed in the supporting text below. Dr. Abraham agreed. Dr. Giesy requested that Dr. Beaver craft sentences describing the projects, and he will insert them in the programmatic-level comments.

Dr. Tomasi stated that he had minor editorial comments that he would send to Dr. Giesy, but he did want to discuss Section III.2.2.B.1 with the Subcommittee members. The sentences “It is difficult to include fairness into the process, but every effort should be made to do so. In particular, whenever appropriate, the concept of social justice should be incorporated into metrics.” do not take into account that the

approach being taken by the program involves end-point metrics and not process metrics. His concern is that the issues of justice and fairness are a distinction between end-point versus process metrics. Perhaps comments about “consideration given to process metrics” should be added.

### **Public Comment**

Ms. Slocum called for public comments at 3:43 p.m. No comments were offered.

### **Subcommittee Discussion (continued)**

*Dr. John Giesy, University of Saskatchewan, Subcommittee Chair*

Dr. Beaver stated that if there is a move toward process metrics, there must be a notification of potential outcome, and an appropriate “autopsy” must be completed. He relayed the example of a safety process metric that was implemented in a company. Safety class attendance was considered the performance measure, and based on this measure, performance appeared to improve. The actual safety rate declined, however. Dr. Tomasi agreed and stated that is why the language that makes it appear as though the Subcommittee recommends adoption of process metrics needs to be examined. The report needs to be direct regarding what the group is and is not recommending, and the two sentences do not convey the intent of the Subcommittee. Dr. Landis stated that he wants the sentences to be deleted because they are not a recommendation or an appropriate decision. They are normative statements and do not say what the Subcommittee is trying to convey. Dr. Tomasi agreed, with the stipulation that comments regarding sustainability, including the concepts that involve fairness of outcome, are kept and defined. Dr. Giesy suggested that this be added early in the discussion at a broad level.

Dr. Beaver stated that sustainability is defined as delivering products and services that are needed by mankind while reducing the burden on the earth. Dr. Tomasi agreed that this was a starting point, but it still does not encompass everything. Implementational measures are something for the program to consider.

Dr. Landis moved to remove the lines “It is difficult to include fairness into the process, but every effort should be made to do so. In particular, whenever appropriate, the concept of social justice should be incorporated into metrics.” from Section III.2.2.B.1. Dr. Giesy asked for and received consensus.

Dr. Tomasi commented that what metrics are must be defined. What the program is attempting to accomplished must be clearly defined before metrics are created. He will craft a paragraph regarding this concept and send it to Dr. Giesy.

Dr. Giesy stated that the Subcommittee must assign ratings for LTGs 2 and 3. He read LTG 2 for the Subcommittee members. Dr. Gonzalez suggested that “Exceeds Expectations” be assigned to this LTG. The Subcommittee reached consensus regarding this rating. Dr. Giesy commented that that this may be an appropriate place to insert Dr. Beaver’s comments regarding BEES and TRACI.

Dr. Beaver commented that there is a difference between speed and quality. Programs can exceed expectations via either speed or exceptional quality, and he asked if this should be addressed. Dr. Giesy explained that both are already included in the description.

Dr. Giesy read LTG 3 and asked for comments regarding the rating. Dr. Abraham suggested that a rating of “Meets Expectations” be assigned because the Green Technology Program is weaker than the other elements and needs improvement. Consensus was reached regarding this rating assignment.

Dr. Gonzalez added that examples of good practices could be added to the LTG 3 summary. She will send these to Dr. Giesy. Dr. Tomasi commented that he thought that the bullets describing LTG 3 effectively captured the range of the opinions that the Subcommittee discussed.

Dr. Beaver explained that he was ill when comments about the draft report were solicited, but he has some additional comments he would like to add. He will send them to Dr. Giesy, who will determine if they should be added to the report at this point.

Dr. Giesy asked for clarification regarding the timeline for report completion. Ms. Slocum responded that the BOSC Executive Committee is slated to vet the report this month. Ms. Kowalski added that the BOSC Executive Committee meeting is taking place September 17, 2007. Ms. Slocum stated that the report needs to be finalized as soon as possible so that it can be made available to the Executive Committee in time for the meeting.

Dr. Giesy asked the Subcommittee if there were any outstanding comments of a substantive nature. The group agreed that Dr. Giesy had done an outstanding job of creating a draft report that accurately reflected the disparate comments of the Subcommittee members. Each member indicated that he or she had editorial comments but no comments of a substantive nature.

Ms. Kowalski asked what the Subcommittee's schedule was for moving forward from this point. Dr. Giesy explained that the Subcommittee members would forward him their comments following the conference call, and he will incorporate them into the report. He will e-mail the report to Ms. Slocum by close of business tomorrow. Ms. Kowalski asked if Ms. Slocum should forward the final document to the Subcommittee members for their final approval. Dr. Giesy replied yes; he would like a final document that accurately reflects the thoughts of the Subcommittee members. Ms. Kowalski asked that Subcommittee members respond individually to Ms. Slocum's e-mail to comply with FACA rules. Dr. Giesy will need to notify Ms. Slocum if more substantive discussion is needed.

Dr. Giesy thanked the Subcommittee members for their time and efforts and adjourned the call at 4:30 p.m.

### **Action Items**

- ✧ Dr. Giesy will make the following editorial changes to the report:
  - In the fourth bullet under Section III.2.8 change “assessment” to “awareness” and change “...outside of the Agency and how ORD...” to “...outside of the Agency, including those organizations outside of the United States, and how ORD...”
  - Remove the lines “It is difficult to include fairness into the process, but every effort should be made to do so. In particular, whenever appropriate, the concept of social justice should be incorporated into metrics.” from Section III.2.2.B.1.
- ✧ Dr. Beaver will send his comments regarding the TRACI and BEES projects to Dr. Giesy immediately following the conference call.
- ✧ Dr. Tomasi will send the language regarding a clear definition of intended measurements and their appropriate metrics to Dr. Giesy immediately following the call.
- ✧ Dr. Gonzalez will send examples of LTG 3 good practices to Dr. Giesy immediately following the conference call.
- ✧ All Subcommittee members and Dr. Corcoran will send editorial comments to Dr. Giesy immediately following the conference call.

- ✧ Dr. Giesy will incorporate the above comments into the draft report and send it to Ms. Slocum no later than close of business on September 7, 2007.
- ✧ Ms. Slocum will forward the final version of the report to the Subcommittee members, who will respond individually with their final comments.

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## **APPENDIX A: Teleconference Agenda**

### **TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

**September 6, 2007**

**3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

#### **CONFERENCE CALL**

#### **Participation by Teleconference Only**

Dial-in number: 866-299-3188

Follow prompt:

Conference Code is 5135697852#

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Welcome - Roll call - Overview of Progress	Dr. John Giesy Subcommittee Chair
3:15 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.	Administrative Procedures	Clois Slocum DFO
3:20 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.	Public Comment	
3:25 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Subcommittee Discussion - Summary of Draft Report Progress - Draft Report Discussion - Draft Report Next Steps and Schedule	Dr. John Giesy Subcommittee Chair
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn	