

PURC Energy Advisory Council Minutes

Meeting: Monday, November 1, 2010; 10:00 a.m. in Gressette Building room 105

Members Present: Dukes Scott (council co-facilitator); Ashlie Lancaster (council co-facilitator); Jim Bagley; Sue Berkowitz; Harry Cato; Mike Couick; Hamilton Davis; Bob Long; Hank McCullough; Christie McGregor; John Ramsburgh; Mitch Williams

Staff began with opening remarks. Council members began discussion of the definition of “renewable energy” in regards to a possible independent consultant study of a resource study for South Carolina. Mike Couick made a motion to adopt the following definition of “renewable resources” for the study:

“Draft of renewable energy for resource study by an independent consultant

The following definition of renewable energy is not an exhaustive list of potential energy sources, but narrowly lists recognized sources in order to obtain information that includes specific details.

Renewable energy means energy derived from wind energy; solar photovoltaic and solar thermal energy; conventional hydropower, and emerging hydro resources including, but not limited to, wave, tidal and ocean thermal energy; geothermal energy; waste heat derived from a renewable energy resource and used to produce electricity at a retail electric customer’s facility; hydrogen derived from a renewable energy resource; energy derived from waste oil; biomass, including but not limited to:

1. organic human or animal waste, including fats, oils greases and manure;
2. spent pulping liquors,
3. forest woody debris from harvesting or thinning,
4. wood material that has not been treated with chemical preservatives such as creosote, pentachlorophenol or chromate copper arsenate,
5. agricultural residues,
6. dedicated energy crops,
7. landfill gas or biogas produced from organic matter, wastewater, anaerobic digesters or municipal solid waste,
8. combined heat and power, and
9. algae.

In addition, biomass may include any materials, pre-commercial thinning or invasive species from national or state owned lands that meet the following requirements:

- (1) that are byproducts of preventive treatments that are removed to reduce hazardous fuels, reduce or contain disease or insect infestation or restore ecosystem health;
- (2) would not be used for higher-value products; and
- (3) are harvested in accordance with applicable law and land management plans and the requirements for old growth maintenance, restoration and management direction of paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) of subsection (e) of section 102 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 USC 6512) and large tree retention of subsection (f) of that section.

Electricity generated from the direct combustion of biomass will not qualify as renewable energy if any of the biomass combusted to generate electricity includes municipal solid waste.”

Council members continued discussion of the resource study. Hamilton Davis requested that the study be reclassified as “resource study” instead of “renewable energy.” John Ramsburgh moved to second Mr.

Couick's original motion, as amended by Mr. Davis. The Council voted, 10-0, to adopt the following definition for the resource study:

“South Carolina resources to be evaluated by an independent consultant

The following list of resources is not an exhaustive list of potential energy sources, but narrowly lists recognized resources in order to obtain information that includes specific details.

South Carolina resources mean energy derived from wind energy; solar photovoltaic and solar thermal energy; conventional hydropower, and emerging hydro resources including, but not limited to, wave, tidal and ocean thermal energy; geothermal energy; waste heat derived from a renewable energy resource and used to produce electricity at a retail electric customer's facility; hydrogen derived from a renewable energy resource; energy derived from waste oil; biomass, including but not limited to:

1. organic human or animal waste, including fats, oils greases and manure;
2. spent pulping liquors,
3. forest woody debris from harvesting or thinning,
4. wood material that has not been treated with chemical preservatives such as creosote, pentachlorophenol or chromate copper arsenate,
5. agricultural residues,
6. dedicated energy crops,
7. landfill gas or biogas produced from organic matter, wastewater, anaerobic digesters or municipal solid waste,
8. combined heat and power, and
9. algae.

In addition, biomass may include any materials, pre-commercial thinning or invasive species from national or state owned lands that meet the following requirements:

- (1) that are byproducts of preventive treatments that are removed to reduce hazardous fuels, reduce or contain disease or insect infestation or restore ecosystem health;
- (2) would not be used for higher-value products; and
- (3) are harvested in accordance with applicable law and land management plans and the requirements for old growth maintenance, restoration and management direction of paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) of subsection (e) of section 102 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 USC 6512) and large tree retention of subsection (f) of that section.

Electricity generated from the direct combustion of biomass will not qualify as a resource if any of the biomass combusted to generate electricity includes municipal solid waste.”

After adopting the definition of “resources” for the resource study, the council members then presented individual ideas they have for possible legislation for the upcoming 2011 session.

Staff gave concluding remarks.