

Summary Minutes of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)'s
21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board (EWAB)
Public Meeting

July 9, 2024 – 12:00pm to 12:30pm ET

The 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board (EWAB) was convened for its 8th meeting, via WebEx Live, at 12:00pm ET on July 9, 2024. In accordance with Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public from 12:00pm ET to 12:30pm ET.

EWAB members present:

- Amanda Cage, National Fund for Workforce Solutions
- Allison Ziogas, ORSTED Americas, Inc.
- Sarita Gupta, Ford Foundation
- Dr. Girard Melancon, National Council for Workforce Education
- Melissa (Missy) Henriksen, Center for Energy Workforce Development*
- Dr. Thomas (Tom) Kriger, North America's Building Trades Unions
- Kay Seven, Co-Chair, Nez Perce Tribe
- Chris Levesque, TerraPower
- Deanna Ahmed, PhD, Our Next Energy
- Dr. Jermaine Whirl, Augusta Technical College

* EWAB Chairperson

DOE staff presenting and/or supporting the meeting:

- Maya Goodwin, Workforce Strategy Lead and EWAB Designated Federal Official (DFO), Office of Energy Jobs
- Angelica Zamora-Duran, AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow, Office of Energy Jobs
- Betony Jones, Labor Advisor to Secretary Granholm, Director, Office of Energy Jobs
- Vanessa Grisko, Chief of Staff, Office of Energy Jobs
- Lino Peña-Martinez, Special Assistant, Office of Energy Jobs
- Pam Egan, Contractor Support, U.C. Berkeley's Labor Center
- Irem Inal, Contractor Support, U.C. Berkeley's Labor Center

Other attendees present for all or a portion of the meeting:

- Sonoï Omwenga
- Leland Cogliani
- Megan Evans
- Eriech Tapia

Meeting Summary

Subcommittee Report-Outs and Discussion

Maya Goodwin, DFO, opened the meeting, noting the Webex was being recorded and would be posted to the EWAB's public website. Ms. Goodwin then took roll call to ascertain a quorum of Advisory Board members in attendance, noting 10 EWAB members present. Upon completing the roll call, she turned the meeting over to Melissa Henriksen, EWAB Chairperson, for a brief welcome and overview of the meeting agenda.

Ms. Henriksen recapped the EWAB’s mission focus – to develop a strategy for Department of Energy (DOE) to support and develop a skilled energy workforce to meet the changing needs of the U.S. energy system. She noted the EWAB has been tasked to ensure the strategy will further DOE’s current efforts to create jobs, ensure job quality, and equitable access to energy-related jobs.

The purpose of today’s meeting was to provide an overview of the top line recommendations from the report as well as an update on the revision process and allow the board to discuss the key messages that they thought were the most important and hope to see implemented by the Department. The Chairperson posed the question to the Board about which message from the report that they would want to emphasize for the Secretary of Energy.

One Board member highlighted that many barriers to entering the workforce are systems based and that those systems impact certain groups of people disproportionately. They reiterated that the need to address challenges from a systems perspective as a key message that should be emphasized. Another member agreed and added that employers should be engaged and involved in transforming the sector and breaking down historic barriers. They mentioned that the DOE could play an important role as a convener for employers and scale some of the work that is being done towards systems change. A Board member mentioned that social support systems, including childcare and transportation, were of key importance to addressing barriers to accessibility in the energy workforce.

One member underscored the importance of looking at the entire energy ecosystem and the role that traditional skilled crafts will play in the energy transition. They also noted the opportunity to build the skilled workforce while also advancing diversity in the energy sector. Another member stressed the need for craft workers and mentioned the need to promote diversity and inclusion not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because the energy sector needs more workers entirely. The Board member explained that the need for craft skilled workers was akin to the need for military recruitment as it is a necessity to secure the nation’s energy security.

Another member acknowledged the work towards the clean energy transition that they’ve seen in Georgia as a result of the Workforce Hub that was set up under the Biden-Harris administration. A slew of partnerships were established by leveraging the Workforce Hub and from anticipated clean energy projects. The Board member stressed the importance of building partnerships in the community to provide pathways into the energy workforce and mentioned that they hoped this report would serve as a model for regional/state workforce development efforts. A different Board member agreed that a regional approach to bringing stakeholders together should be taken when working to build cohesion for a national approach. They emphasized the importance of including tribal nations and addressing the fragmentation that exists when engaging with tribal nations within broader communities. The Board member suggested that DOE could leverage legislation regarding workforce development in tribal nations and existing training centers to help prepare the energy workforce.

Public Comment Section

This meeting did not have any public commentors.

Next Steps

Maya Goodwin (DFO) noted that the next steps regarding the report would be for the Board to consider revisions and ideas proposed by DOE program offices and leaders. She mentioned that the Board has the ability to craft how it will continue to support the recommendations and asked the Board members to think about ways to effectively support the DOE after submission of the report and identify items that

may not have been incorporated into the first iteration. The in-person Board meeting with the Secretary will be scheduled for early September.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 12:30pm Eastern.

Respectfully submitted.

Maya Goodwin
Designated Federal Officer

I hereby certify that these meeting minutes of the July 9, 2024, EWAB meeting are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Melissa (Missy) Henriksen
Chair, EWAB