



SOUTH CAROLINA CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Natural Gas Study Committee

June 29, 2017

MEETING MINUTES

Location and Time: SC Chamber of Commerce, 10am to Noon

Committee Members Present: Robbie Barnett, *Chairman*, Timothy Baldwin, Sara Hazzard, John Tynan, Hank McCullough, Shawn Randall, Ronnie Summers, Mike Cool, Eddy Moore, Bill Cummings, Josh Kay, James Graves

Committee Members Not Present: Kristen Beckham and Mark Svrcek

ORS Staff Present: Trish Jerman and Anthony James

Chamber Staff Present: Kate Bondurant, Mark Harmon, Judith Whisman

Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Robbie Barnett welcomed the attendees and asked for introductions. He thanked them for volunteering to serve and said that the purpose of the Natural Gas Study Committee (NGSC) was to develop a comprehensive plan for the future of natural gas in South Carolina. He then asked Trish Jerman from the SC Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) to provide a review of the development of the 2016 State Energy Plan and the role it played in the formation of the Natural Gas Study Committee.

Review of 2016 State Energy Plan

Trish Jerman thanked the committee members and the SC Chamber of Commerce for their participation on the committee. She informed the committee that Dukes Scott, *Director* of ORS was unable to attend due to a previous commitment but he wanted to offer his gratitude to all participants.

The South Carolina Energy Office was established by the 1992 South Carolina Energy Conservation and Efficiency Act and was given the legislative mandate to develop a state energy plan. Over the next two decades there were several attempts to fulfill that mandate but there was never enough traction to get it done. In 2015 the SC General Assembly re-created the Energy Office within the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS). Having both the mandate to do the planning work and some authority to carry it out ORS was able to bring the necessary parties to the table to prepare and publish a SC State Energy Plan in late 2016.

One of the energy challenges identified in the 2016 plan was how to ensure that natural gas remain a viable energy option for SC residential, commercial, industrial, and power generation users. The study concluded that a special group be convened to work on better

understanding issues and to provide recommendations to ensure that natural gas continued to help grow our state. ORS staff identified six deliverables for the NGSC:

1. Develop a comprehensive map of existing natural gas infrastructure in the state identifying location, capacity and usage on the system.
2. Identify available capacity and shortages in existing system.
3. Evaluate potential consumption reduction efforts/efficiency programs and determine adequacy and any mechanisms to expand.
4. Identify needs for additional infrastructure in areas where it would benefit the regions and state from an economic development perspective.
5. Understand the process and issues related to establishing new natural gas capacity (federal, state, environmental and individual). Provide strategies for migration.
6. Make recommendations to address/improve capacity and new infrastructure development where it is in the people of South Carolina's best interest.

The SC Chamber of Commerce agreed to facilitate and coordinate the NGSC with their COO, Robbie Barnett, as the committee Chairman.

Trish then summarized the overview with four critical points:

- Meeting the needs of new industries
- Meeting the needs of existing industries
- Meeting the needs of communities that need competition in their areas
- Meeting all of the above without jeopardizing the environment

The ORS staff will email a link to the digital copy of the Energy Plan for reference.

Committee Structure and Work Plan

Robbie Barnett reviewed the subcommittee structure that will be used to accomplish the work necessary to fulfill the committee's mission. He introduced each of the five subcommittee chairs:

- Infrastructure mapping—Hank McCullough
- Utilization of existing capacity—Bill Cummings
- Consumption reduction efforts—Eddy Moore
- Growth needs—Mike Cool
- Impediments to grow—Josh Kay

He encouraged the Subcommittee Chairs, with assistance of ORS staff, to seek subcommittee members who could help with their identified area of work.

Robbie provided a detailed work plan with timing and milestones (copy attached). If followed the committee work could be complete in June 2018. All members agreed to move forward with the Work Plan as presented.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, September 14, 2017 from 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at the SC Chamber (with lunch being served).

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Whisman



Natural Gas Study Committee

Work Plan

June 29, 2017

Deliverables

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2. Identify available capacity and shortages in existing system.
3. Evaluate potential consumption reduction efforts/ efficiency programs and determine adequacy and any mechanisms to expand.
4. Identify needs for additional infrastructure in areas where it would benefit the regions and state from an economic development perspective.
5. Understand the process and issues related to establishing new natural gas capacity (federal, state, environmental and individual). Provide strategies for migration.
6. Make recommendations to address/improve capacity and new infrastructure development where it is in the people of South Carolina's best interest.

Work Plan & Timing

- Select study committee members and subcommittee Chairs (Complete)
- Hold organizing meeting (6/29/17)
- Select subcommittee members (7/28/17)
- Hold first subcommittee meetings (8/17)
- Hold first monthly study committee update meeting (9/17)
- Complete subcommittee work (3/30/18)
- Develop first draft of study report (4/20/18)
- Publish final study report (6/29/18)

Proposed Subcommittees

- Infrastructure mapping—Chair *Hank McCullough*
- Utilization of existing capacity—Chair *Bill Cummings*
- Consumption reduction efforts—Chair *Eddy Moore*
- Growth needs—Chair *Mike Cool*
- Impediments to grow—Chair *Josh Kay*