

**Minutes**

**Hydrogen Economy Task Force**

**November 21, 2023**

**8:30am – 10:30am**

**Location:** Virtual WebEx Video Conference

Join Link:

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m95aaac240bd9928ea3d804e5c6304f13>

Meeting Number (access code): 2634 893 9362

Meeting Password: ZchFmPq5R32

Join by phone:

+1-312-535-8110 United States Toll (Chicago)

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**Agenda:**

1. Call to Order at 8:34 a.m. – Senator Laura Ellman, Chair
2. Roll Call of Membership

Rep. Terra Costa Howard: Yes

Patrick Devaney: Yes

Sarah Duffy: Yes

Sen. Laura Ellman: Yes

Patrick Evans: Yes

Kyle Freeman: Yes

Bradley Fritz: Yes

Jon Horek:  No

Jim Hoyt: Yes

Elizabeth Irvin: Yes

Laura Roche: Yes

Dan LeFevers: Yes

George Letavish: No

Carly McCrory-McKay: No

Dulce Ortiz: Yes

Chad Parker: Yes

Sen. Sue Rezin: Yes

Doug Scott: Yes

Dr. Petros Sofronis: Yes

Catherine Stashak: Yes

Michael Wang: Yes

Michael Woods: No

Dana Wynn: No

1. Review of 11/7/2023 Meeting Minutes

Sarah Duffy offered a correction to draft minutes for the November 7th meeting. Senator Ellman moved to accept as corrected and Doug Scott seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

IV. Annual Report Discussion

Members engaged in a wide-ranging discussion of the draft annual report which had been circulated to members and other participants before the meeting. Notable elements of the discussion and takeaways include the following:

* 1. Representative Costa Howard noted that working groups should be in an agreement with relevant content in the report. Recommendations should be included for which there is a clear consensus.
  2. Patrick Devaney noted several issues regarding the current language in the report. First, he advocated for additional language regarding labor standards and labor neutrality requirements for ongoing operations of hydrogen facilities. Second, he suggested that an existing statement regarding the risks of carbon sequestration is a debatable opinion that likely lacks consensus support and should be excluded from the report. Third, he noted that recommendations regarding issues such as how to treat additionality are controversial and probably lack sufficient support to warrant inclusion in the report.
  3. Dr. Wang initiated a discussion of how different hydrogen production methods and their associated “color” designations should be discussed. There is some support for removing the color designations altogether as misleading or at least better framing the discussion of colors and their associated carbon intensities.
  4. Following up on an earlier point, Jim Hoyt added that carbon capture exists in Illinois and could serve as viable option or a bridge to other long term viable options.
  5. Sarah Duffy suggested that the report needs to have better citations and references to document projections on job creation, cost estimates, etc.
  6. Doug Scott added that the report might want to mention that there is a multi-state MOU on building out the hydrogen economy that could be good as background and structure. On the CCS topic, if the last sentences on health and safety threats is left in, it needs to be expanded more. He also noted that there is not a lot in the report on the agriculture uses, as ammonia is a good hydrogen storage component. He also noted that additionality and the 24/7 matching is being evaluated at the federal level.
  7. Dulce Ortiz added she finds the placeholder on the accommodations on the environmental justice problematic due to the lack of effort to meet with environmental justice leaders in the state of Illinois. She also added that policy makers working on hydrogen should be more aware of and coordinating with other regulatory processes regarding carbon capture. She also wants to see an effort to properly assess the impact of refueling stations located in EJ communities. Lastly, noting language pertaining the fuel cell buses, she wants to add language about the advantages of battery electric buses.
  8. Sarah Duffy noted there are no commercially running examples of CCS on fossil fuel fired plants. Also, she does not know if there are enough evidence to support the claim that the majority of the hydrogen hub production would be electrolysis. Dr. Sofronis acknowledged that the proportion hydrogen production through the hubs is unknowable, it is reasonable to project, based on what we do know about their plans, that a majority will come from electrolysis.
  9. Dan LaFevers noted the distinction between carbon capture and sequestration. There are several capture technologies out there that work thought they are expensive. The DOE is not funding capture of CO2 on SMRs.
  10. Jim Hoyt noted that in the case the intent of the report is to fully lay out the economics of everything, then there should be more added to the economics of making hydrogen and all potential uses.
  11. Chad Parker advocated caution on specifically stating how carbon capture is used. There are other ways of reducing the carbon intensity that some might not be aware at this time.
  12. Dr. Petros Sofronis noted that CCS and CCUS are part of the DOEs vision and are happening in the country right now. Stakeholders should be made aware.
  13. Representative Costa Howard added that this report needs to be guided by the statute. She wants to make clear that emotional comments and opinions should not be included in this report.
  14. Senator Rezin noted that EJ communities should have a say on pending projects. She also wants to add that the report should be sticking to legislative intent of the task force.

Senator Ellman suggested that completing the report by the December 1 deadline is not realistic, but that the HETF should endeavor to complete the report during the month of December.

1. Adjournment
   1. Meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.