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Planning and Structure of Workshop on Electricity Use in Rural and Islanded Communities

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Workshop Task Statement

An ad hoc committee will convene a 2-day public workshop to look at the challenges and opportunities for lowering end-use electricity use, reducing electricity-related GHG emissions, and improving electricity resiliency in rural communities, isolated/islanded locations, and large users that can operate as microgrids. The objective is to help the Quadrennial Energy Review's public outreach by focusing on communities that have unique challenges and focusing on electricity end use, edge of grid, and the distribution network.

Major themes to be considered include the following:

- Attributes of electricity use and distribution systems associated with rural & islanded residents;
- Challenges and opportunities for increasing efficiency, reducing emissions and costs, and improving resiliency in such locations;
- Innovative clean energy strategies being undertaken in such locations.



Planning Committee

THOMAS BIALEK, Sempra Energy

MICHAEL DWORKIN, Vermont Law School

MARK GLICK, Hawaii State Energy Office

JOHN G. KASSAKIAN, NAE, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MEERA KOHLER, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative

PAM SILBERSTEIN, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Events that informed agenda development

“Innovative Clean Energy Strategies of Rural Electric Cooperatives,” Environmental and Energy Study Institute briefing, July 30, 2015

“Islanded Energy Systems: Energy and Infrastructure Challenges and Opportunities in Alaska, Hawaii, and the U.S. Territories,” Senate Energy and Natural Resources hearing, July 14, 2015



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Workshop Structure and Participants

Day 1 – Focus on implementation of current and near-term strategies and technologies (0-5 years)

Day 2 – Focus on planning paradigms, technologies, and operations that will unfold over the long term (5-30 years)

Workshop presenters from electricity co-ops/utilities, technology/analytics companies, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and federal and state governments

