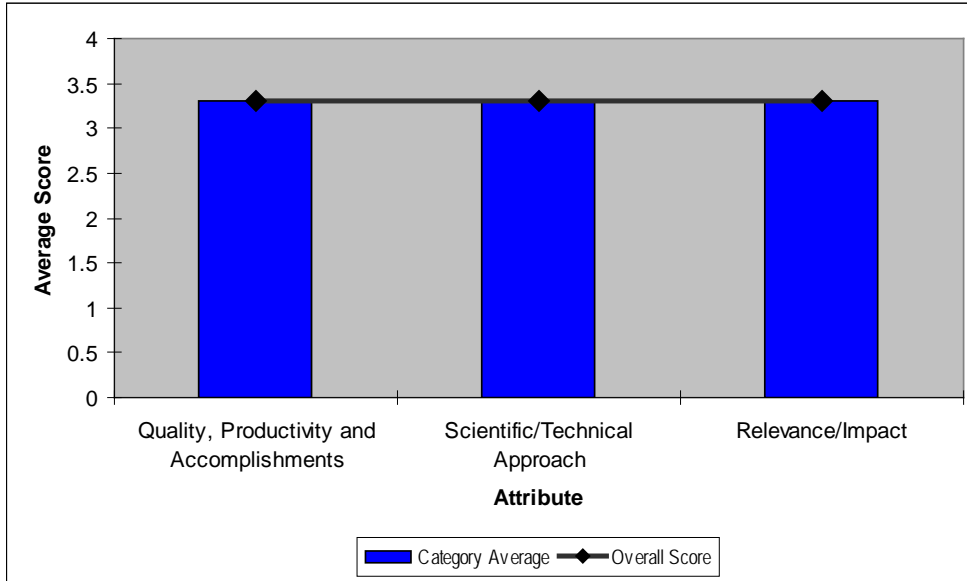


State Technical Outreach

Principal Investigator: *Julia Friedman, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners*



Quality, Productivity and Accomplishments (Average Rating 3.3)

Rating Comments

- 3.0 It appears that the primary focus of the project is to provide various forums for interested PUCs to get together and discuss the issues. Utility commissioners are an important audience for the program and NARUC is a trusted vehicle to reach that audience.

- 4.0 With only half of the funding spent it's difficult to determine the productivity results but if the remaining funding is spent as in the same fashion I think the results will be great. The ability to impart knowledge to regulators that perhaps do not have energy background in an environment where the information is without special interest influence is invaluable.

- 3.0
 - Similar to the NCSL project, the resources dedicated to this activity are very small relative to the potential impact on market transformation from developing a higher level of education on solar energy among state regulators.
 - The accomplishments are reasonable given the small budget. Also, NARUC has been successful in augmenting their limited staff capabilities with outside experts, such as national lab personnel.

- 3.0 NARUC's targeted approach resulted in noteworthy accomplishments across key policy making teams nationwide. Overall productivity and quality are very good for the dollars invested. While not normally in their charter, the team should consider outreach to non-traditional players in the energy market – specifically ESCO's and other vendors now offering solutions that help in the transformation of the energy markets.

Scientific/Technical Approach (Average Rating 3.3)

Rating	Comments
3.0	The program is basically a dialogue among PUCs and staff. To be successful, it should be much more pro-active.
4.0	The ability to impart knowledge to regulators that perhaps do not have energy background in an environment where the information is without special interest influence is invaluable. Within the regulated utility membership are water utilities. I have found that they can play a role in distributed energy. The companies they regulate have relationships with customers, they bill and they read meters. Should a water utility want to diversify into solar thermal or photovoltaics they could offer a green technology even if the local electric utility is dragging their feet on the path to green.
3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The approach is primarily one of fostering dialogue on solar energy among state regulators, which seems appropriate given the small project budget.• The Solar State Working Group Website is not easily located on the NARUC site and does not yet contain much targeted information.
3.0	As with some of the other teams, NARUC's approach seems much more qualitative in nature than quantitative. As such the technical approach is harder to define. The overall approach of shaping language is one such example and demonstrates a key insight by the NARUC team into the adoption and penetration process when introducing a new technology.

Relevance/Impact (Average Rating 3.3)

Rating	Comments
3.0	As with many of these activities, an important goal is to build capacity with this audience to allow the [NARUC] to address the questions of the state PUCs without having to rely on DOE funding.
4.0	The regulatory environment is in need of a make over and new business models and imperatives place this group at the front line for decision makers making changes.
3.0	NARUC has held several dialogues with regulators through workshops, committee meetings and Webcasts.
3.0	It would not be hard to argue that NARUC will have a bigger impact on market transformation than almost any other team given their close proximity to key decision makers. However, their impact could be greater if they were in a position to think outside the constraints of the existing regulated monopolistic providers. Again, the team should actively approach the emergent group of ESCO's and "ESCO like" providers on the market such as Comverge, EnerNOC and others, and engage in "conversations unconstrained by current borders".

Overall (Average Rating 3.3)

Rating	Comments
3.0	This could be a good opportunity to survey the PUCs and develop a better understanding about their concerns relative to PV deployment. This information can then be fed back to other MT projects.
4.0	Great work and I would hope funding allows for more outreach and more of the same.

- 3.0 The project has been reasonably successful given the limited resources available.
- 3.0 This team continues to do a great job providing education and insight for established leaders impacting the regulatory framework.