

Minutes
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board
Hearing Room A - NH PUC
September 25, 2009 Meeting

*Items underlined and in color are hyperlinked to documents.

Members in Attendance: Richard Ober of NH Charitable Foundation, Jack Ruderman of NHPUC, Meredith Hatfield of the OCA, Eric Steltzer of NH OEP, Robert Scott of DES, Alan Linder for Daniel Feltes of NHLA, Roy Duddy of DRED, Michael Licata for Patti Carrier of NH BIA, Dick Henry of the Jordan Institute, Ken Walsh of NH Fire Marshal's Office, Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager, Chris Porter for Susan Olsen of NH Municipal Association, Wes Golomb of NH SEA, Beth Fisher for Brian Wujcik of Home Builders and Remodelers Association of NH, Rep. James Garrity, and Sen. Martha Fuller Clark.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: Gil Gelineau of PSNH, John Puc of National Grid, Janet Brewer of Ocean Bank, Cindy Carroll of Unitil, James Grady of LightTec, Inc., and Ray Gosney of NH Electric Cooperative.

LINK TO MEETING AGENDA: [MEETING AGENDA](#)

1. Welcome & Introduction, Chair's Remarks

Chairman Ober convened the meeting at 9:07 A.M.; he welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves. {Introductions followed}.

2. APPROVAL OF [AUGUST 14, 2009 MEETING MINUTES](#)

Chairman Ober asked for a motion to approve the 8-14-09 minutes. Ken Walsh moved to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Roy Duddy. There were a few minor edits to the minutes: 1.) Page 1 should read "Home Energy Assistance" and not Home Energy Systems; 2.) Page 2 should read "1.0 million given to Core Utilities" and not \$7.6 million; and 3.) Page 2 regarding the appliance rebate program should read "This will not be for home electronics but could include solar hot water,

biomass boilers, and water heaters" instead of "mostly solar hot water, biomass boilers, and water heaters".

The board proceeded to vote unanimously to approve the minutes subject to these revisions being made.

3. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION FUND/RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND

Jack Ruderman noted that the latest RGGI auction produced approximately \$2.8 million in proceeds which was lower than the last auction which produced approximately \$4 million in proceeds. He noted that there was another auction in December.

Additionally, he had previously emailed out the PUC's Initial Proposal - Annotated Text (showing changes from Interim Rule) of [Puc 2600](#), Rules governing the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund, as well as the Commission's [Order of Notice](#). He noted that he was open to getting feedback on the rules at the meeting but urged parties to submit comments to the Commission after the public hearing on October 21, 2009 (2 PM at the PUC). The comment deadline is October 27, 2009 at 4:30 PM.

Suzanne Amidon noted that rules comments can be submitted to the PUC via a link on the [proposed rules page](#) of the NH PUC website or by emailing the comments to rulescomments@puc.nh.gov.

Some comments on the rules were received at the meeting, they were as follows:

- Dick Henry encouraged the PUC to provide a definition for efficiency which included the word 'conservation'. He was also concerned with the use of unencumbered funds being used as rebates and not issuing another RFP or carrying the funds over to the next year. Joanne Morin and Michael Licata noted that this provision was a legislative compromise used as a stop gap in order to not have a multitude of unencumbered funds piled up.
- Alan Linder noted that there was an inconsistency in terms used in the rules in regard to low-income appropriations. He noted that Puc 2603.01 noted that the 'Commission shall allocate no less than 10 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction fund, on an annual basis, to assist low income residential customers to reduce total energy use' but the statute states that

at least 10 percent be used. He noted that consistency is important.

- Bob Scott wondered if the rules should clearly state which mechanisms are in place for the PUC to ensure that the recipients are doing what they are supposed to be doing. Jack noted that the RFP's state that winning bidders are subject to progress reports, site visits, quarterly reports and UNH's energy savings tracking. * Bob also noted that NH is getting rave reviews from other states on this program for its transparency, effectiveness, etc. Amy Ignatius also noted that while at a conference in Washington DC, other states stated that what New England was doing was remarkable and that it was working extremely well.
- Russ Aney noted that the rules were originally deferred so that the Commission could reflect on the RFP process and look at what worked well and what didn't. He wondered if this information would be shared with the board before the final meeting and thought that the PUC should request feedback from the involved parties in order to help future proposals and other states. Clifton Below agreed and noted that statutory provisions barred the discussion of the grant proposals until after all proposals have been approved by Governor & Council. He noted that we could discuss some very broad matters at the October 16th EESE board meeting and then would discuss this in more detail once all proposals were approved.
- Jim Monahan asked if the PUC would be addressing the Retail Merchants Association's concern that the funds should be allocated and rebated by customer class to ensure fairness among rate classes. Rep. Jim Garrity agreed. Clifton and Jack said that they were unsure whether this was under the jurisdiction of the PUC and that they would need to research that.

Lastly, Jack noted that 14 projects have been approved by the Governor & Council in regard to the GHGERF proposals. There are 7 more to be approved and approximately \$17.8 million has been obligated over the next 2 years.

Clifton Below also noted that the most recent batch of GHGERF proposals were approved at the September Governor & Council meeting. He thanked

Barbara Bernstein and Diane Bateman at the PUC for the hard work in getting the proposals together.

Jack also noted that the PUC received the first of the funding (approximately \$4.5 million) into the Renewable Energy Fund this past July. These funds are to be allocated using rebates and a possible RFP solicitation. The PUC has already received 117 applications for residential rebates, totaling over \$600,000. The new application form has been released and now allows for a pre-approval process. For more information, click [here](#).

PUC is now working on a commercial program and is hoping to add a position at the PUC (Utility Analyst IV) in order to manage this program with the use of ARRA Funding.

Additionally, the PUC will be presenting its [annual report on RPS and the Renewable Energy Fund to the Electric Oversight Committee](#) on October 1, 2009. It is also available here.

4. ARRA UPDATES

Eric Steltzer updated the board regarding American Recovery & Reinvestment funds/programs coming into the state.

State Energy Program

OEP has released an [RFP seeking a Program Administrator](#) in order to provide loans and grants to commercial, industrial, and nonprofit business entities, for energy efficiency building measure and renewable energy systems. The deadline for submissions will be September 30, 2009 and a review team will be established. The winning proposal will then go to the Governor & Council.

OEP has also released a [RFP for a Building Energy Code Compliance Administrator](#). This is a \$600,000 proposal and OEP is looking for technical assistance to develop a building code compliance program relating to the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code. Proposals are due by October 14, 2009. Then a review team will be established and the winning proposal will go to the Governor & Council. For more information see the [Question and Answer link](#) on the OEP website.

All questions regarding these RFP's can be directed to [Katie Vattes](#).

If you are interested in serving on an RFP review board or being placed on the ARRA update service list then get in touch with [Laura Richardson](#).

The RFP for the North Country Transmission Commission is still in draft form. OEP is anticipating a very complex RFP and is waiting on the first meeting of the Transmission Commission to be held.

OEP is also working on a very preliminary program involving \$500,000 in renewable residential rebates. They are hoping to allocate funds for biomass boilers and furnaces.

Approximately \$2 million in State Energy Program funds will be allocated for non low income fuel blind weatherization.

There will be approximately \$10 million allocated for improvements to state buildings. [Mary Downes](#) and [Karen Rantamaki](#) have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed and are now just figuring out the final details. Karen noted that 3 Engineers have been hired and that one of the projects would be starting soon. The others are also coming along well.

[James Robb](#) noted that DRED also released a RFP looking for an energy consultant to carry out comprehensive energy audits for its business clients, to provide recommendations for energy conservation opportunities, to evaluate existing technologies, and to provide consultation and professional evaluations of renewable and alternative energy technologies and bio energy products. More information on this RFP can be found [here](#).

[Federal Low Income Weatherization](#)

[Joanne Morin](#) noted that there the CAP agencies will be reporting on the number of homes weatherized, productivity, timelines, works in progress, etc.

Andy Gray has resigned from his position as technical specialist of the program and OEP is now looking for a qualified candidate to fill his position. Information can be found [here](#).

[Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Program](#)

NH Counties were successful in their appeal to DOE to receive \$4.5 million in separate funding. Applications now need to be submitted to DOE.

NH's program was approved last week and is now in the process of implementation.

A RFP was released looking for a grant administrator to oversee the program, work with reporting requirements, etc. This RFP can be found [here](#) and more information can be found on the [Question and Answer link](#) on the OEP website.

Another RFP for technical assistance is in draft form and will hopefully be released by the end of October.

All questions regarding these RFP's can be directed to [Katie Vattes](#).

State Energy Efficiency Appliance Rebate Program

Residential only, both low income and non-low income

This is a new program which was never funded before. It consists of \$1.2 million for program creation, allocation of some funding for the PUC for solar thermal installations which will supplement their [residential rebate program](#) and another portion allocated to the utilities for expansion of their rebate programs for boilers, furnaces and hot water heaters, etc.

OEP is working on getting a more comprehensive application completed by October 15, 2009 and have the program up and running by early 2010.

Last week, DOE issued a [request for information](#) for the competitive portion of the EE Conservation Block Grant Program. This is for the funds available to municipalities (except for the top 10 largest municipalities in the state which already received separate funding) to apply competitively for grants.

Chairman Ober called a short break at 10:55. The meeting reconvened at 11:11.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN

Chairman Ober noted that the EESE Board's annual report was due this fall and that the board needs to focus its work, coordinate, maximize,

be complimentary and not redundant, and help meet the goals of the climate action plan, etc.

He reviewed a [memo](#) he had previously handed out. He noted that there were going to be 5 sections which the report will consist of: Findings, Visions and Goals, High Leverage Programs, High Leverage Policy Changes and Support for the EESE Board. He then reviewed these sections.

Chairman Ober, and the other 3 work group leaders, Meredith Hatfield, Rep. Jim Garrity (for Rep. David Borden) and Jack Ruderman, then reviewed a [handout](#) which summarized the 4 work sessions held on September 15th and 16th, facilitated by Scudder Parker and Christine Donovan of VEIC, and provided draft results to the group. Chairman Ober then asked leaders to choose a few members of their work group and try to expand on a work plan.

Lastly, Chairman Ober handed out a page from the [Climate Action Plan \(Page 21\)](#). He asked for a group of volunteers to look at the goals and recommendations stated on this page of the plan as well as the results of the work session on Enhanced Delivery System for EE and SE Programs and to decide which goals/recommendations/results the EESE board should focus on. The volunteers were: Gil Gelineau (Convener), Joanne Morin, Dick Henry, Beth Fisher, OEP, DES and Jim Grady.

Roy Duddy noted that DRED was working on a grant application for a Dept. of Labor grant valued at approximately \$4-6 million for investing in work force sector strategies for renewable energy and sustainable energy. The deadline for submitting the application is October 20, 2009.

Chairman Ober called a short break for lunch. The meeting reconvened at 12:30.

LEGISLATION

Senator Martha Fuller Clark discussed possible energy initiatives and LSR's for the 2010 session. She noted that now is the time to submit ideas for legislation. Among other topics, she discussed LSR's which relate to:

- Least Cost Approach for Energy Efficiency
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Financing Initiatives

- Study Committees for Statewide Revolving Loan Fund for Financing EE/RE
- Net Metering,
- Energy Auditor Certification and Audit results at real estate closings
- District heating and cooling
- EESE board authorizing legislation changes and housekeeping legislation
- Voltage regulation
- Mandating the GHGERF to allocate 15% of funds to low income proposals instead of 10%

Sen. Fuller Clark also discussed retained bills from the last session which are now back in Committee or in study groups.

Alan Linder provided proposed language from NH Legal Assistance regarding proposed changes to the [percentage of low income allocations in the GHGERF](#) as discussed above.

Dick Henry suggested evaluating the proposed bills to see which ones would provide the most carbon reduction.

For reference, all 2010 Legislative Service Requests (LSR) can be found [here](#). These LSR's will be discussed in more detail at future meetings.

4. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Oil Heat Industry Announcement](#)
- [Article: Home Performance Contracting - Careful diagnostic testing is the key to cost-effective energy upgrades](#)
- [GHGERF Proposal - Wes Golomb/Clay Mitchell regarding Building Code upgrades](#)
- [HBRANH Handout - How Homes Become GREEN](#)
- [NHEC Handout - 2 ARRA Funding Proposals](#)
- NH SEA sponsoring a [Green Building Open House](#) on October 3, 2009.
- [Lakes Region Community College](#) has finished its first round of trainings. The solar/thermal hot water class has just begun and they are expecting a [PV installer course](#) this fall. They are also hoping for a wind installer course in the future.

- The NH Building Code Review Board's hearing on the 2009 Amendments will be held on October 9, 2009 at 10 AM. Wes Golomb volunteered to write a letter to the review board on behalf of the EESE board in support of those amendments.
- The next meeting of the Energy & Climate Collaborative will be held on October 8, 2009, from 2 PM - 5 PM at the Local Government Center in Concord, NH.
- There is currently a PSNH distribution rate case at the NH PUC under Docket Number DE 09-035 and a 2010 CORE Energy Efficiency Program Docket as Docket Number DE 09-170, which can be followed on the PUC website.

There being no other business to come before the board, Chairman Ober adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

The next meeting of the ESSE board is scheduled for Friday, October 16, 2009 from 9 A.M - 12 P.M in Hearing Room A, NH PUC.

All subsequent meetings will be held on the 2nd Friday of the month at the PUC.