

Draft Minutes
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EESE) Board
Public Utilities Commission, Getz Room 103
9 AM – 12 PM
Friday, October 26, 2012

Members in Attendance

Deborah Schachter from NH Charitable Foundation; Susan Thorne from OEP; Susan Chamberlin from OCA; Jack Ruderman from PUC; Mike Fitzgerald from DES; Alan Linder from NH Legal Assistance; Tricia Newhall-Grahame and Paul Morin for Luke Benson from Home Builders and Remodelers Association; Jim Garrity from NH House; Ben Frost for Dean Christon from NH Housing and Finance Authority; Dana Nute from Jordan Institute; David Borden from NH Sustainable Energy Association; and Karen Rantamaki from DAS.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance

Gil Gelineau from PSNH; George Gantz from Unitil; Michael Bruss from Bruss Construction; Michael Behrmann from Revolution Energy; and Kate Peters from NH CDFA

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Jim Garrity offered to sponsor breakfast.

2. Minutes of September 27, 2012

- The Board approved the minutes for the September 27, 2012 EESE Board meeting.

3. Leadership Transition

- A new Chair is needed by the January 2013 meeting.

4. Energy Study Working Group

- Chris Skoglund of DES explained that Senate Bill 323 required an independent review of energy policy and options for the state. Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) conducted this study and developed a detailed report. Based on VEIC's report, the ad hoc writing group of the EESE board developed recommendations for the legislature and summarized them in four documents:
 - EESE Board Report on VEIC Study Matrix
 - Independent Energy Study Draft Final Report (13 pages)
 - Independent Energy Study ("SB 323") Final Report Summary (3 pages)
 - Chapter Syntheses of the VEIC report.

The ad hoc writing group made minor modifications to the summary report. In addition, the following chapters of the Chapter Synthesis were revised: Chapter 14 especially, and Chapters

1, 4, 8, and 13 based on comments from Alan Linder; Chapter 13 based on comments from Linda Hodgdon and Karen Rantamaki of NH Department of Administrative Services; and Chapter 12 based on comments from the Luke Benson of the Home Builders.

- George asked for comments, particularly whether the overall direction of the report is appropriate. Specific comments included the following:
 - In Chapter 14 synthesis, list the seven steps of the VEIC and do not want to minimize the other 300 recommendations of the VEIC.
 - Ensure that it does not appear to disagree with the VEIC report.
 - Encourage but do not force municipalities to adopt energy codes.
 - In the report at the top of page 13, funding for the Board can come from other mechanisms, not just the program funding streams or the general fund.
 - In the Chapter 13 synthesis, need to change to say that as a utility customer, the State needs to figure out how to use the CORE funds.
 - Is this report the state's comprehensive energy policy or should the energy policy be in a statute, an energy plan, or some other vehicle?
 - Energy policy must be defined in the simplest terms and then create certainty for businesses.
 - In the summary document, the last sentence of the first paragraph understates the findings of the VEIC study.
 - Ensure the building code review process is accurately reflected.
- After the comments were received and discussed, the EESE Board approved the reports.

5. Discussion of Report Dissemination Process

- At the November 16th meeting, the Board will have a complete package.
- The Outreach and Education Subcommittee met and discussed ideas. Three key elements of the outreach are 1) the message; 2) the target audience; and 3) the platform (e.g., printed reports, electronic copies via links on websites of sister organizations, etc.).
- The report needs to be issued on November 30, since December 1 is a Saturday.
- The target audience will be the Governor-Elect and the House and Senate Leadership.
- By Dec 5, the new Speaker of the House and the Senate President will be sworn in, and the Chairs of the Committees will be known.
- The reports could be presented to local energy commissions, business community groups and others and also linked to the next steps and the actions to take.
- BIA is having an energy conference in December, so will see if this report can be put on the agenda.
- May issue a press release regarding the report.
- DES and PUC will provide support.
- Need to target the appropriate audience.

6. EESE Board Annual Report

- Deborah is in the process of developing a draft annual report, based on earlier versions. She is gathering information from others.
- The report needs to be reviewed and approved by Nov 16. By November 7, Deborah will send a draft to the EESE board for comment.

7. EESE Board Plan and Agenda for 2013-2014

- George asked for ideas for the direction of the Board for next year. Ideas included:
 - Hold energy forums such as the forums organized by Jonathan Raab & Associates in Massachusetts.
 - Have a legislative study commission develop a report for the legislature about an energy policy.
 - Partner with other groups, such as Green Building Council, who are also holding forums.
 - Pick one idea to pursue and concentrate efforts on the one idea to move it forward.
 - George asked Commissioner Scott for his ideas that would be helpful. Commissioner Scott noted that establishing an energy policy would be helpful; ways to improve processes and feedback on current topics; input on such programs as CORE; and ideas for use of Renewable Portfolio Standard funding.
 - Is the EESE Board limited to energy efficiency and sustainable energy or all energy policy?
 - Provide technical assistance and help move forward with municipalities.
- George said that the Board will determine a few bigger items and determine one or two target areas for next year to be discussed further at the November meeting.

8. Board and Program Updates

Jack Ruderman – PUC

- One RGGI Grantee, NH Housing Authority, received an award from the National Council on State Housing Agencies for the Greener Homes Program. TRC Energy Services helped implement the grant.
- The PUC received an award from the Clean Energy State Alliance for the wood pellet rebate program as one of the best renewable energy rebate programs in the country.
- The Commission approved the renewable energy fund program budgets totaling \$5.67 million, the amount originally approved by the legislature in the State's fiscal year '13 budget. The Commission must then develop and approve program budgets for the additional \$13.4 million collected from alternative compliance payments, and then obtain approval from the legislative fiscal committee. The Commission has reauthorized all of the existing renewable energy rebate and grant programs plus included the wood pellet rebate program, which was originally funded with ARRA money. The programs include three residential programs, the commercial and industrial solar program, and the commercial and industrial competitive grant program.

OEP

- The grant from DOE relating to a state policy on energy efficiency, which had been tabled by the Executive Council, must now go back to the legislative fiscal committee and then to Governor and Executive Council for approval.

Next Meeting: November 16, 2012