

Final MINUTES
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EERE) Board
Public Utilities Commission, Concord, NH
9 AM – 12:00 PM
Friday, March 21, 2014

Voting Members in Attendance:

Jack Ruderman, PUC; Mike Fitzgerald, DES; Chuck Townsend, NH House of Representatives; Deborah Schachter, NH Charitable Foundation; Karen Cramton for Brandy Chambers, OEP; Steve Eckberg for Susan Chamberlin, OCA; Mike Fitzgerald, DES; Dan Feltes, NH Legal Assistance; Jeff Kelley, NH Home Builders Association, Laura Richardson, Jordan Institute; Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager; Ted Vansant for Kate Epsen, NHSEA; Michael Bruss, Bruss Construction.

Non-voting Members in Attendance:

Kate Peters (Acting Chair), PSNH; Gary Lemay for Carol Woods, NHEC; Eric Stanley for Deb Hale, Liberty Utilities; Cindy Carroll, Unitol; Mike Behrmann, Revolution Energy; Art Letendre, Merrimack County Savings Bank.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Minutes of December EERE Board Meeting

The minutes for the February EERE Board Meeting were approved.

Karen Cramton, OEP provided the following update:

OEP has been working with the State Energy Advisory Council (SEAC) and Navigant Consulting on the State Energy Strategy. To date, draft Business As Usual and Resource Potential analysis have been presented. The council has also been working on a draft energy vision. The next step is to assign priorities and discuss policy related to the strategy. A draft report will be complete by May 2nd. Public sessions will be held after its release. All documents are available for review on OEP's website:

<http://www.nh.gov/oep/energy/programs/SB191.htm>.

3. Distributed Generation – Challenges and Opportunities

Richard Sedano, Principal and U.S. Programs Director for the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP), presented *A Look Ahead to Proliferating Customer Generation*. Mr. Sedano discussed the growing success of distributed generation resources, including the load shape of emerging utility requirements, the challenges distributed generation resources pose to traditional utility and regulatory models and a range of possible policy directions. Customer generation is happening in many states but not without growing pains. There are many changes in technology and the way customers relate to the grid; California was cited as a state that has done decoupling well. The full presentation is available at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/EERE.htm#PastEEREmtgs>.

4. Outreach & Education (O&E) Committee – Draft Logic Model Overview

Mike Fitzgerald discussed a presentation of survey results of 800 registered New Hampshire voters, prepared by David Paleologos, Suffolk University Political Research Center. The survey covered respondents' approval ratings of elected officials and included questions on consumer attitudes towards supporting renewable energy. 66% support an increase in monthly electric bills to promote renewable energy policies. The presentation is available at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/EESE.htm#PastEESEmtgs>. Scott Albert then presented the O&E Committee's logic model used to determine what the Committee's role could/should be and potential plans for moving forward. RSA 125-O:5-a includes the following goal for the EESE Board:

Develop tools to enhance outreach and education programs to increase knowledge about energy efficiency and sustainable energy among New Hampshire residents and businesses.”

The Committee determined three major challenge areas:

1. **Resources and skill challenges**
2. **Informational challenges**
3. **Social and political challenges**

The presentation, available at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/EESE.htm#PastEESEmtgs>, discusses details of the Committee's development of the Draft Logic Model and proposed next steps. If you have additional comments or feedback on the O&E Committee work and logic model please contact Mike Fitzgerald (Michael.Fitzgerald@des.nh.gov) or Scott Albert (scott.albert@gdsassociates.com).

5. SustainX – Distributed Generation Storage – It's here!

Adam Rauwerdink, Manager, Business Development, discussed SustainX's innovative compressed-air storage technology. The process was developed initially at Dartmouth, and is now based in Seabrook, NH. Dr. Rauwerdink explained the technology and how it can significantly support renewable resources. FERC is very interested in the storage market; there is very strong growth in the storage market in the United States, particularly California, New York and Hawaii, as well as international interest. The presentation is available at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/EESE.htm#PastEESEmtgs>.

6. Board and Program Updates:

- Legislative – There has been a lot of activity: many amendments; many bills that have been killed; some bills pushed through and now it is time for crossover. Dan Feltes discussed that the amendment for SB268 listed in the Senate Calendar, seems to repeal RSA 125-O:23, III. (This is the language that currently directs RGGI funds to CORE programs, low income programs and a municipal program.) Most of the people involved in discussion on this bill thought that the Committee's intent was actually to add the new language to 125-O:23, III, not to repeal and replace. Follow up is anticipated.
- Amy Ignatius discussed SB 245 which addresses changes in the Site Evaluation Committee. The bill has been moving fast and it is currently a work in progress. It has passed thru Senate Finance, but there is more work to be done. The most

recent version is available at

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/Results.aspx?q=1&txtsessionyear=2014 . The proposed legislation reduces the Committee from 15 members to a smaller number of state agencies plus two members of the public and includes funding from the applicants to cover staff support the work of the SEC as well as a \$2 million dollar loan from the REF. This bill has had participation from its sponsors as well as OEP, PUC, DES, environmental organizations, and the BIA.

- The Local Energy Solutions Conference is April 12. Register at <http://lesconference.nhenergy.org/>.
- OEP reported that with the exception of two revolving loans (EEF and Better Buildings), all ARRA grants have been closed. The DOE solicitation for the annual formula state energy program (SEP) grant has come out. In addition, DOE has announced possible funding is available through a Competitive SEP grant. The official announcement is expected in late April. Finally, the regional effort to work on Rooftop Solar Challenge II grant with CESA continues with the focus being to reduce soft costs across the New England states (NH, VT, ME, MA, CT and RI).
- PUC staff has been tasked to develop an EERS. PUC staff spent last month scoping and preparing an internal report identifying paradigms and best practices from other jurisdictions, as a point of departure for further stakeholder discussion. In the next stage of the process, members of EESE board mailing list will receive a list of questions accompanied by a very preliminary suggested high level straw man and asking for participation in one to one meetings to review the questions and possible scope of the EERS so that staff can illicit points of view and incorporate those into a document that will seek to record and balance disparate points of view and begin to narrow down the range of issues. Staff hopes to complete this process by the end of June for presentation to the Commission. Next steps would include drafting of legislation.
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.