

Minutes
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EERE) Board
Department of Safety, Concord, NH
9 AM – 12:00 PM
Friday, May 17, 2013

Members in Attendance

Michael Fitzgerald and Becky Ohler from NH Department of Environmental Services; Kate Epsen (for Kate Peters) from NH Sustainable Energy Association; Brandy Chambers from Office of Energy & Planning; Karen Rantamaki from Department of Administrative Services; Laura Richardson (for Dana Nute) from Jordan Institute; Jeffrey Cyr from the State Fire Marshall's Office; Dan Feltes for Alan Linder of New Hampshire Legal Assistance; Jack Ruderman from NHPUC; Ben Frost of New Hampshire Housing and Finance; and Deborah Schachter from NHCF arrived after introductions.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance

Carol Woods from New Hampshire Electric Cooperative; Gil Gelineau from Public Service of New Hampshire; Cindy Carroll from Unitil; and Debra Hale from Liberty Utilities arrived after introductions.

1. Welcome and Introduction

- This month's meeting (held at the Department of Safety) was chaired by Michael Fitzgerald. Breakfast was sponsored by DES.

2. Minutes of February EERE Board Meeting

- The Board approved the minutes of the April 12, 2013 EERE Board meeting.

3. Energy Efficiency Resource Standard Study

- Christine Donovan from VEIC led a presentation on the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard Study that is currently being prepared by VEIC and its project partners, GDS, and JHTA.
 - The purpose of the study (awarded to VEIC through a competitive solicitation), is to assess the economic feasibility of increasing investment in energy efficiency (EE) through adoption of an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) and other policy mechanisms. An EERS is broadly defined as long-term EE savings goals established either as statewide collective targets or individualized utility-specific targets with varying levels of oversight by regulators/stakeholders.
 - OEP has primary responsibility for the contract; DES provides strategic input and PUC and OCA staff are also engaged in the study. Other stakeholders include the electric and gas utilities, the BIA, EERE Board members and policymakers.
 - Over 25 states have an EERS in place; four are working on a new EERS through DOE SEP competitive grants. Thirteen of 20 states have reached 100 percent or more of their goals.

- Components of a successful EERS were described as were factors that can limit achieving goals. Stakeholder groups were discussed as well as the input being sought. The “secret sauce” is sustained political will & commitment.
- Seven design criteria (to date) include:
 - Ensure a fit that is ideal for NH
 - Build upon successes of existing NH programs such as CORE
 - Leverage successes in other jurisdictions
 - First focus on voluntary
 - Seek options that are scalable
 - Increase stability & predictability in policies/regulations.
 - Include market-based approaches that expand infrastructure and are sustainable.
- The draft report is due June 30, 2013; the final report is due August 31, 2013. Public presentations will commence in September, 2013 in preparation for Legislative/Regulatory activity next winter.
- Click [here](#) for the presentation.

Break

4. Site Evaluation Committee – [Antrim Wind Decision](#)

- The Board discussed the Site Evaluation Committee’s recent decision denying the Antrim Wind Farm’s proposed project including 10 wind turbine generators with a total capacity of 30 MW. Joe Fontaine of DES provided an overview of the Decision and Order Denying Application for Certificate of Site and Facility, April 25, 2013. Jack Kenworthy, CEO of Eolian Renewable Energy also provided insight into the decision. The conclusion of the SEC was based on aesthetics, and the SEC determined that the project was too large for the site. There was considerable support for the project from the local community, and the SEC left open the possibility of a future project with fewer and smaller wind turbines.

5. Board and Program Updates

- Legislative Sub Committee
 - The moratorium on wind has been converted to a study.
 - SB 191 (establishing a state energy strategy plan) Representatives are working with OEP on an amendment.
 - SB 74 (relative to an exemption for entities that furnish hot water through a district energy system) passed last week.
 - SB 98 (authorizing group net metering for limited electrical energy procedures and establishing a committee to study reimbursement rates for excess electricity) is in executive session. A stakeholder session was to be held Friday, May 17, 2013.
 - Ben Frost provided a handout on the EESE Board Legislative Subcommittee call held on May 14, 2013.

- O&E – Any topics that should be brought to the attention of this committee should be brought to the attention of Kate Peters or Mike Fitzgerald.
- PUC
 - There has been a surge in demand in C&I solar. This fund has been increased twice and is now at \$1.3 million.
 - There is still healthy demand for the other rebate programs as well.
 - Proposals for the [C&IRFP](#) are due June 07, 2013.
- OEP – No additional updates.
- Other
 - [NH Energy Code Challenge](#)
 - Anheuser Busch and the Woodstock Inn have received NEEP awards.
 - The LEWG is debriefing on the April 13th [conference](#) and is in discussions about expanding the conference. The group is hosting a monthly [webinar series](#).

6. Adjourn