

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

### Minutes for October 16, 2015

#### Attendees:

**Board members:** Kate Peters (Eversource, Acting Chair); Ryan Clouthier (SNHS); Molly Connors for Rick Minard (NH OEP); Pradip Chattopadhyay (NH OCA); Karen Cramton (NH PUC); Carmen Lorentz (NH DRED); Joe Fontaine for Becky Ohler (NH DES); Brian Ramsey (BIA); Theresa Swanick (NH Municipal Association); Rep. Herb Richardson (NH House); Dennis Labbe (NH Legal Assistance); Matthew Labonte (State Fire Marshall's Office); Rep. Chuck Townsend (NH House); Ben Frost (NH Housing and Finance); Laura Richardson (The Jordan Institute); Kate Epsen (NHSEA); Karen Rantamaki (NH DAS); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Tom Palma (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC)

**Guests:** Jay Dudley (NH PUC); Rorie Patterson (NH PUC); Bob Scott (NH PUC); Jon Osgood (NH PUC); Brianna Brand (NH PUC); Rep. Bob Backus (NH House); Rep. Lee Oxenham (NH House); Ellen Hawes (Acadia Center); Jon Schippiani (Building Efficiencies); Clark Droody (Mill City Energy); Bill Newell (Newell & Crathern); Michael Joy (Mill City Energy); Clifton Below; Gil Richardson (Empowered Answers); Andy Duncan (Lakes Region Community College); Tim Lenahan (CAPBMCI); Autumn Curilla (GDS); Mark Luckes (Johnson Controls Inc.); Jack Ruderman (ReVision Energy); Leann Moccia (Leg Solutions); Kristin Bahny (TRC); Meghan Hoye (Lightec); Michael Licata (Liberty Utilities)

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** Meeting started at 9:05 am
- 2. Approval of Meeting Notes.** Meeting notes from June 19, 2015 and August 21, 2015 were approved. Final notes posted on the PUC's website.
- 3. Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) Update:**
  - Jay Dudley, PUC, Analyst provided an update on the EERS docket (DE 15-137). Technical sessions have been held to gather stakeholder input and discussion on the following EERS topics: Guiding Principles, Targets (short term and long term), Funding, Stakeholder Involvement and Advisors, Rate Structures and Regulatory Process (including EM&V). Non-docketed materials and staff notes are available on the PUC's Electric Division webpage, (<http://www.puc.nh.gov/Electric/DE15-137-non-docketed.html>).
  - Future milestones include the filing of proposals by participants by December 1, 2015 and hearing dates in April.
- 4. Discussion with NH Residential Energy Efficiency (EE) Contractors:**

Several NH residential energy efficiency contractors participated in a panel discussion on the NH market for energy efficiency, state and utility energy efficiency programs, and the regional markets/programs.

  - The NH market is strong but limited incentive funding for programs makes it difficult for contractors/businesses to remain solely in NH. Contractors often work in neighboring states to maintain full employment and/or maintain full staff.
  - Limited funding causes market uncertainty for business and residential customers.
  - Waitlists currently exist for Core programs (first time in ~4 years).
  - Suggestions for program changes included:
    - Modify percentage of project costs covered and/or the maximum rebate level

- To extend programs, possibly reduce rebate. This may increase volume for contractors but may also reduce the average total job cost.
- Planned 2016 program changes include not paying rebates on measures that do not meet cost effectiveness tests, such as installing a ventilation fan. This is a hard sell to residential customers.
- Provide training to banks on loan offering.
- Continue to provide financing. On-bill financing is easier for the customer, but EE programs do not have enough capital to meet demand. Core programs are switching to a third party financing model with partner banks and credit unions to increase loan availability. In general, financing increases complexity for the contractors.
- More in-state training programs are needed to keep employees trained and required certifications up to date (e.g. BPI, OSHA, lead, etc.).
- Marketing – 40% of customers learn about energy efficiency and programs through Contractors. Word of mouth and bill inserts are also effective marketing tools for the current level of program funding.
- 90% of homeowners who complete the Core program energy audit move forward with implementing some recommended energy efficiency measures.

## 5. Value of Solar in NH:

Presentation by Ellen Hawes, Senior Analyst, Energy Systems and Carbon Markets at Acadia Center

The presentation is available on the PUC's EESE Board webpage, under the October 16, 2015 meeting heading: <http://www.puc.nh.gov/EESE.htm>

## 6. Board, Agency and Program Updates:

- EESE Board – webpage content was recently updated along with contact lists.
- PUC Update:
  - Docket DE15-137 - EERS.
    - Jay Dudley provided a detailed update during the meeting.
  - Rebate programs – application numbers are up – program demand is much higher than last year.
  - The Renewable Energy Fund Annual Report was written and posted to the Sustainable Energy Division's webpage on October 1, 2015. (<http://www.puc.nh.gov/Sustainable%20Energy/RenewableEnergyFund.html>). The report will be presented to the Legislature on October 20, 2015.
  - On September 25, 2015, the Sustainable Energy Division released the annual competitive Request for Proposals seeking project proposals which will increase the supply of RECs from thermal renewable energy or non-photovoltaic electric renewable energy projects located in New Hampshire. Proposals are due no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, November 13, 2015. (<http://www.puc.nh.gov/Sustainable%20Energy/RFPs.htm>)
- Office of Energy and Planning – no updates.

## 7. Next Meetings:

- **November 20, 2015** – Administrative, Building Codes and RGGI Stakeholder Meeting to be held at NH DES
- **December 11, 2015** – Home Energy Score and EESE Board Annual Report

## 8. Adjourned at 11:55 am