

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

## Approved Minutes for March 15, 2019

### Attendees:

Board Members: Karen Cramton (PUC); Becky Ohler (NHDES); Rep. Robert Backus (House of Representatives); Donald Perrin (DAS); Raymond Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Marc Prindiville (State Fire Marshall's Office); Madeleine Mineau (Clean Energy NH); Kate Peters (Eversource); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Ben Frost (NH Housing & Finance); Ryan Clouthier (Southern NH Services); Scott Maslansky (NHCDFA); Michael Behrmann (Revolution Energy); Theresa Swanick (NHMA); Tom Palma for Cindy Carroll (Unitil).

Others: Brian Buckley (OCA); Azanna Wishart (PUC); Jason Morse (PUC); Chris Skoglund (NHDES); Liz Nixon (PUC); Jack Ruderman (Revision Energy); Melissa Birchard (Conservation Law Fund); Clay Mitchell (UNH); Christine Donovan (VEIC); Matt Siska (GDS Associates); Jennifer Galbraith (Concord Energy Committee); Kate Epsen (ISO-NE).

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- Becky Ohler called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

### 2. Approval of the February 15, 2019 EESE Board Meeting Minutes

- Karen Cramton moved. Ben Frost seconded. It was recommended that the following correction be made:
  - Page 1, number three, the Community Development “Fund” Authority should be “Finance” Authority.
- Approval of the February 15, 2019 minutes as amended above. All in favor.

### 3. Legislative Updates

- HB 413 - relative to membership of the energy efficiency and sustainable energy board. The EESE Board sent a recommendation to amend HB413 and SB 205 to Representative Mann and Senator Watters after the February Board meeting. Representative Mann presented an amendment which included the EESE Board's recommendations to Science, Technology &

Energy (ST&E). The amendment did not pass; however, the original bill language did pass out of committee. SB 205 has not yet gone to a vote.

- HB365 – relative to net energy metering limits for customer generators (i.e., increases the net metering cap from 1MW to 5MW). The bill passed out of committee (ST&E) with an amendment.
- HB2 – relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures (i.e., state budget).
  - Transfers \$2.5 million from the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) to a new lead paint remediation fund on June 30, 2019.
  - For the biennium ending June 30, 2021 the PUC shall not expend any funding on the implementation of an EERS or change the System Benefits Charge (SBC) without prior approval of the fiscal committee.
  - The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Commissioner may suspend the requirements of the department for each fiscal year of the biennium ending June 30, 2021:
    - The provisions relating to identification and implementation of energy efficiency projects in compliance with the governor’s executive order 2016-03.
    - The provisions relating to data analysis and the developments of performance metrics for buildings and vehicles to monitor energy and water usage, use of fossil fuels, and greenhouse gas emissions in compliance with the same order (2016-03).
- HB582 - relative to the regional greenhouse gas initiative cap and trade program for controlling carbon dioxide emissions (i.e., eliminates the \$1 threshold, allocate auction proceeds based on load by sector; all residential sector proceeds will fund energy efficiency programs as defined in current statute and the commercial and industrial (C&I) proceeds will be fully rebated to C&I customers.
- HB157 - relative to the class rate for biomass. INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.
- HB209 - relative to the class rate for payments into the renewable energy fund for biomass/methane. INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.
- HB735 - Carbon Pricing – relative to carbon pricing. Retained in committee.
- HB715 - relative to electrical energy storage. – Sets a goal of 2% of storage. The bill passed out of committee (ST&E).
- HB562 – relative to the state building code (i.e., 2015 energy conservation code). The bill passed out of committee (Executive Departments and Administration).
- SB13, SB159 and SB166 are bills relative to net metering – public hearings for these bills are scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2019.
- SB284 – establishing a statewide, multi-use online energy data platform. This bill passed out of the Senate with an amendment.

#### 4. EERS Committee Report

- The Committee met to provide feedback to PUC staff on the RFP for a **Planning Consultant for Energy Efficiency Resource Standard for the Post 2020 Period**. The RFP was posted to the PUC website on March 15, 2019. Proposals are due no later than April 26, 2019.
- Proposals submitted will be reviewed and scored by a three-person selection committee. The selection committee will consist of one PUC staff member, one DES staff member and one representative of the EESE Board. Becky reached out to the Attorney General's (AG) office who advised that a state employee should be chosen as the EESE Board representative because if you serve on a committee you need to remain "bunkered" until the contract is on the G&C agenda and approved. There was a discussion about limiting the committee to state employees.
- Becky noted that Don Kreis as the Chair of the EERS committee would be a likely choice. Ben Frost nominated Don, Becky seconded. Don Kreis accepted the nomination. All in favor with the PUC abstaining from the vote.
- The Committee discussed topics for the coming year but they will not meet again until autumn.

#### 5. Kate Epsen – ISO-NE Annual Regional Energy Outlook Update

- ISO-NE released its Annual Regional Energy Outlook report. Kate provided an overview of the report.
- The recent Forward Capacity Market (FCM) auction went well. Capacity cleared at a historically low price of \$3.80.
- 430 MW Energy efficiency and demand response.
- 25 new MW of storage installed in the region. 20 MW in the National Grid territory in Massachusetts is being aggregated by SunRun and is participating on the FCM. The program will be deployed to customer properties across the state by 2022.
- The Planning Advisory Committee is hosting a Grid Transformation event in May in the Westborough, MA area. The training will be focusing on technology and policy changes. Kate will let the Board know the location and date when it's announced.
- The Consumer Liaison Group (CLG) met to better connect consumers with ISO-NE. Don Kreis and Gus Fromuth are New Hampshire's representatives to the CLG.
- There was a discussion about how energy efficiency is accounted for in a forward capacity market.
- Kate invited members to use her a resource to help navigate through the ISO-NE website.
- A question was raised about what the ISO-NE report says about generation supply in particular, when plants are closing.

- Response: The report is more optimistic than last year and the system has enough installed capacity. The supply issues are on very cold days; will there be enough fuel to generate kilowatt hours needed.
- A question was raised about off-shore wind: they were not allowed to bid in the first auction and will that be addressed going forward?
  - Response: Yes, off-shore wind was only allowed to participate if it was located within state geography. Off-shore wind located outside of state boundaries and its participation will be settled by next February's auction.
- Rep. Backus requested that Kate attend the next Electric Oversight and Restructuring Committee meeting, noting that plant closings are causing concern and that it would be good to hear ISO-NE's thoughts on this issue
- Discussion about the FCM and its impacts on EE programs. Don proposed there be discussions of this at the EESE Board to avoid falling afoul of "collusion" prohibitions.
- Becky asked for input if there are any other ISO-NE related topics to discuss.

#### 6. Presentation: Advancing Clean Energy Investment in Northern New England

Christine Donovan, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC)

- The Nature Conservancy and CEI sought to understand the barriers to clean energy investment in Northern New England (i.e., Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont). An RFP was issued and VEIC was selected as the consultant to conduct research and report.
- It was determined that \$100 billion dollars would be needed to achieve 80% of the energy efficiency goals of these three states.
- Key challenges for success are favorable policy and regulatory framework; proven "off the shelf" technology; delivery and service; infrastructure and workforce; customer demand; and investment funding and financing.
- Eleven key recommendations were identified to address the specific challenges preventing energy efficiency investments. Two categories of solutions were recommended to tackle the challenges and steps for moving forward.

#### 7. Board and Program Updates:

- EM&V Working Group (not presented at meeting):
  - The evaluations mentioned at the last meeting are in the same stage of development.
  - The Finalized Market Assessment study is due from our consultants on March 20, 2019. There will likely be a presentation at the next EESE Board meeting to summarize the results for the Board.
  - The group selected winning bidders for the energy optimization and National Standard Practice Manual application to New Hampshire. Navigant will be doing the energy optimization study. Synapse will be doing the application of the National Standard Practice Manual. In accordance with the 2019 energy efficiency update settlement, these studies will be coordinated extensively with the benefit-cost working group which will serve as a venue for anyone who is interested to provide

input on the studies. The first meeting was yesterday, and the next meeting will be on April 11, 2019 at 9 a.m. in Hearing Room A at the PUC.

- PUC:
  - A Secretarial Letter was issued on Grid Modernization. There will be a technical session on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the PUC. Written comments on staff's Grid Modernization report are due to the PUC no later than Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
  - The Low Moderate Income RFP received four proposals.
  - All renewable energy fund rebate programs are still open and accepting applications.
  - Through the Liberty Battery Pilot docket, staff is working on a Request for Information (RFI) to gather information for phase two of the pilot; "bring your own device".
  - Locational Value of Distributed Generation – The PUC issued an order approving the scope including a few changes to staff recommendations based on the comments received. Staff is updating the scope document and is working on an RFP to hire a consultant.
- Other:
  - Energy Week begins Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> and is sponsored by Clean Energy New Hampshire (CENH).

9. Meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

\*\*Thank you to The Nature Conservancy for providing the refreshments. Clean Energy NH will provide the refreshments for the April meeting. \*\*