

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 September 20, 2019

Attendees:

Board Members: Rep. Robert Backus (House of Representatives); Donald Perrin (DAS); Madeleine Mineau (Clean Energy NH); Becky Ohler (NH DES); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC); Tonia Chase (BIA); Karen Cramton (PUC); Kate Peters (Eversource); Ryan Clouthier (SNHS); Joe Doiron (OSI); Senator Martha Fuller-Clark (Senate); Ben Frost (NH Housing & Finance); Steve Tower for Ray Burke (NH Legal Assistance)

Others: Azanna Wishart (PUC); Jason Morse (PUC); Stephen Eckberg (PUC); Deandra Perruccio (PUC); Matt Siska (GDS Associates); Rep. George Saunderson (House of Representatives); Marc Lemenager (Eversource); Matthew Fossum (Eversource); Liz Nixon (PUC); Brian Buckley (PUC); Henry Herndon (Clean Energy NH); Missy Samenfeld (Liberty Utilities); Chris Skoglund (NH DES); Melissa Birchard (Keyes & Fox); Elizabeth Titus (NEEP); Kate Epsen (ISO-NE); Matthew Mailloux (OSI).

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Becky Ohler called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Approval of the June 21, 2019 EESE Board Meeting Minutes

- Ben Frost moved. Karen Cramton seconded.
- Approval of the June 21, 2019 minutes. All in favor.

3. Legislative Updates

- This week, the House and the Senate met to consider bills vetoed by the Governor. Many energy-related bills were vetoed and those vetoes were sustained. The vetoed House bills will be re-filed in upcoming session.

- The House filing period for LSR's closes today at 4:00 p.m.. The Senate may file LSRs between October 13th and October 30th.
- Work session is scheduled for the retained carbon fee bill on Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.. Other retained bills and work session times are listed on the legislative calendar.
- Study commission meetings are ongoing. The first meeting of the study commission to create a state department of energy was held. The next meeting is scheduled for October 2nd and NH DES will present the agency's role in the energy sector. Additional meetings are scheduled every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m..

4. "Revenue Regulation Options for New Hampshire" – Presentation by Mark Lebel from the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP).

- The presentation included education on three decoupling topics:
 - The purpose and basics of decoupling.
 - Consumer benefits and related policy options.
 - Key design choices.
- Discussion topics included:
 - Decoupling versus lost revenue adjustment mechanism (LRAM). Mr. Lebel stated that LRAM is an upwards only adjustment and is far less than full decoupling.
 - Is decoupling a disincentive to energy efficiency programs? He stated that decoupling is not a disincentive to EE programs.
 - Where are the New Hampshire utilities in terms of decoupling? Liberty gas has a decoupling mechanism in place. Liberty electric has a rate case pending that has proposed decoupling. No other regulated utility has proposed decoupling.
 - Is decoupling working for other New England states? Mr. Lebel noted that decoupling has been successful in other states.
 - Did other New England states go through a legislative process to enact decoupling? It was noted that different states have different authorities. Some require legislation while others can accomplish under existing laws and rules.

5. Board and Program Updates:

- ISO-NE - Kate Epsen:
 - Cheryl LaFleur, who served as a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) commissioner, joined the board of directors as a new member starting October 1, 2019.
 - ISO-NE presented the regional system plan in Boston last week. The report is available online. The final report will be issued in late October.
 - The forward capacity market bids for procurement for three years out were lower than previous actions. The decrease is largely attributable to energy efficiency programs and improved efficiencies in power plants.

- ISO-NE Vice President, Ann George presented at the New Hampshire Energy Summit sponsored by the Dupont Group.
- EM&V Working Group – Don Kreis:
 - An EESE Board representative to the EM&V working group is needed to replace Brian Buckley. Brian recently accepted a staff attorney position with the PUC and therefore is no longer eligible to represent the EESE Board on the EM&V Committee. The replacement should not work at for the PUC or the utilities.
 - Brian spoke about the experience/knowledge required to represent the Board, and time commitment necessary.
 - There was a discussion as to whether a temporary appointee should be named in the interim.
 - Becky Ohler offered to sit in until a replacement was appointed.
- EERS Committee – Don Kreis:
 - VEIC has been hired as the consultant to support the work of the EESE Board’s EERS committee and the PUC relative to the EERS. Emily Levin will serve as the VEIC lead.
- PUC – Karen Cramton:
 - The Renewable Energy Fund (REF) budget was released last month. The Alternative Compliance Payments (ACP) for calendar year 2018 compliance were approximately \$2.6 million which is about half of the previous year’s ACP. Staff made program budget allocation and program recommendations; one being to temporarily close the Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Solar Rebate program for fiscal year 2020. A second recommendation includes increasing funds to the Competitive Grant program and opening the RFP to all technologies. There will be a public hearing next Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. for comments on the recommendations.
 - The REF Annual report will be released on October 1st. It will be posted online and filed with the legislature. The report provides more detail on RPS compliance and program results.
 - The Puc 900 administrative rules related to net metering are in the process of being updated. Draft rules were filed with the Commission to address legislative changes prior to July 1st of this year. There will be a technical session on October 4th to focus on rule changes necessary to implement SB165 that was enacted this year. The bill requirements to include an adder for Low/Moderate Income (LMI) solar, and on bill credits. The technical session will also include a discussion on the definition of “facility” and “premise”.
 - Eversource filed a proposal for an LMI pilot program. Discovery is due at the end of the month. There will be a technical session on October 21st.
 - There was a Grid Modernization technical session yesterday.
 - EERS – the utilities submitted an updated 2020 plan on September 13th.

- Eversource and Liberty rate cases are ongoing.
- Diane Martin was appointed by G&C as the new PUC Chairperson on Wednesday.
- Other:
 - Kate Peters reported that the 2020 EERS plan update features an increase in terms of energy savings goals and money being invested in energy efficiency. The plan calls for over \$76 million in funding in 2020. In 2019, the budget was \$56.9 million with the program offerings for C&I and residential customers.
 - Bruce Clendenning reported that The Nature Conservancy, NH DES and VT, ME, and MA are working together to host the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) Rural Symposium at the VT Law School on October 2nd.
 - The OCA has hired the Wired Group out of Colorado to draft a plan for Grid Modernization. He also noted that Senate Bill 284 passed, **establishing a statewide, multi-use online energy data platform**. The commission must open an adjudicative proceeding within 90 days of the effective date of SB284, to which all electric and natural gas utilities shall be mandatory parties.
 - Clean Energy NH hosted the Charge Forward EV Relay on Monday.
 - The Local Energy Solutions (LES) conference is scheduled for November 15th.
 - October is energy efficiency month.
 - Melissa Birchard reported that today is Global Climate Actions Day. There is a rally at the State House today at 3 p.m.
- DES:
 - The Transportation and Climate Initiative includes 13 Mid-Atlantic and northeast jurisdictions that signed on to commit to create a plan for capital investments program similar to RGGI that would cap emissions and use the proceeds to further invest in other mechanisms to reduce emissions. All states have been participating in discussions, not only the states that signed on to the initial proposal. There will be further information coming out at the end of September. Meetings are taking place throughout the region from those with equity concerns and areas that are greatly impacted from the transportation sector.

Meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

**Thank you to the Southern New Hampshire Services for providing the refreshments.