

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Minutes for November 8, 2019

Attendees:

Board Members: Donald Perrin (DAS); Madeleine Mineau (Clean Energy NH); Becky Ohler (NH DES); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC); Tonia Chase (BIA); Karen Cramton (PUC); Kate Peters (Eversource); Ryan Clouthier (SNHS); Joe Doiron (OSI); Representative Bob Backus (NH House of Representatives); Senator Martha Fuller-Clark (Senate); Steve Towers for Ray Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Michael Behrmann (Revolution Energy); Scott Maslansky (CDFA).

Others: Azanna Wishart (PUC); Stephen Eckberg (PUC); Jason Morse (PUC); Matt Siska (GDS Associates); Christa Shute (OCA); Chris Skoglund (NH DES); Kate Epsen (ISO-New England); Moses Riley (NEEP); Representative Jacqueline Cali-Pitts (NH House of Representatives).

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Becky Ohler called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Upon review of the EESE Board governance documents, elections for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair will be held in January. Nominations will take place at the December meeting.

2. Approval of the October 18, 2019 EESE Board Meeting Minutes

- Joe Doiron moved. Madeleine Mineau seconded.
- Approval of the October 18, 2019 minutes. All in favor.

3. Legislative Updates

- The House Science, Technology and Energy Committee met to discuss and decide on several retained bills. One of the bills advancing is HB735, relative to carbon pricing. It is a dividend and fee program necessary due to the climate crisis. If enacted, New Hampshire would be the first in the United States to support such a program. All fees obtained would be refunded back to residents.

- SB159, relative to net metering, was vetoed. Senator Moffett has worked on revised language for the bill.
- LSR 2020-2361 requiring the adoption of vehicle emissions standards based on the California clean car standards.

4. Update on the Rollout of the 2015 State Energy Codes – “Introducing NH to the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code” - Presentation by Matt Siska of GDS Associates.

- -The New Hampshire Code Collaborative (NHCC) has re-formed and has issued an updated New Hampshire Energy Code Compliance Road Map report. The real estate industry has engaged with the collaborative; trying to shift the narrative to more resilient buildings. There will be a NH Realtors Green Symposium on January 29, 2020.
- Discussion topics included:
 - A brief history of the code adoption process. In the 2018 legislative session HB 1254 was passed that studied the code adoption process. In 2019 HB 562 adopted the 2015 IECC with some amendments and HB 710 clarified that the Building Code Review Board (BCRB) could propose adopting a revised code two years after its publication.
 - The International Residential Code (IRC) applies to 1 and 2 family dwellings. The International Energy Conservation Codes (IECC) is applicable to any other residential building
 - Impactful changes in the 2015 codes: improved clarity as to what is required; a focus on air sealing the building envelope (air leakage and blower door tests required) and enhanced energy recovery.
 - Amendments specific to New Hampshire IRC provisions maintained 2009 code requirements for air changes/building tightness/mechanical ventilation. This has long term impacts as this means the heating/cooling systems must be larger than would have been required under 2015 codes.
 - Commercial codes (IECC) were amended to eliminate the requirement for system commissioning. This was presented as having a significant negative impact on efficiency.
 - Early industry reaction: well received by code officials though enforcement and education continue to be barriers. Equipment meeting the efficiency requirements are already available in the marketplace. Attendance at both commercial and residential code training sessions has been high.
 - GDS perspective is that the utilities play a key role in engaging market actors early in the design process. Code enforcement varies throughout the state, impacted by bandwidth and awareness. Commissioning is critical to realize energy efficiency in new construction.
 - Legislation addressing certain elements of the code versus keeping the code intact through codebooks. Legislation may have a piecemeal effect making it more difficult

to implement the code. The BCRB would prefer the code be left intact so that architects and builders only have to reference a single book.

- What role can the EESE Board play (in commissioning or new codes)?
 - Invite the NHCC to speak to the EESE Board at an upcoming meeting.
 - Help to shift the discussion – focus on the benefits that come from better code compliance and quantify for the legislature those benefits as well as the long term cost of following old codes or amending out certain requirements.
- Can/should the utilities be able to claim savings for reaching beyond code standard or for commissioning since that was removed from code? Discussion: Could create an easier path to regional savings, but would it take away from more effective measures? Utilities should be discussing as part of new EERS plan.
- What are the most effective pathways to advance code enforcement? NHSAVES is doing a great job, but can more be done?
- Can the EERS address new commercial construction?
- Heating and cooling systems are air systems and those air systems have an effect on the health of the residents occupying a building. Health benefits should be part of the conversation.
- Building plans should be required to have a PE (prof. engineer) stamp to ensure the design has been done correctly.

5. Board and Program Updates:

- PUC –Karen Cramton:
 - A secretarial letter was issued for the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) budgets. It is filed under all associated budget and program dockets. There are a couple of budget allocations that differ from staff's recommendation. The C&I rebate program will be allocated ~\$500,000 and will re-open after program modifications are decided. A public process will be open to discuss proposed changes to the program to enable the limited funding to go further. The C&I rebate program allocation funding came from the competitive grant program allocation; thereby reducing the grant program allocation by ~\$500,000. Therefore, the C&I grant program will not be open to solar projects. The focus will be on all renewables with the exception of solar.
 - A letter from PUC and OSI staff was issued yesterday with the joint proposal for the Clean Energy Fund. Staff and OSI request that the Commission establish a collaborative and non-adjudicative process as directed by Order No. 25,920, in order to allow stakeholders to respond to the proposal and to suggest alternative proposals.
 - Liberty and Eversource rate cases are continuing.
 - EERS 2020 plan is in progress.
 - Grid Modernization is progressing.
 - The Eversource LMI pilot project procedural schedule has been suspended at this point.

- Board Members
 - Tonia Chase noted that a large concern of BIA is the cost of energy for NH businesses. The forward capacity market is a significant part of that cost. What is the mechanism to address NH's share, which is rising relative to other states. Can TOU and Peak rates be studied to see if going to those rates could reduce costs? She brought up peak demand usage in doing business and capacity as socialized cost. It was noted that these questions are part of both the rate case dockets and the grid modernization dockets.
 - Kate Peters noted that the next EERS will have a demand reduction initiative.
 - Eric Stanley reported that November 19th through December 4th, Liberty will be running the Black Friday Smart Thermostat promotion. Liberty customers can purchase online a Smart Thermostat for \$39. Last year they sold over 4,000.
 - Scott Maslansky reported that during the Halloween storm in Vermont, there were less power outages due to battery storage. He asked if an assessment is being done to determine the cost of getting customers up and running with power quickly. What is the tipping point at which restoration time is reduced because customers have battery storage?
 - Mike Behrmann reported that the Off-Shore Wind Task Force will meet on December 12th. No location has been determined yet. New Hampshire is the expected location.
 - Madeleine Mineau reported that the Local Energy Solutions Conference is Friday, November 15th. The New England Energy Summit will be held in Boston on December 2nd.
 - Becky Ohler reported that the NH Municipal Association conference is on November 14th. DES will be there to discuss permitting requirements for EV charging stations with communities. Charging station installers cite local permit requirements and/or lack of any local knowledge/experience as a significant barrier for installation of stations.
- ISO-NE – Kate Epsen
 - Last year's auction in the forward capacity market saw prices at \$3.40 per kW per month. The amount they need to procure for the next 3-year FCM has gone down significantly due to load forecasting and all of the energy efficiency and behind the meter solar implemented across New England so prices may go down.
 - The final regional system plan is a good resource and available on the web.
 - The Distributed Generation Interconnection Guide – with high DG penetration (mostly in Massachusetts) ISO-NE is beginning work on coordinating bulk transmission interconnection with distribution grid interconnection.
 - The Consumer Liaison Group is meeting at the Seaport Hotel in Boston on December 5th. Don Kreis is a member of this committee. The group is a forum for the exchange of information between ISO New England and electricity consumers in New England. Meetings are generally attended by consumers and consumer

representatives (including state consumer and ratepayer advocates), state business and industry associations, chambers of commerce, individual businesses, trade groups, nonprofit organizations, and other end users.

- The Load Forecasting Group has reported load decreases due to energy efficiency measures and behind the meter solar. They are going to start to include air source heat pumps and light duty electric vehicles in the forecast. They need input from states on pending state policies that may impact these.
- EERS– Christa Shute:
 - VEIC presented to EERS committee this week. There was a discussion about preparation for the next triennium plan. The next 3-year EERS plan will be filed with the PUC by July 1, 2020. The utilities will submit an interim draft by June 1st for review to determine changes that should be incorporated into the final submission.
 - VEIC will work directly with the utilities.
- EM&V Working Group – Christa Shute:
 - Noted a general need to leverage the work that is going on around us.
 - Kate Peters noted that work has started in earnest on the Technical Resource Manual.
 - Eric Stanley noted that the Technical Potential Study has been started, but will not be completed in time to serve the next 3-year plan. Hope to have a draft in the May/June timeframe.
 - The Benefit Cost Working Group submitted an energy option report with Synapse and Navigant recommendations. They are looking for a ruling on whether the recommendations should be adopted. The Commission issued a Secretarial letter this past week inviting written comments through November 13th.

6. Upcoming EESE Board Meetings:

- The December EESE Board meeting is scheduled for December 13th. At that meeting, nominations will be accepted for Chair and Vice Chair. Becky will try to have a draft of the EESE Board Annual Report for the Board's approval.

Meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

**Thank you to Revolution Energy for providing the refreshments.