

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Draft Minutes for August 14, 2020

Attendees:

Board Members: Donald Perrin (DAS); Madeleine Mineau (Clean Energy NH); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Chris Skoglund for Becky Ohler (DES); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC); Kate Peters (Eversource); Matthew Mailloux (OSI); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Jack Ruderman for Ben Frost (NH Housing Authority); Scott Maslansky (CDFA); Ray Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Matthew Siska (GDS Associates); Marc Prindiville (State Fire Marshal); Theresa Swanick (NH Municipal Association); Representative Douglas Thomas (NH House of Representatives)

Others: Megan Ulin (ReVision Energy); Eric Wind (PUC); Azanna Wishart (PUC); Liz Nixon (PUC); Christine Donovan (VEIC); Dylan Vorhees (VEIC); Pat Martin; Dick Henry (Hot Zero).

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Madeleine Mineau called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Approval of the May 15, 2020 EESE Board Meeting Minutes.

- Jack Ruderman moved. Matt Mailloux seconded.
- Approval of the July 17, 2020 minutes. All in favor.

3. EERS Plan Presentation and Discussion – Presentation by Kate Peters (Eversource)

- Plan Priorities for the next three years:
 - 1) Commitment to deliver cost-effective energy efficiency;
 - 2) Provide significant benefits to New Hampshire's economy;
 - 3) Increase participation through new and expanded program pathways;
 - 4) Offer effectively packaged solutions to engage customers;
 - 5) Continue to develop New Hampshire's energy efficiency workforce;
 - 6) Increase outreach to main streets, municipalities and rural areas;

- 7) Upgrade weatherization system and data sharing;
 - 8) Implement effective active demand reduction strategies;
 - 9) Implement an Energy Optimization Pilot;
 - 10) Increase energy efficiency portfolio savings from non-lighting measures.
- There are two new components to the plan:
 - The Technical Resource Manual, which is on schedule to be complete at the end of 2020. The manual includes a listing of all the measures outlined in the plan and how to perform the energy savings calculations, what evaluations relate to each measure, and how the energy savings are calculated for each measure.
 - Bill and Rate Impact Analysis – an analysis that estimates the bill and rate impacts not just for customers who participate but also for customers who are not participating yet are still paying in to the system benefits charge.
 - Electric Savings Budget:
 - Energy savings:
 - 95% increase over the combined 2018-2020 actual and planned budget; a three-year annual kWh saving at 4.2% of 2019 sales; a lifetime kWh savings at a 29% increase over last term; and a lifetime MMBtu savings 31% increase over last term.
 - The three-year program budget broken down by sector is:
 - C&I/Municipal – 54%
 - Residential – 26%
 - Income Eligible – 20%
 - The exact numbers may change in September.
 - The most common stakeholder feedback related to the energy savings, in particular calling for increased savings from the savings presented in the draft plan on July 1. Many stakeholders asked for a 5% target rather than 4.2% in kWh savings of 2019 sales.
 - Natural Gas Budget:
 - Energy savings:
 - 43% increase over the combined 2018-2020 actual and planned budget; a three-year annual MMBtu savings of 2.8% of 2019 sales; a lifetime MMBtu savings at 12% increase over last term.
 - The three-year program budget broken down by sector:
 - C&I/Municipal – 41%
 - Residential – 42%
 - Income Eligible – 17%
 - Similar to the electric plan, the most common stakeholder feedback was related to energy savings, calling for an increase of 3% rather than the 2.8% increase presented on July 1st.

- Uncertainty in the marketplace creates significant risk for additional savings. The utilities recognize the stakeholders' desire for increased savings but given market risk, the utilities request stakeholder support for the plan.
- Two new program offerings include:
 - Active Demand Reduction for Residential and C&I customers
 - The goals of Active Demand Reduction are to flatten peak loads, improve system load factors, and reduce costs for customers.
 - Energy Optimization Pilot
 - The Energy Optimization Pilot will focus on converting residential customers using fossil fuel heating systems to cold climate air source heat pumps (ASHPs), including central and mini-split systems.
- Marketing priorities will focus on building awareness and demonstrating the value of energy efficiency, convincing customers to participate in NHSaves offerings, and increasing education and outreach.
- Questions & Answers
 - Are the kW savings in the electric budget source or site? Site.
 - Is there any money available for possible long-term healthcare development for HVAC systems? There is some opportunity. There is a working group in Massachusetts that is actively looking at health and safety opportunities in schools related to HVAC systems and we are looking to learn from that group's efforts.
 - One of the challenges we have seen in the past is when there is an increase in Federal funding, there was tension as to where and when funding would be spent and whether leftover funding could be used for low-income programs. Do the utilities agree that a three-year EERS plan can help address this issue? Yes, that would be the benefit of the structure being proposed. Peers that are ranked higher on the ACEEE scorecard have the type of model being proposed in this plan.
 - Regarding the 4% kWh savings, where are we relative to other states? We are now modeling to 5% across the three years based on stakeholder feedback. It is difficult to do apple-to-apple comparisons with other states because our programs have MMBtu savings included while some other states do and others do not. There may be different assumptions and different time periods for comparison presenting additional challenges.
 - Have the utilities looked at demand response programs for natural gas? Yes. There are currently only three demand response programs deployed in the market across the United States and they are pilot programs. The results are mixed as to whether it will work. It is something we are monitoring.
 - Since we just passed the peak electricity for the year last month, have the utilities considered customer engagement on calling the peak event so customers can power down? The Co-op has already been doing a lot of work on that. The other utilities have been reaching out to customers enrolled in demand reduction programs and are working on developing a broader outreach effort.

- Summary of Three-Year Plan by Don Kreis (EERS Chair)
 - In New Hampshire, we have endeavored to adopt an enhanced stakeholder board model. The premise is that by taking the State's energy efficiency plan and have it discussed by a group of interested stakeholders, when the plan is submitted to the Commission for approval there will possibly be no issues to dispute. This year's plan was successful due to consensus. The EERS Committee vote was 11 in favor, none opposed and four abstentions. If the PUC approves the plan, it will put New Hampshire up to the level that it belongs. It will improve our ratings on the ACEEE scorecard. This is a public policy triumph.
 - The Board extends its sincere thanks to Don's leadership of the EERS Committee.
- EESE Board Vote on the EERS Three-Year Plan
 - Madeleine motioned. Ray Burke seconded.
 - Vote results – Nine approved. Two opposed. No abstentions.

4. Legislative Updates

- The next Senate and House sessions are on Wednesday, September 16 for veto overrides. The House meets at UNH and the Senate meets in the House Chamber.

5. Board & Program Updates

- OSI – Matt Mailloux
 - There was a press conference yesterday unveiling propane buses for the Manchester Transit Authority. This is part of the Volkswagen settlement.
- Clean Energy NH – Madeleine Mineau
 - The Local Energy Solutions Conference will be held online on October 29 & 30. Early bird registration is open until September 15.

6. Meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.