

Summary Minutes
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board
October 1, 2008 Meeting

*Items underlined and in color are hyperlinked to documents.

Members in Attendance: Clifton C. Below, Jack Ruderman, Meredith Hatfield, Robert Scott, Roy Duddy for Michael Vlacich, Cordell Johnston for Susan Olsen, Brian Wujcik, Daniel Feltes, David Borden, Martha Fuller Clark, Richard Ober, Dick Henry, Wes Golomb, Ken Walsh, Dean Christon.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: Gil Gelineau of PSNH, John Puc of National Grid, Cindy Carroll of Unitil, Ray Gosney of the NH Electric Coop, Derek Buchler of Northern Utilities, James Grady of Lightec, Charles Niebling of New England Wood Pellet, Janet Brewer of Ocean National Bank.

Other Meeting Attendees: Stephen Eckberg, Roy Duddy, Eric Steltzer, Suzanne Amidon, Jon Osgood, Al-Azad Iqbal, Jennifer Ducharme, Ben Frost, Jim Monahan, Kate Peters, Heidi Kroll, Cordell Johnston, Kathy Veracco, Henry Veilleux, Bill Gabler, Joel Anderson, Bob King.

Link to Meeting Agenda: [Meeting Agenda](#)

Thomas B. Getz - Introduction and Background, Appointment Announcement, Quorum Check and Selection of Temporary Chair.

The Meeting was convened by PUC Chairman Getz at 1:09 P.M with a declared quorum.

Mr. Getz welcomed the group and noted the appointments that he had made per the statute as noted in the written notice for the meeting. He stated as follows: It may not be easy to accomplish everything that is ahead of us here but I would like to take a moment to say that there were many more people that have indicated an interest in this undertaking and an interest in participating in these meetings than there are official spots and I urge all persons interested to stay involved because we really want your participation. There are going to be subcommittees and a lot of work over the next month and years and we are going to want as much participation, as much effort and action as there is available. If it is necessary to expand membership of this board for expanded participation in these meetings then that is an option to consider.

There have been a number of efforts over the last eight years going back to [HB443](#) which was passed back in 2001. This created the notion of a

state energy plan. As a result, a [NH energy plan was issued in November 2002](#) with a focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency by an ad hoc energy planning group consisting of members from the PUC, the Legislature, the BIA, etc. and one of the things proposed was to create the energy plan advisory board to keep moving forward on energy efficiency and renewable issues. This board was created by the legislature in 2004 by [SB443](#). A report was issued in September 2006, called the "[Energy Planning Advisory Board Report of June 23, 2006 Stakeholder Forum](#)" which is listed on our website because it was the last of very useful background baseline documents produced by the advisory board, still worth looking at. The numbers have changed, obviously, because of where fuel prices are going, but it is still very important information.

In 2006, the legislature passed a bill creating an energy policy commission with responsibilities involving energy efficiency and a number of [reports](#) filed with the Governor, etc. These are online at the PUC website as well. That gives you some of the chronology behind how we got to this point legislatively. The last bill, [HB1561](#), created this board and brought us here today. Many of these bills were sponsored by Representative Anderson and Senator Clark and many people contributed a lot of hard work on these issues.

There are a lot of good reasons bringing us here today. Economic reasons - oil prices have risen to \$150+ per barrel this year with global demand. There are environmental reasons driven by emissions, pollutants, and climate change concerns as well as many national security reasons due to our reliance on fossil fuels from abroad. There are no bad reasons for us being here - anything we can do will be helpful to the economy and to our citizens. It's a shame that there is no real national policy focus on this, but it does give New Hampshire an opportunity to make significant advances to gain economic and other advantages.

Chairman Getz recommended Clifton Below, his PUC designee, as temporary chair for the meeting, and with no opposition, declared him acting Chair.

Meredith Hatfield: Welcomed the group and stated that she had worked hard with many of those present on this bill and that it was personally an important day for her. She remarked as follows: I have worked on energy efficiency programs at the state level for many years and thanks to the leadership of Senator Fuller Clark and Representative Anderson, we have really been able to pull together the right people where we can say that energy efficiency now is understood to be the underpinning of the state energy policy and it's really time for us to look at what we've already done and really challenge ourselves to see what we can do better and how we can really focus to reach all of our energy efficiency potential because that kilowatt hour of electricity or that bit of oil that you don't use is the

most efficient and the cleanest unit of energy. I'm glad everyone is here today and we have a lot of work ahead of us and I'm looking forward digging right into this. Thank you all.

Clifton Below: Asked if there were any changes or deletions to the proposed agenda. Hearing no objection he declared the agenda adopted. He asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves, and to give the group some background with their affiliations and/or interest in energy efficiency and sustainable energy so that people can get to know each other.

See Attachment I for brief summary of introductions and background of those attending the organizational meeting.

Election of Officers: The acting chair noted that while RSA 125-0:5-a does not refer to election of a Vice Chair, it is customary for Boards to elect a Vice-Chair to act in the absence of the Chair. He opened the floor to nominations for both Chair and Vice-Chair. Senator Martha Fuller Clark nominated Richard Ober to be Chair of the Board. The nomination was seconded by Meredith Hatfield. There were no other nominations. Representative David Borden nominated Jack Ruderman to be Vice Chair of the Board. The nomination seconded by Meredith Hatfield. There were no other nominations. The acting chair called for a vote on Richard Ober for Chair. All votes cast were in favor and Commissioner Below declared Richard Ober the Chair. Mr. Ober accepted the Chair and called for a vote on Jack Ruderman for Vice-Chair. All votes cast were in favor and Chair Ober declared Jack Ruderman elected as Vice-Chair.

Dick Ober: Mr. Ober reviewed the mandate of the board and the requirements set forth in [RSA 125-0:5-a](#), urging the board to commit to listening to all views expressed and reaching a consensus in its work. He noted that the first report on our work is due in December.

Thomas Getz: Noted that this board is administratively attached to the PUC, and that the PUC will ensure that members of the board have complied with conflict of interest requirements.

Clifton Below: Noted that the PUC also will provide administrative support to the board and post board items on a page dedicated to the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board on the PUC website. (See <http://www.puc.nh.gov/EESE.htm>).

Dick Ober: Noted that the Board's immediate responsibilities include: recommendations for the PUC; and submitting on December 1st to the governor

and others, a report including an update of activities and recommendation for action including possible legislation.

Meredith Hatfield: Noted that with respect to expectations for the first report, the board should aim to meet the goal of [1A on line 10](#) on the handout, review what is available and then compile the information in a useful way.

Dick Ober: Asked members to review the [NH Energy Programs Available to NH Residential & Business Customers Snapshot](#) handout before the board's next meeting to have more of a grasp on existing programs, including federal aid that may be available to NH.

Jack Ruderman - Focus on weatherization programs and plans for this winter

He introduced two tools available to the public to ensure that people stay warm in their homes this winter: The LIHEAP Home Energy Assistance Program (fuel assistance, the 5th item on the [chart](#)), which provides money to help customers pay their heating bills regardless of the heating source and is administered by the State's Community Action Program. Last year OEP had about \$25 million in federal funding and was able to help 35,000 households with an average benefit of \$600 or about 200 gallons per household. This year there is an increased demand and very high fuel prices, but the Governor has worked very hard with other New England Governors to push Congress to increase funding and as of this weekend, Congress enacted a budget resolution that, much to our surprise, increases funding significantly to upwards of \$40 million which is higher than the Governor's target of \$37.5 million.

The second program is the weatherization program, operated with federal funding and contracted out to Community Action programs that collaborate with the electric utilities, who with the systems benefit charge that we all pay in our bills, fund a range of efficiency programs, including this one. Combined this helps approximately 1,000 households but approximately 16,000 have indicated interest and need for weatherization services.

In a special session this past week, the legislature stepped in and said that they would provide \$10 million for the Home Energy Assistance program so that the amount would reach \$37 million amount needed but if more than that amount is received then the state could be reimbursed for the overage. The text of the legislation is at the end of the [handout](#) that was distributed. Secondly, new weatherization efforts were needed and the legislature directed the PUC to make more money available for the electric utility sponsored weatherization programs. With those funds then we should be close to doubling the amount of homes weatherized this year, or at least another 800 homes. Federal funding has also almost doubled, as of this weekend to \$2.7

million expected for the weatherization program. This is considered Phase 1 by the legislature.

Phase 2 - Additional funding provided in the amount of \$1.2 million which will come from the state's RGGI program (Estimate of 10% of RGGI funds). The state offered this advance to try to bolster the number of homes we could get to and the number of people that we could help. We are also adding an additional 700 homes to provide weatherization services to, or at least to choose the most important weatherization measures to provide these homes, such as air sealing, low flow shower heads, and dealing with distribution systems.

Phase 3 - Will be a massive volunteer effort to go door-to-door to homes that are in need of services and help people with basic measures such as helping people with settings on their hot water heaters, taking out air conditions, installing low flow shower heads, storm windows, compact fluorescent bulbs. A copy of the legislation for these assistance programs can be found on the last 3 pages of the [handout](#).

All information regarding these programs can be found at www.staywarmnh.org.

Dick Henry: Noted that the Electric Assistance Program (EAP), a utility-sponsored program, also offers an additional \$14 million in assistance for NH low-income customers to help them with the electric portion of their bills.

Clifton Below: Noted that the Home Energy Assistance Plan (HEAP), an energy efficiency program, is not to be confused with the Low Income Electric Assistance Program (the third bullet on the [chart](#)) which is approved by the PUC and the EAP advisory board. The EAP is funded by the systems benefit charge which was recently just increased from 3.0 mills to 3.3 mills per kWh in total.

Clifton Below - Background on Renewable Energy Fund (RPS) and Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund (RGGI)

The renewable energy fund statutory provision begins on line 142 of the [handout](#). The funds are available through the Alternative Compliance Payments, which are an alternative to purchasing renewable energy credits (RECs). In an ideal world there would not be any alternative compliance payments because everyone would just meet their requirement with RECs, but when they do not, then alternative compliance payments are required. After adoption of the [RPS rules](#) by the PUC, another bill came into law, shown at line 314 of the [handout](#). [HB1628](#) which is sometimes called the Kaelin Bill, after Representative Kaelin who sponsored this bill. This bill requires that

the PUC administer a one time incentive payment of \$3.00 per watt up to \$6,000.⁰⁰, or half of the cost of the system, to certain owners of small renewable energy generation systems. The commission may, after notice and hearing, by order or rule, establish additional incentive or rebate programs for customer-sited thermal and renewable energy projects. The Commission will also be consulting with this board regarding the possible order or rulemaking for that program.

The PUC must also file its proposed interim rules for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund by the end of October and will be consulting with this board regarding those rules as well as the PUC's draft energy efficiency potential study at upcoming meetings.

Joanne Morin - Highlights and Background on Governor's Climate Change Task Force

Ms. Morin gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding [Potential Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Energy Action Items for the NH Climate Change Action Plan](#). The presentation provides information on the purpose and goals of the task force as well as the composition and process of the task force; technical and policy working groups and potential actions for energy efficiency, sustainable energy, education, and government leadership. Feedback and discussion of task force issues is invited during EE& SE meetings in order to provide a report to the Governor before the end of the year.

Approximately half of the members on the Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Energy Board are also on the Governor's Climate Change Task Force or participated in the working groups.

ENDING NOTES

Agenda for the next meeting will be developed at a later date.

Jennifer Ducharme, the legal assistant at the PUC, will be the designated contact for administrative issues related to the board.

Suggestions for possible legislation are invited for discussion at future meetings, with proposed legislation and comments to be due by a specific date and discussed at the meeting following that date.

The next Meeting was scheduled for October 17, 2008, followed by another meeting on October 31, 2008 and then November 13, 2008. All 3 meetings were scheduled from 8:30 to 11 and are to be held at the Public Utilities Commission. For copies of materials discussed at the meetings or general

questions in regard to the meetings please contact the PUC Legal Assistant,
Jennifer Ducharme at jennifer.ducharme@puc.nh.gov.

Meeting adjourned at 3:23 P.M.