

Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Energy Board
VEIC Study ("SB323 Report") Review Committee

Livingston Room
21 S. Fruit St, Concord NH
NH Public Utilities Commission
Wednesday, June 20, 2012
10 am – 12 pm

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Members in Attendance:

Gil Gelineau - PSNH; Steve Eckberg - OCA; Chris Kintz – National Grid; Rebecca Ohler - NHDES; Jack Ruderman - NHPUC; Deborah Schachter – NHCF; Chris Skoglund – NHDES; Eric Steltzer – OEP; and Carol Woods – NHEC.

Members by Phone:

Ben Frost – NHHFA; and George Gantz – Unitil.

Guests:

None.

Discussion

1. Introductions & Framing of the Day

The review committee agreed to review as many of the chapter syntheses as possible in the two-hour time frame in order to prepare the reviewed chapter syntheses for presentation to the EESE Board on July 13th. This would be the second presentation of 2 chapter syntheses and the first presentation of 1 chapter.

2. Chapter Team Findings

The review committee heard from 2 chapter teams that had presented at the last meeting (5/31):

- Chapter 6 - Low Income Weatherization Assistance Programs
- Chapter 13 - State Government Leading by Example

This was the second meeting that the committee had an opportunity to hear the chapter team findings and to hear how their prior observations and comments had been incorporated.

As before, each chapter team presented their material in a slightly different fashion reflecting the differences among each teams' membership and among the chapters' contents. The discussion around the variations in format and content enabled the committee members to reflect further on what should be in the final syntheses and what should be in the introductory sections of the final report to the EESE Board.

A theme that continued to emerge from the discussion was the importance of funding, in terms of amounts needed, potential sources and programs to fund. It also continues to be noted that resources should be developed once goals are established so that the resources match the targets.

Highlights from chapter discussions include:

Chapter 6:

After review of the synthesis document, the review committee asked that a several key points be included to highlight that:

1. weatherization programs in the past had *insufficient* funds to meet demand;
2. ARRA had filled some of that gap and created expanded infrastructure to meet some of that demand; and
3. additional funding through an expanded SBC charge could fill that gap once goals had been established.

The key message to be drawn from these points is that the committee is not suggesting that the SBC be increased in order to replace ARRA funds, but rather that ARRA met a longstanding need and that the additional provision of state resources would ensure that the more robust program continued. It may be noteworthy that the original VEIC chapter didn't include a recommendation regarding funding. Instead, the review committee chose to connect this chapter to funding recommendations in the earlier chapters.

Chapter 13:

Chapter 13 was the Government Lead by Example chapter and there was good discussion concerning the quality of the content that was included in the synthesis as well as the material that was omitted from the either synthesis or from the VEIC study. The committee noted that the VEIC study made no mention of the need for the state to directly invest in EE through the capital budget, and that the state should consider amending RSAs 21-I:19-e-f to allow EE related cost savings to be directed to the State's energy efficiency fund.

The review committee heard from 1 NEW chapter teams:

- Chapter 7 - Sustainable Energy Programs Review and Assessment

This was the first meeting that the entire committee had an opportunity to hear the chapter team findings and to make observations and to ask questions regarding the overall format of the documents as well as the specific content within each chapter.

Chapter 7 was the longest chapter written by the VEIC team and included 74 recommendations in all. However, the chapter team presented a relatively shorter synthesis as NH Senate Bill 218 ("SB218") had just been signed into law. The chapter review team recommended that a pause be taken to allow the NH PUC to undertake any necessary administrative and regulatory proceedings before the full set of VEIC recommendations be prioritized and acted upon.

3. Approach/Process for Future Work

- At the next VEIC Study Review Committee Meeting, the committee will:
 - Revisit Chapters
 - Chapter 6 - Low Income Weatherization Assistance Programs Review and Assessment;
 - Chapter 7 - Sustainable Energy Programs Review and Assessment; and
 - Chapter 13 - State Government Leading by Example

- Return to a previously completed review synthesis:
 - Chapter 10 - Energy Finance Programs Review and Assessment
- Prepare for the July 13th EESE Board meeting which will be dedicated to review of the VEIC Study.

4. Adjourn

The meeting ended at noon.

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