

**Minutes**  
**Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board**  
**Public Utilities Commission, Room A, Concord, NH**  
**9 AM – 12:00 PM**  
**November 16, 2011 Meeting**

**\*Items underlined and in color are hyperlinked to documents.**

**Members in Attendance:** Richard Ober of the NH Charitable Foundation, Eric Steltzer of Office of Energy and Planning, Jack Ruderman of NH Public Utilities Commission, Meredith Hatfield of the Office of Consumer Advocate, Mike Fitzgerald for Robert Scott of Dept. of Environmental Services, Beth Fischer for Home Builders and Remodelers Assoc. of NH, Bob Reals, Jr. of NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Development, Dick Henry of the Jordan Institute, Mike Connor for Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager, Representative Frank Holden for Representative James Garrity, Alan Linder for Dan Feltes, NH Legal Assistance, Wes Golomb for NH Sustainable Energy Association, Mike Licata for Patti Carrier, Business and Industry Association, and Ben Frost for Dean Christon, NH Housing Authority.

**Non-Voting Members in Attendance:** Gil Gelineau of PSNH, Debra Hale of National Grid, George Gantz of Unitil, Jim Grady of Lightec and Carol Woods for NH Electric Cooperative.

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** The meeting commenced at 9:04 am.

**Minutes of the September 9, 2011 EESE Board Meeting.**

- The minutes of the September 9, 2011 meeting minutes were approved unanimously as filed.
- 2. 2012 Legislative Preview – Representative Holden**
    - Rep. Holden shared a brief overview of legislative issues expected to come before the NH House and Senate in the coming session, beginning in January. These include topics connected to RPS, RGGI, as well as electric restructuring and deregulation of the electric industry.
  - 3. EESE Board Annual Report**
    - Annual report is due by statute on December 1, 2011. A draft has been distributed, and Board members are invited to submit any comments on the draft to Deborah Schachter by Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - 4. Energy Study Recommendations Working Group**
    - The Energy Study Recommendations working group convened and reached agreement on a process for tackling the VEIC report, which contains over 300 recommendations. George Ganz prepared an evaluation tool that allows recommendations to be sorted and categorized: e.g. as to whether they are legislative or regulatory; high, medium or low cost; high, medium or low impact; etc. as well as to note lead stakeholders and whether they are items that garner wide agreement, or are the subject of differing views.
    - This is a complex undertaking, and will very likely be a several month effort. One key priority is to identify recommendations to be made to the legislature.

- Each person on the working group has specific responsibilities for selected portions of the report. The task is somewhat overwhelming, and the working group would welcome others who wish to participate and take part in the analysis.
- It is expected that the working group will meet monthly prior to EESE Board meetings. Chris Skoglund has agreed to take over the role as coordinator of the working group.
- Once the working group gets a complete sense of the depth and granularity of the report, then will there be opportunity for discussion and an attempt to identify specific items behind which it may be appropriate to place the recommendation of the EESE Board.
- For the time being, the group plans to set aside Chapter 2, and then turn to what the possible scope of a statement of legislative policy might look like.
- Given the magnitude of the task, it is doubtful that the EESE Board will be in a position to help the legislature craft comprehensive legislation this coming year.

## **5. EESE Board Membership and Scheduling for 2012**

- Meredith Hatfield was recognized for her excellent work and service to the state as Consumer Advocate, as a contributor and member of the EESE Board, and in raising awareness more broadly of the importance of energy efficiency and sound energy policies to keeping energy costs low for consumers.
- Dick Ober announced that he will step down from his role on the EESE Board at the December meeting. He explained that this is due to his self-imposed limit of three years for serving on or chairing public boards, as well as his other duties.
- Suggested that the Board focus its attention in the coming year on the VEIC energy study, and that this focus may impact the frequency of meetings in 2012.
- A succession plan will be taken up at the December meeting.
- Amy Ignatius explained PUC responsibility for selected appointments to the EESE Board, and, absent statutory term limits, the desire periodically to seek interest from both current and potential new members, to give new parties who may wish to participate an opportunity to do so.
- Anyone interested in serving on the EESE Board for 2012 and beyond was invited to send a brief letter of interest, including current members who want to continue to serve on the Board. Letters of appointment will likely go to the organization, not the individual, with any membership changes to go into effect in January.

## **6. Discussion of Analysis Group Report**

- *The Economic Impacts of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative on Ten Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States* shows significant positive economic benefit to the region as result of the use of RGGI proceeds. The report also includes excellent case studies. But it contains a significant error re NH figures – apparently based on efforts to be very conservative in methodology. However, the misleading characterization of \$6 million in NH that has been

placed under contract but not yet expended may create an unfortunate misperception problem, and understate the economic benefits to NH. State officials from OEP and DES are working to seek a correction.

Break taken at 10: 35; meeting resumed at 10:58.

#### **7. RGGI Grantee Presentation – Town of Temple, Bev Edwards**

- The Town of Temple received a \$332,000 RGGI grant for a range of measures to help the community reduce energy use. A large component of the grant was funding to perform energy retrofits on three town buildings, including the town library and fire station.
- In addition to the weatherization projects, the town energy committee created a website for educating residents on energy efficiency. The web page has a section that pertains just to children. The children have become an important voice in the town concerning energy efficiency.
- Nearly fifteen percent of town residents participated in the Carbon Challenge. This is an extraordinarily high rate of participation. Participants saved \$35K in the first year alone.
- The town has put into place new zoning ordinances to promote sustainability.
- The energy committee provided a free weatherization program for homeowners, which was very successful. An out of work carpenter was hired for the work.
- After the weatherization of the fire station/municipal building, the town's energy use for heating these buildings was reduced by 75% - 85%.
- The town energy committee helped establish the Monadnock Energy Resource Initiative, modeled after the PAREI energy raiser model in which residents join together on weekends to help a single homeowner add renewable energy or energy efficiency measures to their homes.

#### **8. PUC Overview of REF & SBC Report**

##### **REF Report – Jack Ruderman**

- The Renewable Energy Fund annual report was filed on October 1 and is posted on our web site at: <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Sustainable%20Energy/RenewableEnergyFund.html>
- On November 1 the report was presented to the Legislative Oversight Committee.
- Some of the highlights of the report are:
  - The revenues over the last three years are extremely volatile and very unpredictable.
  - Administrative costs have come in far below budget over the last two years.
  - Table 2 of the report lays out the renewable energy rebate programs and Table 3 lists that ARRA funded programs. One of the ARRA funded projects is the Residential Wood Pellet Rebate Program. This program has been administered by Barbara Bernstein and Laura Richardson. The program began slowly but through a lot of hard work and dedication the program is now meeting its goals.
  - Table 4 includes a column regarding the amount leveraged by the REF grants and rebates. The amount is over \$15 million. The investment of these funds promotes

economic development and has provided work for many alternative energy businesses, electricians and plumbers.

- Regarding the Commercial & Industrial competitive grant program, the Commission awarded 5 grants totaling close to \$1 million for various renewable energy projects. The grants have been approved by the Executive Council.
- The REF is in compliance with HB1270 which requires the Commission to reasonably balance the REF funds between the residential and non-residential sectors.
- On November 1 we delivered the RPS report to the Legislature. The report is available on the website at <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Sustainable%20Energy/SustainableEnergy.htm> We will be presenting the report to the Legislature in January 2012. The RGGI annual report was also filed at the same time.

### **SBC Report – Tom Frantz**

- The systems benefits charge is a charge that is assessed on all electric customer of the four major electric utilities; PSNH, Until, National Grid and NH Electric Cooperative. This assessment funds public benefits related to electricity. The funds collected are divided between energy efficiency and low income assistance programs.
- By statute, the PUC must provide a report on the systems benefits charge to the Legislative Oversight Committee by October 1.
- Back in the late 1980's the state's electric utilities began to administer demand side management (energy efficiency) programs. Programs varied, however, and the budgets were different amongst the utilities. Electric Restructuring changed this by creating a set of programs that are the same across the state no matter where a customer lives. All of this is funded through the systems benefits charge. The CORE program was developed in order to decrease market barriers for energy efficiency.
- As with the REF programs, the SBC is divided between programs for residential as well as Commercial and Industrial customers.
- The PUC monitors and evaluates the CORE programs. The funding, as with REF, varies yearly but is generally in the range of \$18 to \$20 million.

A brief discussion ensued.

### **9. Municipal Energy Working Group – Eric Steltzer**

- Even though there hasn't been discussion recently regarding the status of this group, the two groups continue to meet on a regular basis. The Local Energy Working Group meets every other month, with four teams meeting in alternate months. Discussions currently include planning for the Local Energy Solutions Conference, scheduled for March 31.

### **10. Outreach and Education – Mary Downes**

- The group's next meeting is Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at OEP's new offices in Johnson Hall. They are working at re-grouping and looking to Vermont for what they have done with Outreach and Education.

- Group is seeking another co-chair, as Beth Fischer is stepping down as co-chair of the committee.

The next meeting will be December 9, 2011 at the PUC Offices. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.