

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

**Minutes for May 15, 2015**

### Attendees:

**Board members:** Kate Peters (Eversource, Chair); Becky Ohler (NHDES); Theresa Swanick (NHMA); Karen Rantamki (DAS); Carmen Lorentz (NH DRED); Karen Cramton (PUC); Carol Woods (NHEC); Ben Frost (NHHFA); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Tom Palma (Unitil); Matt Labonte (NHFM); Laura Richardson (The Jordan Institute); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Kate Epsen (NHSEA); Rick Minard (NH OEP)

**Guests:** Steve Eckberg (PUC); Sheridith Cayes (PUC); Clay Mitchell (Revolution Energy); Chris Skoglund (NHDES); Mike Fitzgerald (NHDES); Mike Licata (Liberty Utilities); Matthew Labonte (SFMO); Mike Licata (Liberty Utilities); Scott Albert (GDS); Matt Leahy (Forest Society); Rep. Bob Backus (NH House)

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Meeting started at 9:10 am

### 2. Legislative Updates:

- HB 211 – Eversource divestment and cost of recovery for scrubber
  - House has scheduled a continuing education session in the House Chamber. It will be open to the public. Possibly Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- HB 208 – RGGI – amendments would remove dollar threshold and refund costs to C&I and retain the Residential – 30% to low income and the remainder to municipal programs. Bill to be exact'd next Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.
- HB 288 – legislation bill to make energy codes optional - a sub-committee recommended that the bill be ITL'd and now needs to go back to full committee.
- HB 460 – establishing a commission to study revenue alternatives to the road toll for electric-powered and hybrid vehicles for the funding of improvements to the state's highways and bridges. Committee formed and commission forming is underway.
- HB 205 – C-PACE to be signed next week and The Jordan Institute to move to get the program up and running soon.
- Amendment reads that implementation of an EERS is adopted then the Senate will have a vote on it. Amendment was tabled.
- Senate has restored REF funding in their version of the budget.
  - Amendment \$488,000/yr from REF for SEC work

### 3. EERS Presentation by ACEEE:

- Presentation is online on Oversight Committee of Electric Restructuring committee as is the Q&A.
- Observed that EERS is single most important measure to advance all cost effect energy efficiency.
- Questions regarding how to finance the EERS – public vs. private.
- Questions arose regarding framing
  - Discussion of how to discuss bills vs. rates
    - Simply buying a resource that is cheaper than supplying electric.
    - Buying down demand and at a price ¼ to 1/3 the cost of supplying electricity.
    - If non-participants increase rates then participants reduce rates.
    - Rates may not go down in absolute terms but under an EERS they may rise at a lower level.
- Presentation supported utility positions
  - Need to address decoupling

- Need to address performance incentives
- Need to address fixed cost recovery
- Noted survey findings that customers overwhelmingly supported this (likely national)

***Follow-up Discussion -***

- Potential for EESE Board to weigh in on the EERS is the most important work for the board over the next several months
  - Potential project for EESE board could be to talk about messaging on this issue.
  - Broaden the understanding of the issue to support its adoption and implementation
    - Educate the Local Energy Committees/Commissions and use the LECs to share that information with their public.
    - Chambers of Commerce.
    - Regional Planning Commissions
    - Business and Industry Association (BIA)
    - Small Business Center
  - Survey Center at UNH may be a means to get NH specific information and data for a small cost.
    - Center provides support in developing questions.
    - Can be done over email, door to door and phone calls.

**4. Agency Updates:**

- **PUC Updates**
  - Opened an Adjudicative Docket DE15-137 - EERS.
    - Pre-hearing at PUC on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
    - Adjudicative docket to establish the EERS.
    - If want to be an intervener, need to file by May 20<sup>th</sup>.
    - Comments can be made by non-interveners.
      - Submit comments addressed to Deborah Howland.
  - Rebate programs moving forward. Applications are up – programs are at the same point this year as in September of last year.
  - Solar City is moving into NH. CESA has developed an overview for residents to help them understand loans, PPAs and other renewable finance options.
- **OEP Updates**
  - Analysis of rebates shows where most installations are occurring, most rebates per capita and it in small towns that are not necessarily the wealthiest.

**5. Utility Updates**

- Utilities discussed how they are buying down the interest rate on energy efficiency loans. Loans are unsecured and must be used for approved measures.

6. **Next month** – presentation on Decoupling by the Regulatory Assistance Project.

7. Adjourned to go to EERS sub-committee meeting.