

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

## Minutes for April 17, 2020

### Attendees:

Board Members: Donald Perrin (DAS); Madeleine Mineau (Clean Energy NH); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Becky Ohler (DES); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC); Karen Cramton (PUC); Kate Peters (Eversource); Matthew Mailloux (OSI); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Marc Prindiville (State Fire Marshal's Office); Tonia Chase (Business Industry Association); Representative Bob Backus (NH House); Ryan Clouthier (SNHS); Jack Ruderman for Ben Frost (NH Housing Authority); Michael Behrmann (Revolution Energy); Scott Maslansky (CDFA).

Others: Kate Epsen (ISO-NE); Christa Shute (OCA); Chris Skoglund (DES); Brianna Brand (Clean Energy NH); Henry Herndon (Clean Energy NH); Melissa Elander (Clean Energy NH); Megan Ulin (ReVision Energy); Eric Wind (PUC); Tanya Wayland (PUC); Liz Nixon (PUC); Jason Morse (PUC); Gary Cronin (PUC) Azanna Wishart (PUC); Dick Energy (Hot Zero) Representative Lee Oxenham (NH House); Representative George Saunderson (NH House); Representative Michael Vose (NH House); Representative Ken Wells (NH House); Joel Anderson (NH Legislature); Patricia Martin; Kathy Fox; Kelly Buchanan; Linda Coleman; Nathan Lado.

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- Madeleine Mineau called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
- This is the first virtual meeting of the EESE Board. All voting and non-voting board members are invited panelists through WebEx. Guests are participating in the meeting as WebEx participants. If guests have questions, please use the Q&A feature or Chat.

### 2. Approval of the February 21, 2020 EESE Board Meeting Minutes

- Matt Mailloux moved. Becky Ohler seconded.
- Approval of the February 21, 2020 minutes. All in favor with one abstention.

3. Regional and New Hampshire Update from ISO-NE presented by Kate Epsen. The presentation is available on the EESE Board webpage under the April 17, 2020 meeting.

- An overview of ISO-NE roles and responsibilities was given for those not familiar with ISO-NE.
- Mild weather in March and the Covid-19 pandemic reduced demand in the region by 3-5%
- The New England wholesale electricity markets were discussed.
- A question was asked regarding the multiple daily revisions of the demand forecast shown on the ISO-NE application and website. The revised forecasting makes the forecast appear more accurate than it truly is; why?. Answer: The forecast line shown on the ISO app and website is based on a 24-hour-cycle model for the day-ahead market, that is then modified as new data is collected throughout the actual forecast day. Forecasting models are adjusting themselves to new load curves attributed to changes due to COVID-19, stay at home orders, etc.
- Power system generation resources have shifted dramatically from nuclear, oil, and coal to natural gas and increasingly, renewables.
- The Forward Capacity Auction held on February 3, 2020 concluded with the lowest clearing price in the auction's history at \$2.00 per kW-month. Prior to the auction, ISO-NE retained two units, Mystic Generating Stations 8 & 9, which were part of the auction and needed for fuel security.
- Question: Why do ratepayers pay 9 cents per kWh for energy if the cost is 1 cent on the wholesale market. Answer: The New England wholesale electric costs vary based on time of day (i.e., demand) and clearing prices. This wholesale LMP for energy in the market is not what ratepayers pay. The retail price for energy includes several components including energy, capacity costs, distribution charges, and regional transmission costs, which include ISO-NE services.
- There was a discussion about the 2019 capacity market costs being a product of the auction in 2016. There may have been many retirements in that year so the clearing price was much higher. However, those costs will not be seen [on the bill] until three years into the future. It depends on the number of generators participating in the auction, the internal costs for those resources, the Installed Capacity Requirement, and other factors.
- Energy-efficiency and distributed renewable energy are on an upward trend in New England.
- The total nameplate capacity for solar PV is forecasted to be 290.3 MW (AC) in 2029 in New Hampshire.
- The ISO-NE load forecast now includes new forms of electrification in the ten-year forecasts; including air-source heat pumps and light duty electric vehicles. A member asked if ISO-NE makes assumptions about load management regarding electric vehicles. Do they take into account the time of day that the charging would take place? The

forecast model uses actual data from charging companies, and has a time-component to the methodology, especially seasonal differences in charging.

- ISO-NE issued its first competitive RFP for transmission solutions issued under FERC Order 1000. Eight sponsors submitted 36 proposals. Final selection is scheduled for the summer of 2021.
- A member asked if there is a future for a seasonal capacity or reconfiguration market. There are very real seasonal fluctuations and there has been some discussion to do a future seasonal market. ISO-NE recently filed its energy security improvements with FERC. Improvements include a proposal to improve markets to help value day-ahead ancillary services and to shift to more variable/just-in-time energy resources.
- There was a discussion about New Hampshire and Maine increasing demand in terms of total energy load and peak demand, relative to the other states and New England.
- Kate Epsen will provide copies to the Board of the [new CELT report](#) being issued on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Kate Peters commented that Eversource has been working on a new Energy Efficiency forecast. In the next three-year plan, there will be some impact on the forecast due to Covid-19.

#### 4. Legislative Updates – Representative Backus

- **Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Court has suspended all legislative activities through May 4<sup>th</sup> with the exception of some remote committee meetings, notices for which will be published in the House or Senate Calendar.** The joint fiscal committee met one week ago. The House is looking at larger venues, like the Capital Center for the Arts, to enable in person sessions while allowing for social distancing.
- ST&E Democratic caucus met and agreed on priorities for this session. The bills with the highest priority are: the net metering bill, the RGGI bill that directs additional auction proceeds to energy efficiency, and the bill to expand broadband access to underserved areas.
- The House would like to find a way to expand broadband capabilities, which is a priority at this time.

#### 5. Work Group, Board and Program Updates:

- EERS Committee Update – Don Kreis
  - The next EERS Committee meeting will be held on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. via WebEx. The Committee met on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The primary topic was Covid-19 and its impact on getting Commission approval on the next Triennium plan, which is due on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Is it still feasible? The Program Managers (utilities) completed the first draft plan for review and comment.

- Deployment of energy efficiency measures has essentially ceased. Contractors cannot go into homes due to social distancing.
  - Energy efficiency is a key part to jump-starting the New Hampshire economy in a way that will be conducive to the economic development and prosperity that New Hampshire residents deserve.
- PUC – Karen Cramton
    - Most commission staff are working remotely. The Commission held the first virtual hearing with success. During the state of emergency, all docket materials may be filed electronically with paper copies submitted at a future time.
    - In anticipation of the July 1<sup>st</sup> due date, the E-2500 RPS Annual Compliance form is posted on the PUC webpage for suppliers of electricity to use for filing.
    - The Commission issued Order No. 26,349 with a permanent change to the Residential Solar Rebate Program. Beginning April 29, 2020, all applicants must register as a vendor with the State of New Hampshire. Registering as a vendor with the state eliminates the need for the applicant to provide their social security number on the rebate application. The revision also allows for more efficient processing of payments by the Business Office. During the state of emergency, applications may be submitted electronically with paper copies submitted later.
    - The Commission issued Order No. 26,336 for the C&I Solar Rebate Program. It extended the deadline to submit applications for the lottery to April 24<sup>th</sup>. The lottery will be held on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - There have been no changes to the Pellet Rebate Program.
    - The statewide multi-use data platform working group is meeting today at 10:00 a.m.
    - The Low-Moderate Income (LMI) and Non-residential (C&I) competitive RFPs are closed and Staff are working on contracts for Governor and Executive Council approval this fiscal year.
    - The Commission issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) from qualified consultants to perform a study to assess the relative benefits and costs of net-metered distributed energy resources (DER) from the perspectives of the utility system, customer-generators participating in net energy metering, and other electric utility ratepayers. The study will consider the net value from load reduction due to net-metered distributed generation within New Hampshire's three regulated electric distribution utility service territories. The results of the study, which will assess the value of distributed energy resources (VDER), are intended to inform future net energy metering tariff development proceedings before the Commission. The question period deadline is today. Responses are posted on the PUC RFP webpage.
    - The Locational Value of Distributed Energy Resources Study is ongoing with the consultant, Navigant. They are working on study scope steps 2 and 3, and have selected locations to be studied in detail. There are sixteen locations across all three utilities. There will be a working group session scheduled in May.

- Utility rate cases are ongoing.
- OSI – Matt Mailloux
  - Fuel assistance (LIHEAP) and weatherization assistance programs still have funding available and the application deadlines have been extended.
  - One of the Governor’s executive orders provides shut-off protection for customers.
  - Ryan (SNHS) noted that the neighbor to Neighbor program is available to help individuals in need. Contact your local community action agency for assistance.
  - The EPA may issue a waiver for summer/winter gas blends.
  - OSI was notified that off-shore wind development in the Gulf of Maine has been put on hold for 6 months. The State-level offshore wind advisory board has put their announcement on hold.
  - VW Settlement Update - The RFP for EV fast charging is being revised and will be re-issued.
- DES – Becky Ohler
  - The Diesel Reduction Act RFP is open. There is \$300,000 for the replacement of older diesel equipment. The RFP is open until June 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a second round of funding available in September - October. If any you know of any communities that have a need or desire to replace old diesel equipment, please have them contact Becky.
  - DES meetings are canceled until they are able to hold virtual meetings.
  - The Air Monitoring division is seeing a significant drop in air pollution due to less cars on the road during this state of emergency.
  - New Hampshire is no longer participating in the Transportation Carbon Initiative (TCI).
- Kate Peters - Eversource
  - NHSaves is taking a number of actions to modify programs due to the Covid-19 situation. They are trying virtual home energy audits. They are also working with partner utilities in four states (Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut) to offer trainings to furloughed contractors.
- Madeleine Mineau – Clean Energy NH
  - The clean tech job report was just released. It looks at long-term clean tech job trends, but does not take into account the recent state of emergency. The report is available for download on the CENH website.
  - New England Rate Payers Association (NERA) filed a petition with FERC in a nationwide effort to assert jurisdiction over net metering and preempt state control. See FERC docket EL20-42.
- Bruce Clendenning – The Nature Conservancy

- The TNC national office has sent a letter to Congress suggesting projects and programs to be funded with stimulus package funds. In New Hampshire, TNC is working with a delegation of NGO partners to develop recommendations that could utilize stimulus funds to promote jobs in clean energy.
- Ryan Clouthier (SNHS)
  - The fuel assistance program has been extended to May 29<sup>th</sup>. There are no disconnects occurring. Through a grant from Unitil, any customers that have a past due balance but does not qualify for fuel assistance, may be able to get help through this grant.
- EM&V Working Group Update – Christa Shute
  - The working group is coming into the final stretch for many reports.
  - Progress on the potential study on the commercial side has been impacted by the Covid-19 state of emergency. A number of surveys and site visits were only partially complete when the stay at home order was issued. The residential report is moving forward.
  - The working group is beginning to discuss and draft the technical reference manual.
  - The working group is in the midst of discussing the future evaluation plan.

6. The next EESE Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will most likely be virtual, WebEx format. If you have feedback on how today's meeting went, please contact Madeleine Mineau or Karen Cramton.

Currently, a speaker is not confirmed for the next meeting. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact Madeleine.

7. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.