



Energy Efficiency Board Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, November 9, 2016, 1:00 – 3:30 PM

10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT

MINUTES¹

In Attendance

Voting Board Members: Taren O'Connor (Chair), Bill Dornbos (Vice-Chair, phone), Adrienne Houel, Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Neil Beup, Diane Duva, Mike Wertheimer, Jack Traver, Ravi Gorthala (phone), Eric Brown (phone)

Utility Board Members: Pat McDonnell, Ron Araujo, Chris Plecs

Board Members not in Attendance: Chris Ehlert, Will Redden

Board Consultants: Jeff Schlegel, George Lawrence, Craig Diamond, Glenn Reed (phone)

Others: Sharron Emmons, Enoch Lenge, Pam Penna Verrillo, Marissa Westbrook, Anthony Clark, Matt Macunas, Walter McCree, Laura Kohl, Leticia Colon, Ed Schmidt, Brian Buckley (phone)

Process

Minutes

The Board considered whether to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2016 Board meeting. Ms. Fargo-Johnson moved to approve, Mr. Traver 2nd. All present voted to approve, except Mr. Wertheimer who abstained because he did not attend the October meeting. **October 13, 2016 EEB minutes approved.**

Public Comments

Ed Schmidt, MCR Performance Solutions – Mr. Schmidt said that his firm provided management consulting services, and described a service provided by his organization called the Public Agency Partnership. He said the Public Agency Partnership offers “concierge” services for specific customer sub-sectors. He said there were underserved niche markets that could benefit from the Public Agency Partnership approach. He requested that the Board have a presentation at future meeting on this potential approach for CT’s programs.

DEEP Personnel Update

Ms. Duva noted that Katie Dykes had been appointed to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), and had left the Deputy Commissioner role at DEEP. Ms. Duva said that there were no other changes at DEEP to report at this time.

¹ Meeting materials are available in Box.com: <https://app.box.com/s/0kewj2x57mct52mcdacbh6gook2jy3g1>

2017 Consultant Workplans

Ms. O'Connor said that the draft Consultant workplans would probably be covered in the December 2016 meeting and then voted on at the January 2017 meeting.

Executive Secretary's Report

Mr. Diamond reviewed the 2017 EEB and Committee meeting calendar. A question was raised about whether an additional Board meeting should be scheduled in January or February to discuss and/or approve the second part of the 2017 Plan Update (savings and goals). It was agreed that the Companies would propose a meeting schedule/approach to Mr. Diamond for January and February 2017.

Program Updates/Highlights

Update on Multi-Family Programs

Ms. Westbrook and Mr. Lenge provided a presentation. Ms. Westbrook also noted that regarding multi-family programs, the Companies were collaborating with the CT Green Bank to offer more seamless services to customers, whether the customers approach the utilities or the Green Bank. Ms. Duva asked about the role of benchmarking in the programs. Ms. Westbrook said that the Companies do have resources for benchmarking. Mr. Beup asked about how customers enter into the programs, i.e., how do customers know which vendors to use? Mr. Lenge said that there are multiple avenues by which customers can enter into the programs. Ms. O'Connor asked that the Companies to provide program and customer costs, and customer benefits, of the multi-family programs.

Programs and Planning

Financial and Program Quarterly Report

Mr. Plecs briefly reviewed the dashboard for Eversource as of September 30. He and Mr. Araujo then provided a presentation on financial results and program highlights for Eversource. Mr. Plecs said the higher HES co-pay has had some downward impact, but it did not appear to be having a significant negative impact on demand. Mr. McDonnell then provided a presentation for UIL. He said the overall forecast was about on target for the Residential programs and about 90% of goal for the C&I programs. He also mentioned that the co-pay increase had not yet had a significant negative impact. He said that many SCG program budgets were constrained, but that was not the case for CNG.

Update on P.A. 15-107 RFP for Clean Energy

Ms. Duva noted that one of the proposals for clean energy involved three states (CT, MA, RI), and said that was included on the DEEP website. She said that the organizations who submitted proposals still needed to negotiate their contracts, and then the awards would be announced publicly.

2017 Plan Update

Mr. Schlegel noted that the Companies had filed the 2017 Plan Update on October 31. Ms. Duva noted that public comments on the 2017 Plan Update could be submitted to DEEP by November 14.

Demand Resources

Mr. Schlegel noted the DEEP public meeting on demand resources that was held on October 27. Mr. Schlegel provided a presentation that provided some key points regarding next steps on demand resources. He said that the ISO's forecast for overall energy use and peak demand has been too high. He said that actual energy use and peak demand has been flat or declining in recent years. Mr. Schlegel recommended that sometime within the coming months the Board and DEEP should discuss options for how to increase the value of demand resources by reducing costs for the state of CT. He discussed four potential approaches to reduce costs. Mr. Traver asked why the ISO had been concluding that peak demand had not been decreasing. Mr. Schlegel said the reason was that peak demand usage was growing (i.e., from air conditioning) while overall energy use was going down (e.g., efficient lighting, which reduces demand for most of the day).

Update on Small Business Loan Approach

Mr. Plecs provided a brief update. He said that an RFP was being developed for financial institutions to provide lower cost capital. He said that the RFP would be issued by the CT Green Bank next week, and noted that the topic would be on the agenda for the Board meeting in December.

Other

Mr. Traver asked if there were any updates on the C-PACE grants. Mr. Clark said that the application window had closed on November 4. Mr. Clark said that several more applications had been received.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.