



EEB Residential Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 2019, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT (Hearing Room 2)

MINUTES¹

In Attendance

Voting Committee Members: Amy McLean (Committee Chair), Michael Li

Utility Committee Members: Diane Del Rosso, Ron Araujo, Larry Rush, Jerry Graham, Tammy Wilson (phone)

Board Consultants: Richard Faesy, Craig Diamond

Others: Linda Foreman, Leticia Colon, John Greeno, John Figlewski, Guy West, Emily Basham, Steve Cowell, Selya Price, Patrice Gillespie (phone), Mark Foley (phone), Donna Wells (phone), Joe Roy (phone)

Public Input/Comments

Steve Cowell - he said that E For The Future's survey of the energy efficiency industry in CT would be starting soon. He said it would be conducted by Acadia Research, who would interview about 40 contractors in CT involved in HES and HES-IE. He said that a report would be coming out soon that would cover issues with New York state energy efficiency contractors. Mr. Cowell also said that E For The Future would be kicking off a large-scale analysis of heat pumps, conducted by Cadmus Group, looking at installation and performance data in New York and Massachusetts. Mr. Cowell said they had also conducted a study of heat pumps and electric vehicles, and how that would impact the ISO New England grid. Leticia Colon - she said that CTAC discussions and issues needed to be better represented and discussed at the Residential Committee. She said that HES vendors had significant labor gaps as a result of the past budget raid. She said that the EEB should better support state efforts to recruit and train workers for HES vendors.

Approval of January 8, 2020 Residential Committee meeting minutes

Mr. Li and Ms. McLean both voted to approve the minutes. **1/8/20 minutes approved.**

2020 Plan Approval Update and conditions

Mr. Faesy provided a presentation summarizing DEEP's 24 conditions of approval of the 2020 Update to the 2019-2021 C&LM Plan. Regarding Condition 12, Mr. Li clarified that "devices" referred mostly to thermostats, and mostly applied to residential, but he said it also applied to small business. Mr. Araujo said that some of the items could be difficult to deliver by the requested due dates. Ms. Wells noted that the Companies could request extensions to some of the Condition responses, if needed. Regarding DEEP's decision to reduce the HES co-pay to \$75

¹ Meeting materials available in Box.com: <https://app.box.com/s/f2h3mf80bowjpjgh6ks3xpe60kgzilbpg>

for all fuels, Mr. Araujo said he appreciated DEEP's quick decision on the issue. Mr. Araujo also noted that the Companies had communicated the decision to HES vendors.

2019 Final Year-End Budget & Savings Numbers

Mr. Araujo and Mr. Rush provided presentations. Mr. Araujo noted that much of the material in his presentation had been presented at the EEB meeting earlier in the week. Mr. Cowell asked why the Behavior Program had been ended. Mr. Araujo said that they had been seeing a deterioration in savings from the program. He said they were exploring options to replace the Behavior program with another program that engages customers. Mr. Rush presented for UI. Mr. West asked about the Residential Behavior program expenditures and savings for UI. Mr. Rush said he would get back to Mr. West with answers to his questions. Mr. Rush said he would also find out about the Behavior program for CNG (only 19% spent, but over 100% savings). Mr. Araujo and Mr. Rush provided a presentation on the Multi-Family program.

Company Updates

- Reduced HES Co-Pay Limited Time Offer (DEEP Grant) - It was noted that an update on this topic had been covered in an earlier presentation at this meeting.
- Heat Pump Pilot status - Mr. Araujo said that Eversource had received only one application to date. Mr. Rush said that UI had received no applications to date.

Green Bank Residential Solar Investment Program (RSIP) Update

Ms. Basham and Ms. Price from the CT Green Bank provided a presentation. Ms. Basham noted that incentives had decreased over time, from about 35% of project costs in 2012 to about 7% of project costs in 2019. She noted that decreasing incentives were part of the RSIP legislation. She said that once the RSIP program ends, the Green Bank would no longer be requiring energy efficiency audits. She said this would impact HES participation. She encouraged DEEP and other stakeholders to explore alternatives to linking solar installations to HES. Ms. McLean asked if there were other incentive mechanisms for residential solar at the Green Bank. Ms. Basham said no, although she said that net metering would remain an incentive for solar. Mr. Li noted that the direction of solar would be significantly impacted by PURA's Equitable Grid Modernization Docket.

Update on PURA Equitable Grid Modernization Docket

Mr. Faesy provided a presentation. Ms. Del Rosso said that Eversource would do two additional outreach events than was required by PURA. Ms. McLean asked how outreach events were being advertised. Mr. Araujo said that there were multiple channels for announcing events. Mr. West said that a contractor should be hired to focus on outreach for these events, because the CAP agencies were understaffed. Ms. McLean said that more effort was needed for outreach for these events. She asked for a report from the Companies about better ways to do outreach. Ms. Wilson noted that there had been 30 attendees at the outreach meeting in Hartford the previous evening. Mr. Rush said he would be attending two of the upcoming meetings. Ms. McLean suggested that feedback should be sought from attendees to see how to make the meetings as effective as possible. Ms. Colon said that the Governor's Council on Climate Change now required equity as part of its platform. She said that part of that equity approach is outreach to distressed communities. Ms. Colon said she would be doing that outreach. She suggested that HES-IE contractors could be involved in outreach to distressed communities. Ms.

McLean suggested more collaboration was needed to maximize the impact of limited resources available to address low-moderate income customers. There was some discussion about the arrearage program in Massachusetts, and whether that program could that be applied in CT. Mr. Faesy noted the “100 Day Sprint” activities had been announced this week.

CTAC update

Ms. Foreman provided an update. She said that the HES contractor survey was discussed (the survey noted by Mr. Cowell earlier in the meeting) at the last meeting. She said the next CTAC meeting would be on Feb. 29.

Agenda Items for Future Residential Committee meetings

- Strategies to engage community based organizations in Education and Outreach. This was not discussed at the meeting due to time constraints.
- Multi-Family Buildings. This was not discussed at the meeting due to time constraints.

It was noted that the March 1 filing budget/program changes would be added as agenda item for the March Residential Committee meeting. Mr. Cowell recommended that there be a presentation on the CT contractor survey results at the March or April Residential Committee meeting.

Ms. Colon commented regarding the RSIP program. She noted that the Green Bank had been involved with energy efficiency outreach as part of their outreach. She said she would like to have a discussion at the Joint Committee and the EEB about the Green Bank adding to its mission that all customers should have the opportunity to do an energy efficiency assessment as part of a solar program. She said it was important that customers be educated on the benefits of energy efficiency. Ms. Price noted that currently the Green Bank was not able to leverage energy efficiency after RSIP ends. Mr. Li asked if the Green Bank should look at other programs that could incentivize energy efficiency. Ms. McLean suggested that this issue should be discussed further at future meetings.

The meeting adjourned 12:12 pm.