



## Energy Efficiency Board Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, June 11, 2014, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection – Public Utilities Regulatory Authority  
10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT / Hearing Room 1

### MINUTES\*

#### In Attendance

Voting Board Members: Jamie Howland (Chair), Amy Thompson, Michael Wertheimer, Elin Katz, Diane Duva, Shirley Bergert, Joel Gordes, Eric Brown.

Utility Board Members: Pat McDonnell, Ron Araujo.

Board Members not in Attendance: Neil Beup, Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Michael Cassella, Chris Ehlert.

Board Consultants: Jeff Schlegel, Les Tumidaj, Glenn Reed, Craig Diamond, Chris Kramer (phone).

Others: Tracy Babbidge, Vicky Hackett, Matt Gibbs, Marissa Westbrook, Pam Penna, Theresa Lavoie, Tim Maurer, Mark O'Hearne, Max Kothari, Eric Gribbin (phone).

Jamie Howland called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

#### 1. Process

##### Minutes from May 14, 2014 Board Meeting

The Board considered whether to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2014 EEB meeting. Joel Gordes suggested changes to page 3, which were incorporated into the minutes. Amy Thompson moved to approve, Mr. Gordes 2nd. All who were present voted to approve, except Elin Katz who abstained. Shirley Bergert was not present for the vote. Minutes approved.

##### Public Comments

- Tim Maurer, Nxegen. Mr. Maurer provided comments on winter peak issues. He said that his company helps clients manage system peak issues. He recommended that the trade allies should support peak management efforts.
- Max Kothari, Star Hardware, Farmington Hills, CT. Mr. Kothari provided background on Star Hardware's situation (for details, see letter found in Box.net folder). He said that

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\* Meeting materials can be found in Box.net: <https://app.box.com/s/47w7ps94s185orddl92k>

he is owed \$322,000, and his installer is owed \$100,000. Pat McDonnell provided his understanding of the situation, namely that the property in question is multi-family; that a rebate was offered for insulation up to 100% of the cost, plus window insulation; that the property changed hands some time last year; and that the incentives available to the new property owner are the same as what was available to the previous owner. Jamie Howland requested a written response from UI that should be submitted to the Board. Ms. Bergert asked some clarifying questions. She suggested that Mr. Kothari look into a mechanics lien and that he engage an attorney. Mr. Kothari said that he did file a lien on the property. Mr. Howland asked that UI and Star Hardware try to resolve the issue within one month. He said that if they were unable to do so, the issue would likely be moved into a formal dispute resolution process.

### Consultant Committee

The Board discussed whether the Board Chair or Vice Chair could authorize the Executive Secretary to attend public events. Mr. Howland explained that the intent is that the Executive Secretary would provide information on the Board at public events, but would not represent the Board's position on issues unless those issues had been voted on and approved by the Board. Ms. Bergert said she supported that suggestion. Michael Wertheimer said that the Chair or Vice Chair authorization would need to have some clear boundaries and limiting criteria. Elin Katz agreed. Mr. Howland suggested that the Executive Secretary could engage in these types of activities no more than 5 hours per month. *Motion: The Chair and Vice Chair of the EEB are authorized, as appropriate, to assign the Executive Secretary to attend non policy-setting public events on behalf of the EEB for up to 5 hours per month. The Executive Secretary's role will be ceremonial in nature and the Executive Secretary will not be authorized to take action to bind the EEB or represent the positions of the EEB except those positions formally adopted by the EEB.* Ms. Duva moved, Ms. Bergert 2nd. All voted in favor. Motion passed.

### Retreat Agenda and Topics

The Board reviewed and briefly discussed a draft agenda for the June 25, 2014 Board retreat. Eric Brown suggested that in order to avoid the topics being in silos, the agenda might be organized by themes, e.g., customer focus, etc. Ms. Katz said that Vicky Hackett would be attending the retreat on behalf of the Office of Consumer Counsel. Jeff Schlegel commented that the Board needs to develop retreat agendas more in advance.

## **2. Committee Reports**

### Commercial & Industrial

Les Tumidaj said that at its most recent meeting the C&I Committee received a very good update on CT's Lead-by-Example / Energy Savings Performance Contracting program. He said that the Committee also received an update on market research issues. Mr. Tumidaj provided an overview of the Customized Solutions Partnership proposal, including the process for developing it. He thanked the Companies and the Connecticut Industrial

Energy Consumers association for doing very good work in developing the proposal. Ms. Duva and Ms. Thompson also complimented the process.

#### Residential

Ms. Bergert provided the Residential Committee update. She said that Annie Harper at Yale was working with DEEP on a study on health and safety barriers to EE retrofits. In regard to the OBR Phase I program, she said that PURA had included many questions (including a question about disconnection) in its response to the joint EEB/CEFIA filing, and that the EEB needs to participate in the response. Ms. Bergert provided some suggestions for language that could be included in the response to PURA. Chris Kramer then provided an update by phone on the recent OBR report published by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He said the report included a section on disconnection, which found no causative association between shut-off provisions and default rates. The report said that this is the best information available at this time on the relationship between shut-off and loan performance, and that it is difficult to reach conclusions yet due to limited data and the newness of OBR programs across the country. Mr. Kramer said that in regard to the CEFIA/EEB joint response to PURA, EEB's and CEFIA's responses on disconnection will need to be separate since the EEB and CEFIA are in disagreement about disconnection.

#### Marketing

No update was provided.

#### Evaluation

Ms. Thompson provided an overview of the Roadmap update process, and said that the proposed Roadmap revisions would be brought to the Board for its consideration, possibly at the July meeting, once the draft revisions were completed. Ms. Thompson also provided a brief summary of some of the key evaluation studies that were in process or had recently been completed.

#### EEB/CEFIA

No update was provided.

### **3. Programs and Planning**

#### Financial and Dashboard Updates (including 2014 HES-IE and HES spending shortfalls)

- Pat McDonnell provided an update for UIL. On the Residential side, for HES-IE, 97% has been spent to date for UI, and over 100% for SCG. He said that no new audits have been scheduled after June 15, at which time they will re-assess the budget. Mr. McDonnell said that both UI and SCG would make it to Thanksgiving with the HES budget. In regard to C&I, he said that they are behind in spending, but that the budget will probably be spent in full by the end of the year based on their current commitments.
- Ron Araujo provided an update for CL&P. On the Residential side, they will probably spend 105% with the HES budget by the end of the year. For HES-IE, they are expecting

to be around 98% by the end of year, but it might also go to 105% to address winter peak issues. For gas, HES-IE will be at about 107% by the end of the year. In regard to C&I, Mr. Araujo said they are expecting to be on target for spending, with the exception of the Sustainable Business program, which is expected at the end of the year to be about 70% for electric and about 30% for gas. Their Small Business Energy Advantage program is expected to be about 110% spent at the end of the year.

#### Winter Energy Issues

- Summary of the issues. CL&P and UI provided a brief presentation entitled Winter Peak Energy Efficiency Planning. It provided an overview of winter peak issues, actions to mitigate winter peak issues, and residential and C&I program enhancements to address the issues.
- Opportunities for energy efficiency programs to mitigate winter energy issues. Jeff Schlegel provided an overview of the types of actions the utilities could take to address winter peak issues. Vicky Hackett asked what the role of marketing should be. Mr. Araujo said it could involve extending deadlines for rebates. Mr. Schlegel said that it might put more focus on outdoor lighting, which can be very effective at reducing winter peak demand; the availability of LEDs will make outdoor lighting a very good solution. Mr. Howland asked what the next steps should be to address winter peak issues. Mr. Schlegel said that it is important to focus on energy efficiency measures for residential and C&I customers who are not on standard service. Ms. Bergert asked about the impacts of winter peak issues on customers. A representative of Northeast Utilities said that prices peaked up to about 22 cents in Jan/Feb last year, whereas prices have been closer to 8 cents in warm months. He said this would be a 3 year problem. Ms. Bergert said that we need to communicate to key stakeholders, very plainly, what price spikes mean for their businesses and homes. Mr. Schlegel said he would work on that.

PURA final approval of the Conservation Adjustment Mechanism (CAM) and the EE program funding level. This issue was not address at the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm.