



Energy Efficiency Board Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 1:00 – 3:30 PM
10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT (Hearing Room 1)

MINUTES¹

In Attendance

Voting Board Members: Bill Dornbos (EEB Vice-Chair), Adrienne Houel, Neil Beup, Diane Duva, Mike Wertheimer, Jack Traver, Amanda Fargo-Johnson (phone)

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

Board Members Not in Attendance: Taren O'Connor, Eric Brown, Ravi Gorthala, Roddy Diotalevi

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

Others: Guy West, Steve Bruno, Diane Del Rosso, Will Riddle, Jane Lano, Leticia Colon, Lorenzo White, Sean Condon, Pam Penna Verrillo, Walter McCree, Tom Hernandez, Anthony Clark (phone), Joe Roy (phone), Mark Thompson (phone)

Process

Minutes

The Board considered whether to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2018 Board meeting. Mr. Traver moved to approve. Ms., Houel 2nd. All present voted to approve, except Mr. Wertheimer who abstained. **March 14, 2018 minutes approved.**

Public Comments

Leticia Colon, Efficiency for All – Regarding the HES co-pay, she said the co-pay should be \$33 higher for electric and gas heat customers, and that the oil homes co-pay should be raised one time this September. She said the co-pay should be rebatable if the customer selects insulation. She proposed that Efficiency for All should have a seat on the EEB and be able to present to the Board. Allen Wiernasz, Fireye – He said Fireye produces a boiler controller to reduce unneeded boiler firing. He said that Fireye has spent four years trying to get the technology approved at the Policy Working Group (PWG). He said he would like to personally interface with the PWG, rather than continue an email only exchange. He said the PWG had categorized the boiler controller technology as an “energy reducer” which is not correct. He said that other utilities had approved the technology.

June elections of EEB Chair and Vice-Chair

¹ Meeting materials available in Box.com: <https://app.box.com/s/mzjlegf66evp8iptt27ui8n1827re0ad>

Mr. Dornbos noted that the EEB Chair and Vice-Chair positions were up for election at the June 2018 Board meeting. He invited other Board members to consider the position.

Programs and Planning

Quarterly financial report, including update on impact of reduced budget on C&LM programs

Mr. Bruno provided a presentation for Eversource. Mr. McDonnell provided a presentation for UIL. Mr. McDonnell said that UI would curtail the upstream Residential lighting program in June, and that the SBEA program would most likely be curtailed sometime in the summer.

DEEP Response to Revised 2018 Plan Update

Ms. Duva provided an overview. She said DEEP's decision included the following: over the period of the C&LM funds diversion, the Companies may serve customers heating with oil/propane with funds collected from charges on electric and gas bills, provided that the co-payments are differentiated and commensurate with relative contributions. This same information was provided at the morning's Residential Committee meeting.

HES Co-Pay Recommendation

Mr. Araujo discussed a presentation he provided to the Residential Committee in the morning. He said that contributions from oil customers are \$33 higher on average for oil heat customers. Eversource was recommending that the co-pay stay at \$149 for remainder of the year for electric and gas customers, and increase to \$174 effective June 1 for oil customers. He also proposed a \$0.20 per sq. foot insulation rebate for oil customers. He reviewed some other possible proposals for the co-pay, including a short-term special of \$99 until Sept 1 for electric and gas customers. Ms. Houel said she hoped that if RGGI funds become available again, that those funds would be available for all fuel customers. Ms. Duva said that as of now, that would not be the case once the diversion ends. She said the Board would need to discuss that when the diversion ends. Ms. Houel asked what would happen with the co-pay on Jan 1. That would be part of 3 year plan. Mr. Schlegel noted that the Board needed to act today or soon, ahead of when it would normally act on the co-pay, given the DEEP order. He said the Board needs to act on the co-pay and the insulation rebate. He noted that the Board was required to approve co-pay changes. Mr. Araujo said that vendors would prefer not to have more than one co-pay change in 2018. Mr. Traver asked about the level of the oil copay differentiation, for elaboration on the insulation rebate amount (current incentive is \$1.00 per sq. ft.), and why gas customers should potentially have a higher co-pay. Mr. Wertheimer asked what the consultants' recommendation was. Mr. Schlegel said the consultants did not have a specific recommendation on the co-pay to offer the board today. Mr. Traver said he supported the Companies' recommendations because they would avoid market confusion and not be a discount. Mr. Wertheimer said a \$99 co-pay was not good idea because of the very tight budget. Mr. McDonnell suggested that the Board should not vote on rebates. Mr. Schlegel suggested that the Board would not vote on the rebate but could provide a recommendation on the rebate. An e-vote was proposed. Ms. Duva said that the Board's vote on the co-pay would not require DEEP approval.

Update on Legislative Session

Mr. Dornbos said there was a small chance of C&LM funds restoration, although it could be RGGI funds only, and probably would not be for FY 2018. Mr. Plecs said that Eversource had received similar information. It was also noted that Senate Bill 9 had passed the legislature that morning.

Update on SBEA financing

Mr. Schlegel said the Companies and the Green Bank needed a new solution to address new loans and purchase existing loans. A new RFP was developed that addressed the needs of both Companies. Mr. Bruno provided a presentation on the new RFP. He said that Eversource wanted to pursue other opportunities to sell the existing portfolio. He noted that priorities for the new RFP were discussed prior to issuing the RFP. Mr. Bruno reviewed the RFP's selection criteria. He said there might be an initial recommendation at the June 13 EEB meeting, and potentially the Board would be asked to take action at the June meeting, and/or with an e-vote after June 13. He said final selection likely would be at the end of June. Mr. Traver asked if there was a possibility of two different awards (one for existing loans and one for new loans). Mr. Bruno said they would want one firm to do both.

2019-2021 C&LM Plan: Residential key issues

Mr. Reed provided a presentation. It was noted that reduced savings from lighting will significantly impact HES and HES-IE programs because those programs will become less cost-effective in the absence of lighting being a major component of the programs. Ms. Duva said the Board should consider other/new metrics for the programs.

Closing Public Comments

Ms. Colon said the HES co-pay proposal was discriminatory against oil/propane customers. She also said there was no seat at the table for contractors on the EEB. She said not having such a seat on the Board was discriminatory, and said that contractors should have an opportunity to provide input.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.