

Residential Ratepayers' Advisory Board
September 17, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Present for the Board:

Tom Moses, Vice Chair
Ryan Clouthier
Dana Nute
Kenneth Mailloux
Jim Garrity
Matt Kfoury
Rep. Herb Vadney

Present for the OCA:

D. Maurice Kreis
Pradip Chattopadhyay
James Brennan
Brian Buckley
Jamie Breen

Guest Speaker: Ray Burke, Project Director, Energy & Utility Justice Project from New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA)

Guest: Patricia Martin

Mr. Moses called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Introductions were made around the room.

1. Minutes of May 14, 2018 Meeting

Mr. Moses moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Mailloux seconded the motion. The Board members agreed unanimously.

2. Presentation by Ray Burke

Mr. Burke discussed his work as the leader of NHLA's Energy and Utility Justice Project. He noted that NHLA is a non-profit law firm with 35 employees consisting of attorneys, paralegals and support staff. NHLA has five offices throughout the state. NHLA advocates on behalf of low-income residents offering legal services and resources. Mr. Burke said the priorities of the Energy & Utilities Justice Project include: Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), disconnection and arrears management, the Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Energy Board, Electric Assistance Program, the Weatherization Assistance Program, the Fuel Assistance Program, and the Residential Low Income Gas Assistance program.

Mr. Burke answered several questions from the Board. Mr. Mailloux asked about the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; Mr. Burke noted that NHLA supported HB559 in the previous session, which would have reserved much of the income from New Hampshire RGGI allowances to low-income programs. Ms. Martin wanted to know if EAP discounts could be made available to those using competitive suppliers. Mr. Burke noted that a change in the EAP program to permit such participation was scheduled to be implemented on October 1 after PUC approval.

3. Case Update

- SB 577 (Berlin Station in Berlin) – Mr. Kreis described a motion he would soon be filing with the Commission, seeking to limit ratepayer exposure to new Berlin Station costs to be paid by Eversource pursuant to the statute.

- **SB 365** (mandatory energy purchases from generators burning biomass and solid waste) – Mr. Kreis discussed the possibility of challenging the constitutionality of the statute on federal preemption grounds, following the General Court's override of the Governor's veto.
- **FERC Docket No. ER18-2208** (concerning NEPOOL transparency) – Mr. Kreis noted that the OCA has intervened in this and a related docket with the objective of making NEPOOL meetings open to the public.

4. **Any other topics or issues that the Board wishes to discuss**

Mr. Kreis asked Board members what they would like to discuss at the next meeting, suggesting the status of the Liberty Utilities Granite Bridge Project or having the PUC Safety Division speak about gas safety. Some ideas from the members were: cost of maintenance of infrastructure, the Heat Smart Program, how we balance safety with cost and continued discussion of Mystic. Since the Board did not come to a decision, Mr. Moses asked that they reach out to Mr. Kreis with their decision as soon as possible.

5. **Public input**

There was no public input.

Mr. Moses moved to adjourn. Mr. Nute seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.