

Residential Ratepayers' Advisory Board
April 21, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Present for the Board:

Claira Monier, Chair
Joe Costello, Vice Chair
Thomas Moses
Ken Mailloux
Amy Manzelli, Esq.
Deborah de Moulpied
James Garrity
Richard Weaver

Present for the OCA:

Susan Chamberlin
Jim Brennan

Guest: Commissioner Robert Scott, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

Ms. Monier called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m., noting that a quorum exists. Ms. Monier asked everyone to introduce themselves. Introductions ensued.

Minutes of January 27, 2014 meeting

Ms. Monier asked the Board if there were any adjustments to the minutes. Mr. Moses moved to approve the minutes without modification. Mr. Mailloux seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Presentation of Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Scott discussed background information for the January 23, 2014 letter from New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE¹) to ISO-NE, the “NESCOE Letter”. NESCOE is working with stakeholders including New England Power Pool (NEPOOL) and issued the NESCOE Letter requesting ISO-NE provide for:

1. New Electric Transmission Infrastructure
2. Increased Natural Gas Capacity

Commissioner Scott reviewed a related December 2013 statement issued by the six New England Governors regarding the need for strategic investments in the regions energy resources and infrastructure. He provided a handout of a March 27, 2014 NESCOE memo to NEPOOL titled “Sector Conversations on Governors’ Infrastructure Initiative.”

Providing for new electric infrastructure and increased natural gas capacity will involve issuing requests for proposal (RFP) for a transmission line and for natural gas pipeline. States will pay based on amount of benefit received. Currently the states do not agree on how to allocate the costs. The resulting new infrastructure is intended to address \$3+Billion in cost increases this past winter partly due to the rising cost in natural gas. Commissioner Scott also discussed a longer term solution to resolve underlying problems in the energy market, including lack of mechanisms for electric utilities to acquire long term gas supply contracts. It was emphasized that problems are complex, multi-

¹ Editor’s Note: More information available at <http://www.nescoe.com>

faceted and potential solutions are analyzed and debated by all stakeholders and the states. Commissioner Scott offered future updates to the Board.

Case Update (see OCA Case Update & Legislative Update for more detail)

Ms. Chamberlin briefed the Board on the status of several active PSNH dockets. The scrubber case is involved in discovery disputes with no new procedural schedule. Ms. Chamberlin also discussed the status of various bills listed in the OCA's Legislative Update. There is legislation pending which authorizes the PUC to make a determination as to whether selling the PSNH generation plants is in the public interest. Mr. Brennan briefed the board on the OCA's field trip/tour of Unitil's Storm Resilience Pilot including general discussion of system hardening strategies electric utilities use to help reduce frequency and duration of outages related to sever storms.

Ms. Manzelli inquired about OCA's position on the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) legislation, and involvement in the State Energy Planning Process. Regarding the State Energy Planning Process, Ms. Chamberlin explained that the legislation did not expressly include OCA participation so the OCA participates by attending meetings. The OCA will further participate when legislation is proposed to implement the planning ideas. For the SEC petitions the OCA would become involved in the event of a rate case which includes the cost of any new generation.

Mr. Costello made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Mailloux and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.