

Residential Ratepayers' Advisory Board

April 27, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Present for the Board:

Claira Monier, Chair
Thomas Moses
Ken Mailloux
Deborah de Moulpied
James Garrity
Tom Cunningham
Richard Weaver

Present for the OCA:

Susan Chamberlin
Jim Brennan
Jamie Breen

Guest Speakers: Bruce Overton, Manager Meter Reading & Field Operations and Matthew Fossum, Senior Counsel from Eversource Energy

Ms. Monier called the meeting to order at 1:55 p.m.

1. Introductions

Ms. Monier proceeded with introductions around the room. The Board, OCA and representatives from Eversource Energy were present.

2. Eversource

Mr. Overton's agenda for our meeting this month gave us insight into their transition and use of Automated Meter Reading (AMR) in NH. He explained that AMRs are not smart meters, which are capable of two-way communication, but are read via wireless radio signals. The AMR allows the data to be captured from a greater distance than in the past, only collecting monthly consumption from the customer. This more remote capturing will save time and money for customers and Eversource in the future.

Currently, they are installing about 6,000 meters weekly. Eversource plans to complete its installation of their meters by June 2016, totaling 550,000 meters.

Mr. Overton discussed the importance of communication with their customers during the transitional process. Customers receive letters about the AMR meter installation. Installers attempt to call customers to let them know they will be doing work in their area. Letters are also sent out to inform customers of billing changes for the first month of the meter switchover.

Throughout and after his presentation, we were able to ask many questions.

3. Minutes of January 2015 Meeting

Ms. Monier asked the Board if there were any edits to the minutes. None were stated. Mr. Mailloux motioned to approve the minutes, Mr. Moses seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Case Update

Ms. Chamberlin briefed the Board on the status of several active dockets, including:

- DE 11-250 PSNH Investigation into Scrubber Costs

- DE 14-120 PSNH Annual Reconciliation
- DE 14-238 PSNH Determination Regarding PSNH's Generation Assets
- DE 15-078 Unitil Petition to Recover Costs of December 2013 Winter Storm
- DE 15-082 Unitil REP & VMP Annual Report
- DG 14-180 Liberty Rate Case
- DG 14-380 Liberty Petition for Approval of a Firm Transportation Agreement

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

Ms. Chamberlin introduced our new Attorney III, Wayne Jortner to the Board. Unfortunately, Mr. Jortner was out-of-state on a work-related job and could not join the meeting this quarter. Welcome to the OCA, Wayne!

Ms. Chamberlin discussed legislatively created study committees. One element of consideration that influences if she attends is whether the OCA can make an impact or be instrumental in the outcome of the study.

Legislative Update - Ms. Chamberlin updated the board on the below bills currently at the Legislature.

- HB 297
- HB 574
- SB 221

Ms. Monier asked if there is a way to update the PUC Competitor Supplier's web site. It was discussed that they are trying to update it and it is a difficult list to keep updated with constant changes. She also inquired if there is a way to get more information out to the public regarding electrical rates. She finds that most people do not know how much they are paying for their electricity; such as, how many kilowatts per hour are being charged. Also, it would be educational for the public to know the state average for electricity charges. The OCA had proposed that the 2016-2017 budget include a new position dedicated to consumer education and outreach. To date, the position has not been approved. Ms. Chamberlin did explain that Mr. Jortner and Ms. Martin will work on a newsletter from the OCA in the near future to help educate the public.

6. **Opportunity for public input**

Ms. Monier made a motion to adjourn the meeting for an executive session at 3:25 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Moses and Ms. de Moulpied. At this time, the Advisory Board went into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Ms. Chamberlin and Ms. Breen left the room. Mr. Brennan had left earlier in the board meeting to attend another meeting. Mr. Mailloux made a motion to adjourn the executive session, which was seconded by Mr. Garrity. The executive session was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.