

Residential Ratepayers' Advisory Board

July 25, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Present for the Board:

Claira Monier, Chair
Thomas Moses, Vice Chair
Ken Mailloux
James Garrity
Dick Weaver
Ryan Clouthier
Dana Nute
Jim O'Brien

Present for the OCA:

Donald Kreis
Nicholas Cicale
Dr. Pradip Chattopadhyay
Jim Brennan
Jamie Breen

Guests: Patricia Martin, Brianna Brand

Guest Speaker: Clifton Below, City of Lebanon Councilor

Ms. Monier called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

Ms. Monier welcomed the new members of the Advisory Board, Dana Nute and Jim O'Brien. RESOLUTION: Mr. Moses expressed his thanks to both Deb de Moulpied and Amy Manzelli for their volunteer work on the Advisory Board. Mr. Garrity seconded the resolution, which was adopted unanimously.

1. **Minutes of April 11, 2016 Meeting**

Mr. Mailloux moved to approve the draft version of the minutes; Mr. Garrity seconded the motion. The Board members agreed unanimously, except Mr. Nute and Mr. O'Brien who abstained.

2. **Presentation from**

City Councilor Clifton Below of Lebanon, a former State Senator and member of the Public Utilities Commission, made a presentation to the Board concerning alternative rate design for electric service, focusing on the potential advantages of real-time pricing in light of the growth of distributed generation and other technological change. Representing Lebanon as a party in Docket DE 16-576 (Alternative Net Metering Tariffs) and a member of the Grid Modernization Working Group (Docket IR 15-296), he stated that benefits and rates should be fair for both ratepayers who are using net metering and also for those who are not using it. He suggested that real time prices, rather than average prices, will save the ratepayers money in the long run, and this would also benefit low-income ratepayers. Mr. Below proceeded to explain generation and how it runs and generally discussed hedging and the role of demand response. Mr. Kreis asked the Board how aggressive they would like the OCA to be in pursuing real-time pricing. Mr. Garrity conveyed that consumers should have a choice, but agreed that real-time pricing can potentially lower all residential rates over time. Ms. Monier said that she would like to have someone from the private sector to speak at a board meeting about net metering and the potential role of real-time pricing in a future with a greater presence of net-metering.

3. **Case Update**

Mr. Kreis briefed the Board on the status of several active dockets, including:

- DE 16-576 Alternative Net Metering Tariffs
- DE 16-241 Approval of Gas Infrastructure Contract with Algonquin Gas Transmission
- DE 11-250 Investigation of Scrubber Cost and Recovery
- IR 15-296 Investigation into Grid Modernization
- DW 16-xxx Pennichuck Water Works Rate Case—coming up

4. **Legislative Update**

- HB 297 – this bill, which protects the privacy of customer data held by competitive energy suppliers, was signed into law by the Governor. Mr. Kreis noted that the OCA helped draft the bill and assisted the cosponsors with the hearing and amendment process.
- RGGI – Mr. Kreis noted that S.B. 492, which would have rebated RGGI funds back to commercial and industrial customers while reserving most of the RGGI income stream attributable to residential customers for low-income programs, passed in the Senate, was reported favorably out of committee in the House but ultimately failed on the House floor, twice.

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

Mr. Kreis discussed a recent Electric Assistance Program (EAP) Advisory Board meeting he attended with Dr. Chattopadhyay. He stated that the program is currently serving about 1/3 of the ratepayers eligible for services. Ms. Monier asked Mr. Clouthier if he could do some research on this and give the Board and OCA feedback at the next meeting.

6. **Opportunity for public input**

Ms. Martin introduced herself and stated the RGGI review process is going on right now. She shared her thoughts about the recent gas pipeline expansion efforts and stated that it is important to recognize other technologies and supply resources can play important role in addressing the concern about potentially high electricity prices during winters. She in particular discussed the cyclic nature of LNG supply and the role that renewables can play going forward.

Mr. Kreis noted that the activism of knowledgeable citizens like Ms. Martin is a key reason it is important to make proceedings at the PUC as transparent as possible.

Ms. Monier moved to adjourn. Mr. Nute seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.