

Residential Ratepayers' Advisory Board
May 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Present for the Board:

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

Present for the OCA:

D. Maurice Kreis
Pradip Chattopadhyay
Brian Buckley
Jamie Breen

Guest: Patricia Martin

Ms. Monier called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

1. Minutes of March 20th, 2017 Meeting

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

2. Case Update

Mr. Kreis updated the Board on the status of several active dockets:

- DE 17-029 Eversource Auction of Electric Generation Facilities
- DE 16-693 Eversource Power Purchase Agreement
- DE 15-464 Eversource Lease Agreement between Eversource & Northern Pass
- DE 16-241 Eversource Approval of Gas/Contract with Algonquin Gas
- NH Supreme Court Case No. 2016-0007, Appeal of Algonquin Gas Transmission LLC (Appeal of DE 16-241 re Access Northeast pipeline project)

Mr. Buckley and Dr. Chattopadhyay updated the Board on the status of dockets:

- DG 16-852 Liberty Expansion of Franchise/Hanover & City of Lebanon
- DW 16-806 Pennichuck Water Works Rate Case

3. Legislative Update

- SB128
- SB129

4. Discussion of OCA goals and metrics included with 2017-18 biannual budget

- a) Should they be revised in the future?

Mr. O'Brien recommended seeking advice from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for ideas for the OCA metrics to make them more applicable since our office is more geared toward a non-profit organization. Mr. Garrity mentioned adding consumer education to the metrics. Mr. O'Brien also stressed

the importance of having metrics that are based on attributes that can be controlled.

- b) What defines success at the Office of the Consumer Advocate?

Mr. Kreis discussed with the Board that the OCA's involvement helps the PUC to better balance the interest of the utility and the ratepayers. The OCA is also helpful to grass root citizens in guiding them through the process of their participation in dockets.

5. Discussion of issues in upcoming natural gas rate cases

Mr. Buckley and Dr. Chattopadhyay discussed with the Board the Liberty Utilities Rate Case, Docket 17-048. They were also apprised of Northern Utilities filing of their upcoming rate case in Docket DG 17-070 by the end of the month.

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

Ms. Monier verified with Mr. Clouthier and Mr. Mailloux of their continuing to serve on the Board and Ms. Monier getting the necessary documents to the G & C for their reappointments.

7. Public input

Ms. Martin briefly discussed SB123 which passed in the Senate with an adopted amendment. This bill establishes a commission to study a carbon reduction investment program for New Hampshire. Ms. Martin expressed that this bill is a healthy way to engage in carbon pricing.

Mr. Kreis asked the Board if they had any suggestions or ideas of what they would like to have presented at the board meetings for the rest of the year. Mr. Garrity recommended having the OCA walk the Board through a docket process during one of the meetings. Mr. Kreis said a more recent completed electric rate case would be good example to use for them to understand the process.

Ms. Martin pointed out the importance of public comments filed in dockets by ratepayers and the effectiveness they have on those dockets. Mr. Kreis told her that he encourages public participation.

Ms. Monier moved to adjourn. Mr. Mailloux seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.