

NEW HAMPSHIRE



GRID MODERNIZATION ADVISORY GROUP (GMAG)

RSA 12-P:16

Minutes of the March 21, 2024 Meeting

Meeting Date: March 21, 2024, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Location:

Walker Building, Hearing Room A
New Hampshire Department of Energy
21 S. Fruit St, Concord NH

Attendees:

In person: Jeff Faber (Liberty Utilities), Donald Kreis (Office of the Consumer Advocate), Kevin Sprague (Unitil), Kirsten Koch (Business and Industry Association), Mark Toscano (Department of Energy), Jim DiLuca (Eversource)

Remote: Michael Jennings (New Hampshire Electric Cooperative), Richard Labreque (Agilitas Energy), Robert Hayden (Standard Power of America)

Absent: Vaughan Woodruff (ReVision Energy)

Guests attending in person: Deanna Dennis (Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire), Clifton Below (Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire)

In his capacity as chair of the GMAG, Mr. Kreis called the meeting to order shortly after 10:00 a.m.; those present, in person and remotely, introduced themselves briefly and the existence of a quorum of members attending in person was noted.

1. Minutes of the February 16, 2024 Meeting

On motion of Mr. Sprague, seconded by Mr. Toscano, the GMAG unanimously approved the minutes of the February 16, 2024 meeting as drafted.

2. Distributed Energy Provider Representative

Mr. Skoglund reported that Mr. Woodruff had resigned from his position with ReVision Energy, a

provider of distributed energy resources, and Mr. Skoglund stated that, therefore, it would be necessary for the Commissioner of Energy to appoint a successor. It was not known whether Mr. Woodruff has tendered a formal resignation to the Commissioner.

3. Future Meetings to Be Remote

Mr. Kreis noted that pursuant to RSA 91-A:2, IV, the GMAG may adopt a standing authorization to conduct its meetings remotely, which would allow up to two-thirds of the GMAG membership to attend any given meeting virtually. Relying on pages 22 and 23 of the March 14, 2024 memorandum issued by the Attorney General providing comprehensive guidance on the Right-to-Know Law (RSA 91-A), Mr. Kreis further noted that remote meetings still require at least one-third of the GMAG membership to be physically present at the location designated in the agenda. On motion of Mr. Sprague, seconded by Mr. Hayden, the GMAG unanimously voted to hold all future meetings remotely.

Mr. Skoglund asked whether the in-person attendance requirement applies to subgroups appointed by the GMAG, noting that the working group appointed to gather information about interconnection cost allocation had recently met entirely remotely. Mr. Kreis responded that as long as the subgroup was not making any decisions or issuing any recommendations, such gatherings do not need to be publicly noticed or otherwise treated as public meetings under the Right-to-Know Law.

4. Interconnection Cost Allocation Subgroup Report

In his capacity as the convenor of the subgroup tasked with gathering information on interconnection cost allocation, Mr. Skoglund stated the first meeting took place on March 7, 2024 and that the sub-group discussed policies adopted in other states, particularly including Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. The sub-group plans to collect information on these state policies and others and present them in summary form to the GMAG group at a future meeting.

There was agreement that it would be beneficial to look at policies adopted in other states as well as the IREC (Interstate Renewable Energy Council) Interconnection Guidelines for cost-allocation methodologies.

Mr. Kreis asked when the sub-group expects to have their information available for the GMAG. Mr. Skoglund stated he believes it will take two more meetings of the sub-group before a comprehensive summary will be complete. Mr. Kreis reminded everyone the due date for cost allocation recommendations is September 1st 2024. Therefore, the sub-group information should be complete and available for the May GMAG meeting to provide sufficient time to evaluate.

5. Grid Modernization Statutory Definition:

There was a robust discussion regarding various aspects of the existing statutory definitions and issues. There was general agreement on the need for clarification, focusing and updating. However, it was agreed this issue is not a top priority given the immediate obligations for 2024

including the Cost Allocation recommendations by September 1st and an annual report by November 1st.

6. Transactive Energy:

Mr. Below provided some general discussion on transactive energy and agreed to provide some reference information to the group including presentation slides from GRIDWISE and NIST (the National Institute of Standards and Technology). Mr. Jennings reminded the group that the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative has a currently ongoing transactive energy pilot program. He indicated the program is complex and there are issues, problems and concerns that need to be discussed, evaluated, and addressed, noting that the NHEC does not plan to make the pilot a permanent program. He agreed to provide a brief overview of the NHEC transactive program at the May GMAG meeting.

Ms. Dennis asked if it would be beneficial to create a Transactive Energy working sub-group. Mr. Skogland volunteered to participate in the sub-group. Ms. Dennis said she would follow-up with Brian Callnan (her boss) to determine whether she could volunteer to convene such a group.

7. Consultant

Mr. Kreis reminded the group the GMAG statute allows for the use of a consultant. The group briefly discussed and agreed it should be an option if needed.

8. Development GMAG Annual Report

There was general discussion on what is expected in the annual report, due to be submitted to the Governor and other key officials on November 1.

- Mr. Kreis stated it is simply a summary of what issues the GMAG addressed during the year as well as recommendations. For the November 2024 report it will likely include a discussion of:
 - Cost allocation recommendations that are due September 1st.
 - Transactive Energy
 - Grid Modernization definition recommendations.
- Mr. Skogland suggested any sub-groups prepare their respective sections for inclusion in the annual report.

9. Next Meeting:

Consistent with the practice of meeting on the third Thursday of each month, there was agreement to hold the next meeting at 10:00 AM on 04/18/2024 in Hearing Room B at the Walker Building, with Teams coordinates for those attending remotely.

10. Adjournment

On motion of Ms. Koch, seconded by Mr. Toscano, the GMAG unanimously voted to adjourn at approximately 11:30 AM.

Any corrections or additions to these meeting minutes can be sent to Mark.P.Toscano@energy.nh.gov