

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Minutes for July 15, 2022

Attendees:

Board Members: Ryan Clouthier (Southern NH Services); Don Kreis (OCA); Ray Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Chris Ellms (DOE); Patrick McDermott (AARP); Joe Fontaine (DES); Doria Brown (NH Municipal Association) via Teams; Representative Kat McGhee (NH House of Representatives) via Teams; Representative Michael Vose (NH House of Representatives); Mark Sanborn (DES);

Non-voting Participants: Mark Lemenager (Eversource); Cindy Carroll (Unitil) via Teams; Matthew Siska (GDS Associates) via Teams; Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Carol Woods (NH Electric Coop); Mark Brown (BIA) via Teams

Others: Chris Skoglund (Clean Energy NH); Amanda Gokee (NH Bulletin); Daniela Allee (NHPR); Kelly Buchanan (Clean Energy NH); Julianne Desmet (OCA); Philip Lamoreaux (DES); Josh Elliot (DOE); Griffin Roberge (DOE); Heidi Kroll; Lisa Shapiro (Gallagher Callahan & Gartrell); Andy Duncan (LRCC); Arah Shur (NEEP); Bob Reils (Liberty Utilities); Bonnie Christie NH Network for Environment, Energy and Climate); Jody Carmody (DOE); Karen Cramton (DNV); Erin Cosgrove (NEEP); Tom Frantz (DOE); John Davis (Performance System Development PSD); Josh Sayer (Clean Energy NH); Kathy Cory Fox (Bernstein Shur Group); Lee Oxenham (NH House of Representatives); Matt Lahey (Forest Society); Amanda Noonan (DOE); Sherry Dutzy (NH House of Representatives); Susan Richman; Todd Montgomery (Energy facilities manager, Lebanon); Todd Black (Unitil); Will Craig (Eversource)

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting was held in person at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services with remote call-in and video capability.
- Bruce Clendenning called the meeting to order at 9:14am

2. Approval of the June 16, 2022 EESE Board Meeting Minutes.

- Pat McDermott motioned. Ryan Clouthier seconded.
- Amend last sentence of page two to read "...EESE Board and EE committee meetings...".

- Approval of the June 16, 2022 minutes. Three abstentions.

3. Presentation: New Hampshire's 10-Year Energy Strategy – Josh Elliott.

Presentation is posted to the EESE Board webpage

- The Division of Policy and Programs has been given the legislative charge of creating the Energy Strategy. Part of this is to ensure reliability, safety, fuel diversity and affordability of New Hampshire's energy sources while protecting natural, historic, and aesthetic resources and encouraging local and renewable energy resources.
- Goal number one – prioritize cost effective energy policies
- Goal number two – ensure a secure, reliable, and resilient energy system
- Goal number three – adopt all resource energy strategies and minimize government barriers to innovation
- Goal number four – chief cost-effective energy savings and energy efficiency
- Goal number five – achieve environmental protection that is cost-effective and enables economic growth
- Goal number six – government intervention should be limited
- Goal number seven – encourage market selection, cost effective energy resources
- Goal number eight – generate instate economic activity without reliance on long term subsidization of energy
- Goal number nine – support energy
- Goal number ten – ensure energy infrastructure that can be cited while incorporating input and guidance from stakeholders

The presentation continued with discussion on fuel diversity, demand side resources and siting.

- There was a discussion on natural gas, solar and offshore wind.
- Mention was made that the legislature passed a bill that made modest changes to the Site Evaluation Committee structure.

Q. – Is the department aware of any circumstances in which energy efficiency is not the cheapest and cleanest energy resource?

A. – There could be a situation where performing energy efficiency where the cost of doing so is not met. The question is will the investment pay off or at least be neutral over the presumed lifetime of the investment.

Q. – How does DOE define cost effectiveness, and how does the DOE define its role in cost effectiveness?

A. – From an energy standpoint it is simple math, will the investment pay off or at least be neutral. Look at the investments that fall into the purview of the legislature to make policy decisions.

Q.- How can you decouple climate effects from energy policy?

A. – One of the strategy goals talks about climate change as a real and serious threat. When subsidization does occur, it should be limited and be very targeted and it should be permanent.

Q. - What is the policy when it comes to other states making improvements and updates to their grid to ensure that costs are not passed down to ratepayers?

A. – If a transmission line in another state passes through New Hampshire and it needs to be repaired for the entire grid, our ratepayers should share the burden. If it is directly related to PPAs enacted by other states that require transmission upgrades that we do not benefit from, those upgrades should be paid by the ratepayers of the state doing the procurement.

Q. – Does the supporting data in the report indicate whether the levelized cost of energy figures used include the cost of backup generation for renewable technologies? Otherwise the LCL values won't be accurate.

A. - Added battery storage costs do increase depending on the type of battery technology.

4. Energy Efficiency Committee update – Ray Burke, EE Committee Co-Chair

- Purpose of the recent EE Committee meeting was to give feedback to the utilities on the proposed timeline for future meetings. The next meeting is on July 29th. And will focus on equity.
- If anyone would like to attend or have questions pertaining to upcoming topics, email Ray Burke or Chris Skoglund in advance. Hopefully a remote meeting option will be available.

5. Briefing on NH Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) hearing and process – Mike Mozier, New Hampshire Department of Transportation

Presentation is posted to the EESE Board webpage

- The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program is a requirement under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

- It is further broken into a formula funding program and a discretionary grant funding program.

Formula Funding Program:

- NH Department of Transportation is the lead agency for the EV Infrastructure Deployment Plan.
- Not all funding is for EVs. Some will be for alternative fuels such as hydrogen or natural gas.
- Funding priorities are for installation, operation, and maintenance of EV charging infrastructure.
- Charging stations every fifty miles and within one travel mile from the highway.
- NEVI is coordinating with other states as well as Canada for alternative fuel corridors that extend across borders.
- The northern part of the state is identified as alternative fuel corridor with Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.
- Working on standards for charging stations for installation, operation and maintenance. Looking at electrical trades, interoperability of the charging system. Software platform issues.
- Discussion on community engagement activities and cyber security issues as well as pricing standards.

A short question and answer period followed.

6. Education & Outreach Committee Update

Bruce Clendenning led a shortened update on the committee in order to ensure time for the final discussion. The group was informed that there would be a meeting of the committee prior to the next EESE Board meeting and all would receive the agenda of that meeting when it is scheduled and noticed.

7. Discussion of NH meeting rules, voting, in-person v. virtual opportunities and requirements

Ray Burke led a brief discussion about the status of the state's pandemic status. There have been inquiries regarding public meetings while remaining in compliance as a public body with RSA91-A. If there is an in-person meeting and a board member is attending virtual, can that board member participate in a vote? After looking at the statute, Ray cannot find any language that supports that restriction. Chris Ellms offered to check with the Attorney General's Office.

Can the board still hold meetings without a quorum in person? Is it appropriate to have a fully remote meeting? Even though the state of emergency is over, there is still a federally declared public

health emergency. NHDHHS has a declaration of public incidence that the state will allow flexibility that provides benefit or relief to the state. There is a question as to whether we are still within the bounds of the statute or do we need a quorum of members in a physical location?

8. Motion to Adjourn at 10:54

- Pat McDermott moved. Chris Ellms seconded. All in favor.