

Residential Ratepayers' Advisory Board
July 17, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Present for the Board:

Tom Moses, Vice Chair
Ken Mailloux
James Garrity
Ryan Clouthier
Dick Weaver

Present for the OCA:

D. Maurice Kreis
Pradip Chattopadhyay
Brian Buckley
Jim Brennan
Jamie Breen

Guest Speaker: Stephen Hall, Liberty Utilities—Director, Rates and Regulatory Affairs

Guest: Patricia Martin, Michael Licata

Tom Moses called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. Minutes of May 15th, 2017 Meeting

Mr. Mailloux moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Garrity seconded the motion. The Board members agreed unanimously.

2. Presentation by Stephen Hall, Liberty Utilities—Revenue Decoupling Plan

Mr. Hall introduced himself to the OCA staff and guests.

Key points to Mr. Hall's presentation were:

- Components of a Utility Bill
- Definition of and Rationale for Decoupling
- Prevalence of Decoupling
- How Decoupling Works
- Examples of Decoupling Mechanisms
- Liberty's Proposed Methodology
- Illustrative Examples
- Conclusions and Recommendations

3. Discussion of key challenges in the fall:

- Energy Efficiency Resource Standard
- Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board
- Grid Modernization proceedings
- Northern Pass right-of-way lease with PSNH
- Net Metering Pilots
- Working Groups
- Possible natural gas franchise for Lebanon and Hanover

4. Case Update

Mr. Kreis briefed the Board on the status of these cases:

- DW 17-114 Proposed Eversource Acquisition of Aquarion
- DW 16-806 Pennichuck Rate Case
- DG 17-048 Liberty Utilities Rate Case
- DG 17-070 Northern Utilities Rate Case
- DE 16-817 Eversource Auction of Electric Generation Facilities
- DE 15-464 Northern Pass Lease of PSNH Transmission Right-of-Way

With respect to DE 15-464, he noted that this is the OCA's only opportunity to address issues related to the Northern Pass transmission project inasmuch as the OCA is not a party to Site Evaluation Committee proceedings. He pointed out that the question in DE 15-464 is not whether the transmission line should go forward but whether PSNH is being paid an appropriate sum for space in its transmission right-of-way given that the payments will ultimately be credited to New Hampshire retail customers.

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

Dr. Chattopadhyay described the latest ISO-New England initiative to address concerns about the effects on wholesale electricity markets of renewable energy procurement mandates adopted by states in southern New England. ISO-New England proposed a modification to the Forward Capacity Market auction designed to facilitate substitution of retiring fossil-based resources with subsidized renewable resources and thereby reduce the price suppression effect.

6. Public input

Pat Martin asked about how decoupling as proposed by Liberty applies to commodity prices and to the utility bills of low-income customers. Mr. Hall offered additional details of his company's proposal.

Ms. Moses moved to adjourn. Mr. Mailloux seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.