

Residential Ratepayers' Advisory Board
September 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Present for the Board:

Claira Monier, Chair
Tom Moses, Vice Chair
Dick Weaver
Ryan Clouthier
Dana Nute

Present for the OCA:

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

Guest Speakers: Charlotte Ancel, VP, Power Supply & General Counsel and Robert Dostis, VP Stakeholder Relations and New Product, representing Green Mountain Power

Guests: Patricia Martin, Consumer Representative Lee Oxenham, Representative Marge Shepardson, Representative Robert Backus. Matthew Fossum-Senior Counsel, Eversource. Michael Giaimo, PUC Commissioner. Karen Cramton-Director, Stephen Eckberg-Analyst, Tanya Wayland-Analyst from PUC Sustainable Energy Division.

Claira Monier called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. Presentation by Charlotte Ancel and Robert Dostis—Green Mountain Power (GMP) in Vermont

Ms. Ancel and Mr. Dostis presented the following information about GMP, welcoming questions from the Board, OCA staff and guests:

- Serves 72 percent of power in Vermont
- An investor-owned, vertically integrated electric utility
- Their vision sees a future in which customers have the option of being disconnected from the Grid, to become carbon-free and to save money
- Future of energy is producing it closer to home
- A worthy objective for a utility is to help educate home and business owners to lower energy costs and help people to get off fossil fuels
- Vermont's new Renewable Energy Standard has required the company to adjust its portfolio
- Approximately 10,000 residential homes and 2,000 C&I customers have solar in Vermont
- GMP uses 60 percent renewable power, most of it is hydro, some of it is wind
- GMP has a Power Purchase Agreement with NextEra in Seabrook—98% carbon free
- GMP adjusts rates yearly with approval of the Vermont PUC
- GMP is a Certified B Corp. Becoming certified strengthens their commitment to their customers, community and environment
- Plan to adopt full decoupling next year

At the conclusion of their presentation at 3:18 p.m., all guests left at this time, except Mr. Fossum and Ms. Martin. They remained until the end of the Advisory Board meeting.

2. Minutes of July 17, 2017 Meeting

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

3. Legislative update(bills retained by House Science Technology & Energy Committee)

Mr. Kreis noted that the ST&E Committee was working on ten bills that had been retained from the 2017 Session. Of particular interest to the OCA are

- SB 128 (which would allow electric utility to make and rate-base certain investments unrelated to distribution)
- HB 324 (which would reform the process by which utility property is assessed for property tax purposes, property taxes being an expense that is recoverable from customers in rates)
- HB 518 (which would supersede the results of the PUC's ongoing net metering docket and limit customer-generators to being paid the wholesale rate determined for New Hampshire by ISO New England)

4. Case Update

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

- DE 17-127 Eversource Request for Waiver of Puc 305.03 (AMR meters)
- DE 17-105 Eversource Approval of the Sale of Wyman Station
- DE 16-817 Eversource Auction of Electric Generation Facilities
- DE 15-464 Northern Pass Lease of PSNH Transmission Right-of-Way
- DW 17-114 Proposed Eversource Acquisition of Aquarion
- DG 17-070 Northern Utilities Rate Case
- DG 17-048 Liberty Utilities Rate Case
- DG 16-852 LU Expansion of Franchise of Hanover and Lebanon
- IR 15-296 Investigation into Grid Modernization

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

Board members indicated they would be interested in learning more about Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) at the next meeting.

6. Public input

Ms. Martin inquired about docket DG 17-068(Liberty Utilities-Keene Division, Petition for Declaratory Ruling). Mr. Kreis stated the OCA was awaiting the Order of Notice from the Commission. Ms. Martin expressed her concerns about compressed natural gas (CNG) and liquefied natural gas (LNG) being brought to the area.

Ms. Monier moved to adjourn. Mr. Clouthier seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.