

Residential Ratepayers' Advisory Board

July 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes

***Present for the Board:***

Claira Monier, Chair  
Tom Moses, Vice Chair  
Dana Nute  
Herb Vadney  
Kenneth Mailloux  
Jim O'Brien  
Matthew Kfoury

***Present for the OCA:***

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

**Guests:** Patricia Martin, John Tuthill

**Guest Speaker:** Rob Furino, Director of Energy Contracts for Unitil Service Corporation

Ms. Monier called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. Mr. Furino introduced himself and gave his educational and training background. Introductions were made around the room.

**1. Presentation by Rob Furino on Time-of-Use Rates**

Mr. Furino shared that time-of-use (TOU) rates are very different from the way that customers are charged electric rates today. Currently utilities charge customers a fixed \$/kwh rate for retail electric supply based on the average projected cost of that supply for a six month period. TOU rates would offer customers a de-averaged price signal based on actual costs of providing electric service at a given time of the day or season of the year. In Docket No. DE 19-033 Unitil proposed a tabletop study to help the company better understand the rate and customer impacts under various TOU rate designs with the goal of eventually offering TOU rates to customers. Unitil is unique among the regulated electric utilities in New Hampshire in that it already has AMI meters capable of recording customer energy usage during pre-specified hourly periods throughout the day and is continuing to deploy technology that will enable collection and transmittal of energy usage data in a manner that could facilitate broad roll-out of TOU rates in the near term. If the Company were to embrace such a strategy, customers would be able to respond to the newly available price signals through behavior changes or adopting technologies that can help the consumer respond to electric price signals automatically. One example of how customers might change their behavior in response to TOU rates would be to do laundry at non-peak hours, such as later in the evening, when the marginal cost of electricity is low. Conversely, an example of a technological response might be using a smart thermostat or battery storage device to shift grid-based electric consumption to times when power costs the consumer less.

**2. Minutes of May 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

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

**3. Legislative Update**

Mr. Kreis noted that the legislature had completed its work for 2019, with a few bills still pending with the Governor for his signature or veto. A legislative list was provided and Mr. Kreis elaborated on two particular bills awaiting gubernatorial action.

- **HB 183** Establishing a committee to study the applications of microgrids in New Hampshire and changes in law necessary to allow for microgrids in electrical supply, and relative to baseload renewable generation credits for biomass energy facilities.
- **SB 284** An act establishing a statewide, multi-use online energy data platform, introduced at the request of the OCA.

#### 4. **Case Update**

Having provided a current Activity List, Mr. Kreis further elaborated on the OCA's work in the following dockets:

- **DE 19-105** Eversource Recovery of Storm Expenses
- **DE 19-104** Clean Innovation Community Solar Pilot Proposal
- **DE 19-064** Liberty Utilities Rate Case
- **DE 18-142** Enel X North America Approval of Use of Live, Online Reverse Auction
- **DE 19-057** Eversource Rate Case
- **DE 16-097** Liberty Utilities Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan
- **DE 15-248** Eversource Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan
- **DG 17-198** Liberty Utilities Granite Bridge
- **DG 17-152** Liberty Utilities Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan
- **IR 15-296** Grid Modernization
- **DW 19-084** Pennichuck Water Works, Inc. Rate Case

#### 5. **Non-Public Session-Personnel Matter**

At 3:12 p.m., Ms. Monier moved that the Advisory Board to go into Non-Public Session to discuss a personnel matter. Mr. Mailloux seconded the motion. Guests and the OCA personnel left the room. At 3:29 p.m., guests and the OCA personnel returned to the room. Ms. Monier moved to end the Non-Public Session. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Moses moved that the Residential Ratepayer's Advisory Board recommend reappointment for a second term of the Consumer Advocate, D. Maurice Kreis, to the Governor and Council by presenting a reappointment letter written by the Board. Mr. Mailloux seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

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

The Board did not have any other topics to discuss.

#### 7. **Public Input**

Mr. Tuthill expressed to the Board and OCA that until recently he was unaware the Residential Ratepayer's Advisory Board and their meetings existed. Ms. Martin said she finds the guest speakers at the Board meetings to be very informative.

Ms. Monier moved to adjourn. Mr. Mailloux seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.