

Residential Ratepayers' Advisory Board  
September 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes

***Present for the Board:***

Tom Moses, Vice Chair  
Dana Nute  
Herb Vadney  
Ryan Clouthier  
Kenneth Mailloux-via teleconference

***Present for the OCA:***

D. Maurice Kreis  
Pradip Chattopadhyay  
James Brennan  
Jamie Breen

**Guest:** John Tuthill

**Guest Speaker:** Samuel Golding, President, Community Choice Partners, Inc. (CCP)

Mr. Moses called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Mr. Kreis introduced Mr. Golding and introductions were made around the room.

**1. Presentation by Samuel Golding**

Mr. Golding, a national expert in the field, facilitated a roundtable discussion on development in New Hampshire surrounding community power/community choice aggregation in light of the recent passage of SB286 “aggregation of electric customers by municipalities and counties”. Mr. Golding noted that community power now exists in over a half dozen states. He emphasized that because New Hampshire’s move toward opt-out community power programs is not unique, we have the advantage of analyzing programs and frameworks in other states to help determine what works and what might not work. The significant national trend toward community power programs are driven by top-down factors (emergence of renewable sustainable generation) as well as bottom-up (emergence of smart devices in homes and businesses). In order to succeed he recommended a focus on three key areas: development of a nimble market-oriented governance structure, use of appropriate effective Information Communication Technologies systems, and evolution of utility business and regulatory models toward a performance based paradigm. Mr. Golding said that an interesting challenge, and opportunity, for New Hampshire lies in its vision to streamline and manage energy data more effectively across multiple utilities and multiple fuels (electric and natural gas). He noted that the recently passed SB284(Statewide Multi-Use Online Energy Data Platform) offers the prospect of streamlining benefits via centralized platform that all New Hampshire community power programs could effectively use as a common back office data system – creating value and reducing risk.

**2. Minutes of July 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

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

**3. Case Update**

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

- **IR 15-296** Grid Modernization. Interested parties filed proposals/comments related to 11 topics that were in the PUC's Staff letter of May 16, 2019. The OCA filed a prefiled testimony on September 6<sup>th</sup>. In which we called for a transparent and public process for stakeholder input into utility capital deployment decisions, as well as the use of "Risk-Informed Decisionmaking Support" to prioritize capital projects that have benefits that are difficult to quantify.
- **DG 17-198** Liberty Utilities Granite Bridge Project. Assistant Consumer Advocate Pradip Chattopadhyay filed testimony on behalf of the OCA on September 13<sup>th</sup>. The OCA's position is that Liberty should not build the LNG tank in Epping.

Although there was no legislative update, Mr. Kreis noted that the OCA has drafted an initial bill and submitted it to potential sponsors in the House regarding changes to the Least Cost Integrated Planning statute. On the personnel front, Mr. Kreis reminded the Board that former Staff Attorney Brian Buckley was now working for the PUC and that a new Staff Attorney, Christa Shute, would be joining the OCA in early October.

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

The Board did not have any other topics to discuss.

5. **Public Input**

Mr. Tuthill asked Mr. Kreis to explain what revenue decoupling means, and Mr. Kreis did so. He noted that it is a rate design technique that involves severing the connection between per-unit sales and revenue, thus reducing if not eliminating the so-called "throughput incentive" and thus making it easier for utilities to promote consumer-friendly initiatives like energy efficiency.

Mr. Moses moved to adjourn. Mr. Mailloux seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.