

Residential Ratepayers' Advisory Board
November 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Present for the Board:

Claira Monier, Chair
Tom Moses, Vice Chair
Dana Nute
Herb Vadney
Ryan Clouthier
James Garrity
Matthew Kfoury
Kenneth Mailloux-via teleconference

Present for the OCA:

D. Maurice Kreis
Pradip Chattopadhyay
Christa Shute
Jamie Breen

Guests: Patricia Martin, John Tuthill

Guest Speaker: Garry Rayno, reporter and columnist with InDepthNH.org

Ms. Monier called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Kreis introduced the OCA's newest addition, Staff Attorney Christa Shute. Introductions were made around the room.

1. Minutes of September 16th Meeting

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

2. Presentation by Garry Rayno

Mr. Rayno explained to the Board that he was invited today to speak to them about a column he wrote last summer. His column called for a more regional approach to transmission and generation issues. He explained that prior to writing his column that he spent nearly a year and a half covering the Northern Pass Transmission Project, which would have been the biggest construction project since the Seabrook nuclear plant. With little benefit to the state and a great impact on the route the transmission line would run, the Site Evaluation Committee unanimously turned it down. Subsequently, Massachusetts turned to a similar project in Maine, to be developed by Central Maine Power, which faces similar battles. As this was happening, people are becoming more interested in clean energy to combat climate change. Solar, municipal projects and residential arrays increase. Mr. Rayno discussed the changes in the electric industry and how the industry is being forced to find alternatives to burning fossil fuels. He began seeing what other New England states were doing in regards to renewable sources of energy and that New Hampshire was last in making the transition. Mr. Rayno briefly discussed off-shore wind farms and mini grids with battery storage. He expressed that some regional approaches to generation and transmission may not be possible, but it's worth trying to find a solution.

3. Legislative Update

The Board was provided a current list of Legislative Service Requests (LSRs) prior to the meeting. The Board and guests had interests in Mr. Kreis further discussing the following LSRs:

- LSR 2045 Relative to prohibiting the online disclosure of personally identifiable information.
- LSR 2307 Relative to integrated distribution plans of energy utilities.
- LSR 2621 Relative to municipal energy commissions.
- LSR 2620 Repealing the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board.

4. Case Update

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

- DE 19-142 Eversource Power Purchase Agreement Berlin Station, LLC
- DE 19-040 Unitil Annual Storm Cost Reserve Fund
- DE 18-142 Enel X Online Reverse Auction
- DE 14-238 Eversource Asset Divestiture Proceeding
- DG 18-194 LU Expansion Town of Epping
- DW 19-131 Omni-Mt Washington Complaint Against Abenaki Water Co.
- DW 18-056 Lakes Region Water Co. Fed. & State Corporate Tax Reductions
- 2019-0629 Appeal of Terry Clark

5. 2020 Proposed Schedule

The proposed schedule for 2020 was approved. The meetings for 2020 are as followed:
January 27 April 20 July 20 October 19

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

Ms. Monier thanked everyone who has served on the Board, and to extend her thanks to Mr. Kreis and his staff. She relayed that she is happy with two major accomplishments that the Board have been involved. One being they have incorporated a solid reappointment process for future consumer advocates. A second accomplishment Ms. Monier shared, was the Board being instrumental in getting Mr. Kreis reappointed using that process. Ms. Monier stated it was time that she step down as Chair. She nominated Mr. Moses for Chair. Mr. Mailloux seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously. Mr. Moses nominated Mr. Nute as Vice Chair. Mr. Vadney seconded, which was adopted unanimously. Mr. Moses wanted it clearly noted how thankful he is to Ms. Monier for her leadership and support to the Advisory Board over all the years she has participated. All Board members and OCA staff fully supported Mr. Moses heartfelt thanks.

7. Public Input

Mr. Kreis and Ms. Martin thanked Ms. Monier for her support and leadership to the Board. Ms. Monier asked if the Liberty Utilities Granite Bridge Project docket (DG 17-198) had any interconnection to the Northern Utilities Westbrook docket (DG 19-116). Mr. Kreis explained that the two dockets were not connected.

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