

Residential Ratepayers' Advisory Board
July 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Present for the Board:

Tom Moses, Chair
Matthew Kfoury-via WebEx
Ryan Clouthier
James Garrity
Yolanda Baumgartner
Kenneth Mailloux
Claira Monier

Present for the OCA:

Donald Kreis
Pradip Chattopadhyay
Al-Azad Iqbal
Jamie Breen

Guest Speaker: Mark Sanborn, Interim Deputy Commissioner, Department of Energy

Mr. Moses called the meeting to order at 1:56 p.m. Mr. Kreis introduced Interim Deputy Commission Mark Sanborn from the Department of Energy (DOE).

1. Minutes of April 26th Meeting

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

2. Presentation by Interim Deputy Commissioner Sanborn, DOE

Deputy Commissioner Sanborn addressed the Board regarding House Bill 2 and the creation of the Department of Energy and the reorganization of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). He explained that the structure of the PUC is regulatory and are an adjudicatory agency run by three Commissioners to oversee regulated public utilities. He said the DOE's focus will be on policy and programs. Mr. Sanborn noted that the two agencies will share some regulatory responsibilities with the PUC and the DOE is by law automatically a party to every docket at the PUC.

Deputy Commissioner Sanborn answered questions from the Board. When asked about the changes within the DOE and the PUC, he stated the changes are good, and needed to happen, allowing New Hampshire's PUC to function in a manner similar to that of utility regulators in states. When asked if the DOE will be advancing the Governor's policy agenda, Mr. Sanborn responded the DOE is indeed advancing the Governor's energy agenda through transportation, economic issues, environmental policy, and infrastructure. Mr. Kreis asked what the changes mean for the Office of the Consumer Advocate. He said the OCA has always done great work and he added that the goal is for all parties to become more important in front of the PUC in the future and he has seen positive changes since the July 1 transition.

3. Presentation by Mr. Kreis

Mr. Kreis presented the attached presentation to the Board, "Proposal for "CANE," a Tariff-Funded Consumer Advocacy Organization at ISO New England." Mr. Kreis briefly described the 2010 decision of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

authorizing the creation of the Consumer Liaison Group to assist the consumer representatives and stakeholders in understanding processes and key issues relevant to our Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) and ISO-New England (ISO-NE). The Consumers Advocates of New England (CANE) consisting of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont and New Hampshire are statutory ratepayer advocates. These states can participate in ISO-NE meetings as a special class of stakeholders to represent their consumers. Spearheaded by Mr. Kreis, CANE are now trying to propose a tariff-funded consumer advocacy organization similar to CAPS (Consumer Advocates of the PJM States). This would allow better access to NEPOOL meetings, include regularly scheduled meetings with ISO-NE, have a six-member board (one member from each state), and a budget for a full-time executive director and limited office support.

4. **Legislative Update**

The Board previously received a list of House and Senate Bills prior to the meeting, Mr. Kreis elaborated on the following:

- **HB 1**
- **HB 2**
- **HB 315**
- **HB 549**

5. **Case Update**

The Board received a current Activity List prior to the meeting, Mr. Kreis further elaborated on the OCA's work in the following dockets:

- **DE 20-092** Utilities 2021-23 Triennial EE Plan
- **DG 20-105** Liberty Utilities Rate Change

6. **Executive Session**

Ms. Monier motioned at 3:32 p.m. to go into Executive Session with Mr. Kreis to discuss personnel and legal issues. Mr. Garrity seconded the motion and the Board members agreed unanimously. The Executive Session ended at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Clouthier moved to adjourn. Mr. Garrity seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.