

Residential Ratepayers' Advisory Board

March 5, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Present for the Board:

Otis Perry, Chair
Claira Monier, Vice Chair
Deborah de Moulpied
Thomas Moses
Joseph Costello
Dwayne Wrightsman
Amy Manzelli

Present for the OCA:

Rorie Hollenberg
Stephen Eckberg
Donna McFarland
Christina Martin

Guests:

Gary A. Long, President and Chief Operating Officer of PSNH
Martin Murray, Corporate Communications
Heidi Kroll, Lobbyist and Policy Analyst at Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell, P.C

1. Minutes of January 23, 2012 Meeting

Mr. Perry declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm. Mr. Perry introduced the new board member Amy Manzelli who was appointed to the board by Senator Peter Bragdon. After introductions, the Board reviewed the draft minutes of the January meeting. Mr. Perry asked for a motion to accept the minutes. Ms. Monier moved to accept the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Costello. The Board unanimously approved the January minutes as drafted.

2. Discussion of Divestiture Legislation With Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH)

Ms. Hollenberg introduced Mr. Long and briefly explained that Mr. Long was invited to speak at the meeting in order to provide the Board with PSNH's position on HB 1238, a pending bill concerning the divestiture by PSNH of its generation resources. At the January Board meeting, the New England Power Generator's Association (NEPGA) presented their position on HB 1238.

Mr. Long presented PSNH position in opposition of HB 1238. Generally, PSNH believes that its generation provides diversity of supply to New Hampshire electric customers and, as a result, mitigates the risks of higher rates associated with fluctuations in natural gas, the primary source of supply for generation in the New England region. Mr. Long provided the Board with copies of two handouts: "PSNH's Generating Fleet: Providing a Valuable Choice for Customers" (see attached); and an article from the Boston Globe Magazine, "What if the Lights Go Out?" (See attached). Mr. Long also promised to send the Board additional information from ISO-NE, the operator of the New England region's electric transmission grid, about generation and source of supply issues. Mr. Long asked the Board to oppose HB 1238.

In addition to providing PSNH's position on HB1238, Mr. Long responded to questions about large customer migration (and the associated impacts on non-migrating customers, including residential and small commercial customers), renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as the aging of PSNH's generation fleet.

Following Mr. Long's departure, the Board discussed PSNH's and NEPGA's request for support of their positions on HB 1238. The Board unanimously voted to not take a position on HB 1238 at this time.

3. Case Activity Update

The Board discussed several items on the Case Update list. The Board also discussed briefly the lack of PUC regulation of cable television service.

4. 2012 Legislation Tracking

As described above, the Board discussed HB 1238 and heard from PSNH regarding their position on the bill. The Board did not discuss any other bills on the legislative tracking sheet.

5. Issues Related to Expiration of Consumer Advocate's term

The Board briefly and generally discussed the next steps for the process of hiring a new consumer advocate.

The Board discussed appointing Ms. Hollenberg as Acting Consumer Advocate. Ms. Monier moved to appoint Ms. Hollenberg, and Mr. Costello seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board discussed recognizing Ms. Hatfield's service as Consumer Advocate. Ms. Monier recommended that Otis contact the Governor to request a commendation.

6. Miscellaneous

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 pm.

The Board's next meeting is Monday May 7, 2012, at 2:00pm.