

Residential Ratepayers' Advisory Board
June 10, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Present for the Board:

Claira Monier, Chair
Kenneth Mailloux
Thomas Moses
Amy Manzelli, Esq.
James Garrity
Deborah de Moulpied
Thomas Cunningham

Present for the OCA:

Susan Chamberlin
Kimberly Therrien
Christina Martin

Guests: Liz Nixon, Steve Frink, Karen Cramton, Mary Downes, Matthew Fossum, Howard Moffett, David Goyette, Les Stachow, Joe Vercellotti, Marc Brown, Heidi Kroll and Thomas Belli

Guest Speakers:

Andrew Place, Interim Executive Director for the Center for Sustainable Shale Development

L. Bruce Hill, Ph.D., Senior Scientist and Geologist with the Clean Air Task Force

1. Minutes of March 4, 2012 Meeting

Ms. Monier called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and requested self-introductions. The Board, OCA staff and then guests introduced themselves. Ms. Monier made a motion to approve the minutes with the following modifications:

- page 2, third line from bottom remove the word “to”;
- page 3 beginning of paragraph seven, Crius is not the subsidiary of FairPoint, but it’s the reverse;
- page 5, 4th line from the bottom, insert the word “dollars” after “one million”; and
- Mr. Moses suggested that the minutes reflect Susan Chamberlin as Consumer Advocate Chamberlin instead of Attorney Chamberlin. Ms. Monier asked which she would prefer and she preferred the latter.

The minutes as modified at the meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Presentation by Andrew Place and L. Bruce Hill, Ph.D. (Handouts Provided)

Mr. Place is the Interim Executive Director of the Center for Sustainable Shale Development (“CSSD”). Dr. Hill is a Senior Scientist and Geologist for the Clean Air Task Force. [Editor’s Note: A complete copy of the presentation and supporting documentation provided by Mr. Place is available on our website and will be affixed to the hard copy of the minutes.]

Mr. Place introduced himself and provided an overview of the CSSD’s founding members and board of directors. He provided an overview of correlative work and how it helps to strengthen what has been learned already about drilling into shale for natural gas. Mr. Place explained the rigid standards and certifications adhered to when creating and drilling the wells. He said that CSSD follows stricter standards than the industry.

Attorney Manzelli asked about the environmental impact of fracking and whether zero contamination literally meant zero, or if it meant zero beyond what was allowed by the Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. Place stated that they strive for zero contamination.

Dr. Hill introduced himself and explained in some detail the process of actually drilling and fracking a well. He reviewed the rigid standards adhered to during this process in the United States. He also provided two geological maps for the Board’s reference, Generalized Bedrock Geologic Map of New Hampshire and Lower 48 States Shale Plays, (attached). Dr. Hill stated that fracking in New Hampshire is as likely as fracking on the moon.

Ms. de Moulpied stated that she remains troubled by the use of the word “sustainable” in their entity’s title but applauds their efforts. Mr. Place responded that it’s sustainable development and not necessarily a sustainable product.

3. Legislative Update

The Board liked the new format of the legislative update.

HB 630 & SB 123: Attorney Chamberlin stated that RGGI has kept the same compromise as before, where \$1 per allowance is allocated to energy efficiency projects and the rest is credited to ratepayers.

Attorney Chamberlin stated that the Attorney General's Office represents the public interest in the Northern Pass investigation once the request is filed at the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC). The OCA is not involved at this level. Ms. Manzelli questioned if it would be too late to protect ratepayers once the project is approved and built. Ms. Manzelli expressed concern on whether the Attorney General's Office or Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) are actually looking out for ratepayers' interests. Attorney Chamberlin stated the OCA represents ratepayer interests if and when the costs of the project are proposed to be included in rates.

Ms. Monier expressed that she continues to think about trying to obtain more natural gas here in New Hampshire and how you would need to lay pipes and the expense of such. Attorney Chamberlin said that the OCA and consumers can continue to make the PUC aware that this is what people are interested in having happen.

4. Case Update

IR 13-020 Investigation into Market Conditions, Default Service Rate, Generation Ownership and Impacts on the Competitive Electricity Market - Attorney Chamberlin updated the Board on a new order that came out. She informed the Board that the PUC has asked for comments on the report's recommendation regarding PSNH generation. The OCA will be filing comments.

Mr. Mailloux offered his opinion suggesting that the burden be shared by all ratepayers regardless of whether you stayed or got out. Attorney Chamberlin stated that the law would need to be changed as it doesn't allow that now.

DE 11-250 Investigation of Scrubber Costs and Cost Recovery - Attorney Chamberlin noted that the procedural schedule is suspended. She explained that the OCA and several other parties filed a Joint Motion for Reconsideration, with PSNH objecting. We are waiting for a Commission order before the case can move forward.

Attorney Chamberlin proposed that we revert back to quarterly activity list updates. The Board was agreeable, and Ms. Manzelli requested the Board receive the update two weeks prior to the meeting. Mrs. Therrien acknowledged this request and it was agreed the OCA could accommodate this request.

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

Ms. Monier asked for an update on electric suppliers. Attorney Chamberlin stated that Ms. Martin regularly maintains the website. Attorney Chamberlin explained that we don't rate them and in order to rate them it likely would require a statutory change. There is information on our website about what ratepayers should consider when evaluating an electric supplier.

Ms. Manzelli wanted to caution Board members that when they receive e-mails and have comments, it might be best to not hit "reply all". She indicated that having discussions over e-mail could be misconstrued as having a meeting, so we should keep email to information passing only.

Attorney Chamberlin announced that Donna McFarland has left the OCA and is working at OEP with Meredith Hatfield. The OCA has received a number of qualified applicants and will review candidates over the next couple of months.

6. Opportunity for public input

There was no public input.

Mr. Mailloux made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ms. Manzelli. The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

The Board's next meeting is Monday, September 9th at 10:00 a.m.