

**Regular Meeting of the  
Connecticut Energy Advisory Board**  
Meeting Minutes  
March 23, 2007

**1. Call to Order**

The March 2007 monthly meeting of the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board was held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 23, 2007 at The Connecticut Economic Resource Center in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. Members present were John Mengacci, designee of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Mary Healey, Connecticut Consumer Counsel; Donald Downes, Chairman of the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC); James Sandler, partner in the Law Firm of Sandler & Mara (appointee of President Pro Tempore of the Senate); Marie O'Brien, president of the Connecticut Development Authority (appointee of the Governor); Paul Farrell, designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Pam Sucato, designee of the Commissioner of Transportation (DOT); Carl Schiessl (appointee of the Speaker of the House) and David Carey, designee of the Commissioner of Agriculture. Ray Wilson of OPM was a guest of the board.

**2. Public Comment**

Chairman Mengacci presided and opened the meeting to public comment.

Richard Strauss of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) and David Pines of the University of Hartford presented to CEAB on CASE's report prepared for the Commerce, Energy and Technology, and Environment Committees of Connecticut's legislature on "Energy Alternatives and Conservation." Several recommendations from the report appear in bills that have been raised in the legislature this session.

Following the presentation Robert Fromer made public comment citing several reasons why he feels the CASE report is flawed.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Mengacci asked the board to review the minutes of the February meeting which were distributed prior to the meeting. The board approved the minutes as distributed.

**4. Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman Mengacci reported the 2007 CEAB Energy Plan has been formally submitted to the legislative committees of cognizance. Agendas for the committees were too full to accommodate a presentation of the plan.

Mr. Mengacci noted CEAB received a response from ISO-New England to the board's letter regarding ISO's Southern New England Transmission Reinforcement (SNETR) plan. The letter was received late Thursday. Mr. Mengacci gave a brief summary of its contents, but he and other members of the board felt they needed more time to review the letter's contents. Board members were interested in getting the La Capra consulting group's assessment of the response as well. La Capra was asked to report back at the April meeting of the board.

Mr. Mengacci called on Dan Peaco, president of La Capra Associates. Mr. Peaco said at the April meeting La Capra will make recommendations on next steps for CEAB related to SNETR as well as give an update on ISO's Planning Advisory Committee process which is in the middle of its cycle to develop its annual system plan. ISO also has released a report on its load forecasting methodology which La Capra has reviewed and will comment on.

Mr. Downes noted vacancies on the public service boards of Massachusetts and Rhode Island have hampered a coordinated multi-state response.

With regard to the status of CEAB's required action on the proposed Guilford and Oxford substations, Mr. Peaco reported no alternative proposals were received and CEAB's reports on the two facilities will be ready for board review and approval in time for the April meeting.

Mr. Mengacci summarized provisions of energy legislation currently being considered including Senate Bill 1373: An Act Concerning Electric Rate Relief; Senate Bill 1374: An Act Concerning Electric Procurement and Efficiency; House Bill 7097: An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Policy; and House Bill 7098: An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future. In his opinion, none of these are likely to move forward without modification.

Ms. Healey asked if any of the bills contained wording modifying CEAB's request for proposal mandate to alleviate the need to use it for facilities such as substations.

They don't contain this wording but Mr. Mengacci reported that he and Ray Wilson met with the leadership of the Energy and Technology Committee recently sharing their ideas on CEAB's role and mandates going forward. He concluded that it is likely the CEAB will continue, its composition may change and its duties are likely to be augmented.

Mr. Downes feels the board should be prepared to be an ongoing planning agency participating in various energy related processes and will have ongoing, periodic reporting responsibilities.

Marie O'Brien asked if any formal action was required by CEAB on legislation at this time. The consensus was no formal action is required at this time

## **5. Agency Staff Work Group Report**

Mr. Mengacci called on Ray Wilson to report on matters related to the production of the 2008 energy plan and activity of the Agency Staff Work Group (ASWG). Mr. Wilson said the current plan is to assume an October 2008 due date for the next energy plan and that the ASWG would draft the plan for the board. ASWG will serve as staff resource to CEAB and meet in conjunction with most CEAB meetings. The group can make recommendations on board actions and will oversee consultant work required by the board. He noted that when the Governor's bill failed to be raised, OPM drafted legislation that bifurcated policy and organizational issues addressed in the Governor's proposal.

Mr. Wilson reviewed OPM's draft legislation dealing with organization that affects CEAB including the biennial energy plan next to be submitted in October 2008. Mr. Sandler suggested means to augment the hearing and public outreach process should be adopted. Mr. Mengacci suggested the open forums on topic pieces throughout the year would be a means to achieve this.

Mr. Wilson went on to report that the new contract with La Capra is being signed today to go into effect on April 1, 2007. Closing out La Capra's work orders will allow reconciliation and refund of system benefit charge (SBC) funds for 2005 and 2006. He asked Mr. Downes of DPUC if it would be possible for CEAB to negotiate multi-year contracts with its vendors with funds being derived from the SBC. Mr. Downes thought it could be possible.

The ASWG has scheduled presentations by the agencies represented on CEAB to report on ongoing and new work in the respective agencies that relates to CEAB's work. The schedule for reports is:

April	-	Agriculture
May	-	Transportation
June	-	Environmental Protection
July	-	Office of Policy and Management
August	-	No Presentation
September	-	Department of Public Utility Control and Office of Consumer Counsel

Ms. Healey asked how progress on 2007 plan goals and recommendations would be tracked. Staff resources will be assigned this responsibility as part of drafting the 2008 plan which requires an update on recommendations of prior plans, Mr. Wilson responded.

**6. Other Business**

Mr. Mengacci opened discussion of the timing of a proposed CEAB visit to ISO's headquarters. June was mentioned as a possibility if ISO allows such visits during the summer months. The actual date still needs to be determined.

**10. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Submitted by: Gretchen Deans

Approved by: The Connecticut Energy Advisory Board, April 13, 2007