

**Regular Meeting of the
Connecticut Energy Advisory Board
December 5, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

1. Call to Order

The December 2008 monthly meeting of the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board (CEAB) was held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 5, 2008 at the CT Economic Resource Center in Rocky Hill, CT. Members present were John Mengacci, designee of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Mary Healey, Connecticut Consumer Counsel(OCC); Donald Downes, Chairman of the Department of Public Utility Control; Gina McCarthy, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Rick Hanley, designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation (DOT); Michael Cassella, Joel Gordes and Melissa Ozols, appointees of the Speaker of the House; Timothy Cole, appointee of the Governor; and Tony Sheridan (via telephone), Melissa Buckley, and Jeff Gaudiosi, appointees of the Senate President Pro Tempore.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Mengacci asked the Board to review the minutes of the November monthly meeting distributed prior to the meeting. After review, the board approved the minutes as distributed.

3. Bylaws Revision

The Board next discussed the proposed revision to the bylaws circulated prior to the meeting. After discussion the proposed revision was modified to read:

Requests for Proposal: No committee of the board, whether standing or ad hoc, may issue requests for proposals without first obtaining approval of the Board. A majority vote of Board members in attendance at a Board meeting, *as defined in Section 2.4 of these bylaws*, at which approval is being recommended shall constitute approval.

The Board approved the revision to the bylaws as modified.

4. Procurement Plan

Mr. Cassella, Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) subcommittee chair, summarized discussions with electric distribution companies (EDCs) regarding procurement planning for 2009 including review of a proposed timeline for the process. Ten white papers on action items identified are being developed and reviewed with CEAB's subcommittee. The combined group of EDC representatives and the subcommittee members are reviewing where the process has been, where it is, and where it is going. The January 1, 2009 deadline for delivery to CEAB makes the work schedule tight.

A draft decision on the 2008 IRP is due from DPUC on December 18th.

5. Various Energy Issues

Commissioner McCarthy reviewed an outline summarizing comments received on the VEI draft issued for comment. The outline of comments was organized around the report's four major findings and presented subcommittee recommendations for each.

There was little comment around Finding A and the associated recommendations. With regard to Finding B, questions were raised about what the base plan year for an IRP should be. 2010 was mentioned as a more realistic base year over 2008 or 2009.

With regard to Finding C and its recommendation, it was suggested that care should be taken to not "reinvent the wheel" but concentrate on improving what we already have.

With regard to Finding D and recommendations it was emphasized that the focus is on state wide needs and not targeting existing CSC or DPUC processes.

Other points raised in discussion included:

The importance of having input from DPUC throughout the IRP process.

The need to incorporate an emphasis on energy security throughout the process was raised.

Results of the DPUC docket on the 2008 IRP needs to be considered in the VEI recommendations.

A debate on both sides of the issue on whether CEAB should hire staff at this time in light of the large body of work surrounding the continuing IRP work. There were members who felt the work needed staffing support and others who were concerned about building more state staffing infrastructure when the support could possibly be acquired through contracting arrangements similar to those the Board now has with The Connecticut Economic Resource Center, Inc. (CERC).

When the staffing issue was raised later in the budget discussion, members concluded that discussions outside of this meeting might resolve the issue and it should be tabled for now.

Commissioner McCarthy concluded the discussion by asking Board members to submit any further comments they had regarding the recommendations presented in the outline by December 12th. A revised draft is scheduled to be circulated for board review by December 19th.

6. NEEWS RFP

Mr. Gaudiosi, chairman of the Energy/NEEWS RFP subcommittee updated the Board on progress related to the RFP. The subcommittee issued the RFP and conducted a well-attended bidders' conference. Seven notices of intent (NOIs) to bid have been received. Proposals are due by 4 p.m. on January 2, 2009. A small meeting at the end of the day on January 2nd is being considered to review submittals. By the February 6th CEAB meeting a draft of the required report to the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) on the proposals received should be ready for Board review.

A special meeting of the Board, possibly by phone, is anticipated being needed on February 11th or 13th to vote on the draft before transmitting to CSC by February 17, 2009.

The Board next discussed whether the names of those who submitted NOIs and/or comments should be made public. At the end of the discussion the Board approved posting the names of those who submitted NOIs but not comments received at this time.

The Board discussed whether or not to issue proactive RFPs in anticipation of the second and third filings by CL&P related to NEEWS to avoid some of the time pressures associated with the reactive RFP process. In the end it was decided that proposers would have a difficult time deciding what to submit without having the benefit of CL&P's filings to reference.

Mr. Downes left at this point prior to discussion of CEAB's budget submittal to DPUC.

7. Budget Update

Ray Wilson from OPM updated the Board on interrogatories received from DPUC in its docket to review CEAB's 2009 budget for approval. Both Mr. Wilson and Mr. Mengacci stressed that the line items of the budget are completely fungible. It is the bottom line of the budget that DPUC will approve.

The Board was then asked to authorize adding \$175,000 for LaCapra to complete its work on the approved work order in support of developing procurement plans. This is needed because of the extent of work that has evolved as the process has been developed over the last year. After discussion, the Board moved, seconded and voted to add \$175,000 to further fund LaCapra Associates' Procurement work order.

8. Election of Officers

Chairman Mengacci presented the recommended slate of officers for 2009 in accordance with the bylaws. He reported that Mary Healey had expressed interest in continuing as vice chair of the board so the revised recommended slate being put forth was Michael Cassella for Chair and Mary Healey for Vice Chair. After discussion, this slate of officers was moved, seconded and approved by the Board.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Mengacci solicited items for other business and public comment and there were none.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Submitted by: Gretchen Deans

Approved by: **CT Energy Advisory Board, January 9, 2009**