

**Regular Meeting of the  
Connecticut Energy Advisory Board**

Meeting Minutes  
March 7, 2006

**1. Call to Order**

The March 2006 monthly meeting of the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board (CEAB) was held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at The Connecticut Economic Resource Center, Inc., Rocky Hill, Connecticut. Members present were Donald Downes, Chairman of the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC); Mary Healey, Connecticut Consumer Counsel; Gina McCarthy, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); John Mengacci, designee of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM); James Sandler, partner in the Law Firm of Sandler & Mara (appointee of President Pro Tempore of the Senate); Carl Shiessl (appointee of the Speaker of the House); and Dave Carey, designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture.

The meeting was opened to public comment. William Barkus of Dominion Retail presented his case for retail choice for Connecticut consumers to select their natural gas providers. Ed Levine of Levco joined in this presentation with charts showing the positive impact of retail choice for consumers.

Chairman Downes recommended that the Legislative Committee of the CEAB consider the recommendation.

Ray Long and Morten Sissener of NRG gave a presentation on clean coal and the benefits of its use in generating electricity. Following the presentation board members asked several questions and requested copies of the PowerPoint presentation

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the February 2006 regular board meeting were approved by the board as presented.

**3. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Downes reported on LICAP settlement proposed by the administrative law judge for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Ninety parties agreed to the settlement, nine opposed. The filing was received by FERC late on March 6, 2006. Uncertainties still surround the decision. Public hearings may be scheduled by FERC. A final decision on the agreement is due in June and the ruling is to go into effect December 1, 2006.

A DPUC draft decision on customer-side distributed generation is scheduled for noon on Wednesday and a binding schedule on Phase 2 of Docket 05-07-14 should be issued shortly.

**4. CEAB Role in DPUC Dockets**

Docket 05-07-14Ph1

Vice Chair Mary Healey reported that Harvey Salgo of La Capra Associates has been acting as monitor in Phase 1 of this docket on CEAB's behalf. CL&P has made a filing under Phase 1.

Docket 05-07-14Ph2

CEAB has a further report in process to be submitted to DPUC in early April.

## **5. RPF Committee Report**

### **CL&P Wilton Substation RFP**

Ms. Healey reported that the RFP Committee reviewed La Capra's draft report on the Wilton Substation and the draft presented to the board today reflects changes recommended by the committee. Chairman Downes recommended that Dan Peaco of La Capra review the draft with the board, so that a vote to adopt the report might be taken today. After review and discussion by the board, it was moved, seconded and approved to adopt the draft for submission as presented subject to proofing edits before submittal.

### **UI Trumbull Substation**

Ms. Healey reported that the Board is awaiting UI's filing with the Connecticut Siting Council which will trigger the Board's reactive RFP issuance for this project. Marcia Wellman of UI reported that the municipal consultation filing has been prolonged. The company hopes by the end of the month it will be able to file with CSC.

## **6. Legislative Committee Report**

Chairman Downes reported on proposed House Bill 5689 which carves out energy projects not to be subject to the CEAB reactive RFP process. The CEAB Legislative Committee feels that it starts in the right place but is too narrow in scope. The committee has circulated its proposed testimony to be board which asks the legislature to build and expand upon the bill as first presented. Public agencies will be commenting on the bill at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 9.

Chairman Downes' read on the legislature's reaction to the energy department bill is mixed. His position still supports retaining the CEAB but that an administrative energy department could be beneficial. Politics should be kept out of energy planning however.

After discussion of the bill and possible actions, it was decided that CEAB would not proactively seek to comment on the bill, but if asked the board's position is that it believes in the mission and vision of the board as restructured in 2003 and recommends further study on establishing an energy department for the state.

## **7. 2007 Energy Plan**

Mr. Mengacci recommended tabling discussion on preparation of the 2007 energy plan until action on the bill establishing an energy department is complete. Commissioner McCarthy reminded the board, that should they prepare a 2007 report, it is to be a smaller scope than the 2006 report this year.

## **7. Other Business**

Board members asked when the Wilton Substation report would be submitted to CSC. The answer was with all deliberate speed, probably within days.

## **8. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Submitted by: Gretchen Deans

Approved by: CEAB, April 4, 2006