

Regular Meeting of the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board

April 9, 2010 Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order the April 2010 monthly meeting of the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board (CEAB) was held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 9, 2010 at the Connecticut Economic Resource Center in Rocky Hill, CT. Members present were Michael Casella (Chair and appointee of the Speaker of the House); Mary Healey, Connecticut Consumer Counsel; John Mengacci, designee of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Tracy Babbidge, designee of the Commissioner of Environmental Protection (DEP); James Sime, designee of the Commissioner of Transportation (DOT); Peggy Diaz, designee of the Chairman of Public Utilities Control (DPUC); Paul Nunez and Joel Gordes, appointees of the Speaker of the House; Timothy Cole, Kevin Hennessy and Jim Hoffman, appointees of the Governor; Jeff Gaudiosi (CEAB Vice Chair), Melissa Buckley and Tony Sheridan, appointees of the Senate President Pro Tempore.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Cassella asked the Board to review the minutes of the March 5, 2010 regular minutes and the March 12, 2010 special meeting minutes. The minutes were approved with Ms. Buckley and Ms. Diaz abstaining.

3. Procurement Report

Chairman Cassella introduced the procurement report presentation by Dan Peaco by stating that all recommendations are supported by data and that while there may be some disagreement around some recommendations, the Board will discuss the issues and talk about next steps following the presentation.

Mr. Peaco presented a PowerPoint, the purpose of which was to provide the Board with the factual background, data and analysis that led to the findings and recommendations in the preliminary draft procurement report. Board members asked questions, commented, and voiced opinions throughout. Board members discussed the recommendations as summarized in the presentation.

Chairman Cassella stated that there would be no vote on the report at this meeting and proposed a straw vote as to the scope, tenor and breadth of the draft document which was then taken. Board members commented individually and were generally comfortable or getting comfortable with the report.

Ms. Healy abstained from the straw vote as she would be a party in the proceeding before DPUC. She commented that she thought the report was very near completion and was very proud of the work done. Mr. Sime commented that he was generally comfortable with the report. Mr. Hennessy was comfortable but noted that he was concerned by the State's over reliance on gas and noted that the RPS needs a re-look. Mr. Cole liked the scope of the work and was amazed at where the level of discussion is; his concerns were editorial not substantive. Ms. Buckley was comfortable with the report noting that the RPS language needs work

particularly noting that the Board should be careful that its message to the renewable industry not be negative. Ms. Babbidge was getting comfortable with the report and noted the need for additional wordsmithing. Mr. Gaudiosi agreed with the bullet points of the recommendations. Mr. Gordes relied on his comments throughout the discussion. Mr. Mengacci thanked Mr. Cassella for his leadership through this process and said he was in favor of the report noting that the document would help frame debate and set a new landscape for discussion. Mr. Hoffman approved of the report. Mr. Sheridan supported the report, commending its thoroughness and extent to which it drilled down into analysis.

Chairman Cassella suggested that a call be set for the following week and asked that Board members get any additional comments to LaCapra Associates by the end of next week, with the goal of having a new draft the week after next.

4. CDA and DECD Coordination

Chairman Cassella introduced Marie O'Brien, President of the Connecticut Development Authority. Ms. O'Brien reported that the CDA had relied on data and analysis, much of which was provided by ENE, to write in support of energy efficiency and RPS to keep our economy strong. From the economic development side she voiced support for a holistic look at energy efficiency, renewables and financing.

5. ISO PAC Update

Eric Johnson of ISO-NE updated the Board on the status of ongoing planning studies noting that the geographic scope has expanded to look at Greater Hartford and the eastern interconnect. He also noted a shift in scope to look at reliability plus an economic study approach. ISO has received three economic study proposals including one from NESCOE. Presentations on the study requests will be heard on April 27. Regarding the Greater Hartford needs assessment, Chairman Cassella noted that ISO should consider Non-Transmission Alternatives.

6. Public Comment

Joyce Kung from ENE commented that regarding energy efficiency funding the Board should focus on funding sources but not preclude a small rate increase today to ensure larger savings later. She noted that other proposals also carry costs to ratepayers and referred the Board to ENE's February comments.

7. Adjournment

There being no other business before the Board, Chairman Cassella adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Jane K. Stahl