

**Regular Meeting of the  
Connecticut Energy Advisory Board  
June 4, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

The June 2010 monthly meeting of the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board (CEAB) was held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 4, 2010 at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, CT. Members present were Michael Cassella (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 the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); James Sime, designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation (DOT); David Carey, designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture; Peggy Diaz, designee of the Chairman of the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC); Joel Gordes and Paul Nuñez, appointees of the Speaker of the House; Timothy Cole, Kevin Hennessy and Jim Hoffman, appointees of the Governor; and Jeff Gaudiosi (CEAB Vice Chair) and Melissa Buckley, appointees of the Senate President Pro Tempore.

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the May 2010 CEAB Monthly Meeting were approved as distributed prior to the May meeting. Ms. Buckley, Ms. Diaz and Mr. Hennessy abstained from the vote.

**3. Beyond SB 493 and the IRP**

Chairman Cassella reported that Mr. DelGobbo, chairman of the DPUC, likes the work product delivered by CEAB in Docket 10-02-07. Ms. Healey commended the CEAB panel appearing in that docket consisting of Mr. Cassella, Ms. Babbidge and Dan Peaco and John Athas of LaCapra Associates.

Chairman Cassella made a point of extending invitations to the chairs of the Energy and Technology Committee of the legislature to attend today's meeting and has offered to review CEAB's report with their committee.

Board members felt that making a compare and contrast version of the IRP with the energy bill passed by the legislature available is still a good idea even though the Governor vetoed that bill. Ms. Babbidge volunteered to finalize a one-page compare and contrast document.

Board members expressed concern about the capacity of the Board to perform the follow up tasks required by the IRP in light of limited consulting support and no Board staffing. Messrs. Cassella and Mengacci committed to discuss how best to secure support for the Board including executive director type services for the Board with the Secretary of OPM.

**4. ISO New England Update**

Chairman Cassella introduced Eric Johnson, external affairs representative for ISO New England, to update the Board on recent activity at ISO. Mr. Johnson reviewed the timeline for ISO's Regional Systems Plan and noted the Board would have the opportunity to comment on the draft plan scheduled to be available over the summer.

Mr. Johnson also updated the Board on ISO's Hartford Needs Assessment and offered to present its findings to the Board when it is finalized. He also responded to questions from Board members regarding the study.

ISO is also reassessing earlier findings in the New England East West Solution studies because of changing circumstances since it was completed. ISO is also taking a re-look at the needs of Southwest Connecticut.

Senator Fonfara, co-chair of the Energy and Technology Committee, joined the meeting at this point. Chairman Cassella welcomed him and reviewed the Board's earlier discussion regarding what to expect following the passage SB 493 and its subsequent gubernatorial veto.

Senator Fonfara was invited to address the Board. He stressed his desire for Connecticut to take greater control of its energy fate. His remarks supported working with the Board going forward particularly with regard to pursuing a primary goal of his to do away with the factors that lead to Connecticut having the reputation of having one of the highest electric rates in the country.

Ms. Healey expressed her concern over the conflict of wanting to lower rates and having the state put some of the burden in resolving state budget matters on ratepayers. Senator Fonfara recognized her concern and suggested there are other forums where this can be pursued in more detail.

Chairman Cassella suggested that once the findings from Docket 10-02-07 are available the Board and the Committee re-engage to discuss next steps for Connecticut's energy future.

#### **5. DPUC Docket 10-02-07**

Mr. Peaco of LaCapra Associates was asked to update the Board on this docket. He noted that the docket hearing started on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Responses to interrogatories received in advance of the hearing have been filed. On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, CEAB's panel appeared at the hearing for the purpose of cross examination on the report filed with DPUC. On the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Messrs. Peaco and Athas returned to participate in the hearing. The electric distribution companies' panel is appearing today. DPUC expressed that it views this as one of the most important dockets this year.

Mr. Peaco noted that the DPUC was quite interested in information regarding repowering, the status of natural gas resources, energy efficiency and demand response and funding mechanisms for achieving all cost effective energy efficiency.

The Board discussed what it should submit in late filed material or in a reply brief. In particular the Board may need to clarify interim targets for getting to all cost effective measures and as queried by the DPUC in the hearing, does the Board want to lower rates for all or gain higher benefits for a few ratepayers.

#### **6. Various Energy Issues Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Cole, chairman of this subcommittee, reported on a subcommittee teleconference in which requests for proposals (RFPs) for a review of renewable portfolio standards and a study of non-transmission alternatives to the ISO needs assessment. Subcommittee members are drafting scopes of service for these RFPs which are to be complete by June 11<sup>th</sup>. They will be then discussed with OPM to seek approval for the Board to issue RFPs for these two pieces of work as soon as possible.

#### **7. Connecticut Siting Council 2010 Forecast of Loads**

Ms. Deans, consultant to CEAB and Mr. Perrone of the Connecticut Siting Council updated the Board on this CSC docket. Mr. Perrone reported that hearing dates for the docket have not yet been set but he anticipates they will be in late August or early September. Ms. Deans confirmed that Assistant Attorney General Mark Kohler has agreed to work with CEAB in this docket. Mr. Cassella concluded no further action by the Board need be taken at this time.

#### **8. CASE Nuclear Power Study Proposal**

Richard Strauss of the Connecticut Academy of Science Engineering (CASE) presented a proposal to conduct a study of future potential for nuclear power options in Connecticut. The proposal includes a base scope of work centered around the study itself and three options: one for a survey of public opinion regarding the potential for nuclear power in the state; another for the potential economic impact of adding

nuclear power to the energy source mix in the state; and finally having CASE be available to make presentations on the findings of the study as requested by the Board. Mr. Cole supports including the option for a survey of public opinion on nuclear generation.

The Board authorized CASE to go forward with the study and appointed a subcommittee to work with CASE and make recommendations on what options beyond the base study should be included in the work and oversee progress on the study versus the terms of CEAB's agreement with CASE. Mr. Mengacci abstained from the vote authorizing the study. The subcommittee will be chaired by Jim Hoffman and Messrs. Gordes and Sheridan will be members of the subcommittee as well.

#### **9. Public Comment**

Ted Verrill of Sasco River Associates presented on his letter to the Board regarding his project that would provide a Class III and possibly Class I renewable energy source which has not yet been recognized by the utilities.

#### **10. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by: Gretchen Deans

Approved by: