

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

Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2006

1. Call to Order

The August 2006 monthly meeting of the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board (CEAB) was held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 3, 2006 at the Connecticut Development Authority in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. Members present were Donald Downes, Chairman of the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC); Mary Healey, Connecticut Consumer Counsel; Nicole Lugli, designee of the 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); Pam Sucato, designee of Commissioner of the Department of Transportation; and Dave Carey, designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture. Also in attendance as guests of the board were Ray Wilson of OPM, Michael Chowaniec of DPUC, Dan Peaco of La Capra Associates and William Leahy of the Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE).

2. Public Comment

Chairman Downes opened the meeting to public comment. Robert Fromer questioned whether CEAB has properly established rules of procedure in compliance with section 16a-3c of the public act reconstituting the board. He also noted that the board has yet to respond to his November 2005 letter regarding energy plan contracting with the Institute for Sustainable Energy. He requested he receive a written response. He also suggested that rather than a number of individual planning documents for the state, the plan of conservation and development should encompass all of these including the state energy plan.

Inventor Lee Hebert addressed the board to present his model for energy storage and place his letter and a report on subject from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory into the CEAB records. The documents are attached to these minutes. Ms. Healey recommended that Mr. Hebert participate in relevant DPUC dockets and proceedings of other regulatory agencies which would allow a formal examination of his project and its viability. She noted that CEAB functions as an advisory board.

3. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Downes asked the board to review the minutes of the July meeting which were distributed prior to the meeting. The board approved the minutes as distributed. The chairman proposed reordering of agenda items and asked Ms. Healey to report on participation in DPUC dockets.

4. CEAB Participation in DPUC Dockets

Ms. Healey asked Mr. Peaco of La Capra Associates to report on draft comments from CEAB on DPUC's draft request for proposal (RFP) in Docket 05-07-14 Ph 2. Mr. Peaco summarized the contents of the draft including recommending using CEAB's preferential criteria in evaluating proposals. He noted that DEP, OCC and the Energy Conservation Management Board will be filing their own comments on DPUC's draft RFP.

Ms. Healey also noted that CEAB's bidders' conference for the RFP was held on July 28th. Attorney Sandler represented CEAB at the bidders conference and made a brief report.

5. CEAB Participation in Siting Council Forecasts

Ms. Healey reported on CEAB's participation in the Connecticut Siting Council's (CSC) Load Forecast for 2006. One significant conclusion reached is the need for ISO-New England to have knowledgeable witnesses in the forecast proceedings. The CSC also took formal notice of this issue.

Chairman Downes noted he has spoken with ISO representatives and ISO and CEAB will discuss ways to handle this in the 2007 Forecast and beyond.

Mr. Peaco noted that ISO's draft Regional System plan (RSP) for 2006 was just issued. CEAB will be filing comments on it as this plan drives what Connecticut must acquire and/or build to meet Connecticut's energy capacity and reliability needs. Comments are due by the end of August.

Chairman Downes recommended that board members review this document.

6. Chairman's Report

Chairman Downes reported that at the board's recent workshop there was a good give and take, with a wide range of viewpoints expressed. More time is needed to reach a consensus but issues that need to be addressed were identified.

The chairman recommended that it is time for a change in leadership for the board and members should be giving this thought between now and the end of 2006.

Mr. Downes commented on Canada's changing energy policies and the possibilities these might present for Connecticut and New England to purchase power from that country as well noting issues that would need to be resolved for this to occur.

The chairman discussed the September 15, 2006 planning meeting to plan the New England Governors/Eastern Canada Premiers Ministerial Forum on Energy to be held in Quebec City in 2007. He suggested that CEAB be represented at that session through its consultants. He solicited discussion and approval of this from the board. After discussion it was moved, seconded and approved to authorize payment for LaCapra to represent CEAB at the September 15, 2006 planning meeting.

A discussion followed of ideas on priorities and activities that the board should focus on going forward.

7. 2007 Budget Review and Discussion

Chairman Downes asked Michael Chowanec to review a draft of the 2007 budget compared to 2006 figures with the board. He noted the assumptions made in developing the 2007 budget figures and solicited questions from the board members. Further comments from the board can be submitted prior to the September meeting of CEAB on September 5, 2006 so the budget can be voted on at that meeting.

The bottom line is the important number as there is flexibility to shift dollars between line items. DPUC just approves the overall amount.

Ray Wilson noted that consultant services are built into the proposed 2007 budget figures. Current contractors are the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, Inc. (CERC), La Capra Associates and ISE. Based on earlier action of the board, CERC's contract is to be extended.

La Capra's contract expires in February 2007 and has to be rebid. Therefore drafting of the RFPs needs to begin immediately to have consultants in place in a timely manner. Mr. Wilson noted a board subcommittee to work on the RFPs is recommended. The chairman appointed Carl Schiessl, John Mengacci, and Jim Sandler for the committee. Mr. Mengacci volunteered to chair the committee.

8. 2007 Energy Plan Update

Ray Wilson reported that the Agency Staff Work Group had a series of meetings which included discussion of how to develop the 2007 energy plan. Bill Leahy of ISE participated in these meetings. It was decided that a series of stakeholder meetings would be conducted on the major topics covered by the plan. The group is to meet next week to develop a schedule these sessions for completion by October 1, 2006.

Bill Leahy stated he has developed a matrix to track progress on 2006 goals. This will be used for reporting in the 2006 plan and act as a template for tracking goals set in the 2007 plan. Chairman Downes noted that the topic areas included in the outline are investigatory, i.e. homeland security and may not be included in the final plan document.

The Agency Staff Work Group and Bill Leahy will organize the workshops and publicize the schedule to the board and stakeholders. Board members are encouraged to participate in those sessions of interest to them.

Throughout the development of the plan the goal will look for consistency and inconsistency with other planning documents for the state and address these issues trying to get the plans to intersect as much as possible.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Submitted by: Gretchen Deans

Approved by: Connecticut Energy Advisory Board, September 5, 2006