

CEAB Stakeholder Input Workshop

Notes

November 5, 2009

8:30 a.m.

Introduction to IRP Long-Term Planning Effort

Michael Cassella, Chairman of the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board, presented an introduction to the 2010 Integrated Resource Plan process set out by the Board and its consultant, La Capra Associates. He noted that 5 new study areas have been added to the ten from last year and they include repowering and natural gas. He stressed the importance of public input throughout the process noting the meetings of the subcommittee are open to the public.

John Athas from LaCapra reviewed the established plan in more detail with the use of a PowerPoint presentation. CEAB has decided to use a 20-year planning horizon expanding the 3, 5 and 10 year outlook required in the legislation.

Background

NRG on Repowering

Jonathan Gordon, Peter Fuller and Judith Lagano of NRG were introduced and they gave a presentation on repowering Connecticut by replacing older inefficient aging fleet of power plants with new more efficient and environmentally friendly units.

There was an extended discussion around NRG's plans for a biomass generation unit at Montville.

Representatives from GE encourage that any IRP RFP that is issued regarding future generation should not focus on repowering existing units alone so as to give existing generators an advantage but target a level playing field.

La Capra consultants stated that all options will be on the table as they address this topic as part of the IRP.

NRG noted that long-term contracts with generators would facilitate/support repowering initiatives.

ISO-Economic Studies

Eric Johnson of ISO New England next gave a presentation on Preliminary Results from the Economic Study ISO completed for the New England Governors. Key considerations of the study were the potential impacts of certain supply sources of energy (wind, combined cycle, energy storage, Canadian hydro, repowering/replacing existing units, changes in energy efficiency, demand response impacts, and Joint Coordinated System Plan imports) as well as load additions on the regions energy outlook.

Discussion

Near-Term Outlook Issues

The difficulty of coordinating timing of planning for repowering in light of the timing requirements for Forward Capacity Auctions was discussed.

GE urged that generation and transmission planning be connected.

Differing views on whether generation and transmission are interchangeable as implied in the Monday DPUC Technical Session on Transmission.

Long-Term Outlook Issues

Mr. Shuckerow of CL&P noted that the following challenges making the EDCs development of the IRP complex: unknowns surrounding CO2 legislative changes, DEP NOX requirements are unknown, loads are down over recent times, Forward Capacity is under debate and ISO and FERC, and the continuing impacts of last year's credit market crisis. The EDCs work will be a next step in providing better information to be guide offering alternatives rather than a firm plan.

John Athas closed the session by reviewing the schedule for upcoming stakeholder workshops. The afternoon of November 5th targets Renewables. Energy Security is scheduled for November 9th. Two workshops on November 19th will address Natural Gas and Environmental issues and Nuclear Power will be the subject on December 7th.