

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

Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2005

1. Call to Order

The April monthly meeting of the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board (CEAB) was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the The Connecticut Economic Resource Center, Inc., 805 Brook Street, Building 4, Rocky Hill, Connecticut. Members present were Donald Downes, Chairman of the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC); Nicole Lugli, designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); James Sandler, partner in the Law Firm of Sandler & Mara (appointee of President Pro Tempore of the Senate); John Mengacci, designee of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), Joseph Rosenthal, designee of the Connecticut Consumer Counsel; and David Carey, designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture.

Chairman Downes opened the meeting for public comment.

A member of the public, Robert Fromer, made an appeal that the state produce a master energy plan and enforce statutes already on the books in Connecticut promoting the use of solar energy. He recommended that municipalities create local entities similar to the CEAB because the activity that needs to be impacted takes place at the local level. The state's conservation and energy planning should cover solid waste management and promote life cycle energy planning.

There was not further public comment.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the February 1, 2005 regular board meeting and the March 21, 2005 special meeting of the board were approved by the board as presented.

3. Chairman's Report

Chairman Downes distributed copies of the press release on the Connecticut Siting Council's ruling involving the construction of a transmission line between Middletown and Norwalk. He anticipates there will be attempts to appeal the Council's ruling. The cost of delay that such appeals might cause is enormous especially in light of proposed Local Installed Capacity formulations. Finalized formulas are slated to be complete in June of this year. Delay clauses in construction contracts will also add to the cost.

The Chairman reported that contrary to a notice sent by the Connecticut Power and Energy Society, Heather Hunt, a member of La Capra's consulting team, will not be speaking on the 2005 Energy Plan at the Society's monthly meeting on April 13th. She does not plan to participate in the event.

Chairman Downes stated that La Capra, our RFP consulting firm, is performing superbly in developing scenarios and proposal pieces targeting proactive solicitations of proposals by the board. Once the consultants and the board's planning group review them carefully, there will be a presentation to the board.

This is particularly important in light of legislation such as House Bill 6906, An Act Concerning Energy Independence, which puts forth a role for the board in soliciting distributed generation proposals as soon as October of this year.

The chairman also stressed the importance of getting work on the next energy plan underway as soon as possible. Mr. Mengacci noted that he and Kathleen O'Connor had volunteered to spearhead this effort with the support of the Institute for Sustainable Energy. But Mr. Mengacci noted that as of May, Ms. O'Connor's availability in support of this work might be quite limited for the balance of the year. He solicited further support from the board.

Chairman Downes said he would in the short term be available to assist Mr. Mengacci with this work and would work to identify other board members to work on the plan longer term. He noted that Deputy Commissioner Stahl of DEP had sent him thoughts on the plan and it was suggested that she might be asked to work with Mr. Mengacci on this year's plan. It was also suggested that La Capra might provide support in preparing this year's energy plan. The chairman recommended that CEAB members working on the plan meet with the chairman and executive director of the Siting Council in the near future to coordinate both agencies plans. Ms. Deans noted that the meeting packets include a worksheet proposed by Consumer Counsel Healey for the board to consider using in tracking progress on action items in the energy plan.

William Leahy of the Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE) was invited to speak about Senate Bill 923 which promotes green buildings. He reported that there will be a hearing on this bill this afternoon from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Old Judiciary Room at the Capitol. He is working with a group of 30 stakeholders who are lobbying in support of this bill. He encouraged attendance at the session and support of the bill.

Chairman Downes gave a behind the scenes assessment of what was happening in the legislative session to address the Phase 2 generation ruling and another possible Long Island Sound moratorium. He also gave his assessment of the level of support such matters had. In both cases he felt their support was small.

In response to a question by Mr. Sandler, Chairman Downes stated that rate implications of opposition to moving forward with Phase 2 are devastating and CEAB may have to take a formal stance if further delay is indicated.

4. Other Business

The chairman reported that OPM has advised him that CEAB is not allowed to carry over funding from one year to the next. For calendar year 2004 CEAB had an unspent fund balance of \$291,700. OPM recommends that the board approve OPM returning the unspent balance on a pro rata bases to CL&P and UI. After discussion, the board moved, seconded and voted approval to return the funds as recommended.

Ms. Deans updated the board on development of a Web site for the board. She stated she, Kathleen O'Connor and John Mengacci met with Web architects from Ashton Services on April 5th. She reviewed the workshop notes with the board highlighting proposed strategic goals, functionality and a project plan for

the site. She reported that in addition to the \$1,400 cost of the workshop, the work on the balance of the work plan will cost \$5,900 and annual hosting/maintenance costs for the site will be under \$1,000 which is well within the budget of CERC's contract for this line item. She added that Mr. Leahy from ISE is part of the site planning team. The board endorsed the plans and costs reported for the Web site.

Mr. Leahy distributed a presentation disc for the Connecticut's Energy Future Conference to board members.

Chairman Downes noted the state's electric choice initiative is in process and energy consumers can opt for clean energy via inserts in their bills, through the internet or by phone. Good response to this initiative is anticipated.

6. Other Business

Chairman Downes solicited other business and there was none. There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Submitted by: Gretchen Deans

Approved by: CEAB, May 3, 2005