

*Special Meeting of the
Connecticut Energy Advisory Board*

Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2005

I. Call to Order

A special meeting by telephone of the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board (CEAB) was held on Monday, March 21, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. Members participating in the call were: Donald Downes, Chairman of the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC), Deputy Commissioner Jane Stahl, designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, Mary Healey, Consumer Counsel, John Mengacci, designee of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), Kathleen O'Connor, appointee of the Governor, James Sandler, appointee of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and David Carey, designee of the Commissioner of Agriculture. Chairman Downes presided and called the session to order at 3:05 p.m.

II La Capra Status Update

Chairman Downes summarized the status of the work with La Capra Associates as being a work in process consisting of developing information to build up the energy plan and collecting the background information needed to develop RFP modules. He stated that a workshop is scheduled for this Thursday morning (March 24th) at DPUC for the board's RFP working group. Chairman Downes then asked Dan Peaco of La Capra to give a summary of work to date from his perspective.

Mr. Peaco stated that the consulting contract is in place and work began in late January. Work is progressing on two tracks 1) defining the framework for the RFP process as stipulated in the state statute; and 2) rounding out planning criteria and targets as well as related issues arising from the current legislative session.

Chairman Downes said that at Thursday's session those present would converse on what has been learned and then focus on next steps.

III. Web Site Planning

Ms. Deans reported that she has developed a preliminary site map for a comprehensive CEAB Web site and that she needed board input and guidance to move the planning forward. Mr. Mengacci suggested that this work was closely related to the work on the 2006 energy plan. He recommended that since Ms. O'Connor and he are working on the plan already, they might be the board point people for the plan. He further recommended that the Institute for Sustainable Energy be involved in this work as well. There was board consensus on taking this approach in developing a Web site for the board.

Ms. Healey reported that La Capra was hired by the Office of Consumer Counsel to provide technical information for Docket 272. La Capra's work in this regard is almost complete and does not represent a conflict with the work for which the board has entered into contract with La Capra. She wanted to note this however to ensure full disclosure.

VI. Legislative Update

Chairman Downes reported on HB 6906, An Act Concerning Energy Independence sponsored by the Energy and Technology Committee. The bill addresses rates (time-of-use and seasonal rates), encouraging distributive generation and forward capacity contracts for distribution companies under the direction of the DPUC. The chairman recommended that board members become familiar with the bill which is likely to undergo several more revisions and to impact the CEAB.

Mr. Sandler noted that HB 6777, An Act Concerning Natural Gas and Fuel Oil Conservation, is also of interest to the board. The bill proposes funds to incent natural gas and fuel oil conservation funds similar to those already in place for electricity. The Energy Conservation Management Board would be the coordinating group for these funds. This is a controversial bill getting much attention from various interest groups and it too is likely to go through several further revisions. It was recommended that the board follow this bill as well.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Mengacci solicited the support of the board to use ISE interns to assist with the drafting of the 2006 energy plan. The board endorsed this approach. Mr. Leahy of ISE envisioned the Institute's role to be one of adding some depth to plan recommendations and statistically tracking progress in achieving the goals of the plan.

Chairman Downes suggested pushing back the April monthly meeting of the board from April 5 to April 12. He noted that the Siting Council is scheduled to issue its decision of Phase II on April 7. In light of this and the legislative activity, it could suit the board to have information related to the Siting Council and more legislative progress when it meets in April. Ms. Deans was asked to check this date with the board and finalize arrangements based on board feedback.

VIII. Adjournment

The special meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m. upon motion by Ms. O'Connor seconded by Deputy Commissioner Stahl and approved by the board.

Minutes submitted by: Gretchen Deans

Minutes approved by: CEAB on April 12, 2005