

SB191 State Energy Advisory Council (SEAC) Meeting Meeting Notes

Location: LOB 308

Date: February 10, 2014

Time: 1:31 to 2:47 pm

Council Members in Attendance:

- Meredith Hatfield, Director of the Office of Energy and Planning, SEAC Chair
- Senator Martha Fuller Clark
- Representative Beatrix Pastor
- Representative Charles Townsend
- Representative Herbert Vadney
- Mike Fitzgerald for Tom Burack, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services

Other agency staff in attendance:

- Karen Cramton, OEP
- Brandy Chambers, OEP

Introductions and Review of Agenda

Meeting notes from January 24, 2014 were approved; they will be posted on OEP's website.

Revised Business as Usual (BAU) Forecast Presentation

Presentation by Navigant Consulting

The full PowerPoint presentation will be posted to OEP website. A summary is provided below:

- Baseline Forecast Revisions
- State Rankings
- Per Capita Forecasts
- Residential, Commercial and Industrial Forecasts
- Thermal Electric Forecasts

State Rankings:

- RPS – middle of the road in comparison to other New England States
- Per Capita Expenditures – in the middle nationally and in New England

- ACEEE State Energy Efficiency Scorecard – 21st nationally; behind all other Northeast states
 - Partly due to lack of an EERS and limited public transportation resources

Per Capita:

- NH growth rate at 0.4% (43rd in nation)
- All data presented in 2012 dollars

Residential, Commercial and Industrial Forecasts:

- See slides for trends – overall summary is that while demand is relatively flat, fuel prices are increasing, leading to an increase in total expenditures

Thermal Electric Forecast:

- 3 key areas of demand considered: space heating, water heating and cooking

Specific questions that were submitted on the BAU have been answered in a Q&A document that will be posted to OEP's website. If further clarification is needed, contact Navigant.

Public comment about RPS and ACP costs: RPS has proven to be substantially more than expected since 2007. Additional data available on PUC website, including cost information in utility rates.

Energy Vision Development Process Presentation

Presentation by Navigant Consulting, available in PowerPoint on OEP website.

Baseline has been developed, next the vision will be defined, then the Resource Potential study will be performed to identify means to bridge the gap between the vision for the desired future and what the baseline forecast shows.

Four steps to energy vision process that the council will be following on February 21st:

1. Brainstorm key factors (examples on slide 26)
2. Develop continuums (examples on slides 27 & 28)
3. Discuss key issues for each factor
4. Identify which factors NH has ability to impact (examples on slide 29)

Develop the vision around the high impact factors which NH has the greatest ability to influence. Lisa Frantzis will guide the process.

Rep. Vadney – micro-grids in CT – is the study considering these?

Answer: Micro-grids would be a potential resource to achieve the vision. The vision could, for example, define grid security and reliability as a goal, and micro-grids could be a strategy to achieve that goal.

Review of existing policies, plans and reports currently available.

- New Hampshire Energy Policy 1991
- ENE Energy Vision 2014
- DES Climate Action Plan 2013
- Transportation and Climate Initiative 2011
- Look at OEP's Resource Page for these and additional studies
- Others? Please bring to next meeting

Rep Pastor – will you look at long term investments and technologies for EE, such as EERS?

Answer: This will happen during the resource potential study and policy discussions.

Next Steps:

Going out to the public statewide to garner input at the end of March. Director Hatfield will look at the project calendar and the SEAC can consider dates at the next meeting.

Comm. Burack – What will the structure of the public meetings be?

Dir. Hatfield – The SEAC can determine that, perhaps we could give citizens an overview of the process, review the Business as Usual, Vision, and initial Policy Prioritization, asking for feedback and input.

Sen. Fuller Clark – VT is moving forward with EV and charging stations. Is this study considering charging stations?

Answer: Part of resource potential study, the vision can also reflect a desire to move in that direction.

M. Fitzgerald – Will we consider financing issues and solutions?

Answer: Resource potential looks at both technical and financial economic impact, and again, the vision can touch on those issues.

Q: Look at other states' visions and investment instruments?

A: These topics fall in the policy analysis section.

Lisa Linowes – Cost is shown as something that we don't have much control over; that's true for fuel costs, but NH does have control over cost of EE measures, EV, infrastructure, etc.

A: Navigant will look at payback periods in analysis of policy options.

Q from member of the public: NH generates twice as much electricity as it uses, and 50% from a zero emissions source (Seabrook). Why are we spending money to continue meeting RPS goals?

A: Due to transmission concerns and being part of a regional grid, NH would need to invest heavily in transmission infrastructure to keep electricity in NH. In addition, NH can be an importer under certain conditions.

Q from member of the public: What percentage of electricity generated in NH is sold/used here? (based on contracts)

Answer: Difficult to track actual electrons; information may be available through EIA. Contracts between non-utility generators and purchasers are not publicly available.

Rep. Vadney – what happens if Seabrook doesn't continue? What about discontinuity in biomass plants? Etc. Many limiting factors in technologies (e.g. batteries). This should all be looked at and considered.

Answer: Agreed, the strategy should incorporate flexibility to be prepared for unexpected events.

Next meeting is February 21st. Meeting adjourned at 2:47 pm.