



**State of New Hampshire**  
*State Government Energy Committee*



**Meeting Summary Notes**  
**Committee Meeting**

**Monday, September 10, 2018**  
**2:00 to 4:00 PM**

**Hearing Room A**  
**Public Utilities Commission**  
21 S. Fruit Street, Concord, NH 03301

**Meeting Purpose:**

- Consider full extent of DAS role in advancing the State energy management goals
- Approve the fuel economy standards for 2019 State fleet contract
- Review progress accounting for renewable energy and planning additional investment
- Establish process for identifying future SGEC strategic priorities

**Attendees:**

*Co-Chairs:* Jared Chicoine, Office of Strategic Initiatives and Becky Ohler (representing Bob Scott), New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

*SGEC Members:* Bill Cass (Dept. of Transportation); Heather Fairchild (For David Clapp, Dept. of Health & Human Services); Karen Cramton (Public Utilities Commission); Steven Lavoie (Dept. of Safety); Warren Perry (Adjutant General's Department); Karen Rantamaki (Dept. of Admin Services); Seth Prescott (Dept. of Nat. and & Cult. Resources); Rick Fink (Fish and Game Department); Rick Lavers (Employment Security); Craig Buckley (Liquor Commission); and Jon Hanson (Dept. of Corrections).

*Advisory Members:* Gary Lunetta (Dept. of Admin. Services) and Ted Kupper (Dept. of Admin Services)

*Guest:* Commissioner Charlie Arlinghaus (Dept. of Admin. Services)

*Staff:* Donnie Perrin (Dept. of Admin Services); Tara Merrifield (Dept. of Admin Services); Matt Henry (NH National Guard); Chris Moore (Dept. of Admin Services); Deandra Perruccio (Public Utilities Commission); Chris Skoglund (Dept. of Environmental Services); Alexis Labrie (Office of Strategic Initiative); and Liz Strachan (Dept. of Environmental Services).

**Meeting Agenda:**

- 1. Welcome & Introductions –SGEC Co-Chair Jared Chicoine, OSI**
- 2. Approval of Summary Notes from April 9, 2018**

Passed with no discussion, objections, or abstentions

### 3. Approval of Fleet Fuel Economy Standards (Action Item)

Tara Merrifield, State Fleet Manager, reminded the group that the SGEC is tasked with approving the fuel economy requirements for the fleet. For the 2018 State Fiscal Year contract the fuel economy limits were set as follows:

Passenger Auto (< 8,501 lbs. GVWR)	39 MPG
SUV (<8,501 lbs. GVWR)	30 MPG
Light Duty Trucks (<6,000 lbs. GVWR)	27 MPG
Light Duty Trucks (6,001 lbs. – 8,500 lbs. GVWR)	25 MPG

Based on the available information for model year 2018 and 2019 vehicles, Tara recommended that the fuel economy requirements remain the same for the State Fiscal Year 2019 contract.

SGEC member commented that for this year these fuel economy ratings are likely realistic. She indicated that she had recent conversations with DAS to make sure that advanced technology vehicles will be bid and presented to agencies together. This will likely increase the number of advanced technology vehicles in the fleet and in future years the group could likely push for greater fuel economy requirements.

Recommendations adopted with no discussion, objections, or abstentions.

### 4. DAS Role in Advancing Energy Management

Commissioner Charlie Arlinghaus presented an overview of how the divisions within the Department of Administrative Services work and who the directors of the divisions were.

He introduced himself as the commissioner and then went on to introduce the DAS Directors whose work relates to energy and the SGEC.

Ted Kupper is the Director of the Division of Public Works and Construction was to build stuff. Charlie stated that Ted runs basically a small engineering firm that oversees the design and construction/renovation of state buildings. He made the analogy that, "Ted makes Cadillacs at Yugo prices."

Steve Lorentzen, who is represented by Karen Rantamaki on the SGEC, is the Director of the Division of Plant and Property Management. They manage 90 buildings across the state. It is the role of the Division of Plant and Property Management to "make sure the buildings didn't fall down." Any time there is a problem with one of the 90 buildings this group responds to it. Donnie Perrin, the State Energy Manager, and the State Energy Office is part of this division.

Gary Lunetta, is the Director of the Division of Procurement and Support Services. He indicated that their job was to get the greatest value for the least amount of money. This group regulates what you can purchase and when you can purchase it. Everything has to go out to bid by state law and everyone gets a shot at State business. Their job also entails trying to make it easier for people to navigate the rules around purchasing.

After the introductions, an SGEC member noted they had read that 19 schools in New Hampshire have solar on their rooftops, and they wished to know if the State is trying to attain any goals with regards to solar installation. DAS responded noting that Executive

Order 2016-03 has fossil fuel goal reductions, but not specific goals regarding solar installations. DAS further noted that the design phase of building projects has to reflect a certain amount of energy efficiency and that currently they are installing solar on the records and archives building.

Another SGEC member asked how much of the design is done in-house and how that affected the incorporation of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in project design. DAS stated that about 95 percent is farmed out on a rotating basis to firms that have the statewide contract or in some cases for larger projects a specific request for proposal is put out. DAS also noted they have 12-15 consultants on a rotating basis and in general the firms they hire are young firms with problem solvers on staff.

## **5. Renewable Energy Accounting and Expanded Renewable Energy Investment**

Karen Cramton gave an overview of Renewable Energy Certifications (RECs).

An attendee asked what happens to the money from the purchase of RECs and if there was a limit to how many RECs a generator could produce. Karen noted that the revenue remained with the generator and if the generator is certified their RECs sales are limited to how many MWh they generate (1 MWh = 1 REC). In some cases the generators may have specific regulations that they must meet, for example biomass heating facilities must meet strict emission standards for their energy (heat) production to qualify for RECs.

Karen explained that if an electric supplier cannot procure enough RECs on the open market, they can make an alternative compliance payment (ACP) that feeds the Renewable Energy Fund (REF). The REF fluctuates in total payments annually as it depends on how many alternative compliance payments are made. In the first year, it took in 1.5 million dollars and it peaked at 24 million dollars. In the past three years, it has ranged from three to five million dollars. The REF allocates money to renewable energy rebate and competitive grant programs. The intention is for the ACP payments to help support the development of certified facilities that feed more RECs into the market.

An SGEC member asked if anyone can apply for these funds. Karen noted that anyone can apply, but that you can only apply for the grant if the rebate program does not apply to the project. It was also noted that Donnie Perrin is making sure that the State applies for the grant money and rebates for the its eligible renewable energy projects..

Karen went on to explain that an individual monitor is required to validate how many RECS the generator is producing. In some cases with electronic meters, they have the capability of reporting the REC generation electronically and it removes the need and cost of having someone physically go to the site to read the meter. Donnie added that these special meters need to be installed at the beginning of the project and that DoIT needs to be involved. Donnie also indicated that thermal meters are more expensive. Donnie's experience in registering facilities as certified REC generators was a challenge, but he believes it will get easier and more efficient as the State undertakes projects and develops experience and expertise. Donnie plans to present more information on REC accounting at the next SGEC meeting.

## **6. Strategic Planning and Prioritization**

Alexis LaBrie presented a spreadsheet that the state energy staff put together based on the facilitated discussions, held on January and April 2018, which focused on the opportunities and challenges relative to pursuing more energy projects for the State. Alexis asked the group to take time in the next two weeks to look through the document and assign a priority of 1 (highest priority) through 3 (lowest priority) to each of the categories. This information would be aggregated and then used by the state energy staff to identify the priorities of the SGEC as a whole and develop a strategic plan for the SGEC.

## **7. Executive Order Requirements – Building Energy Standards**

Ted Kupper spoke to the group about how his Division addresses building energy and life safety codes. The State adopted a High Performance Design Standard for projects over one million dollars and over 25,000 square feet in size. It was noted that this standard had not been updated in some time. The SGEC heard that state energy staff will continue to work with the Division of Public Works and bring this back to the group in the future.

One challenge is whether a new standard would be cost effective or would impact capital costs. Very often operating costs may go down as a result of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures, but the capital budget needs to be looked at to unlock some of these changes. It was noted that the State is almost done with budgeting for the FY2020-2021 biennium, so a more modern building performance standard would not affect that time period, but now is the time to start talking about policy that may affect the next biennium.

## **8. Updates**

Becky Ohler updated the group on the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Commission created by Senate Bill 517 (2018 Session). She also noted that the Diesel Emission Reduction Program, administered by NHDES, combined with funding from Volkswagen Settlement Funds will allow the State to invest over one million dollars in diesel emission reduction this fiscal year.