

Minutes:

Stowe Electric Commissioners' Meeting
August 30, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at Town of Stowe Electric Conference Room

Present:

BOARD MEMBERS: Richard ("Dick") Marron, Chairman; Larry Lackey, Vice-Chairman

STAFF: Ellen Burt, General Manager; Kevin Weishaar, Controller; Matthew Rutherford, Manager of Regulatory Compliance; David Kresock, Director of Operations; Lily Burgess, Clerk of the Board

GUESTS: Carolyn Ruschp, Stowe Motel
Kate Carpenter, Stowe Kitchen Bath & Linens
Dave Bullis, Stowe High School
Rich Marron, Town & Country
Chuck & Sheri Baraw, Stoweflake Resort
Rachel Vandenberg, Sun & Ski

Tim Hebert, Executive Vice President, Energy New England
Michelle Coscia, Sr Energy Market Analyst, Energy New England

Dick called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

VLITE EV Charging Station Owners

Dick welcomed all guests attending the meeting. SED was very fortunate to receive a grant from VLITE, which enabled SED to install the EV charging stations. The grant for a tourism area was brought to SED's attention by Efficiency Vermont. Between using SED staff to install the EV charging stations and the help of various tech people, SED was able to complete the project below budget and sufficient funds were available to return the financial contributions made by the property owners who agreed to host the new EV charging stations. Ellen handed the refund checks to the commercial customers attending the meeting.

Carolyn, Kate, Dave, Rich, Rachel, Chuck and Sheri exited the meeting at 8:16 a.m.

Approval of the July 19th, 2017 Meeting Minutes

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of July 19, 2017 were approved.

Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) Presentation - Tim Hebert, Energy New England

Tim and Michelle elaborated on the IRP outline presentation slides. Energy New England has been working together with SED on the 2017 IRP since early spring. The Transmission and Distribution (T & D) section of the IRP came directly from SED's data. Typically, an updated and revised IRP is required to be filed with the Public Utility Commission ("PUC") every 3 years. Most recently, the Public Service Department ("PSD") has been waiting until the new Renewable Energy Standards (RES) were finalized, which in large part is what drives the thought process, given that the state lays out a format and approach for utilities to follow. The new RES in place is a big factor determining the power supply resource requirements.

Given SED's existing energy portfolio and its approach to procuring power supply resources, there is not much that needs to happen to remain in compliance with the new Renewable Energy Standards. This is driven in a big part by the Nebraska Valley Solar Farm, which meets a lot of the new requirements. Some of the Tier II and Tier III requirements necessitate those power resources to be located within VT. Furthermore, a large portion of the Tier II and Tier III requirements are already met with the Solar Farm, at a relatively low cost to SED. The Solar Farm furthermore allows flexibility in how to balance the RES requirements and can count toward two Tiers simultaneously. The fact that the Solar Farm is within SED's service territory furthermore reduces the amount of capacity SED has to buy by a significant number. For every MW the Solar Farm produces at the right time in June, SED saves more than \$100,000 per year. The Solar Farm also helps to offset and reduce the monthly ISO Regional Network Transmission Service Charge, which is the third largest power cost point.

The outline from the 2017 IRP comes directly from the 2016 VT Comprehensive Energy Plan as provided by the PUC. A lot of the key factors are consistent from the previous IRP, the major addition is the RES section. Load forecasts were provided by ITRON. Forward Capacity Market, Energy Market, Energy Price, Transmission Market, Emerging Technologies, as well as SED's current Energy Portfolio, RES cost, scenarios and options were discussed in detail.

Tim and Michelle exited the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

IT Report

The IT Report was part of the Commissioners' Meeting Packet but was not discussed in further detail.

Regulatory Update

2017 Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP"): A preliminary draft of the IRP was submitted to the Public Utility Commission PUC. SED has worked out a schedule for review and collaboration with the Public Service Department (PSD), which ultimately will culminate with a filing of the IRP by December 1st.

Nebraska Valley Solar Farm Plantings: The CPG contained a condition that SED provide annual updates on the landscaping for four years following the project commission. As part of the site visit by the landscaper, several plantings were identified as needing to be replaced with species that were already successfully established on the berm and would still provide a visual barrier from the road. SED has replaced the plantings as recommended.

Financial Update – June 30 Audit Update

Kevin distributed the financial statements with notes before the meeting and reported that the mid-year audit went well. SED is waiting for the partner review of the audit for the final numbers, but SED is projected to have a smaller than budgeted loss.

Operations Report

The Operations Report was part of the Commissioners' Meeting Packet but was not discussed in further detail beyond the scheduled outage for line maintenance, as well as the FairPoint poles in the SED service territory.

Other Business

Moscow Mill property: Ellen mentioned the upcoming article in the Stowe Reporter about SED's planned new Energy Park at the Moscow Mills site, combining the past with the future. The new garage in a barn style will have solar on the roof, as well as an EV charging station. SED will also write for a grant to restore and bring the Little River Hydro power plant back. SED attended the Stowe Historical Society Board meeting, together with two representatives from BreadLoaf Construction, to present the building plans.

NEPPA Awards: Dick mentioned and congratulated Ellen and SED on the two awards (Person of the Year and Special Recognition) they received from New England Public Power Association (NEPPA).

The Board scheduled the next Commissioners' meeting for Thursday, September 28th at 8:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lily Burgess
Clerk of the Board