

 **NRPC APPROVED MINUTES**
NRPC ENERGY FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
05/15/15

Members Present:

Tad Putney, Town of Brookline
Tom Young, Town of Litchfield
Elvis Dhima, Town of Hudson
Kat McGhee, Hollis
Steve Wells, Mason
Sarah Marchant, City of Nashua
Hal Lynde, Town of Pelham
Kermit Williams, Town of Wilton

Tim Thompson, Town of Merrimack

Others Present

Emily Cashman, Senator Shaheen's Office
John Greene, Congresswoman Kuster's Office
David Beach, Amherst Guest
Tim Murphy, Southwest RPC
Henry Underwood, Southwest RPC

STAFF PRESENT

Tim Roache, MPO Coordinator Sara Siskavich, GIS Manager Karen Baker, Program Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Williams called the meeting to order at 2:08 pm with introductions from EFAC members and presenters for the meeting Michael J. Ausere with Eversource, Marylee Hanley with Spectra Energy and Eric Taylor with Eversource.

PRESENTATIONS EVERSOURCE ENERGY AND SPECTRA ENERGY

Michael J. Ausere provided a Power Point presentation for the EFAC group. He explained that Access Northeast is a collaboration of developers from Eversource Energy, National Grid and Spectra Energy and is a tailored solution to the regions electric energy needs. Ausere explained the major energy challenges with New England due to the following:

- Gas for electric generation in New England is severely constrained in winter, driving electric power prices higher (this past winter, New England gas prices were ~175% higher than the rest of the country).
- The competitive power market not delivering a solution for reliability on the coldest days when the grid is threatened.
- Consumers are switching from oil to natural gas for heat
- Concerns about extensive new pipeline construction
- Natural gas supply problems compounded by the retirement of nuclear, coal and oil powered plants (more than 3500 MW to retire by 2018 and an additional 5000 at risk by 2020 [10% of the fleet]).

He added 15 years ago, 15% of our electricity generation came from gas powerplants and now that number has reached 50% and we have not invested as a region to deal with this energy supply issue.

There was discussion on the gas pipelines that run down the east coast (Maritimes & Northeast and the Algonquin Gas Transmission lines).

Ausere referred to the PowerPoint presentation informing the group that Spectra pipelines already serve over 70% of New England generation and will provide fuel for 5,000 MW of electric generation. There was a question of using oil as an alternative to gas. There was discussion of run time in the winter of 2014 with oil fired vs. jet engines. There was discussion of capability of newer gas plants running off oil. Ausere was aware of one in CT that was capable of running a short time off oil. Ausere spoke of the natural gas decrease this past winter and the considerable drop in oil prices. Ausere continued to show where the Spectra pipelines were, where gas fired power plants are connected to the Access Northeast Project and

the New England gas and electric markets served by them as well. He explained that upgrades to the existing pipelines as part of the project the benefits:

- Cost effective, innovative & environmentally responsible
- Reduce the bottleneck and utilize local natural gas storage
- Reduce carbon emissions by displacing oil generation
- Increase in natural gas supplies to power plants by 0.9Bcf/day and will be online by November 2016
- Provide rapid response capability, a first of its kind service to electric generators that will meet peak winter day needs and back stop intermittent solar wind-renewable power
- Quick to the market with a planned in service date of November 2018
- Project will use 70% existing ROW in a 5 mile spot through Everett
- \$54-\$189 million annual net savings for NH and address winter gas constraints in the state and region without new construction in NH

There was discussion of other projects currently underway with Spectra such as AIM which will increase capacity to the existing Algonquin pipeline at .342 Bcf and Atlantic Bridge (not certificate of need issued yet) which would increase capacity to .153 Bcf which should result in a reduction of costs from both these projects. Lynde questioned the 200 mil cubic ft that KM had in their pre-file and felt if it had to be sized to customer agreements with the current being .5 Bcf per day. He asked if KM was competing with Eversource and Spectra. Ausere said that KM is gas heating needs and Spectra is gas power stations and assumes that New England turns around. Ausere reminded that group that the project is built to order. Hanley added that once the filing is made, you can't change anything.

Williams asked how you bring electric prices down even when things work well and still end up being the highest in the country. Ausere said by getting gas prices down and being thoughtful about renewable energy and the cost. Taylor suggested importing hydro from Canada.

NEXT MEETING

The meeting ended at 3:41pm. The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 29, 2015 from 2:00-3:30pm.