

## **Consumer Liaison Group Meeting**

Marlborough, Massachusetts

February 2, 2010

### **Meeting Notes**

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#### **I. Participants**

The following individuals participated at this meeting either in person or by phone:<sup>1</sup>

Kevin Hennessy (CBIA); Helen Honan (Northeast Utilities); Bob Halpin (Merrimack Valley Economic Development Corporation); Chris Schaper (Solutia Inc.); Edward Goldstein (MA AG); Gus Fromuth (Freedom Energy Logistics); Deirdre Manning (Boston College); Patricia Rush (Power Options); Mary Smith (Harvard); Bob Ruddock (Smith and Ruddock); Rich Steeves (CT OCC); Mark Tesscini (ISO-NE); Craig Foley (inCharge); Tim Pulling (inCharge); Jeff Jones (Bangor Hydro); Anne George (ISO-NE); Heather Hunt (NESCOE); Ben D'Antonio (MA DPU); John Keene (MA DPU); Roger Borghesani (TEC); Paul Peterson (Synapse energy Economics); Tim Brennan (National Grid); David Tuohey (MMWEC); Sean Fitzgerald (MMWEC); Bob Ludlow (ISO-NE); Jim Stetson (MA AG); Dan Broderick (MA AG); David Cetola (MA AG); Jed Nosal (MA AG); Jamie Tosches DeMello (MA AG); Carolyn O'Connor (ISO-NE); Hayley Dunn (ISO-NE); Paul Hibbard (MA DPU); Ellen Foley (ISO-NE); Mike Supranowicz (Berkshire Chamber of Commerce); Hans Mertens (VT DPS); Jeff Turcotte (New England Council); Eleanor Tillinghast (Green Berkshire); Leo Wold (RI AG); Bill Short.

#### **II. Presentation and Discussion on New England Governors Renewable Energy Blueprint**

Paul Hibbard (Chairman, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities) presented highlights of the [New England Governors' Renewable Energy Blueprint](#) and ISO's related [economic study](#). He also led a discussion that focused on some of the public policy issues associated with the development of renewable resources and transmission.

Chairman Hibbard noted that the ISO's economic study revealed that there are significant untapped onshore and offshore wind resources in New England and that it is possible to develop some of these resources with relatively cost-effective transmission options. He questioned the consumer cost of developing Midwest wind resources and large amounts of long-delivery transmission to meet the renewable energy needs of the Northeast and the entire Eastern Interconnection, a concept being advanced by Midwest entities and wind developers. The concept is also reinforced in draft federal legislation that would provide the FERC with additional authority to approve transmission projects to access renewable resources and allocate their

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that this is not an all-inclusive list of participants, some individuals did not sign-in or may have joined the conference call without identifying themselves.

costs to consumers. The [Eastern Wind Integration and Transmission study](#) conducted for the U. S. Department of Energy provides technical analysis for this approach. Chairman Hibbard noted that the ISO's study found that New England would need significant internal upgrades to move power delivered to the border from Midwest sources into and throughout the region.

CLG members commented that decisions about any new transmission infrastructure to meet New England's needs should be based on transparent consideration of the costs and benefits of the projects. Chairman Hibbard urged CLG members to consider engaging their representatives in Washington with their concerns.

### **III. Update on CLG Coordinating Committee and Other Governance Issues**

Jed Nosal (MA AG) reviewed the current composition of the [CLG Coordinating Committee](#), the governing body of the Consumer Liaison Group. Three additional members expressed interest to join the CLG CC and were subsequently approved by the CLG. The new members are: Kevin Hennessey (Business and Industry Association, CT), Mary Smith (Harvard University, MA), and Hans Mertens (Department of Public Service, VT). There are four spots remaining on the CLG CC; priority for these spots will be given to members from the following states – Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Those interested in joining the CLG Coordinating Committee are urged to contact Jed Nosal ([jed.nosal@state.ma.us](mailto:jed.nosal@state.ma.us)) or Carolyn O'Connor ([coconnor@iso-ne.com](mailto:coconnor@iso-ne.com)).

In other governance items, the CLG CC clarified that the role of the ISO within the CLG framework is that of an advisory role. The CLG is driven by consumer participation, with the CLG CC acting as its advisors and the ISO point of contact as a facilitator who provides CLG feedback to ISO management and the Board.

### **IV. Open Dialogue on CLG Initiatives to Date**

CLG members held an open discussion on various issues they would like to have presented and/or discussed at future meetings. They include:

- An overview of the ISO Market Rules so that consumers can understand what they can do and how they can participate in the process that ultimately affects the price of electricity.
- A presentation of the ISO billing process and how wholesale customers are billed for the various wholesale market costs.
- Process for load forecasting.
- Focused discussions on electricity costs and how they impact retail rates.

CLG members also suggested that the CLG CC should maintain two lists of ongoing topics for meetings – one list should focus on issues to be discussed in the near term (issues that are of immediate concern and emerging issues), and another list of issues to be discussed at future meetings.

There was also a discussion on how to sustain and increase the membership of the CLG. Ms. O'Connor reported that the ISO would be conducting outreach to potential CLG members in the states and to discuss the effectiveness of the CLG to date. The first meeting will be held in Maine.

**V. Update on Timely Issues and Activities<sup>2</sup>**

Ms. O'Connor reviewed the December monthly issues memo and specifically highlighted the following items:

- Vamsi Chadalavada, COO, ISO-NE, will be presenting on the ISO's 2010-2011 priorities at the February 5 Participants Committee.<sup>3</sup> This presentation will highlight the major initiatives the ISO will be focusing on over the next two years. Consumers are urged to look at this presentation which will help explain how the ISO sequences its workload.
- The March 8 Planning Advisory Committee meeting will include a comprehensive overview of the planning processes for transmission needs as well as an overview of the scope of work for RSP10.
- External Affairs has updated the state profiles for 2010. They can be found at [http://www.iso-ne.com/nwsiss/grid\\_mkts/key\\_facts/index.html](http://www.iso-ne.com/nwsiss/grid_mkts/key_facts/index.html). Also new for this year, is a profile for the entire New England region.

**VI. Other Issues**

*FERC Technical Conference on ISO/RTO Responsiveness*

On February 4, FERC is hosting a technical conference to provide a forum for interested participants to discuss the responsiveness of RTOs and ISOs to their customers as a result of FERC [Order 719](#). The conference will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the FERC. For more details, please see

<http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventDetails.aspx?ID=5037&CalType=%20&CalendarID=116&Date=02/04/2010&View=Listview>.

*2010 CLG Meeting Dates*

[May 6](#) – ISO New England, Holyoke, MA

[August 5](#) – Colonnade Hotel, Boston, MA

[November 3](#) – Location, TBD

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<sup>2</sup> For background information on this discussion, please see the December monthly issues memo, [http://www.iso-ne.com/committees/comm\\_wkgrps/othr/clg/mnthly\\_issu\\_memo/index.html](http://www.iso-ne.com/committees/comm_wkgrps/othr/clg/mnthly_issu_memo/index.html)

<sup>3</sup> Vamsi's presentation can be found at: [http://www.iso-ne.com/committees/comm\\_wkgrps/prtcpnts\\_comm/prtcpnts/mtrls/2010/feb52010/2010\\_priorities.pdf](http://www.iso-ne.com/committees/comm_wkgrps/prtcpnts_comm/prtcpnts/mtrls/2010/feb52010/2010_priorities.pdf).