

nyecc

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 11th, 2021 – 8:30 AM
VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

Attendees: Andy Anderson, Daniel Avery, David F. Bomke, Michael Byrnes, George Diamantopoulos (*Counsel*), Daniel Egan, Jonathan Flaherty, Michael Forese, Adin Meir, Lauren Brust Moss, Daniel Palino, John Pierce, Luis Rios, Phil Skalaski, Edward Strauss, Sheila Sweeney and Ben Wallack.

Absent: John Bowen, Henry Celestino, Dominick Chirico, Matt Duthie, John Ferrante, Brian Flaherty, Avi Itzikowitz, Jason McCalla, Steve Mosto, Alec Saltikoff, John Soden, Zach Steinberg and Diana Sweeney.

Guests: Gene Boniberger, Jeannine Cooper, Molly Dee, Jennifer Kearney, Stephanie Margolis, Charlie Marino, Sofia Melo, Michael Prefi, Michael Reed, John Rice, Lou Schoen, Larry Skennion and Doug Staker.

CALL TO ORDER Phil Skalaski / Daniel Egan

Phil Skalaski called the August 2021 Board Video Conference Call Meeting to order at 8:32 AM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Phil Skalaski / Daniel Egan

Daniel Egan requested review of the July 2021 Board Meeting minutes. A revised version of the minutes was sent out to Board Members. The minutes were moved for approval by David Bomke, seconded by Daniel Avery and unanimously approved.

TREASURER REPORT Ed Strauss

The Chase Checking Account balance is \$74,132. The CIT Savings balance is \$386,348. The Chase balance should last until the end of the year, and if not the NYECC can transfer money from CIT to Chase.

CO-PRESIDENT REPORT Phil Skalaski / Dan Egan

- Member Check-In

Vornado Realty Trust and the Durst Organization have a mask requirement back in place for common areas in their buildings. Many employers have pushed their full return to work dates from

Labor Day to October or even January. Durst Organization and many others are mandating vaccines, and if not, employees will be separated from the company. Conversations with labor unions are ongoing. If a large percentage of union employees are laid off (e.g., 40%), it is not certain that the same percentage can be found in the current job market. NORESCO has been following the guidelines of its clients when sending consultants to sites. Many Human Resources departments are struggling with making these decisions and enforcing them.

- Decarbonization of the Steam System

The NYECC is looking for an analysis of what it would actually take to decarbonize the steam system. Con Edison has released limited preliminary plans and has not issued substantial incentives or other program guidance. The NYECC held a meeting with Rajiv Shah from the Governor's Office to discuss paths forward. After the Governor steps down, the staff that stays in place will continue to push the CLCPA. 2022 may be a realistic time frame to request action from the New York State Public Service Commission. The NYECC can request other organizations sign on to a petition for a plan from Con Edison to take the city from its current status to reaching CLCPA goals. Information provided to the public thus far does not provide enough detail or clarity.

- Invoice Approvals

Daniel Egan requested review of the July NYECC invoices from EnergyWatch and 3 Point Energy. The invoices were moved for approval by David Bomke, seconded by Phil Skalaski and unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT

Lauren Brust Moss

- Steering Committee Report

The Steering Committee has held terrific meetings. Diana Sweeney will provide next steps during the September meeting.

There will be a follow up meeting with Con Edison this fall for NYECC members. Agenda topics should be sent to Diana Sweeney. Estimated meter readings and AMI rollouts will be discussed. Con Edison has offered support and made progress for members on these topics in recent months.

REGULATORY UPDATE

George Diamantopoulos

New York Energy Consumers Council, Board Members' Meeting, Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Presenter: George Diamantopoulos, Esq., Counsel to the NYECC

Energy News

- 7/15/21 – PSC approves 174 Power Global's (name inspired by 174 petawatts of power earth receives from the sun every moment; 1 petawatt = 1 quadrillion (15 zeros) watts) **East River 100 MW Energy Storage Project**. Commercial operation is expected on 1/1/23. The energy supply agreement with Con Edison is 1/3 of the 300MW the PSC ordered Con Edison to procure and deploy by 2023.

- 7/20/21 - NYSERDA to receive nominations regarding **potential sites for large-scale renewable energy projects** to advance “Build Ready” projects under the 2020 Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act. The program’s focus is on the re-use of existing or abandoned commercial sites, brownfields, landfills, and industrial sites for developing large-scale renewable facilities, while offering benefits and incentives for both property owners and host communities. Sites will be evaluated based on environmental site conditions, the ability to interconnect to the grid, and whether the site is physically suited to host such projects.
- 7/20/21 – **mCloud**, an AI solutions provider in Con Edison's Business Energy Pro program, **is offering its AssetCare™ solutions for HVAC and indoor air quality to small business customers of Con Edison** and **is offering energy saving incentives to businesses located on Staten Island and in Westchester County**. Participating **small businesses earn payments for measured energy savings over a multi-year period**. Business Energy Pro is one of the first **"pay-for-performance" incentive programs** in the country.
- 7/22/21 – 15-E-0751 - The PSC held a technical conference to discuss investor owned electric utilities joint proposal, including Con Edison, related to “Allocated Cost of Service” methods proposed in a DPS Staff whitepaper regarding the **development of standby and buyback service rates**. Mr. Marino and Ms. Cooper both provided supporting research for this section. The whitepaper, issued in November 2020, identifies a proposed method for the utilities to apply in developing these rates, and recommends that stand alone energy storage systems be exempted from contract demand charges for injections under the buyback service.
 - The main issue in this proceeding is the allocation of costs between local and shared categories;
 - The Joint Utilities (“JU”) proposed approach considers class specific impacts on utility facilities based on customer connection voltage.
 - SC9 (Commercial) Conventional High Tension Customers has the 95% shared costs/1% local costs under the Whitepaper for these customers reduced to 69% shared costs/27% local costs. Current percentages are 56% shared costs/40% local costs. Incidentally, the 4% missing from each of the above is a constant 4% in customer costs. This alternative JU approach proposed is significantly worse to high tension service class customers than the Whitepaper’s approach, which is better for NYECC members in this service class. Also, this approach is contrary to how standby rates have been set for decades.
 - The JU filed the following on July 29:
 - Bill impact information for existing standby and buyback customers; and
 - A formal, written narrative of the proposal (beyond the information provided solely on slides), which was requested by NYECC.
 - The **deadline for comments is Friday, August 20, 2021**.

- The MTA has expressed interest in filing Joint Comments with the NYECC and a few members have learned of similar Comments in development by the Port Authority with respect to NYPA rates.
- 7/22/21 – According to J.D. Power Sustainability Index, which applies to the 35 largest U.S. electric utility companies and cities:
 - Con Edison had the third highest 2021 Sustainability Index Score;
 - only 23% of customers are aware their electric utility has declared a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
 - only 46% of customers believe their utility is likely to achieve a goal of 100% clean energy by 2050.
- 7/22/21 – A report released today by the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), entitled “Transmission Makes the Power System Resilient to Extreme Weather,” details the value additional transmission would have provided during five severe weather events in Texas, the Northeast and the Midwest between 2014 and 2021. Ms. Cooper provided supplemental reporting for this section.
 - The report found that additional transmission ties would have generated significant cost savings for consumers and reduced outages during recent extreme weather events by canceling out local fluctuations in the supply and demand of electricity and providing alternative sources of power in an emergency.
 - The "Bomb Cyclone" cold snap across the Northeast in December 2017-January 2018. Each additional GW of interregional transmission ties could have saved New England, New York, and the Mid-Atlantic regions \$30-40 million each.
 - The January 2014 "polar vortex" event in the Northeast. Greater transmission ties among New England, New York, and the Mid-Atlantic region could have saved consumers tens of millions of dollars and prevented reliability concerns.
- 7/26/21 – Con Edison and National Grid are now members of the Electric Highway Coalition, now 14 member companies – representing 29 states and the District of Columbia and serving more than 60 million customers – who are committed to growing corridor EV charging solutions within their service territories and working with other members to ensure convenient charging options and seamless travel routes.
- 8/6/21 – Biden signs Executive Order sets a goal of 50% of all new passenger cars and light trucks sold in 2030 be zero-emissions vehicles, including battery electric, plug-in hybrid electric, or fuel cell electric vehicles.
- 8/9/21 – Report from the U.N.’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
 - Reliance on fossil fuels is the reason the planet has already warmed 1.2 degrees Celsius -- every bit of it through the emission of greenhouse gases.

- Warming is happening faster than previously thought. Latest projections have us reaching or exceeding 1.5 degrees -- a key threshold scientists say is critical to stay below -- within the next decade or two.
- Keeping warming around 1.5 degrees avoids the worsening impacts that come from approaching and passing 2 degrees of warming.
- If emissions continue to increase, the world will top 2 degrees of warming -- possibly before 2050 -- and reach 3 degrees before the end of the century.
- Irreversible change includes ice sheets continuing to melt causing sea levels to rise.
- UN Climate Change Conference in November I seen as the most consequential policy meeting since the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Con Edison Rate Cases

- 7/15/21 – The Customer Service System (CSS) Implementation Program expected to be deployed in the second half of 2023 is reported to be on schedule. The 2020 Rate Case Order caps capital expenditures at \$421M. 2021 capital expenditures are expected to be \$105.6M.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- Education Committee – Jennifer Kearney, Chair

The Committee was planning a September in person/remote event at Building Energy Exchange focusing on the market approach to decarbonization and demand side and engineering approaches to transitioning heating systems to electrification. In person will require proof of vaccination. Technology and supply side issues such as Tier 4 RECS from NYSERDA, NYISO market development, and Rate Case expectations will be discussed. Panelists will likely come from NYSERDA, NYISO and a rate case expert, followed by Questions and Answers.

- Membership Committee – Mike Forese & Steve Mosto, Co-Chairs

New York University has submitted a principal member application and provided a list of sites included which include residential, academic, office and retail building types. NYU also maintains a cogeneration plant. The NYECC would benefit from their inclusion. The application will be discussed and voted on during the Board Member only portion of the meeting.

- Outreach Committee – H.G. Chissell, Chair

There was no update.

- Regulatory Committee – Daniel Avery, Chair

Working groups are focusing on DER and Carbon Coefficients. The Multifamily and Commercial Building Working Group is working on Electrification and definitions. There is no actual definition stated of beneficial electrification, a term used many times by the city.

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee – H.G. Chissell, Lauren Brust Moss & Luis Rios, Co-Chairs

There was no update.

OTHER BUSINESS

Daniel Egan adjourned the August full member meeting at 9:28 AM.

BOARD MEMBER ONLY MEETING

- Membership Application Vote

The NYU Membership application was brought by John Pierce. David Alonso would be the representative attending meetings. The application was moved for approval by David Bomke, seconded by Jonathan Flaherty and unanimously approved.

During the July meeting, holding a September meeting in person was discussed. Due to the Delta variant and Covid concerns, the NYECC will hold off another month and potentially look at another space to host a meeting with an in person/remote hybrid format.

ANTICIPATED ADJOURNMENT

Daniel Egan adjourned the August Board Only Meeting at 9:35 AM.

DRAFT