

 **NRPC APPROVED MINUTES**
NRPC ENERGY FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
04/24/15

Members Present:

Kat McGhee, Hollis Pipeline Impact Study Taskforce
Tom Young, Town of Litchfield
Elvis Dhima, Town of Hudson
Steve Wells, Mason
Hal Lynde, Town of Pelham

Mark Bender, Town Administrator - Milford
Kermit Williams, Town of Wilton

Others Present

John Greene, Congresswoman Kuster's Office

STAFF PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER

Williams called the meeting to order at 2:09 pm.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no members of the public present that wished to speak.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2015

Roache asked if there were any comments or changes to the draft EFAC minutes from April 10, 2015 meeting. McGhee motioned to approve the minutes of April 10, 2015 with a second from Dhima. All were in favor.

PROGRESS TOWARDS CONSULTATION MEETINGS

- Eversource (Williams): Williams said that Eversource would come to meet with EFAC on May 15th. He forwarded the EFAC charge to them and Donna Gamash is setting up the meeting. He had not received any word yet of whom from Eversource that would be at the meeting.
- Spectra and PNGTS (Bender): Bender said at the recent BIA Session that he attended, KM, Eversource, PNGTS and Access Northeast presented on pipelines and he placed that in the Dropbox. He also contacted Rich Paglia with Spectra and Mike W with Eversource. Paglia could make the May 15th date to meet with EFAC and talk about larger pipes being replaced. In addition, Bender said that PNGTS could also make the May 15th date. Bender summarized with the group the discussions about power plant closings in NH and whether they would convert to coal that was discussed at the BIA session. Bender said he placed the information on plant closings across New England into the Dropbox.
- FERC (Roache): Greene said he was working on getting FERC and that they announced that they would be doing meetings in NH mid-May and June and that they would be coming to EFAC.

McGhee said that Greg McQuade with ISO/NE would also be good to talk to again about policy. Roache said he would be happy to have him come in. McGhee said she would contact him about coming in on May 29th. There was discussion on New England gas prices over the winter at ~175% higher than rest of country and if there was a way to get the energy costs by region all across the country.

The group felt they needed to have KM also come in and meet with EFAC. Dhima said he was trying to get KM into Hudson for a meeting with the selectmen and residents on the 19th of May at the Senior Center.

Lynde referred to Eversource and Liberty and questioned the need for new facilities. Williams suggested getting Liberty Utilities, who would be the retailer for gas, to meet with EFAC to hear about the potential for expansion. There was talk about getting KM and Liberty in for May and ISO/NE and FERC for a June meeting. Williams would contact KM and Liberty for early May and McGhee would call ISO/NE for May 29th. Roache said any Friday would work, and that KM will be in Salem at the end of April.

There was discussion about the general duration of gas energy contracts. Wells referred to the long-term vs short-term contracts and the Kurtis Cole initiative where they implemented long term contracts for electric space. He said that KM is trying to do longer term contracts similar to that for gas but for 20 years. Williams said there has been discussion about the policy changing on contracts for gas. Bender indicated that currently retail gas purchasing occurs on the spot market.

Dhima asked Bender about pipeline construction and if he had cross section information. Bender informed him that the pipes would be 36 inches with 3 feet to top of the pipe and 1 foot above the pipe with yellow ribbons running the length of the pipe. Williams felt there would be more well concerns during the construction phase and that he had not heard of any concerns with operating lines. Dhima had concerns with community wells and resources and the potential for contamination of wells and well heads. McGhee said that in Hollis avoidance of wellheads would locate the pipeline such that it would further impact the ability to develop remaining land.

OUTLINE OF DELIVERABLE TO FULL COMMISSION

Siskavich referred to the outline for deliverable to the full Commission which she placed in the Dropbox. She summarized the outline with the group pointing out how it should start with a short narrative describing an overview of findings, then a table containing identified concerns and associated recommendations, and lastly, recommended next steps. She added that a nice piece of supporting documentation for this would be the Q & A template. Roache said he would bring this to the Executive Committee in May. He was unsure how the Commission was going to use this but felt they would refer back to the charge of the EFAC. He said that additional information may be needed and that it would be good if all the groups of EFAC could contribute a completed outline. Roache wanted to have a 50-75% draft ready for the Executive Committee meeting in May. Siskavich added that for the recommendations it is useful to keep in mind that the audience for these write-ups is varied; considering that more than one group is being addressed, keep the language general and inclusive to the audience.

REVIEW OF REMAINING TIMELINE/WORKPLAN

Siskavich showed the timeline on screen and informed the group that the status report to the Executive Committee would be the next task. Roache said that as we meet with groups, we will summarize and include this information as appendices. Roache said he would send an email to the group to start adding to the outline. Williams had concerns about having all the information by the date listed in the timeline. Roache said that a milestone report should be ready by the 17th with the information synthesized into the template within the next 2 weeks to have ready by May 15th for the Executive Committee. There was further discussion about the organization of the document between Siskavich and Williams.

UPDATE ON IMPACTS DATA GATHERING

Roache asked if there were any updates on data gathering. Below are the groups that had something to report.

Environmental: Siskavich passed out updated maps for the groups as part of the Environmental Impacts piece. Dhima said he marked up his maps and was waiting to get a letter and would hopefully have it the next week. Siskavich was still waiting on Brookline and Mason for confirmation on their maps. McGhee was waiting to hear what became of the Amherst Task Force alternate route. Siskavich said she would be attending the Amherst Town Hall meeting. Wells said that in Mason there is now a five-member board, and one of their tasks is to advise a response to the NRPC AECOM analysis. Siskavich reminded the group of the eight week window to respond to AECOM and the data she is relying on for wetlands comes from statewide data and wetland GIS data. There was further discussion on wetland data and mapping and including it in the response to AECOM.

Historic: Lynde said that he would visit all towns for historic markers and that Thompson had provided markers for Merrimack. Lynde asked what the goal was when having meetings with the towns. Siskavich said it will provide local reality checks on what the accurate additional sensitive areas are and the commercial and industrial along the route which she would get from the Planning and Community Development departments.

Infrastructure and Safety: Dhima said he would start on the safety portion and add it to Mark's document on Infrastructure.

Demand & Need: McGhee said that the audience would be mostly residents and that a primer should be done for them. She added that there should be a piece on the need for electric generation and that there were many layers. Williams commented that there should be two perspectives, statewide and regional on the need for gas and electricity and it needs to be data driven and educational. He suggested a bibliography with links. Roache said the towns should be the audience and the focus around the RSA. There was further discussion on how the report should be set up, what should be included, and being useful and credible. Roache said they would all work together on the sections to get them to come together.

PERTINENT LOCAL TASK FORCE AND WORKGROUPS UPDATES

Lynde informed the group of the 13 towns listed to sign off in opposition of the pipelines. Pelham was considering this but had some concerns with the language. Bender said this group is the NH Municipal Pipeline Coalition which is headed by Tad Putney. The letter Lynde is referring to was drafted by Town Selectmen with the intent to spur action from the Governor, Legislature and NH Congress because FERC would be more apt to listen. Lynde said he supports a unified voice from the towns.

Dhima expressed general concerns about the mentality of making the decisions based on emotions rather than facts Lynde emphasized the need to be credible and have data to back it up. Roache said there is not enough cross-pollination between what all groups are doing. Roache said that he would like to see that opposition letter. Lynde said he also submitted lots of questions to KM and when he gets the answers back he will post and share with the group. Williams said it would be good to see all data that other groups are getting back for information. Roache agreed that it would be good to share across groups. Bender felt there was a lot that has been incorporated or shared on construction and safety at least with Milford.

Lynde passed around a state list of Historic Markers that was discussed amongst the group.

NEXT MEETING

Motion to Adjourn came from Wells with a second from Young. The meeting ended at 3:27pm. The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 8, 2015 from 2:00-3:30pm. McGhee and Lynde would not be present. Roache said when they start pulling the document together, he may schedule extra meetings.