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REPRESENTATIVE AMY SHELDON
REPRESENTATIVE LAURA SIBILIA
LOUIS PORTER
BRIAN SHUPE
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REBECCA TOWNE
BEN EDGERLY WALSH
MIA WATSON
CHASE WHITING

STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD REFORM
WORKING GROUP

Minutes

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

State House, Rm 11 and via [Livestream Link](#)

*Time links next to agenda items bring the user to that particular point in the meeting video.
For questions, or to provide public comment, please email Sorsha at sanderson@leg.state.vt.us*

8:30 A.M. **Opening Comments [\[0:01\]](#)**
Senator Bray & Representative Sheldon, Co-Chairs

Agenda Review [\[0:19\]](#)
Jennifer Knauer, Facilitator

8:40 A.M. **Summary Presentation - RES/CES Technical Analysis: Draft Results [\[2:39\]](#)**
TJ Poor, Director of Regulated Utility Planning, VT Department of Public Service

The RES/CES Technical Analysis (Draft Results) is available in full on the Department of Public Service Website, including a recording of the October 10th Presentation and the set of accompanying slides.

<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/renewables>

Summary Note: Draft results are still under active revision and consideration, with a follow-up public webinar planned for after Thanksgiving. Stay up to date on the VT Public Service Dept. Website:
<https://publicservice.vermont.gov/renewables>

- **Brief Presentation** – where to find materials & how to use as a reference, response to webinar & current status of draft, a few key slides to overview.
- **Brief Q&A [\[18:44\]](#)**

9:30 A.M. **Break**

9:45 A.M. **RESRWG Member Poll Results & Discussion (bulk of the meeting) [\[0:18\]](#)**
Jennifer Knauer, Facilitator
All Working Group Members Participate

Ellen Czajkowski, Legislative Counsel, *Available as needed*
TJ Poor, Director of Regulated Utility Planning, *Available as needed*

- **Walk through poll results, starting with the Tier 1 Set.** Invite working group members to ask questions of each other as needed.
- **Breaks as needed.**
- **Continue review of poll results and discussion through Tier 2, Tier 3 and the general RES, as time allows.** Subject areas that are not discussed on October 25th will be picked up on November 1st.

11:06 P.M. Break

11:18 P.M. Public Comment

Elizabeth Matteson Bechard, Essex, VT [\[0:18\]](#)

Bart Bechard, Essex, VT [\[1:11\]](#)

Catherine Bock, Burlington, VT [\[1:47\]](#)

Richard Butz, Bristol, VT [\[3:03\]](#)

Marcy Kass, Williston, VT [\[4:54\]](#)

Annette Smith, Executive Director, Vermonters for a Clean Environment [\[6:38\]](#)

Carl Bucholt, Manchester, VT [\[8:59\]](#)

11:30 P.M. Forecast where conversation goes from here. Topics & homework for November 1st. [\[12:36\]](#)

Senator Bray & Representative Sheldon, Co-Chairs

Jennifer Knauer, Facilitator

This is the Facilitator Jennifer Knauer's understanding of questions that the group is carrying forward, streamlined. If you notice errors or omissions, please make note and bring them to the Working Group Meeting on November 1st, when this conversation will pick up in earnest again.

To determine:

1. Where do working group members stand with respect to recommending a 100% Clean Energy Standard vs 100% Renewable Energy Standard?
2. As loads increase, how will Vermont look to meet the need?
 - a) What is the right level of new renewables in Vermont?
 - b) What counts as "renewable"?
 - c) *Anticipated Discussion for 11/15 Mtg:* What approaches will result in the most equitable impacts for Vermonters?
3. Should there be a time limit or sunset on any of the Renewable Energy Standard provisions? *This question has technical components for Legislative Legal Counsel to research.*

Noted in conversation:

- A. Accepting that RECS / Unbundled RECS are part of the system (regionally). → Of interest here is how to ensure that the use of unbundled RECS isn't hindering new renewables coming online as load needs increase.
- B. Working to figure out how policy reinforces new renewables, while providing flexibility for practical deployment strategies. Trends indicate that as load needs increase, Vermont will be looking to meet demand through new renewables where possible. Observation that Tier One is more workable (given its flexibility and choice) than Tier Two (specific restrictions complicate efforts to balance reliability / affordability / climate goals).

11:55

Next Steps [\[40:07\]](#)

- Minutes and Summaries from this meeting will be posted on or before October 27th.
- Next meeting is scheduled for November 1st, 8:30 – Noon. Working Group Members: If there are things you were hoping to cover / see on the agenda, please be in touch with Co-Chairs.
- Anticipated Agenda for November 1st posted on or before October 30th.

12:00 P.M. Adjourn