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CHASE WHITING

STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD REFORM
WORKING GROUP

Minutes

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Virtual Meeting [Livestream Link](#)

Time links next to agenda items bring the user to that particular point in the meeting video.

For questions, please email Sorsha at sanderson@leg.state.vt.us

8:30 A.M. **Opening Comments [\[0:02\]](#)**
Senator Bray & Representative Sheldon, Co-Chairs

Agenda Review [\[0:58\]](#)
Jennifer Knauer, Facilitator

8:40 A.M. **Brief Summary Presentation - RES/CES Technical Analysis (Near-Final Results) [\[3:35\]](#)**
TJ Poor, Director of Regulated Utility Planning, VT Department of Public Service

The RES/CES Technical Analysis will be available in full on the Department of Public Service Website, anticipated the week of November 13th.

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

Please note that there is a lot of material in the results, and the analysis will not be comprehensively reviewed during this working group meeting. If you are interested in a more in-depth discussion, the DPS Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) is meeting on November 14th from 10am-Noon to present on the near final results of the analysis. Members of the public are welcome to attend, and there is dedicated time allocated for public comment during the meeting. This SAG Meeting will also be recorded. If you are interested in receiving the meeting information, please email PSD.REPrograms@vermont.gov

- **Brief Presentation**
- **Brief Q&A, for clarifying questions.** There will be additional opportunity for Q&A regarding the technical analysis during the second half of the meeting.

9:25 A.M. Break

9:35 A.M. Presentation – RES/CES Macroeconomics Analysis (Draft Results) [0:05]

Dean Murphy, Principal at the Brattle Group

Wonjun Chang, Senior Associate & Economist at the Brattle Group

The Macroeconomics Analysis Draft is still actively in development, with select slides anticipated to be available for review in advance on Monday, November 13th. These slides will be posted to the Renewable Energy Standard Reform Working Group’s webpage, with an alert emailed to Working Group Members once the material is available. This macroeconomics analysis builds on the RES / CES Technical analysis, focusing on Task (6) outlined in Act 33 of 2023: assessing the impacts that legislative changes to procurement programs may have on Vermont jobs and the Vermont economy. The macroeconomics analysis will also give some insight into how RES programs may effect Vermont households based on income (part of Task (7) as outlined in Act 33 of 2023).

- **Brief Presentation**
- **Brief Q&A incorporated through presentation, for clarifying questions.**

10:35 A.M. Break

10:45 A.M. Extended Q&A and Discussion of Technical / Macroeconomics Analysis [0:07]

Jennifer Knauer, Facilitator

All Working Group Members Participate

Wonjun Chang, Senior Associate & Economist at the Brattle Group

Dean Murphy, Principal at the Brattle Group

TJ Poor, Director of Regulated Utility Planning, VT Dept. of Public Service

This is an opportunity for Working Group Members to ask any questions they have of the technical and macro-economic analysis, in order to better anticipate and understand potential impacts of various legislative changes to the Renewable Energy Standard.

This discussion may take the remainder of the meeting, per the wishes of the group.

11:45 A.M. Public Comment

Stephanie DeBetitto, Barre [\[59:17\]](#)

Nikki Jiraff, Cabot [\[1:01:57\]](#)

Earl Hatley, Quechee [\[1:03:52\]](#)

Sally Burrell, Bristol Energy Committee [\[1:06:05\]](#)

Kim Hornung-Marcy, Williston [\[1:07:54\]](#)

Joe Wantuch, Northfield [\[1:10:20\]](#)

Aiden DeLorenzo, Middlebury College [\[1:13:26\]](#)

Ella Roelofs, Middlebury College [\[1:15:31\]](#)

Annette Smith, Vermonters for a Clean Environment [\[1:16:23\]](#)
Ashley Adams, South Burlington [\[1:19:08\]](#)
Steve Crowley, South Burlington [\[1:21:53\]](#)

12:10 P.M. Next Steps [\[1:24:14\]](#)

Senator Bray & Representative Sheldon, Co-Chairs
Jennifer Knauer, Facilitator

- **TJ Poor**, Director of Regulated Utility Planning, VT Department of Public Service, will **explore the order of magnitude that an adjustment in the cost of solar would have on estimated rate impacts. If it is significant**, it may be possible for DPS to run another case study through the modeling using a different estimate for the cost of solar– results which TJ cautioned may (or may not) be presented in the final analysis report depending on how figures are substantiated (this is a question for the consultant SEA, as the final report is their work product).

How to establish a workable and widely accepted figure for the future price of solar was a subject of discussion during the meeting (unresolved). Two Working Group Members volunteered to work with TJ on establishing a workable figure for the cost of solar: **Ben Edgerly Walsh** of the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, **and Louis Porter** of the Washington Electric Cooperative.

- Minutes and Summaries from this meeting will be posted on or before November 17th.
- Next meeting is scheduled for November 29th, 8:30 -Noon. This will be back to our routine hybrid format – onsite at the State House, as well as on Zoom. Working Group Members: If there are things you were hoping to cover / see on the agenda, please be in touch with Co-Chairs. **Note: Because of the Thanksgiving Holiday, the planning of November 29th's agenda will begin earlier than usual (11/17/23), so please be in touch ASAP if you have a consideration to share.**

12:15 P.M. Adjourn