

Working Group V Meeting Notes
September 17, 2008
Location: 3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY

Attendees

In Person

Co-conveners: John D'Aloia (NY DPS)
& Frank Murray (NRDC/PACE)
Judge Stein (NY DPS)
Judge Stegemoeller (NY DPS)
Carolyn Sweeney (RG&E)
Erin Hogan (NYSERDA)
Janja Lupse (National Grid)
Nancy Nugent (NY CPB)
Cindy McCarran (NY DPS)
Aric Rider (NY DPS)
Anthony Belsito (NY DPS)
Michael Salony (NY DPS)
Eric Meinel (National Fuel)
Emilio Petroccione (NYOHI/OHILI)
Paul Belnick (NYPA)

By phone

John Smigelski (Earthkind Energy)
Jim Rioux (Central Hudson)
Joseph McGowan (Con Ed)
Larry Simpson (Everwild Enterprises)
Ron Kamen (Earthkind Energy)
Mike Mager (MI)
Art Pearson (E Cubed Company)

Work Status Discussion

Aric Rider of DPS Staff began by giving WGV an update on the load forecast and program “wedge” assessment efforts. With regard to the load forecast, the consensus of the last meeting was re-affirmed. That is, that utility load data broken down by customer class will not be possible for this effort, although breakdown by upstate/downstate and firm/interruptible will be assessed.

The group also affirmed the use of the EEA/ICF gas load forecast (the latest quarterly update), further informed by the utility winter supply reports.

Erin Hogan further reported that ICF’s current work on a NYSERDA study of gas supply for electric generation (in particular, estimates of firm/interruptible and upstate/downstate gas needs) should be available in time for inclusion in our October 15th report. Erin also reported on the issue of differences in prior estimates of industrial load amongst the various ICF and Optimal reports. In summary, changes have been due in large part to varying characterizations of CHP usage, and the latest ICF forecasts are now aligned well with EIA and other accepted methodologies.

Cindy McCarran then led discussion of the report outline and the first draft of the introductory section.

Judge Stein addressed the group on the October 15th deadline, and advised that the WGV report will be looked upon to help inform the wider collaborative, as well as the judges and commission. She also advised that there will be some room during the subsequent period (after October 15th) for any additional updates to data the group feels would be beneficial to all. Judge Stein also advised that the group be very clear in specifying the areas under PSC jurisdiction in developing our analyses.

Issue Discussions

Cindy McCarran of staff next led the group through discussion of several natural gas issues

Oil to Gas Conversions

The group discussed issues surrounding oil to gas conversions and the dynamics with expanding gas energy efficiency programs. The group recognizes there are effects on the gas load projections, and related inter and intra-fuel sector issues. Emilio Petroccione of the Oil Heat Institute provided comments on these issues, including the position that efficiency funds not be used to directly to promote gas conversions. Also, there are fuel diversity and security considerations to take into account in developing gas efficiency programs. In summary, the group agreed that it is not in our scope, nor possible, to fully resolve these issues, but the group will strive to discuss and frame the important issues in the report.

Gas Savings from SBC

The group discussed these issues, which include the need to account for electric and gas costs and savings, especially for the many programs which “touch” both areas. The group agreed to explore and report on these issues in the report.

Low Income Customers

The group briefly broached this area. Among the significant issues the group agreed to explore in the report are the commitment level to LI and cost allocation.

Further efficiency potential given additional resources

This discussion was a follow-up to discussion at the September 12th meeting at which Bruce Johnson and others commented that there may be additional gas efficiency opportunities given more committed resources and funding. The group discussed the concepts of technical and economic potential, along with our pursuit of assessing the gas load forecast and understanding various approaches to arrive at targets. All in all, there was no definitive opinion on these issues, but it is hoped that the group’s report and target “matrix” will help inform everyone on the possible range of gas efficiency potential, along with some sense of the relative costs and program composition (at a very high level).

Wrap-up & Next Steps

Aric Rider will distribute the draft matrix to the working group by the end of this week.

Cindy and Frank will take lead on report drafting and editing. Redline edits should be emailed to Cindy and cc’d to the entire group.

There will be a teleconference next Monday, September 22nd from 1-3PM to review the draft matrix.