

Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) Board of Commissioners
Power Contracts, Rate Setting, Green Power Committee

March 22, 2010

Start Time: 7:00 p.m.

End Time: 9:14 p.m.

Attendees:

Committee Members:

Messrs. Hahn and Soli, Ms. O'Neill

Citizens' Advisory Board Member:

Mr. Vale

RMLD Staff:

Mr. Cameron, Ms. Parenteau, Mr. Sullivan

Messrs. Seldon and Carpenter

Mr. Hahn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

RMLD Smart Grid Initiative

Mr. Sullivan started the meeting by explaining the Smart Grid initiatives related to the RMLD's Engineering and Operations (E&O) Division. Mr. Sullivan said that the RMLD has to make a decision as to how to proceed with updating the existing metering system at the RMLD.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Sullivan then went onto explain that another Smart Grid initiative in the E&O Division was related to distribution automation. Mr. Sullivan said that the RMLD could take advantage of its existing fiber optic network and have the ability to install switches in the distribution system that would enable remote switching of circuits from the RMLD's Control Center.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Hahn asked if Mr. Sullivan if he could send him a list of the manufacturers of AMI meters.

Ms. Parenteau explained that the RMLD Smart Grid initiatives that are being studied in the Energy Services Division (ESD). Ms. Parenteau stated that the ESD initiatives are related to data collection that will enable customers to control their energy usage and energy costs. Ms. Parenteau said that the RMLD has met with several Home Area Network (HAN) manufacturers. The HAN products seem to be compatible with metering the RMLD is proposing to install in the future.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Soli asked how much energy is required to run a meter. Mr. Cameron said that he would get back to Mr. Soli on this.

Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust Fund

Mr. Cameron explained that recently there has been a question as to whether the Town of Reading becoming a Green Community will trigger the RMLD charging the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust Fund charge of \$.0005 per kWh to all customers in the RMLD's service territory. Mr. Cameron said that he has had communications with Mark Sylvia, Director of the Green Communities Program, about this issue. Mr. Cameron has read the pertinent laws surrounding this issue and said he does not believe charging the MRETF is not one of the prongs included in becoming a Green Community. Mr. Cameron recently met with the four Town Managers about this issue and they are concerned that the electric rates will increase unnecessarily.

Mr. Cameron has had general counsel check into this issue and they agree with Mr. Cameron that becoming a Green Community does not trigger a utility to charge the MRETF. Mr. Cameron stated that he is sending a letter to Mark Sylvia outlining his opinion on this issue along with the RMLD's legal analysis.

Energy RFP

Mr. Seldon explained that the RMLD may be going out for bid soon for additional power supply similar to what has been done in the past according to the RMLD Strategic Power Supply Plan. Mr. Seldon said that the gas prices are low and it is a good time to do this.

Discussion followed.

Concord Steam

Ms. Parenteau updated the Board on the progress on contract negotiations with Concord Steam.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Vale asked about pricing and Ms. Cameron said that question will be answered in executive session.

Motion for Executive Session

At 8:50 p.m. Mr. Hahn made a motion seconded by Ms. O'Neill to go into Executive Session to discuss power supply issues a\based on Chapter 164 Section 47D exemption from public records and open meeting requirements, and to return to Open Session.

Mr. Hahn, Aye; Ms. O'Neill, Aye, Mr. Soli, Aye.

Motion carried 3:0:0.

At 9:11 p.m. the Power Contracts, Rate Setting, Green Power Committee returned to Regular Session.

Integrus Novation Agreement

Mr. Hahn made a motion seconded by Ms. O'Neill that the Power Contracts, Rate Setting, Green Power Committee recommend to the Reading Municipal Light Department's Board of Commissioners to accept the Novation of Power Supply Agreement among Integrus Energy Services Inc. ("Transferor") and McQuarie Energy LLC ("Transferee") and Reading Municipal Light Department ("Remaining Party") and to authorize the General Manager to sign an executable agreement.

Motion carried 3:0:0.

Motion to Adjourn

At 9:14 p.m. Ms. O'Neill made a motion seconded by Mr. Hahn to adjourn.

Mr. Hahn, Aye; Ms. O'Neill, Aye, Mr. Soli, Aye.

Motion carried 3:0:0.