

**Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) Board of Commissioners**  
**Power & Rate Committee Meeting**  
**Regular Session**  
**April 18, 2012**

**Start Time Regular Session:** 7:00p.m.  
**End Time Regular Session:** 8:45 p.m.

**Attendees:**

**Committee Members:** Mses. Snyder and O'Neill and Mr. Pacino

**RMLD Staff:** Messrs. Cameron, Seldon, and Carpenter and Ms. Parenteau

**Commissioner:** Mr. Soli

Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Sustainable Energy Policy**

Chair Snyder said that the committee members have a copy of the RMLD General Manager and staff's draft of the Sustainable Energy Policy. Ms. Snyder began with a question as to what the committee wants this policy to do? Mr. Pacino said that he thought the policy should give the RMLD General Manager and staff the direction for obtaining sustainable power projects, set parameters for the department in terms of what to look for each year, where we should be going and what to do to get there..

Ms. O'Neill thought the policy should provide a percentage target for what the RMLD should attain for renewable energy in its portfolio. Renewable energy should be defined as including renewable energy certificates, RECs. Ms. O'Neill said that she felt that the draft could not be re-worked and so drafted an alternative proposal for a Renewable Energy Policy that simplifies the policy. She felt it should be called a renewable energy policy and not a Sustainable Energy Policy. Ms. O'Neill went on to explain that her proposal follows what is in the RMLD's Strategic Plan and proposes percentage targets that the RMLD should meet from 2012 through 2017. Ms. O'Neill said that her policy has a target of 5% in 2012, which increases 1% each year until 2017, when it will be reviewed by the Power & Rate Committee.

Mr. Pacino asked if the Green Choice Program could be part of the policy. He noted that he'd like to see the Green Choice program re-invigorated and that he's heard from customers who shy away from it because it's confusing.

Discussion followed to note that this policy had the advantage that it is simple; it keeps some RECs and sells some; puts some money back - but in a simple, straightforward way; and aligns both with the Board's strategic plan and with the generally accepted practice with respect to defining renewable energy - it's not a niche definition.

The sense of the committee was that the Green Choice Program was separate from the Renewable Energy Policy.

Chair Snyder asked how the RECs would be counted in the policy. Ms. O'Neill explained that in 2012, the RMLD would have a goal to retire an amount of RECs equal to 5% of the RMLD's energy sales. It is similar to the Renewable Portfolio Standard in Massachusetts only the 2012 RMLD percentage is 5% in 2012, not 7% as applied to the Investor Owned Utilities.

Ms. Parenteau asked if the RMLD could sell the amount of RECs over the target. Ms. O'Neill replied that that is the intent, yes.

Mr. Cameron asked if any of the Green Choice RECs could be used to meet the target of retired RECs. Ms. O'Neill said no, that the Green Choice Program was not proposed to be a part of this policy.

Mr. Cameron asked if the RMLD could purchase RMLD RECs, not retired under this policy, for the Green Choice Program.

Discussion followed.

It was the sense of the committee that the RMLD could purchase RMLD RECs, not retired under this policy, for the Green Choice Program which might be more attractive to customers, although the general sense of the sub-committee is that the Green Choice program needs to be reviewed and that there might be a better program that could be developed.

Mr. Soli stated that he thought that the Renewable Energy Policy presented here forced every RMLD customer into the Green Choice Program. Mr. Soli went on to say that he thought the policy should be more reflective of the Cap and Trade program presently in place to control emissions.

Ms. O'Neill asked if there were any edits or changes to the policy, as constructed.

Discussion followed.

Based on discussion, Ms. O'Neill said that the first sentence of Section III A. should be removed and the last word in that section should be them and not this. Ms. O'Neill said she could send the policy to Mr. Cameron and have him make the changes recommended by the committee and also put the policy into the RMLD's policy form. Mr. Cameron said that he would.

Mr. Pacino made a motion seconded by Ms. O'Neill to recommend the Renewable Energy Policy, with edits as discussed, to the Reading Municipal Light Department's Policy Committee.

**Motion passed 3:0:0.**

#### **Swift River**

Ms. Parenteau said that Swift River owners had contacted her and asked if the RMLD would be interested in taking on two more hydro projects, Collins and Pioneer, which are owned by them. The contract would start in 2013, would be based on the same contract terms as the existing four projects, and would expire on the same date as the other four projects. The projects are 3 MW total and are located in western Massachusetts. Ms. Parenteau said that she thought these were good projects for the RMLD's power supply portfolio.

The sense of the committee was to move forward on discussing these two projects with the owner.

#### **Mason Bay**

Ms. Parenteau said that she has been contacted by the developer of a 14 MW wind farm located in Maine. The contact with this developer is in the early stages and Ms. Parenteau said she would like to explore this more.

The sense of the committee was to continue to talk with this developer.

#### **Solar Energy Hub**

The RMLD has been contacted by this company relative to placing a 230 kW solar installation on a building in Wilmington. This is the same company that is developing a 1.6 MW solar installation at another location in Wilmington. Ms. Parenteau said that they would agree to have this contract similar to the contract recently signed by the RMLD for the 1.6 MW solar installation.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Cameron said that he would like the Board to make a motion to allow him to negotiate and sign a contract with Solar Energy Hub for this new project.

Ms. O'Neill made a motion seconded Mr. Pacino to recommend to the Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) Board of Commissioners to authorize the General Manager of the RMLD to finalize negotiations and execute a contract with Solar Energy Hub for the purchase of not more than 250 megawatts of solar power but not including the RECs in a term not to exceed 20 years, on a site on Upton Court, Wilmington, Massachusetts based on the recommendation of the General Manager.

**Motion carried 3:0:0.**

**Executive Session**

At 8:20 p.m. Mr. Pacino made a motion seconded by Ms. O'Neill to go into Executive Session based Chapter 164 Section 47D exemption from public records and open meeting requirements to discuss confidential, competitively-sensitive or other proprietary information and return to Regular Session for the sole purpose of adjournment.

At 8:45 p.m. Mr. Pacino made a motion seconded by Ms. O'Neill to adjourn.

**Motion carried 3:0:0.**