

## **Salem Power Plant Revitalization Task Force – Decommissioning Subcommittee Minutes:**

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

State House, Room 511

Boston, MA 02133

### **Members in Attendance:**

Senator Michael R. Knapik, State Senator, Chair of subcommittee

Ron Gerwatowoski, Deputy General Counsel, National Grid

Dan Dolan, President, New England Power Generators Association

### **Members Absent:**

Ken Kimmel, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protections

### **Others in Attendance:**

Barbara Kates-Garnick, Undersecretary for Energy, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Sandra Merrick, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Ratepayer Advocacy

Gary Moran, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Gary Davis, General Counsel, Department of Conservation and Recreation

Dan Burgess, Legislative Director for Energy, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Sean Navin, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Eric Worrall, Department of Environmental Protection

Zach Donah, Office of Senator Michael Knapik

Claire Miller, Toxics Action Center

Joel Wosh, Clean Water Action

Becky Smith, Clean Water Action

Drew Grande, Sierra Club

Senator Knapik called the meeting to order at 11:15 AM

### **Introductions**

Senator Knapik welcomed the Subcommittee Members and attendees and began the introductions.

### **Overview of Task Force and subcommittee charge**

Senator Knapik discussed the task force and the establishment of the three subcommittees. Knapik emphasized the June 15<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> reporting requirements.

### **Goals and Objective of the Subcommittee:**

Knapik suggested the subcommittee establish goals and objective and proposed the subcommittee review case studies on other decommissioning processes to include lessons learned and best practices. Knapik also posed the question of what happened to other plant in Massachusetts and whether or not they will fit into the conversation. Becky Smith reported that Montaup Station in Somerset had been put on the market, purchased by Asset Recovery – a New Jersey based company, and has been closed for about two years. Plans are moving along for remediation and renovation but the specifics were unknown. It was noted that local officials in Somerset have been heavily involved in the process and it was suggested that both representatives from Asset Recovery and the town update the subcommittee on their progress and any issues of concern.

Dan Dolan noted that while there is no state model to follow, there are plenty of individual cases to review. It was suggested that the subcommittee invite stakeholders, community officials,

utility companies, and others who have conducted similar decommissioning processes in to share their insights with the group.

The members discussed how Salem and the other two subcommittees would impact the “Decommissioning” subcommittee. Knapik suggested there will be plenty of overlap as each subcommittee will learn from the others progress but this subcommittee would focus on Mt. Tom Power Station and Brayton Point Power Station.

The conversation moved to examples from the past, including the role local communities have played in various case studies, including Salem.

**Tentative goals of the subcommittee:**

- Encourage local involvement,
- Provide resources to companies, municipalities, and other stakeholders to ensure communities are not left flat footed, including possible grants for each community to conduct a feasibility study much like the one conducted in Salem, possibly requirements for owners of the facilities to submit decommissioning plans prior to closure.
- Ensure ratepayers do not foot the bill for remediation, redevelopment efforts, etc.
- Ensure revenue and jobs are maintained.

**Open discussion/ Moving forward:**

Overview of decommissioning legislation proposed by Chairman John Keenan, Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy, in May of 2012. EOEEA, DEP, and DCR shared some of their conceptual comments (see attachment) and suggested the subcommittee evaluate who will bear the cost of the decommissioning process, protocols for cleanup, solid and hazardous waste disposal, the feasibility of the existing structure at each site and the possibility of conversion, and who will regulate the process.

The subcommittee discussed what was known about the existing facilities, their capacity, locations, and owners. The members discuss emissions standards and asked if the Mt. Tom and Brayton Point comply with all the environmental regulations. DEP confirmed that they comply with all Massachusetts standards. Dan Dolan suggested that both facilities are very different and thus each will likely be decommissioned on a case by case basis. Dolan also noted that neither facility will be converted very easily and that it is possible neither will close before the 2017 date that is in the legislation establishing the task force.

The subcommittee agreed to meet next on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 and will meet bi-weekly from that date forward.

The subcommittee suggested inviting representative from the utility companies and the Attorney General’s Ratepayer Advocacy office to the next meeting to discuss how much ratepayer still owe on plants that have already close and how best to ensure they do not bear the cost of future closures.

The subcommittee also suggested reaching out to Footprint (Salem Harbor Power Station) for a presentation on their experience, and GDF Suez (Mt. Tom Power Station), Dominion (Brayton Point) for an update on their facilities and the possibility of touring each facility. Knapik suggested contacting ISO – New England, located in Holyoke, for a possible tour and discussion around energy as a whole and the market here in Massachusetts. Dan Dolan suggested other groups who have decommissioned power plants in the past.

The meeting concluded at 12:20 pm