

BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
Standing Committee on Telecommunications and Energy
Minutes
December 9, 2015

The Standing Committee on Telecommunications and Energy met at the Assembly Chamber Hall at 4:00 p.m. to:

- a) Meet with representatives from Cape Light Compact to discuss electric rates structures, procurement and any other matters relevant to the consumer cost of energy for citizens of Barnstable County;
- b) Discussion of potential industry professionals who could provide information relative to the local and regional wholesale and retail energy market; and
- c) To approve meeting minutes of 12/2/15.

Committee members present: Chairman James Killion, Deborah McCutcheon and John Ohman.
Absent: Teresa Martin and Patrick Princi.

a) Presentation by Cape Light Compact

James Killion opened the meeting and invited the representatives of Cape Light Compact to discuss with the committee electric rate structures and the procurement process. Cape Light Compact Power Supply Planner Austin Brandt provided a PowerPoint presentation to the committee. The slides will be considered an attachment to these minutes. Cape Light Compact Vice-President Robert Schofield was also present and supplemented the presentation with explanations and comments regarding electric structures and procurement process (as did several other members of the general audience).

The presentation addressed background and restructuring, an explanation of the consumer's electric bill, municipal aggregation, pricing history and how it relates to basic service versus default service, pricing components, the effect that natural gas prices have on electric rates, geographic considerations, capacity, and the look ahead at energy into the future. The presentation also reviewed the power supply procurement process, RFP process and the benefits of the power supply program.

There were questions from the committee regarding information needed by consumers in order for them to make informed decisions regarding the selection of their power supplier. It would be helpful for consumers to have a source of reference related to other suppliers available on Cape Cod, their rate and rate history. Consumers seem to have confusion regarding bills and offers coming from competitive suppliers. Cape Light Compact does not charge termination fees to its consumer or have contracts unlike other suppliers. Eversource was the supplier used by Cape Light Compact for the closest comparative purposes. The breakdown of power supply customers for residential purposes is as follows: Cape Light Compact 140,000, Eversource 25,000, and all others 10,000.

The committee had questions regarding the number of consumers who leave the compact and then come back. This information was not available and may not be obtainable.

Robert Scofield referenced the fact that energy consumption on Cape Cod has remained flat due to energy audits and conservation measures. Cape Light Compact has been used as a model in other areas of the Country.

Questions were answered regarding the rate increase associated with January 2015. Shopping for a better rate is advisable in the spring versus winter.

Cape Cod consumers can go to an interim supplier website to view distribution suppliers, contract terms and pricing, with of the exception of terms of service, by googling Department of Public Utilities Shopping for Competitive Suppliers.

b) Other industry professionals who could provide information relative to the local and regional wholesale and retail energy market

James Killion and other committee members will submit suggestions for presentations from other local and regional wholesale and retail energy market suppliers for consideration. A date of January 6, 2016 at 3:00 was suggested for the next meeting of the committee on this topic.

c) Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Deborah McCutcheon, and seconded, to approve meeting minutes of 12/2/15. Motion passed 3-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
Janice O'Connell, Clerk
Assembly of Delegates