

ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday 10.13. 2018

Eden, Vermont

Members attending: Keren Ferrari, Craig Kneeland, Ralph Monticello

Craig Kneeland introduced Mark Woodward who was representing the Vermont Electric Cooperative (Coop).

Craig Kneeland remarked that the Energy Committee was interested in the Coop's perspective on the current energy situation and that it is the 80th anniversary of the electric cooperative that was first started in Eden as part of a government program to bring electricity to rural areas in Vermont.

Mark Woodard started with an overview of the local/regional energy problem:

- north of the Town of Eden there is a capacity problem.
- when generated, problem with getting the power out.
- "electric vehicles are the future."
- the Coop may have a role in charging stations; public or monopolistic.

Keren Ferrari asked Mark about types of electric vehicles. Would more utility vehicles become available?

Craig Kneeland mentioned that Eden is fortunate to have several 3-phase power lines.

Keren Ferrari asked Mark about the Coop's plans for upgrades in service. Is there a plan for phasing in service upgrades of infrastructure in the future.

Craig Kneeland expressed the paradox of local grown power versus imported electrical energy and the Coop's investments.

Mark Woodward suggested utilities could average their electric load by nighttime electric vehicle charging. He also discussed the increasing demand for power in the Lake Champlain Islands and lack of demand in the N.E. Kingdom.

(Note: the new Walmart in the Newport area is the Coop's 10th largest consumer of electricity according to Mark)

Mark Woodward addressed a question prepared for the Eden Energy Committee meeting agenda regarding solar projects. Mark stated that Utility Industry size solar projects are the best overall investment for homeowners due to “economies of scale.”

Keren Ferrari discussed the management of the large scale solar project on Old Deuso Road in Eden. She also mentioned the regulatory issues of stemming from the quasi-governmental policies at the State level, specifically the planning vs. need issues.

The entire committee and Mark Woodward then reviewed the energy maps for the Town of Eden.

Mark Woodward’s final comments included:

- The price of solar panels are dropping so that future new housing will be developed with integrated solar.
- The Coop has hired a new Executive Director and he is excited about many new staff at the utility.
- There is a need for qualified new employees at the Coop.
- There is a coming tidal wave of electric vehicles and energy efficient homes with heat-pumps.
- Currently the Coop has an annual growth rate of 1% (growth and load) which is fiscally healthy while most rural electric cooperatives in the United States are in decline.

A motion to adjourn was made and approved at 10:45 AM