



NORTH CAROLINA ENERGY POLICY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
10:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 19, 2021
Virtual Via WebEx

Energy Policy Council Members Present:

Lt. Governor Mark Robinson	Rachel Estes	Gus Simmons
Bruce Barkley	John Hardin	Scott Tew
Kendal Bowman	Jenny Kelvington	Paul Worley
Herbert Eckerlin	Sushma Masemore	

Energy Policy Council Members Not-Present:

Ryan Gragg

CALL TO ORDER

Lt. Governor Mark Robinson called the Energy Policy Council (EPC) meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. He then welcomed the Council members, staff and the public to the virtual meeting. Lt. Governor Robinson recognized the importance of North Carolina energy systems, highlighted by the Colonial Pipeline interruption, and the work of the EPC in determining how the state can provide safe, sustainable, and independent energy to North Carolinians. He then asked for approval of the February 17, 2021 EPC meeting minutes. Mr. John Hardin moved for approval of the minutes, Mr. Paul Worley seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved by the EPC. Lt. Governor Robinson then reviewed the agenda and introduced Mrs. Katie Webster, the first of four Energy Resilience presenters, to give an overview of 2020 Hurricane Season.

PRESENTATION: 2020 HURRICANE SEASON

Mrs. Katie Webster, Division of Emergency Management, NCDPS

Mrs. Webster began by addressing NCEM's extended, year-long COVID response and its overall impact on their planning and personnel. In the order of their occurrence, she reviewed NCEM responses to 2020 emergency events that included; winter weather/ice storms; severe weather/flooding; Hurricane Isaias; earthquake(s) in Sparta; preparations for the Republican National Convention in Charlotte; November 2, election day support; and Tropical Storm Eta/flooding. For hurricane predictions 2021, Mrs. Webster indicated an "average" season with 14 named storms because of warmer ocean water temperatures off the coast of east Africa. She then introduced the new NCEM's "Know Your Zone" (KYZ) program (<https://www.ncdps.gov/our-organization/emergency-management/emergency-preparedness/know-your-zone>) that allows residents of eastern NC to see potential impacts of coastal flooding in the area where they live.

After the presentation, EPC members asked questions of Mrs. Webster. Mr. Bruce Barkley asked about predicted temperature levels on land; she responded that levels are predicted to be "well-above normal" and that rainfall would be "below normal" for the year. Mr. Paul Worley asked about KYZ's usefulness for travelers to NC; she responded that it was now in beta testing and would be available soon and that a KYZ billboard common messaging campaign for eastern NC was planned.



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PRESENTATION: POWER GRID RESILIENCY SCENARIO ANALYSIS

Rob Cox, Energy Production and Infrastructure Center, UNC Charlotte

Mr. Cox gave an overview and update on the Planning an Affordable, Resilient & Sustainable Power Grid (PARSG) project. He reported that participants in this U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)-funded competitive grant project included UNC-Charlotte, NCSU, and the NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). He said that PARSG's focus was on the reliability and resilience of the electric grid, and showed charts/graphs depicting impacts of hurricanes on eastern NC's New Hanover County/Wilmington area. Mr. Cox discussed PARSG's approach including hazard definitions, sea level impacts, community vulnerability, planning options, benefits for utilities and their customers, and its next steps.

Following Mr. Cox's presentation, two EPC members asked questions. Mr. Gus Simmons asked if the emergency event scenarios included "layering" of multiple potential impacts; Mr. Cox responded that the scenarios would be layered to include multiple potential impacts. Mr. Simmons also asked if PARSG addressed potential improvements from additional natural gas (NG) pipeline for electric power generation; Mr. Cox shared that this scenario was not in the project's scope but such a study may be beneficial. Mrs. Jenny Kelvington asked if the project team had looked at NG pipelines for resiliency, and then asked if NG electric power plants were able to use diesel fuel when NG was unavailable. Mr. Cox shared that the team had not looked specifically into that solution and responded that he did not know the answer to the second part of her question. Mrs. Kendall Bowman (EPC member from Duke Energy) injected that some, but not all, of their NG power plants were capable of operating on #2 fuel oil. Mrs. Bowman also shared that many supplies can last up to 3 days and stated that this is not at every single plant, but at some of them.

PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY LEVEL ENERGY RESILIENCY PLANNING

Beth Schrader, Office of Recovery and Resilience, New Hanover County

Mrs. Schrader discussed New Hanover County's focus on community resilience that includes impacts on its: economy; health and welfare of citizens; services provided; and demographics, including low-to moderate income residents. She reported that Hurricane Florence's inland flooding isolated the County from the world with 40% of it was underwater, flooded roadways into/out of the County, and limited electricity (16 days) that resulted in the operation 80 temporary generators. Mrs. Schrader expressed their needs for increased electric resilience, shorter outages and quicker response. She also spoke to electric power's: critically; interdependency; disparity and inequity; use of communities to identify local impacts; and sequencing/layering of strategies, funds and scope. She then suggested actions needed in changing the experience, responding to the challenges/opportunities, and providing solutions to address the sheltering and feeding of their communities.

After Mrs. Schrader's presentation, Mrs. Rachel Estes asked about cold weather impacts in New Hanover County and if weatherization/energy efficiency (EE) programs could help. Mrs. Schrader replied that incidences of winter storms in New Hanover County were low, high heat was a bigger concern, and that the concept of EE was beneficial year-round. She added that they were also investigating affordable housing availability/options in the County.

PRESENTATION: CAROLINA'S ALTERNATIVE FUELS RESILIENCE PROJECT

David Doctor, E4 Carolinas



Mr. David Doctor presented an overview and update on the Carolina Alternative Fuel Infrastructure for Storm Resilience Plan. He said that this U.S. DOE-funded project started in 2019 with several partners that include: Southeast Alliance for Clean Energy; Centralina Regional Council; NC Clean Energy Technology Center; Savannah River National Laboratory; Triangle J Council of Governments; Advanced Energy; Dominion Energy; Duke Energy/Piedmont Natural Gas; Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina; and NCDEQ. He presented background on how the current transportation sector consumption of minor petroleum and alternative fuels has shown an increase in recent years, but light-duty vehicle sales and projections show that the majority of new sales through 2050 will be gasoline vehicles. Mr. Doctor stated that alternate fuel vehicles (ATV) should be considered for both every day and emergency-event transportation. The project scope, he said, included; research on ATV inventory; assess the value of and opportunity to use alternative fuel vehicles to increase storm resilience and storm recovery; draft research findings; and implementation of the plan.

After the presentation, Mr. Gus Simmons asked Mr. Doctor if multi-fuel vehicles were part of their assessment such as gasoline and natural gas vehicles. Mr. Doctor said that multi-fuel vehicles were included in the project team's assessment, adding that multi-fuel vehicles may be a useful option for first-responders during emergency events. Mr. Doctor also shared that the project team would be examining everything that is currently economically feasible to implement in the near term.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Energy Assurance (EA) Committee, Mr. Paul Worley, EA Committee Chair

Mr. Worley discussed the two EA recommendations and the updates provided to the Committee at its May 4 meeting. In reference to recommendation #1, he said that Mr. Duncan contacted NC's Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) to discuss scheduling a statewide petroleum disruption tabletop exercise (TTX) for a petroleum (natural gas and motor fuels) disruption in NC. The NCEM is very interested participating in the TTX and they will investigate scheduling it later this year. Because of ongoing emergency events, such as the COVID situation, a definite TTX date is pending. The TTX will most likely be virtual via WEBEX or on a site preferred by NCEM. Mr. Duncan said that he would follow-up with NCEM on the TTX and work with them to schedule it as soon as feasible, based on their availability. Mr. Worley suggested that NCEM provide an overview of the TTX "process" at our next meeting; Mr. Duncan will contact NCEM about it.

Mr. Worley then suggested that the EPC endorse "Scheduling and conducting a 2021 statewide exercise (TTX) for a petroleum (natural gas and motor fuels) disruption in NC."

Mr. Worley reported that recommendation #2, on investigating the electric grid reliability and resiliency impacts on North Carolina, was made to DEQ's EPC Planning Committee. As a result of the request, project status reports from the "Carolina Alternative Fuel Infrastructure for Storm Resilience Plan" and the "Planning an Affordable, Resilient, and Sustainable Grid" were provided at today's EPC meeting.

Energy Efficiency (EE) Committee, Mr. Scott Tew, EE Committee Chair

Mr. Tew discussed agenda items from the Committee's May 17 meeting and gave an overview of the EE Committee's actions since February. He stated that the Committee had reviewed their 37 recommendations and prioritized them according to their impact and North Carolina's momentum towards implementation of some of



the recommendations. Mr. Tew provided the refined list of five recommendations that include: C-PACE implementation, energy efficiency apprenticeship program; state building EE projects; transportation and commercial sector including building codes.

Related to those five topics, Mr. Tew then stated the following three recommendations: 1) the full Council provide support through letters for the C-PACE program in the legislature, since this was a recommendation in the 2020 Biennial Report, 2) the Energy Infrastructure Committee and the EE Committee have a joint meeting on the electrification of transportation sector to determine next steps and recommendations, and 3) Propose for the next full Council meeting to add an EE Apprenticeship update to the agenda so that everyone can be aware of the pilot program that has been launched and provide support for a state-wide rollout of the program. He then asked what is the pathway for the Energy Policy Council to send letters of support for C-PACE. Lt. Governor Robinson suggested waiting until all Committee reports were complete to address any motions and to vote on any and all recommendations as a block at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Tew reported that a joint meeting of the EE and EI Committees would be held prior to the next EPC meeting. This joint meeting will allow for discussions regarding the transportation issues that both committees are focusing on and how to best address them. He also asked that a report on the EE Apprenticeship program be presented at the next full EPC meeting.

Energy Infrastructure (EI) Committee, Mr. Gus Simmons, EI Committee Chair

Mr. Simmons introduced the EI Committee members, reviewed the Committee's scope of work, discussed their May 12 meeting and the actions taken by them on their recommendations. He said that because of the unforeseen Colonial Pipeline disruption, the committee requested a status update from Russell Duncan, Energy Assurance Manager in DEQ's State Energy Office. Mr. Duncan gave a brief overview of the situation and then responded to the Committee's questions. Mr. Simmons stated that NC legislation was in place to address energy infrastructure. He then suggested that future EPC meetings have presentations from the proposed fuel disruption TTX, the hydrogen economy, and electric vehicles.

After Mr. Simmons' presentation, Mr. Bruce Barkley asked if the EPC should offer formal support for [House Bill 220](#), which deals with municipalities not limiting fuel choices, and [Senate Bill 358](#), which deals with C-PACE as mentioned above. Mr. Simmons said, yes they should support both bills. Mrs. Rachel Estes added that the Committee had also discussed [House Bill 611](#) at the May 12 meeting. She stated that the Committee would like to look at HB 611 and have a speaker present to the Council more information on the bill and also suggested that the Council look at what Virginia did with the Virginia Clean Economy Act. Mr. Simmons agreed with her remarks. Mr. Paul Worley asked if the hydrogen discussions were intended for only motor vehicles. Mr. Simmons responded that the hydrogen discussion was not specifically for motor vehicles.

EPC BUSINESS

Items Voted on by Council in Block:

- From Mr. Worley's EA Committee report:
 - 1) Schedule tabletop exercise for natural gas and motor fuel disruption with assistance from Mr. Russell Duncan at SEO taking the lead to communicate with NC Department of Public Safety's Emergency Management Office.
- From Mr. Tew's EE Committee report:



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- 1) Council to send letter of support for C-PACE Legislation (SB358).
 - 2) Hold a combined EE and EI Committee Meeting prior to next Council meeting to discuss transportation issues.
 - 3) Add EE Apprenticeship update to the agenda for the next full Council meeting.
- From Mr. Simmon's EI Committee report:
 - 1) Council entertain presenters to address hydrogen and electric vehicles.
 - 2) Council to send letter of support of HB 220.
 - 3) Council to look at HB 611 and have a speaker come to discuss this RTO bill and the Virginia Clean Economy Act.

Lt. Governor Robinson asked for a motion to approve the recommendations that came out of the three Committee Reports. Mr. Tew moved that the Energy Policy Council endorse and support the recommendations, Mr. John Hardin seconded the motion, and the motion was passed without opposition.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Lt. Governor Robinson asked for public comments and there were none. He thanked the EPC members for their active participation and work. The Lt. Governor Robinson stated that the Colonial Pipeline situation highlighted the hard work the EPC is doing, and shared that reliable energy sources are vitally important to the State's economy and to the health, welfare and safety of its citizens.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hardin and was seconded by Mr. Barkley. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Approved by Energy Policy Council
Members on August 18, 2021.