

## **CEAC minutes – Jan 11, 2008**

The Community Energy Advisory Council met Friday, Jan. 11, at the Asheville Chamber of Commerce. Members attending included Robin Cape, Isaac Coleman, Vernon Daugherty, Richard Fireman, Lee Galloway, Dave Hollister, Rick Lutovsky, Margie Meares, John Oswald, Margo Flood for Sandy Pfeiffer, Chuck Pickering, Michael Shore, Lavoy Spooner and Paul Szurek.

Robert Sipes, Progress Energy's Western Region vice president, welcomed Isaac Coleman, Assistant Director, Pisgah View Apartments, as a Council member. Jeff Corbett has assumed the Senior Vice Presidency under Lloyd Yates.

In the most recent cold weather, electricity usage hit 965 megawatts, a new all time high for WNC. In a recent EEI article, North Carolina is second to Texas for in-migration. Michael Shore reported that scientists had previously predicted the melting of the Arctic ice caps in the summers in 2040, and that it is happening at a much quicker rate, thereby creating urgency in a lot of directions.

**Dashboard** – Sam Waters, Progress Staff updated the Council on the Dashboard, including the assumptions underlying it. Progress' mandate is to provide adequate, reliable electricity at the lowest cost, including meeting peak demand with reliable reserves – the Dashboard does not address reserves. CEAC recommendations must be presented by Progress to the PUC, and conservation and renewables must be considered first.

Shore requested that the assumptions be made available in a spreadsheet format. Dave Hollister said that the cost of regulatory, environmental and health impacts should be brought into the equation up front. Robin Cape said we should start to have a dialog about how to calculate rate costs. If solar hot water is considered an efficiency measure, it could be added now. Paul Szurak said that carbon taxes are also a consideration. Waters will consider adjustments upon receiving a list of changes.

Margie Meares said that the average customer would find this very complex. He/she wants to be able to count efficiencies. Chris Edge, Progress Energy is developing a tool for efficiency programs for presentation to the PUC. Sipes noted that the Dashboard is a progression and that in time it will be able to translate the information that is requested.

**Extended Community Engagement** – Sipes reported that Karl Kuchner has resigned because of the long commute and business obligations and asked the Extended Community Engagement Group to find a suitable replacement. James McGlohorn, Progress Staff will be joining us in February as the PUC resource.

**CEAC Website and Community Investment Fund** – Martha Thompson, Progress Staff announced the new CEAC website URL: [www.wncenergyfuture.com](http://www.wncenergyfuture.com). UNCA has volunteered students to help retool the website, and she needs a team of CEAC volunteers.

The Community Investment Fund has been allocated \$25,000 for CEAC's purposes, which represents 15% of Progress' WNC budget in this area. Margie Meares, Patrick Fitzsimmons and Isaac Coleman have volunteered to serve on the committee and more are welcome.

**Renewables Solicitation Update** – Kent Fonvielle, Progress Staff said there were over 20 respondents to the RFP deadline of January 1. They are being evaluated and vetted. Sipes noted that the door is always open for inquiries and applications.

**Retreat Planning** – The Values Base and Proposition Committee submitted a draft agenda and updated draft Values Framework for the February 8 Retreat. The Retreat is open to the public as observers but there will not be time for public comment. Lee Galloway noted that there should be a public education element. Flood urged the Council to think about a sustainability framework for decision making, and to put a barometer on the Dashboard. Szurek suggested a formal, pen decision-matrix section. Shore noted that the February 11-12 Governor Hunt Emerging Issues Forum in Raleigh is focused on energy.