

ENERGY AND UNDERGROUND SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

December 14, 2007

- PRESENT:** Councillor Andrew Younger, Chair  
Councillor Sheila Fougere  
Councillor Debbie Hum
- REGRETS:** Deputy Mayor Stephen Adams, Vice Chair  
Councillor Sue Uteck  
Councillor Jim Smith  
Councillor Steve Streach
- STAFF:** Mr. Angus Doyle, Manager of Utilities Coordination,  
Traffic & Right-of-Way Services  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Mr. Martin Ward, Senior Solicitor  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. without a quorum present.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 26, 2007**

Due to lack of a quorum, approval of the minutes was deferred.

**3. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS / ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Addition:

6.1 Update on FAM

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/DEFERRED ITEMS: None**

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

**5.1 NSPI Presentation - Tuft's Cove 6 Project**

The following representatives from Nova Scotia Power were in attendance: Mr. Graeme MacKenzie, Director, Project Implementation; Mr. Bobby Sutherland, Government Relations Specialist; and Mr. John Hawkins, Plant Manager, Tufts Cove Generating Station.

Mr. MacKenzie addressed the Committee, advising that he was in the Project Management Group at Nova Scotia Power. Using a video presentation, he provided an overview of the Tufts Cove 6 (Heat Recovery) plan.

At 10:28 a.m. Councillor Hum entered the meeting.

A discussion ensued with Mr. MacKenzie, Mr. Sutherland and Mr. Hawkins responding to questions.

The Chair advised that Councillor Smith was unable to attend this meeting due to a scheduling conflict. He noted that Councillor Smith has received complaints about noise and vibration issues at Tuft's Cove and he questioned how this project will impact on that and how the issues can be solved.

In response, Mr. MacKenzie advised that they believe the noise problem is associated with low frequency noise, and are proposing a type of muffler system which will help alleviate the problem. He added that in the new year, construction will begin on a sound barrier and it will be close to the existing turbines. This will capture the noise typically in the range of a speaking voice.

In response to a further question by the Chair, Mr. MacKenzie advised that they have been communicating their plans to the affected residents.

In response to additional questions, the following points were noted by the presenters:

- Department of Environment has carried out an environmental assessment.
- a consultant carried out measurement on the impact of vibrations on marine life and it was determined that the noise was not being conveyed through the ground, it was air-bourne.
- although supportive of the idea of District Energy, the steam quality from this project would not be suitable for District Heating.
- Unit 6 was not done at the same time as Unit 5 as the need for additional capacity was not required at the time.

## 6. ADDED ITEM:

### 6.1 Update on FAM

Mr. Martin Ward, Senior Solicitor circulated copies of the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board decision concerning Fuel Adjustment Mechanism (FAM) and Nova Scotia Power Incorporated, and spoke briefly on the Board's decision. In his comments, Mr. Ward noted the following:

- the Board agreed to allow FAM for a trial period in 2008.
- Nova Scotia Power did not get everything they were asking as they wanted an unequivocal statement that FAM would be in place in 2009 but the Board was not prepared to go this far.
- the Board had some concern about NSP's fuel procurement practice and gave direction to Nova Scotia Power in this regard.
- the framework which was adopted has an incentive provision in it.
- there is reduction in the ROE.
- every year there will be a hearing on the fuel cost - - staff has some concern about this, as it is not known to what extent staff can continue to have an impact on this matter.
- staff has some concern with how to bring issues that affect HRM in front of the Board in the future, because in the past when there was a general rate hearing, staff could bring forward what it wanted to the Board.

Ms. Donovan suggested that staff should let the FAM take its course and revisit the matter in a year or two and assess whether anything needs to be done; in the meantime, focus on Demand Side Management (DSM) and the two week Hearing which will begin April 7.

### 5.2 NS Dept. of Energy 2001 Energy Strategy Update Process - HRM's Comments

A Power Point presentation regarding *Renewal of the Nova Scotia Energy Strategy New Provincial Climate Change Action Plan* was submitted.

The Chair noted that, although there was no quorum, there was some urgency in dealing

with this matter, as December 19 is the deadline for submissions.

Mr. Doyle reviewed the Power Point presentation which outlined staff's submission to the Provincial Department of Energy in regard to its process of updating its 2001 Energy Strategy and creation of a Climate Action Plan.

A discussion ensued and **there was general agreement** with the staff submission. **It was also agreed** that a statement be included, noting that the targets cannot be met without significant change; that HRM supports significant change; and that there needs to be a specific plan on how it is going to happen.

## 6. ADDED ITEMS

### 6.1 Update on FAM

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting

## 7. NEXT MEETING DATE - January 18, 2008

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds  
Legislative Assistant