

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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February 1, 2011

Senator Michael Thibodeau, Senate Chair  
Representative Stacey Fitts, House Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Utilities, Energy and Technology  
115 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Thibodeau and Representative Fitts:

I am writing as the Chair of the Interagency Review Panel (Panel) to report on the activities and actions taken by the Panel as required in LD 1786, An Act Regarding Energy Infrastructure, enacted as Public law 2010, Chapter 655, effective July 12, 2010.

According to the statute, the members of the Panel include the following: Director of the Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS), the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS), Commissioner of the Department of Transportation (DOT) (or the Director/Commissioner's designee), and any other commissioner or the director of any other state agency or authority that owns or controls land or assets within the statutory corridor under consideration, along with four public members representing different interests.

The four public members include: Barbara Alexander, representing energy and utility matters, Tim Agnew, representing real estate or finance, Fen Fowler, representing residential energy consumers and Harrison Horning representing industrial or commercial energy consumers. The public members of the Panel were confirmed by this Committee and sworn in the fall of 2010.

The Panel met three times in 2010 and their next meeting is set for Monday, February 7, 2011. (See attached agendas and minutes of the Panel's three meetings.) The Panel is being staffed by the OEIS and the Department of Transportation.

Actions taken by the Panel include the following:

- Formed a sub-group to work on developing the policies and procedures to solicit and review energy infrastructure proposals. This group has not met yet but plans to in February, 2011.
- Developed a webpage on the OEIS website for background information on the Panel including its members, statute, agendas, minutes and upcoming meetings.

- Developed an interested parties email list in order to inform and include the public in the Panel's meetings and discussions.
- Decided to draft a Letter of Interest (LOI) to be sent to prospective developers.

As Chair of the Panel, I have been in contact with Bangor Hydro about a proposed joint Bangor Hydro/National Grid infrastructure project. The Panel intends to meet with representatives of Bangor Hydro and National Grid about the proposed project as soon as a meeting can be scheduled.

The Panel intends to have its procedures in place as soon as possible in order to respond to this proposal and others that may be come forward in the future. It also plans to send out Letters of Interest to potential developers to inform them of the legislation, that the Panel is functioning, and the opportunities for energy infrastructure development in the State.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*John M. Kerry*

John M. Kerry, Director  
Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security and  
Chair, Interagency Review Panel