

**Cape Light Compact JPE
Governing Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 14, 2025**

The Cape Light Compact JPE Board of Directors met on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting (in-person and through remote participation) through a Zoom videoconference for members of the Board with audio call-in available for members of the public, pursuant to St. 2025, c. 2, which, among other things, extends the temporary provisions pertaining to remote meetings of public bodies under the Open Meeting Law to June 30, 2027.

Participating In-Person Were:

1. Robert Schofield, Executive Committee, Bourne
2. Tom McNellis, Eastham
3. Valerie Bell, Harwich
4. Martin Culik, Chair/Executive Committee, Orleans
5. David Jacobson, Orleans Alternate
6. Nathaniel Mayo, Provincetown
7. Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian, Wellfleet

Participating Remotely Were:

1. David Anthony, Secretary/Executive Committee, Barnstable
2. Bill Doherty, Bourne Alternate
3. Colin Odell, Executive Committee, Brewster
4. Tim Carroll, Chilmark
5. Tristan Israel, Dukes County
6. Alan Strahler, Edgartown
7. Scott Mueller, Falmouth
8. Bob Higgins-Steele, Truro Alternate
9. Nicola Blake, Executive Committee, West Tisbury
10. Joyce Flynn, Vice Chair/Executive Committee, Yarmouth

Absent Were:

1. Forrest Filler, Aquinnah
2. Brian Miner, Chatham
3. Brad Crowell, Dennis
4. Peter Meleney, Oak Bluffs
5. Wayne Taylor, Mashpee
6. Leanne Drake, Sandwich
7. Russ Hartenstine, Tisbury
8. Jarrod Cabral, Truro

Legal Counsel Participating Remotely:

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan, Esq., KO Law, P.C.
Rebecca Zachas, Esq., KO Law, P.C.

Staff Participation In-Person:

Maggie Downey, Chief Administrative Officer

Margaret Song, Energy Efficiency Strategy and Policy Manager
Mariel Marchand, Power Supply Planner

Staff Participating Remotely:

Angela Hurwitz, Senior IT Services & Data Management Analyst
Briana Kane, Implementation Manager
Dan Schell, Senior Analyst - Retail and Demand Response
David Maclellan, Senior Analyst
Jason Bertrand, Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Kim Grant, Town Energy Coordinator
Kate Coleman, Outreach Specialist
Laura Selmer, Energy Efficiency Analyst
Lindsay Henderson, Senior Analyst – Small Business
Meredith Miller, Senior Analyst – Income Eligible
Phil Moffitt, Chief Financial Officer

Public Participants:

None.

Martin Culik called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Public Comment:

No written comments were received in advance of the meeting and no members of the public were present for public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Board considered the April 9, 2025, Open Session Meeting Minutes.

Martin Culik stated that Tim Carroll needed to be added to the participation remotely list. David Anthony stated that on page four, in the first paragraph, second to last sentence it should say “\$8.1 million”.

Valerie Bell moved the Board to accept the minutes and to release them as amended, seconded by Nate Mayo.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Tim	Carroll	Chilmark	Yes
Tom	McNellis	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Scott	Mueller	Falmouth	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Suzanne	Ryan-Ishkanian	Wellfleet	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Mike	Duffy	Yarmouth	Yes

Bob Schofield, Bill Doherty, and Tristan Israel joined the meeting at 2:13 PM.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT, MARTIN CULIK:

Martin Culik stated that we are still waiting for proposed legislation from the state regarding its potential impact on the Compact’s future roles and staffing levels. He stated that we should hopefully receive the proposed legislation soon and then we can move forward with the planning of hiring the next Chief Administrative Officer. Maggie Downey stated that the legislation was filed, and she has not yet thoroughly read the whole bill. Counsel will be giving a summary of the legislation at the June Board Meeting. She stated that she will send the proposed bill to the Board via email to review before the next Board Meeting.

OVERVIEW OF THE COMPACT’S APRIL 30, 2025, COMPLIANCE FILING AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY SURCHARGE FILING FOR THE THREE-YEAR ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN FOR 2025-2027 (EEP)(DPU 24-146), MARGARET SONG:

Margaret Song reviewed the 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency Plan PowerPoint.

Margaret Song stated that there were three big things that the Compact was required to do for the compliance filing: (1) reduce the residential sector budget; (2) file a compliance filing with the DPU by April 30; and (3) submit a revised 2025 Energy Efficiency Surcharge (EES) filing to the DPU. She stated that the Compact met its required residential budget reduction, submitted the compliance filing (DPU 24-146), and filed a revised 2025 energy efficiency surcharge EES filing (DPU 25-52) by the April 30, 2025, deadline.

Margaret Song reviewed the sector level budgets. She stated that the Compact was required to reduce the residential budget which then caused an increase in the low-income, and commercial and industrial (C&I) sectors. She stated that the Compact had to do some shifting in the C&I sector to make sure that it isn’t hitting the 15% year-over-year requirement imposed by the DPU in their approval of the EEP.

Margaret Song stated that on May 7, 2025, comments from parties were due on the budget reduction compliance filing. She stated that the Low-Income Energy Affordability Network (LEAN) reserved the right to reply but had no comments, Conservation Law Foundation took issue with moderate-income gas-to-electric heat pumps, and the Attorney General’s Office (AGO) has concerns around cost overruns and opposes Eversource gas (in former Columbia Gas territory’s) budget request that was submitted with Eversource’s compliance filing. She stated that the Program Administrators had to respond to the comments by May 13, 2025. She stated that the order date on the compliance filing is unknown.

Margaret Song stated that because of the residential budget reduction, the Compact had to redo the EES for July 1, 2025. She stated that for January 1, 2025, the EES was 5.468 cents/kWh for residential and low-income customers and 3.223 cents/kWh for C&I. She stated that for July 1, 2025, the Compact is proposing residential and low-income EES of 3.273 cents/kWh and C&I EES of 2.416 cents/kWh.

Margaret Song reviewed the residential, low-income, and C&I illustrative bill impacts and the comparison between what is currently in effect and what has been proposed. She stated that both residential and low-income would see a 5 to 6.4% decrease and C&I would see a 0.2 to 2.8% decrease. C&I doesn’t have as much of a decrease since there was no budget reduction required.

Margaret Song reviewed the timeline for EES comments. She stated that on May 14, 2025, a notice was sent to the Chairs of Select Board, Town Clerks, etc. On May 15, 2025, the Compact has to post on the website through June 3, 2025, what these rate changes will look like and on June 3, 2025, comments are due to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU). She stated that on July 1, 2025, the rates will go into effect if they are approved. Nicola Blake asked if they are approved, will the Compact do a press release. Margaret Song answered that the Compact will do a press release, and it would be a part of the Board's next quarterly update to the Board Members' Select Boards or Town Council.

RESULTS OF POWER SUPPLY MARKETING INITIATIVE, MARIEL MARCHAND:

Mariel Marchand reviewed the Power Supply Test Mailing Update PowerPoint. She stated that the Compact did a test mailing of 1,000 pieces. She stated that 500 were sent to basic service customers and 500 were sent to competitive supply customers. The total cost was \$1,050.95. She stated that the NextEra call center asked all customers that called to enroll in the CLC power supply rate if they received a postcard from the Compact. She stated that the number of customers who indicated that they received a postcard was zero.

Mariel Marchand stated that there are a couple options moving forward. She stated that we could do no additional direct mail power supply marketing. She stated that as a reminder that the Compact's marketing strategy already includes power supply marketing. She stated that the Compact is serving approximately 70% of customers in its service territory. She stated that we could also do additional mailings. She stated that for all basic service customers it would be \$9,282.72 and for all competitive supply customers it would be \$15,720.46. She stated that staff does not recommend additional mailings. The Board agreed not to move forward with additional direct mailings to customers.

PRESENTATION ON ELECTRIC HEAT PUMP RATE: DPU 25-08 AND DPU 25-55. POTENTIAL VOTE TO ADOPT CONSUMER ADVOCACY WORKSHEET, MAGGIE DOWNEY:

Maggie Downey stated that back in early winter the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) requested that the DPU open an investigation on establishing an electric heat pump rate. She stated that it has been moving quickly. She stated that she asked Rebecca Zachas to walk through the background of the DPU proceedings for the Board. She stated that, as an investigation, D.P.U. 25-08 is not your typical proceedings where you have full intervention and that the Compact is looking for limited participant status in D.P.U. 25-55.

Rebecca Zachas reviewed the D.P.U. 25-08 and D.P.U. 25-55 seasonal heat pump rate design PowerPoint. She stated that these cases originated from the need to consider new rate design strategies considering electrification and the Commonwealth's decarbonization goals, as well as the recognition of energy cost burdens on ratepayers. The interagency rates working group (IRWG) which is made up of the DOER, AGO, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MA CEC) and other stakeholders, has also recommended creating a heat pump rate.

Rebecca Zachas stated that in December 2024 the IRWG issued Near Term Rate Strategy Recommendations, including adoption of an optional seasonal heat pump rate. She stated that there was recognition that both National Grid and Unitil currently have a heat pump rate, both of which are new, but that the IRWG had found that those rates don't lead to bill savings for customers switching from gas to heat pumps. She stated that, on January 31, 2025, DOER petitioned the DPU requesting a heat pump rate investigation and, on March 21, 2025, the DPU opened the investigation on DOER's petition and directed Eversource to propose a heat pump rate for the 2025-2026 heating season in a separate docket. She stated that, on April 17, 2025, Eversource filed its proposed heat pump rate in D.P.U. 25-55. She stated that on March 21 and May 5, 2025, the DPU issued notices with deadlines for comment in D.P.U. 25-08 and participation in D.P.U. 25-55.

Rebecca Zachas stated that there are some potential power supply and energy efficiency concerns for the Compact in both dockets. She stated that related to power supply, the heat pump rate should be revenue neutral, meaning that it shouldn't shift costs onto customers that heat their home with something other than heat pumps. She stated that time-varying rates (TVR) may also be discussed in D.P.U. 25-08. TVR has been a long-standing Compact issue. She stated that for energy efficiency, DOER's petition speaks in terms of enrolling customers onto the heat pump rate through Mass Save and that petition specifically references the utility program administrators (PA), but not the Compact as a PA. She stated that the Compact wants to make sure that it is included in the discussions and in how customer enrollment onto a heat pump rate will work overall. She stated the utilities will also undertake marketing, education, and outreach related to the heat pump rate and there too, the Compact wants to ensure that customers in its service territory are included in those efforts. She stated that because of these proceedings, a consumer advocacy worksheet was prepared for Board consideration and possible approval today.

Rebecca Zachas stated that regarding participation in DPU 25-80, it's an investigation rather than an adjudicatory docket. She stated that the DPU has asked for comments from stakeholders due June 2, 2025. She stated that, in regard to DPU 25-55, stakeholders looking to become parties have until May 20, 2025, to file. She stated that the Compact would seek limited participant status, which would allow it to raise concerns without having to fully participate in the docket. She stated that it would allow the Compact to file briefs, and the Compact would plan to file public comment on June 12, 2025. She stated that the next step would be for the Board to approve the consumer advocacy worksheet.

Nate Mayo moved the Board vote to authorize the Compact's participation in D.P.U. 25-08 and 25-55, adopt the Consumer Advocacy Worksheet for D.P.U. 25-08 and 25-55 and allocate costs between the Compact's energy efficiency and operating budgets as set forth in the Consumer Advocacy Worksheet.

The Compact Administrator is authorized and directed to take all actions necessary or appropriate to implement this vote, and to execute and deliver all documents as may be necessary or appropriate to implement this vote. Seconded by Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Scofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Absent
Tim	Carroll	Chilmark	Yes
Tristan	Israel	Dukes Count	Yes
Tom	McNellis	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Scott	Mueller	Falmouth	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Suzanne	Ryan-Ishkanian	Wellfleet	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Mike	Duffy	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (14-0-0)

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

1. Update on Website

Maggie Downey stated that we are still working on the revisions to the Compact's website. She stated that staff caught some commercial and industrial changes and decided to wait until they are done to send it all to the Board. She stated that it should be sent out to the Board for review before the next Board Meeting.

2. Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative Strategic Planning Session

Maggie Downey stated that the Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative (CVEC) had a strategic planning session this month to figure out as an organization where they are going. She stated that they did bring in a facilitator for the session. She just wanted to make sure the Board was aware of it.

3. Revised MA 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization Plan Executive Summary

Maggie Downey stated that the revised Executive Summary for the MA 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization Plan (undertaken in connection with the April 30, 2025, compliance filing in D.P.U. 24-146) is in the Board Packet. She stated that it has been put on our website.

Tristan Israel left the meeting at 3:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made at 3:38 PM moved by Robert Schofield, seconded by Nate Mayo.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Scofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Tim	Carroll	Chilmark	Yes
Tom	McNellis	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Scott	Mueller	Falmouth	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
Martin	Culik	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Bob	Higgins-Steele	Truro	Yes
Suzanne	Ryan-Ishkanian	Wellfleet	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Mike	Duffy	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (14-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Allard

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS:

- Meeting Notice/Agenda

- April 9, 2025, Draft Open Session Meeting Minutes
- 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency Plan PowerPoint
- Power Supply Test Mailing Update PowerPoint
- D.P.U. 25-08 and D.P.U. 25-55 Seasonal heat pump Rate Design PowerPoint
- MA 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization Plan