

NYSERDA's 269th Board Meeting
January 29, 2025
Clean Copy of Transcript

Richard Kauffman:

I call this meeting to order. This is the 269th meeting of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. Notice of the meeting was provided to the Members on January 17, 2025, and to the press on January 21st, 2025. And a revised agenda was issued on January 28th, 2025. I directed a copy of the notice and agenda and the revised notice the annex to the minutes of this meeting. Welcome to the meeting. This meeting is being conducted by video conference. The Authority will post a video and a transcript of this meeting on the web. To confirm that we have a quorum, I'd like to ask the Members to introduce themselves. I'm Richard Kauffman, Chair of the Authority. Look at each.

Dale Bryk:

Sorry. Dale Bryk Member of the Board.

Charles Bell:

Chuck Bell, Vice Chair of the Authority and Member of the Board.

JoAnne Hewett:

JoAnne Hewett, Member of the Board.

Justin Driscoll:

Justin Driscoll, Member of the Board.

Jen Hensley:

Jen Hensley, Member of the Board.

Sherburne Abbott:

Shere Abbott, Member of the Board.

Jay Koh:

Jay Koh, Member of the Board.

Lindsay Greene:

Lindsay Greene, Member of the Board.

Richard Kauffman:

MarieTherese we can't hear you.

MarieTherese Dominguez:

MarieTherese Dominguez Member of the Board.

Richard Kauffman:

Okay, thank you. I'd like to note for the record that we have a quorum, but that Lindsay Greene is participating by video conference as per the extraordinary circumstances exception under the Open Meetings Law and our By-laws, Lindsay's participation will count for votes but will not be included in the count for quorum. Thank you. So before turning to the formal agenda, I think you already know the sad announcement that former Board Member Kate Fish passed away on January 12th. I think many of us remember Kate, she was a Member for four years sitting on the Audit and Finance Committee, the Program Planning Committee and the Waste and Facilities Management Committee. Kate had a quiet but persistent way about her that really demonstrated a constant reliable dedication to furthering the mission of the Authority. Kate's leadership and expertise helped to ensure the proper management and oversight of the Authority's, programs and finances. Kate's focus on preserving and protecting New York's environment was invaluable to the Authority and she really brought in a voice from the north country, which we really, really appreciate. So our thoughts with Kate's family during this time and I welcome any comments if anybody wants to say anything about Kate or remember her.

Sherburne Abbott:

Kate was a lovely human being in addition to being a really good Member of the Board. That's to go without saying, but in fact she was remarkable.

Richard Kauffman:

Perfect. Well thank you. So we'll now turn back to the discussion agenda. The next item on the discussion agenda's report from the Authority President and CEO Doreen Harris.

Doreen Harris:

Good afternoon everyone to the Members of the Authority. I am pleased to be with you here today certainly to reflect on a number of different items, a bit of an extended President's report today. If you turn to the next slide, I'll just talk briefly about our agenda. So I'd like to talk about the very important milestone that we're celebrating this year, our 50th anniversary and certainly the year that was. As well as some trends in the clean energy industry writ large, some updates from the executive perspective as well as looking forward toward our strategic planning exercise that has been underway and will be coming to you in April as well as some program and policy updates. Knowing that there are many, next slide please. So first I certainly do want to share our collective excitement. I hope you're with me at NYSERDA 50th anniversary. We are celebrating half a century of catalyzing clean energy across our state and I'm going to talk through just briefly a little bit of our history as well as our year that was as well as plans for the coming year. So next slide please.

You're all aware, but I will reiterate that NYSERDA was formed in 1975 in response to the oil and energy crisis, reconstituted from the New York State Atomic and Space Development Authority. Since then, I believe, and I hope you agree, we have been a trusted objective resource for New Yorkers, focused first on research and development of the technologies of the day promoting various technologies as well as certainly important planning functions. On behalf of New Yorkers, it's important to note that our work has spanned nine US Presidents and even more congresses. I'd like to think the durability is one that we can be reflecting on here today. And on this slide I've included just a handful of images and milestones we've pulled out of the archives

illustrating the history of this catalytic innovation at our organization. On the left you see solar energy in the 1980s followed by some children enjoying an EV demonstration in the 1990s, the launch of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Commissions in the two thousands and the establishment of the NY Green Bank in the 2010s.

And our scoping plan of course being approved in the 2020s. So many pieces to fill in between, but certainly a legacy of impact and I'll be talking a bit about how we intend to celebrate that impact this year. But first, if we turn to the next slide, certainly can't turn the page on a new year without looking back at the accomplishments of the year. Before noting in March we announced the completion of South Fork Wind, the first utility scale offshore wind farm in the us. This is a very big deal, certainly one, we were pleased that New York had that distinction. In August we announced an additional \$200 million was available of bond act funding for zero emission school buses, a program that has really scaled up our work in the transportation sector. In September, we held the Future Energy Economy Summit, including our own Chair as the mc and planner of the summit and really kicked off a number of work streams around the topic of the technologies that we will be talking about in our state energy plan and certainly even in this year's State of the State Address.

As you heard, in October we announced that New York achieved a major solar milestone a year early six gigawatts of distributed solar. So graduation from that milestone. And then in November we announced the energy efficient appliance rebates were available for low to moderate income New Yorkers, it is called the Appliance Program and we were the first state to offer this retail point of sale appliance rebate in the nation. So this is a tiny snippet of what we achieved in 2024. I'm more excited than ever. When we think about the year that we're coming forward, this half a century milestone provides an opportunity to certainly celebrate our impact. Next slide.

So when we think about the major milestone of our 50th anniversary, I want to highlight a few aspects of this and I'm hopeful you can all join us for as many of these as possible. First, certainly social events that will help bring us together as team NYSERDA as you can see here, but also public events, bringing New Yorkers into our work and expanding knowledge about our programs and impact. We're also hosting community service events, continuing our history of community stewardship and of course a jam packed calendar of activities to spread the news about this milestone including social media videos, 50th anniversary assets, and of course a time capsule including the opening of our last time capsule. Should we be able to find it?

What is? So stay tuned for a year full of excitement. Next slide please. I also wanted to share a few updates as I do in these meetings about trends that we're seeing in the clean energy space more broadly. Next slide. And as I've reported before, our clean energy Industry report, a longitudinal study that is undertaken on an annual basis was produced at the end of last year. It shows data through the end of 2023. I think it's important to note that not only did we see the largest number of clean energy jobs ever in our state, in fact the largest employment gain in any single year since we started tracking, we gained 7,700 jobs. But also I think the sectors that we saw growing at the fastest pace were pretty impressive. Notably the transportation sector where we saw a 27% growth for the prior year as well as the building decarbonization sector adding 4,000 new jobs.

And it's important to note that a third of these jobs are in underserved communities and entry level clean energy jobs pay 12% more compared to that same job outside the clean energy industry. So we're building this industry and I think this study is reflective of this transition across our state. Next slide please. Next I wanted to share some trends on the broader topic of advanced nuclear technologies. You will be receiving a briefing from our director of strategy on our advanced nuclear work later in this meeting, but reflective of the Governor's Future Energy Economy Summit, we definitely have seen two factors coming together. I think that have brought us to the point of very serious consideration of this technology. First, we certainly saw under the Biden administration bipartisan support for the Advance Act, which is intended to support domestic nuclear development. It's happened in June of 2024, and we also just see more broadly nations and subnationals coming together with interest which would theoretically drive demand and scale something that we are looking for to not only compress costs but bring forward other market opportunities that we might benefit from.

In addition, we see the both challenge and opportunity of load growth and that is an area our state has been planning for some time with respect to our climate law. But also when we think about the preponderance of AI data centers, hyperscalers, semiconductor, fabs, electrolysis, et cetera, we really see increased interest in ways that we can serve that load in an energy dense way. And of course, advanced nuclear technologies have come forward as a possible resource, if you will, a candidate technology to meet that need. We also see those same companies really having strong interest in bilateral contracts for the procurement of nuclear power. That's an important trend because of course this in many instances has not involved government intervention of any sort, but rather the very specific interest in reliable clean supply that's bringing forward contractual mechanisms that we are monitoring closely, including by Microsoft and Constellation Energy who owns New York's operating commercial nuclear power plants.

They've actually agreed to a 20-year deal to restart operations at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant in Pennsylvania as a good example. So more to come here, but certainly another trend of note. Next slide please. So next I'm shifting gears to share some updates from our Governor's office. Certainly this is the time of year in which we see her policy priorities articulated through her annual State of the State Address as well as her executive budget and legislation that has been advanced on her behalf. Next slide. So two weeks ago, Governor Hochul held her 2025 State of the State Address. The theme this year is fighting for your family and a number of her proposed initiatives focused on affordability and building a safe and healthy future for New Yorkers. Several of the initiatives announced by the Governor impact our work at NYSERDA and I wanted to call out a few of those announcements today.

I'll talk about them each in turn. Next slide please. First we have the Sustainable Future program. This is a program included in the Governor's executive budget, which is the largest commitment in a single budget to investments in clean energy and climate initiatives. This is a billion dollars, very significant and certainly one that will have the opportunity to invest in what we would call large capital projects, bondable projects, projects with a major impact from a jobs and greenhouse gas emissions perspective. And one that we are working not only with the Governor's budget team, but our sister agencies to analyze potential investment opportunities, certainly in line with the climate investment account that has been established through the cap and invest program as well. Next slide please. Also contained within her State of the State Address where a

number of initiatives relating to advanced nuclear energy. We'll hear more from Erich Scherer in just a minute, but she announced the master plan for Responsible Advanced Nuclear Development. She also announced that New York will be co-leading a soon to be announced multi-state initiative on advanced nuclear. And she also announced that with NYSERDA support, constellation has submitted an application to the Department of Energy for a planning grant to explore advanced nuclear at its nine mile point site. Next slide.

And then of course Cap-and-Invest, the Governor also announced that the state will be proposing new reporting regulations to gather information on emission sources under New York's Cap-and-Invest program. So just as a reminder, Cap-and-Invest includes actually three rulemaking, the mandatory greenhouse gas reporting rule, which will be advanced by the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Cap-and-Invest rule, also A DEC rulemaking and the auction rule, which NYSERDA has a rulemaking to set up the auctions and allowance mechanisms. So we are in close contact obviously with DEC. Given the interoperability and interactions of these rulemakings. The Governor has instructed DEC to issue the mandatory greenhouse gas reporting rule, which they intend to do in the coming months that will advance through the formal comment hearings and finalization and eventually mandatory reporting. I say this is important not only to provide data into the market, but also for all of us to have additional opportunities to refine the other two rules through continued engagement and development, which has been underway.

Next slide. And for the final aspect of the executive update, I wanted to share some details from the Governor's executive budget unveiled last week. This is certainly a major channel for investment and implementation of policymaking for the Governor and relevant to NYSERDA. You can see the key appropriations that were included on this slide, an increase in our 18 A funding to fund various planning, innovation and policy work as well as a continuation of the West Valley Capital appropriations to meet federal matching requirements. Next slide. You can see here some additional key budget actions and appropriations that are included in the fiscal year 2026 budget. You can see here one important next step was the ways in which the state legislature is holding joint assembly and Senate hearings to consider her budget. And in fact, yesterday I represented NYSERDA at the environmental conservation and energy hearing as shown in this photo. And as we know the Assembly and Senate, their work ultimately involving a three-way negotiation to finalize budget language. The deadline for the final budget is March 31st.

Next slide. Next I wanted to talk about some exciting strategic planning work streams our team is undertaking. Next slide.

So certainly one might say what is the rationale for a refresh of our strategic planning work? I certainly think our 50th anniversary is a good reason to do so, but also to just generally with time update our various components of our strategic plan. So certainly this is a moment not only to reflect on the impact that we have had, but that which we intend to have moving forward. It also has been five years since the CLCPA was passed and we certainly have learned a lot along the way that can be incorporated in this refresh. But also the ways in which we have matured our own organization, both as what we call team NYSERDA, but our commitment to DEI and the implementation of our strategic plan and also ways in which we can deepen our work to plan as

teams and as business units for objectives and key results that can provide clarification and guidance to our teams as well.

So next slide. We are currently in the process of updating various pieces of NYSERDA's work. The mission, vision and Promise have actually been a work in progress by our executive team for a number of months and we look forward to presenting revised, revised mission, vision and promise to the Board for approval in April. As part of our strategic outlook, we also have organization-wide goals. We have worked collectively to establish these goals to strengthen specifically the trust that NYSERDA has cultivated throughout our 50-year history. And they really focus both on our internal impact as well as our external impact, allowing some specific goals to be, I'd say available to our teams as they establish their own goals for the year As well. We also have guiding principles, which are the underlying values that our employees aim to uphold and embody in our day-to-day work.

We have a current process underway with our staff led by our DEI team to revise and update our guiding principles which have been in place for quite some time. I mentioned the objectives in key results that we have been undertaking as an organization. This will continue this year and further guided by the org white goals that we have established. And lastly, we are looking forward to releasing an updated version of our annual strategic outlook as we share our work and vision with both you and our stakeholders. And again, this will be coming to you in April. Next slide. And one more please.

So two program and policy updates. First, I am pleased to report that NYSERDA in partnership with the Office of General Services and NYPA have released a new design guidelines for state entities. This is a document called the New York State Decarbonization and Climate Resiliency Design Guide. And I would say this is not only important work, but it is first of a kind guidance for agencies to ensure that their design strategies established minimum and enhance sustainability and resiliency strategies to meet the commitments not only in Executive Order 22, but also the CLCPA writ large and various statutory requirements. So this is certainly an opportunity for the state to lead by example and I'd say this guide is also going to be useful for other builders, if you will, of decarbonized and resilient buildings. I want to thank the NYSERDA team specifically, but also our partners at OGS and NYPA for making this happen. Next slide. We do

Owe you an update on our fire safety working group. You may remember that Governor Hochul established this group in 2023 after three fires occurred across our state at battery energy storage facilities. First of all, I'm very proud of the ways in which NYSERDA has worked with our fellow agencies to make very significant changes. First, the assessment of course of the state of play. You can see that we have reviewed environmental testing data from each of the sites, air, soil, water, to determine in this case the very specific data coming from those fires and any impacts thereof, but also the state-of-the-art with respect to code standards and regulations and specifically changes that should and could be made by the New York State Code Council. And to inspect the systems that have been installed across our state to ensure that they're installed according to the latest safety provisions.

Something that we also completed last year. But as we move forward, we certainly have more to do not only with respect to the root cause analysis of the fires that existed, but also the ways in which the emergency response occurred. So you'll see reporting that we are planning in that respect, but also summary reports that can be available not only for the state officials but fundamentally others as well. Given that we fortunately or unfortunately have become a respected nationwide leader in the topic of battery energy storage, safety, so much so in fact that we are looked upon not only nationally but by other states for best practices that are not only being implemented within our code but also the peer reviews that we believe are very useful to ensure these projects are installed according to various requirements. Certainly we all saw note, took note of the recent moss landing fire in California just yesterday.

We met with the California Energy Commission not only to talk about the status but frankly the ways in which our work can be put into practice and their state, we'd already been working with them. But now with the fire we obviously have very specific experience on response and inspections that are of interest to them as well. So this is going to be a work in progress, but the milestones that we've hit are not only important but I'd say reflective of this industry which is only going to continue to grow. We need to ensure we do so with safety first and that is exactly what this working group is accomplishing. And last slide. Certainly we have had a change in our federal administration since we last met and I'm here to reflect on not only the executive orders and memos that President Trump and his team have issued, but the ways in which this may potentially impact our work.

I'd like to highlight just a few of these federal actions here today. Obviously this is evolving and something that we are monitoring and adapting to as needed. So first we have the temporary withdrawal of offshore wind leasing and reviews of a permitting memo. This is specifically impactful to wind, offshore wind and onshore wind. First with the ban of issuance of new or renewed offshore wind leases and a review of leasing practices before considering any amendments or terminations of any existing leases. But also importantly, a pause on federal approvals and permits of onshore or offshore wind projects until a multi-agency review of these permitting practices is completed. So we of course are assessing what this may mean for our portfolio. We are pleased to say our two large projects that are under construction are continuing to be constructed, Sunrise Wind and Empire Wind One. But we of course are confident about the value our offshore wind projects bring to New York and we will work in every way we can to continue to advance this industry and of course are partnering with other states on strategies to do so.

The second executive order was the Unleashing American Energy Executive Order. In addition to the other actions, this executive order freezes the Inflation Reduction Act and the IIJA fund disbursements for 90 days pending agency review. We are all aware of a memo from the Office of Management and Budgets causing the disbursement of these federal grant funds in a very dynamic situation in which a DC federal judge blocked the order on Tuesday. And now today we're learning the memo has been suspended. So certainly a dynamic circumstance and one that has potential significant implications of course on funds that we are deploying at NYSERDA and frankly across our state. We also saw the proposal to update NEPA guidance and rescind some NEPA regulations and aim to eliminate the EV mandate, specifically terminating certain state

emissions waivers that limit sales of gas-powered automobiles and the consideration of the elimination of EV tax credits.

And last but not least, the easing of appliance efficiency requirements. So as you would imagine, we are conducting robust internal analysis to assess various scenarios for the scales of impact and coordinating and sharing information with our partners, including other state agencies, the Governor's office and the Attorney General's office to assess potential paths forward. We also have the declaration of a national Energy Emergency Executive order, which I note because this one actually calls out the northeast explicitly, we're monitoring what this may mean as well. Certainly potentially significant impacts on the East coast. And as you see west coast of Alaska, these are just a three a snapshot of the many EOS and actions we're monitoring. Of course we are monitoring also the possibility of tariffs that may affect our supply chains and the technologies that we are deploying and importantly targets to DEI policies and gender identity policies, not only how they may impact our workforce but how they may also affect how we work with the federal government.

So we continue to monitor these impacts and will commit to sharing with you more as we assess and receive guidance. And as time passes I hope you'll reach out directly to me and my team with any questions. So as we turn the corner in the slide, I want to thank you not only for your attention but your commitment to the cause. 2025 is a year of course of challenges as they always are, but also opportunities and I'm very much looking forward to celebrating NYSERDA and continuing our impact in 2025 and beyond. And with that, I'll thank you for the time.

Richard Kauffman:

Thank you. Sure. Quick questions for Doreen. Great. The next agenda item concerns a private session and an executive session Section 108 of the Public Officer's Law authorized that the Members to convene in private session in order to review attorney-client privilege matters. Additionally, Section 105 of the Public Officer's Law authorizes the Members to convene an executive session in order to discuss the employment history of a particular person May have a motion for resolution number 1754 to enter into private session for the purpose of discussing attorney-client privilege matters and to enter into executive session for the purposes of discussing the employment history of a particular person.

Jay Koh:

So moved.

Richard Kauffman:

Thank you. All in favor?

Members of the Board:

Aye.

Richard Kauffman:

I know it was opposed. The Members will now enter into private session an executive session. During that time the webcast will remain up. On a return. We will reconvene the meeting

I know reconvene the meeting in open session. No formal action was taken during the private session and executive session. The next item on the agenda is proposed revisions to the Authority *Operating Plan for Investments in New York Under the CO₂ Budget Trading Program and the CO₂ Allowance Auction Program* which was considered by the Program Planning Committee. Committee Chair Shere Abbott had to leave and therefore I'll be presenting the items considered by the Program Planning Committee. Executive Vice President Williams presented the RGGI program plan for the next three years that included a balanced budget for that period. In addition, Executive Vice President Williams discussed the various program allocations based on the presentation and discussion. The Program Planning Committee recommends that the full Board adopt the resolution regarding the amendments to the RGGI operating plan as provided. Are there any questions in that case? We have a motion for resolution number 1755 a Premier revision to the plan entitled *Operating Plan for Investments in New York Under the CO₂ Budget Trading Program and the CO₂ Allowance Auction Program*

Jay Koh:

So moved.

Charles Bell:

Second.

Richard Kauffman:

Thank you. All in favor?

Members of the Board:

Aye.

Richard Kauffman:

Any opposed? The revision to the RGGI operating Plan are approved. The next item on the discussion agenda is the Authority's budget for fiscal year 2025-2026. First I'd like to discuss the portions of the budget considered by the Program Planning Committee. The PPC received a report and recommendation from CFO Pam Paso on the Authority's fiscal year 2025-26 Budget and finance plan the details of which are in your meeting package. Based upon the presentation and discussion, the PPC recommends that the full Board adopt the resolution regarding the Authority 's fiscal year 2025-2026 budget and financial plans as provided. Now I'd like to ask Chuck Bell, the Vice Chair and Chair of the Waste and Facilities Management Committee to discuss the portions of the budget considered by that committee.

Charles Bell:

Thank you, Richard. The Waston Facilities Management Committee met earlier today. The Committee received a full report from CFO Pam Poisson describing the significant fiscal year 2025-26 budget items that relate to the West Valley Site Management program and to radioactive waste policy and nuclear coordination activities. The details of the budget are contained in your Board package. Based on Pam's report and the materials in the Board package, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board approve the budget for the West Valley Site Management Program and radioactive waste policy and nuclear coordination activities.

Richard Kauffman:

Are there any questions for Chuck in that case? We have a motion for resolution number 1756 approving the Authority's budget for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Jay Koh:

So moved.

Richard Kauffman:

Second.

Dale Bryk:

Second.

Richard Kauffman:

Great. All in favor?

Members of the Board:

Aye. Aye.

Richard Kauffman:

Thank you. Okay, so the Authority's fiscal year 2025-2026 Budget is approved. The next item on the discussion agenda is a report on the items discussed by the Audit and Finance Committee. That committee's Chair Jay Koh will discuss this item.

Jay Koh:

Thank you Richard. The committee meeting was held earlier today and a quorum, was present through out the Committee received a presentation from Chief Financial Officer Pam Poisson on the proposed issuance of bonds to support the financing of the Green Jobs-Green New York program. Structure of the bonds is similar to the structure approved in prior years bonds will be secured by a pledge of loan repayments. Ramirez & Co., Inc. Will once again serve as the underwriters. Bonds will require the approval of the Public Authorities Control Board and certain aspects of the transaction will require approval by the Office of the State Comptroller and the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. The Committee unanimously recommends approval of the Green Jobs-Green New York financing. Next the Committee received a report from Pam Poisson on the Authority's Risk Assessment activities. The Committee was able to ask questions and was satisfied with the discussion. Committee also received a report from the acting Director of internal Audit Dorraine Teitsch-Gilligan on the recent activities of audit, the status of internal audits, ongoing audits. The Committee was satisfied with the discussion. Lastly, the Committee met in executive session, discussed the Authority's cybersecurity controls. No formal action was taken during the executive session. This concludes my request.

Richard Kauffman:

Are there any questions? Jay? It was a very good meeting. Jay. Thank you. May I have a motion for resolution number 1757 approving the financing of the Green Jobs-Green New York program.

Dale Bryk:

So moved.

Jay Koh:

Second.

Richard Kauffman:

Okay. All in favor?

Members of the Board:

Aye.

Richard Kauffman:

Any opposed? The financing of the Green Jobs-Green New York program is approved. Thank you, Jay. The next item on the discussion agenda is a report on the items discussed by the Governance Committee. The committee's Chair will discuss this item.

Dale Bryk:

Thank you. The Governance Committee met earlier today and a quorum was present throughout the meeting. The Committee met an executive session to discuss the employment of a particular person. No formal action was taken during the executive session. The Committee discussed the compensation of the Officers and received a report from Chief Financial Officer Pam Poissant. The Public Authorities Law requires the Board to establish policies regarding compensation of Authority Officers and Article three. Section III of NYSERDA By-laws requires Board approval of the officer's compensation. Other employee compensation is approved by the President and CEO NYSERDA Overall practice is to provide its employees with compensation generally comparable to that provided to state management, confidential employees serving in similar roles. Currently there is some salary misalignment within NYSERDA and its use of the MC structure. Addressing such misalignment requires a corresponding slight adjustment to the methodology used to calculate officer's salaries which the Members are being asked to approve. This is consistent with prior actions most recently in April, 2023 taken by the Board with respect to officer compensation as proposed this change would be effective as of the approval of the fiscal year 2026 state budget The Committee unanimously recommends that the Members approve the updated basis for officer salary calculations. And this concludes my report.

Richard Kauffman:

Are there any questions for Dale? Thank you. We will consider the Officer compensation resolution as part of the consent agenda. The next item on the discussion agenda is report on the remaining items discussed at the Program Planning Committee meeting. After considering RGGI and the budget, the Committee received a presentation from the Authority's Chief Program Officer Anthony Fiore and various program staff report with an overview of the Authority's market animation programs Committee was able to ask questions and was satisfied with the discussion. And again, I encourage all Members of the Authority to attend the program. Planning Committee meeting was really, really very good presentation today. Are there any questions? Okay, No formal actions required. The next item on the discussion agenda is a report on the

remaining items discussed at the Waste and Facilities Management Committee. Back To you, Chuck.

Charles Bell:

CFO Pam Poisson provided a report on the Authority's, facilities Members had an opportunity to ask questions and were satisfied with the answers. Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.

Richard Kauffman:

Okay, no formal action is required. Thank you Chuck. So we're going to turn now to the consent agenda. Don't worry Erich, we're going to get to you. I know that you're, there are two items on the consent agenda. Information on each of these items was included in your meeting materials. Resolution number 1758 recommended for approval by the Governance Committee. Resolution number 1759 would approve the Periodic Contracts Report. Council's office has compared the list provided by Members of entities with which each Member is associated, which he or she believes may enter the contracts with NYSERDA to the list of contracts in the Periodic Contracts Report. Council's office reports there are three potential conflicts. The Cadmus Group identified by Jay Koh. New York Power Authority identified by Justin Driscoll and Stonebrook University identified by JoAnne Hewett. Jay, JoAnne and Justin, can we assume that you'll recuse from the vote on those contracts?

Jay Koh, JoAnne Hewett and Justin Driscoll:

Yes. Yes.

Richard Kauffman:

Are there any questions on these items? May have a motion for resolution number 1758. And resolution number 1759.

Unknown Speaker:

Moved.

Richard Kauffman:

Second. All that? All in favor?

Members of the Board:

Aye. Aye.

Richard Kauffman:

Any opposed? Alright, the resolution is approved. Okay. So now the next item on the agenda is an update on the Authority's advanced nuclear strategy. Erich Scherer, Director of Strategy will present this

Erich Scherer:

Item you very much. And thank you for uploading slides. I'm Erich Scherer, Director of Strategy at NYSERDA. It's certainly my pleasure to provide an update on advanced nuclear. I also want to say hello to the newer Board Members that I haven't met yet. Nice to meet you. I've been with NYSERDA for about 10 years. Maybe I'll also put on the record that just like NYSERDA, I'm 50

years young. Probably more relevant to this presentation is that I lead a NYSERDA advanced nuclear team. So if we move to the next slide, I believe I'm under instruction to keep this relatively short. So I do have a couple of slides here on the overall context for nuclear energy at the moment. But again, I believe I can be short on that. On this slide you will see a graph from NYSERDA integration analysis. I'm confident that you are familiar with the integration analysis, but here I just want to point to one finding that's relevant in this context.

If you look at the red arrow there, the integration analysis indicated our expectation that by 2040 we expect to need around 20 gigawatts of what's referred to here is next Generation Energy Technologies. We typically currently use the term dispatchable emission free resources. Now there are a number of those technologies of course, clearly, as President Harris said earlier, a nuclear is one key candidate technology there. And also to emphasize the points President Harris made earlier. As you can see in this graph, an important piece of context here is also the expected load growth in the system by 2040 and beyond. So if we move to the next slide, which I will be able to skip in its entirety because you've already seen it in President Harris's report. But just to again remind us of the points on the slides, they're clearly critical to the context for nuclear around again load growth, but also very much last year in 2024.

The activity we saw from various players nationwide, internationally, and also private market actors in particular in the form of the data center providers starting to take action to procure nuclear energy. But if we then pivot more specifically to New York on the next slide please. So therefore New York. On this slide I want to give an overview of also during 2024, what happened here relevant to advanced nuclear. Again, President Harris already mentioned the Future Energy Economy Summit. That was arguably the starting shot for taking action on nuclear energy here. Of course, that summit regarded other technologies more broadly, but as relevant to nuclear, it was the opportunity to publish a draft blueprint for advanced nuclear technologies. And that document really was meant as a scoping document to inventory, if you will, the various issues that we need to consider if we want to look carefully at this technology.

That draft blueprint was made available for public comments, a first opportunity also for stakeholders and the public more generally to provide us with input and views on this topic. And then shortly thereafter in November we opened up a second path, a second platform for stakeholder engagement when we also launched an RFI. That one was and is more specifically focused at asking stakeholders to bring to us, to make us aware of any plans, any initiatives that they are already considering undertaking as relevant to advanced nuclear. So from the range of parties, actors who might would have a role to play or might be considering action relevant to nuclear New York, whether it's suppliers or in the workforce space and or also possible host communities. So both of those tracks both the blueprint and the RFI. Then I would say effectively form a precursor for the announcement at the state of the state by Governor Hochul of an advanced nuclear master plan process.

And I'm sure for many of you that will immediately ring bells relating back to the master plan process that we undertook some years ago for offshore wind. And that comparison is very much intended. We do envisage also this nuclear master plan to take a similar approach in many ways. And so at the State of the State, in addition to launching that master plan process, the Governor also announced a multi-state initiative that New York will colleague as well as the role of

NYSDERDA New York State in supporting a federal application by Constellation. And if we can move to the next slide, let's talk about these components of the state and the state just in a little bit more detail. And in particular, I want to draw attention to the list on the left hand of this slide where as I said earlier, when we launched the blueprint, we intended for it to be a scoping document.

And so that role of the blueprint as a scoping document sets us up for how we intend to conduct this master plan process, namely primarily through a number studies that each will address one of or several of these critical topics that we need to think about. And so they're listed here and I will just briefly draw attention to them. You will see a reference to policy options. Again, as with offshore wind, we need to create space in this process to think about what the role of policy might be, whether it's policy more similar to the clean energy standard or indeed new business models that might be more suitable to the circumstances of nuclear. And then beyond that, a number of perhaps more technical subject specific aspects. Clearly technical feasibility, supply chain and economic development opportunities. Very critical as is economic development, of course generally for our clean energy efforts.

But at the same time also to ensure that the qualified workforce that we would need would be available. Environmental climate justice is clearly a consideration relevant to everything we do as well as studies on the regulatory waste components as well as fusion and r and d. So for all of these studies, we provided indication in the blueprint on how we intend to take those forward over the master time process, which will be a two year process. And a key component of how we intend to work throughout this process will be by leveraging stakeholder involvement, in particular through technical working groups. And as we now start the process of the master plan, clearly one of our first tasks is to figure out in more detail what that involvement from stakeholders looks like. So that's what we're working on at the moment. So briefly also turning to the right hand side of the slide, turning the attention to the other components of the announcement at the State of the State.

Admittedly on the multi-state initiative, there isn't a huge amount that I can share at this point. This initiative is expected to launch in February. And so at that point that more details will be available, but more generally, more broadly, I do want to emphasize the point that of course, that multi-state cooperation, we do expect that to be printable. We've already seen earlier that the efforts and thinking about nuclears, of course not in isolation in New York, but also many of the issues that we expect to need to address would benefit from wider corporation if we think about risk sharing or the challenge of potentially high early costs of initial advanced nuclear deployment. So there are very much opportunities there to explore and then leverage multi-state corporation. And then finally as an indication of the opportunity to take concrete steps where they present themselves the reference here to our support for an application by a constellation.

There's also an example of the role that the federal level plays. So there have already been a couple of opportunities where federal funding is available and one of these is the one where we are supporting Constellation in its application. This is for an early site permit and applying for federal funding to support that as an indication of the kind of initial steps that makes sense to take right now, even though it's still in the early days of this master plan process, but to prepare

the ground for what might follow later on. So that concludes my initial short presentation. So me happy to take any questions.

Richard Kauffman:

What's been the reaction from different stakeholders?

Erich Scherer:

Yeah, so as I mentioned, we've had two ways of formally receiving reactions both through the blueprint comment process and through the RFI that we opened. And I mean it's fair to say that we saw all the entire spectrum of reactions in the blueprint. Comments ranging indeed from expressions of concern around a number of topics, none of which are probably going to be hugely surprising, but safety concerns, environmental justice concerns, waste concerns. So those were expressed. But at the same time, also very strong expressions of support from a range of stakeholders pointing towards the economic development opportunities, the workforce opportunities, as well as of course the role that nuclear energy can play in solving some of those issues that we mentioned at the beginning around achieving the zero by 40 target and providing that function of this spatial emission free resources. So on the one hand that indicates that it's entirely right that we are getting into this master plan process to provide the opportunity to investigate these issues further.

On the other hand, again, in terms of reaction from stakeholders, the RFI provided the opportunity for interested parties to give us an indication of what they're thinking about. And while I can't share too many specifics there, certainly an early step now in our master plan process is to follow up on these various initiatives that were brought to us, whether it's from universities, workforce providers, r and d companies, project developers. And interestingly also, there were a number of community organizations that indicated interest to us in terms of potentially posting nuclear generation. So there are certainly some interesting opportunities there that we will be following up in the near term.

Richard Kauffman:

Ready to reopen your plant. Alright, very good, Erich, look forward to hearing more.

Erich Scherer:

Absolutely. Thank you very much.

Dale Bryk:

Thank you.

Richard Kauffman:

Okay, so we now turn to the long awaited other business. We have one item under other business in February. Each of the Members will receive the annual Board Member evaluation, our Public Authorities Law. This will be emailed to you using an online tool, Qualtrics, which I think is the same one we used last year. As you know, this is an important opportunity for the Members to provide feedback on the workings of the Board and its Committees and I encourage you all to take the time to respond. We ask that you complete the confidential form and return it by the first week of March, 2025. Your responses will be compiled in the Annual Report. Any

recommendations will be reviewed by the Governance Committee and later by the full Board.
Are there any other matters the Members would like to discuss?

Jay Koh:

Happy New Year.

Daly Bryk:

indeed.

Richard Kauffman:

Alright. May I have a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Jay Koh:

So moved.

Dale Bryk:

Second.

Richard Kauffman:

Thank you all in favor? The meeting's adjourned. Thank you.