

Power Generation Advisory Panel - Thursday, October 22, 2020

On Thursday, October 22, 2020 the Power Generation Panel met for a second time. Chair John Rhodes (PSC) revealed a new proposal from Climate Action Council staff for the Panel to address transitioning the power system from natural gas to carbon-free sources and leaks in natural gas infrastructure. There was overall support for the task of transitioning the power sector as it aligns with the NY's climate law. However, environmental advocates within the Panel raised concerns over the reliability and carbon intensity of the technology options proposed, which included hydrogen, synthetic methane, carbon capture, utilization and storage, renewable natural gas, etc. A few Panel members called for the inclusion of long duration, dispatchable resources and storage to be added to these options. There were also varying views regarding natural gas leaks. Some believed that it was outside the remit of the Panel while others noted that this issue fitted into the gamut of broader issues the Panel should address, including the challenge of stranded assets. In the end, John Rhodes agreed to notify the CAC that the Panel will take on the new task but would not be "wedded to any of these specific options were listed."

After a lengthy discussion on the scope of work topics, it was decided that the Panel will form 4 subgroups: resource mix, solutions needed for a carbon-free future, potential barriers to clean energy siting, delivery and interconnections, and equity. It is anticipated that subgroups will meet prior to its November 5 meeting. These meetings will be closed to the public, but notes will be made publicly available. The Panel plans to seek public input via email, a public forum in January 2021, and through public meetings scheduled through March 2021. Presentations and notes from past Advisory Panels and Working Groups meetings can be found here.