
Memorandum

TO: ANNUAL ENERGY OUTLOOK STAKEHOLDERS
FROM: DAVID WHITE, PHD, PATRICK LUCKOW
DATE: MAY 3, 2016
RE: QUADRENNIAL ENERGY REVIEW STAKEHOLDER MEETING – APRIL 15, 2016

Quadrennial Energy Review Stakeholder Meeting Notes – April 15, 2016

Synapse attended the Quadrennial Energy Review (QER) stakeholder meeting in Boston on April 15th. This day-long session was well attended with leaders representing the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), state government, and regional power markets. The key objectives of the QER are fundamentally different than AEO in that the analysis is not limited to “on the books” policies, and is instead meant to represent short- and long-term objectives for energy policy in the context of many competing priorities. These priorities include energy, environmental, and security issues, to name a few. The first installment of the QER, released last year, focused on transmission, storage, and distribution infrastructure for both gas and electricity [[QER 2015](#)]. The second installment, currently under development, will focus on modernizing the electric grid, from generation to end use [[QER 2016](#)].

Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz stressed the value of QER in guiding future energy policy, both at the federal and state level, and noted its use in recent energy-focused bills. The first installment released last year emphasized extending the Production Tax Credit, for example. Governor Charlie Baker expressed his appreciation for this planning process, as New England as a whole continues a significant transition of its energy system, and moves towards ambitious 2050 CO₂ emissions reductions goals. Regional system operators at ISO-NE and NYISO, as well as representatives from major utilities such as Eversource, stressed the value of efficient markets, rate design, and their general readiness to address a system with more variable renewable energy, lower annual energy requirements, and higher peak loads.

All in all, it is curious that the QER process has such a robust stakeholder engagement process while the AEO process seems much more limited. While AEO is viewed more as a policy-neutral forecast than a long-term vision, the AEO reports have a similar or greater level of impact in planning in utility, ISO, and state planning arenas. This is largely because they are seen by many as the definitive, unbiased source of publicly available forecasts.

Since the April 15th meeting in Boston, the EIA has hosted similar stakeholder meetings in four other cities across the country. Synapse has not yet conducted a review of the presentations at these meetings, but many are available from the DOE's QER webpage.

Learn more about the Quadrennial Energy Review, including all presentations from the April 15th meeting: <http://energy.gov/epa/quadrennial-energy-review-qer>.

DOE is also accepting public comments: <https://epa.energy.gov/ger-comments/>.

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