

## The Rhode Island Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council

### Voting Members

Mr. Christopher Powell, Chair  
Mr. Anthony L. Hubbard  
Mr. Peter Gill Case  
Mr. Joe Garlick  
Mr. Thomas Magliocchetti  
Mr. Bill Riccio  
Mr. Butch Roberts  
Ms. Elizabeth Stubblefield Loucks  
Mr. Kurt Teichert  
Ms. Karen Verrengia  
Mr. Bob White

### Non-Voting Members

Ms. Carol Grant, Executive Director  
Ms. Roberta Fagan

December 6, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Luly E. Massaro  
Commission Clerk  
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission  
89 Jefferson Boulevard  
Warwick, RI 02888

### **RE: Docket #4979 - Responses to Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission's First Set of Data Requests**

Dear Luly,

The Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council ("EERMC") is pleased to submit this cover letter and attached responses to the Public Utility Commission's ("PUC") first set of data requests in the above-referenced docket for the PUC's review and consideration.

The appended documents are responsive to the PUC's request for "copies of the minutes of all Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Resource Management Council meetings that involved the 2020 Annual Efficiency Plan" dated December 4, 2019.

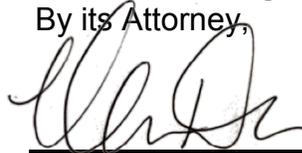
The following is a brief description of the area of discussion in each of the relevant meetings, for ease of reference:

- March – Council Priorities for the 2020 EE & SRP Plans
- April – Council Priorities for the 2020 EE & SRP Plans
- June – An outline memo of the 2020 EE Plan from National Grid
- July – The first draft of the 2020 EE Plan
- August – The second draft of the 2020 EE Plan
- September – The third draft of the 2020 EE Plan
- October – the Council voted on the 2020 EE Plan

Please be advised that the documents submitted herewith do not include the EERMC's November meeting minutes, as those minutes have not yet been approved by the EERMC.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rhode Island Energy Efficiency  
Resource Management Council,  
By its Attorney,



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Marisa Desautel, Esq.  
Desautel Law  
38 Bellevue Ave, Unit H  
Newport, RI 02840  
Tel: (401) 477-0023

#### CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that I filed an original and nine (9) copies of the within memorandum and a true copy, via electronic mail, on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019, to the Service List for Docket #4979 and to:

Luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov  
Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk  
Public Utilities Commission  
89 Jefferson Blvd.  
Warwick, RI 02888



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Marisa Desautel



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 21, 2019 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM

Conference Room A, 2nd Floor, Department of Administration, Providence, RI

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**Members in Attendance:** Chris Powell, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, Carol Grant, Anthony Hubbard, Robert Fagan, Tom Magliocchetti, Karen Verrengia.

**Others Present:** Rachel Henschel, Mike Guerard, Mark Kravatz, Becca Trietch, Shauna Beland, Dr. Carrie Gill, John Balfe, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Erika Niedowski, John Richards, Matt Ray, Peter Gill Case, Rachel Sholly, Jerry Drummond, Craig Johnson, Joel Munoz, Dino Larson, Alice Hourihan, Kurt Teichert

All meeting materials can be accessed here: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-march-2019/>

### 1. Call to Order

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 3:36PM.

### 2. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Powell requested to postpone the approval of the meeting minutes since they did not have a quorum at this time.

### 3. Executive Director Report

Commissioner Grant reminded everyone that the latest Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funding plan had been announced publicly by OER. Within this Plan, funding has is being allocated to a Zero Energy buildings pilot for affordable housing in RI. All parties are welcome to comment on the Plan at the public hearing.

Commissioner Grant also noted OER's on-going monitoring of ISO-NE's possible changes to how energy efficiency is treated in the Forward Capacity Market. Rachel Henschel also mentioned that National Grid along with other energy efficiency program administrations are following these developments as well. Lastly, Commissioner Grant reminded everyone that the Revolution Wind project's contract which would construct a 400MW offshore wind farm is before the Public Utilities Commission. She will keep the Council updated as things progress.

### 4. Chairperson Report

Chairman Powell welcomed Mr. Hubbard as the new EERMC Vice-Chair. He also informed the members that the Council name tents have been reformatted to indicate their seats on one side and to list the (4) EERMC responsibilities on the other – hopefully this will help all members to steer and focus the Council's work.

Chairman Powell asked if Ms. Trietch had distributed all the Energy Expo tickets yet – Ms. Trietch replied that she has already given the tickets to everyone who asked for them, and she requested that anyone else who wants more tickets to please let her know. Ms. Trietch quickly noted that RIBA has invited all Council members to attend the RI Home Show Opening Ceremony on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm, and both the Governor and Commissioner Grant are expected to be there.

Chairman Powell reported that since they do not have (6) voting members present at today's meeting, they will not be able to vote on the meeting minutes, and no other votes were scheduled for today.

Chairman Powell stated that during today's meeting the Council members will hear from the C-Team on the preliminary 2018 Energy Efficiency (EE) program results and on-going Evaluation, Measurement & Verification (EM&V) work. In addition, the members will take about (20) minutes to discuss and continue to brainstorm Council Priorities for the 2020 Energy Efficiency (EE) and System Reliability Procurement (SRP) Plans. The C-Team will be facilitating this discussion and will be showcasing priority recommendations that have come out of the members one-on-one meetings.

Next, Council members will learn about energy efficiency in schools from both Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) and National Grid, and then OER will provide a workforce development presentation. Afterwards, the Council will round out the meeting with some Council Business.

Lastly, Chairman Powell reminded Council members that if any of them had not yet conducted a one-on-one meeting with the C-Team and OER to please reach out to the C-Team to get that scheduled.

## **5. Program Oversight**

### *a) Preliminary Results from the 2018 Energy Efficiency Programs*

Mr. Guerard gave a brief introduction about the presentation.

Mr. Johnson went over the 2018 Energy Efficiency Programs preliminary results. He reported that:

- Electric and gas portfolios both exceeded annual savings goals by significant margins
- Electric and gas portfolio spending was pretty much on target compared to plan
- Electric and gas costs to achieve savings came in under target

Mr. Johnson concluded by stating that National Grid will file an official Year- End report with finalized tables by May 1, 2019. He noted that overall, this was another successful year for the programs, and that the Sector Teams are in the process of revamping monthly and quarterly data sharing to ensure increased transparency and improve program monitoring.

Ms. Henschel quickly spoke on Home Energy Reports and stated that the goals for were reset/adjusted for 2019 Plan.

Mr. Johnson stated that in May they will update and do a deeper dive into these programs results.

Please refer to [2018 Energy Efficiency Programs Presentation](#) for more details.

### *b) Discussion of Council Priorities for the 2020 Energy Efficiency & System Reliability Procurement Plans*

Mr. Guerard reported that formalizing a set of Priorities allows the EERMC to provide guidance and direction to National Grid, the EERMC C-Team and stakeholders, including the Technical Working Group, in the development of the 2020 Annual EE and SRP Plans. He stated that these Priorities should be consistent with EERMC's legislated role in supporting Least-Cost Procurement law. He quickly spoke on balancing priorities concerned with the What & Why vs the How.

Mr. Guerard and Mr. Kravatz asked the Council members to break into smaller groups to discuss and brainstorm Council priorities. Mr. Guerard asked the members to split into (3) groups of (2):

All Council members broke into groups and started brainstorming on their priorities – facilitators then reported out publicly (Ms. Trietch, Mr. Guerard and Mr. Kravatz were the facilitators).

After going over the groups' suggestions on how they would rank the priorities, Mr. Kravatz stated that the C-Team will continue to work on these and share them with the Council members – by the next Council's meeting in April the Council will have a more final version to vote on.

Please refer to [Council Priorities Presentation](#) for more details.

*c) Evaluation, Measurement & Verification (EM&V) Presentation*

Mr. Kravatz gave a brief introduction and background on the RI Evaluation team. He stated that the evaluation team is extremely busy currently working on the programs' end-of-year reports. He then went over the general evaluation process and then highlighted some key evaluation studies that will inform the 2020 Plans. First he covered the Residential Process evaluation for income eligible services, then he highlighted a few 2019 Commercial & Industrial Studies, a few Cross-Cutting studies, the heat pump market assessment, and the Jobs Study.

Mr. Kravatz concluded by stating that the evaluation process is rigorous and that moving forward all studies will include a one-page overview of what they and the results.

Please refer to [EM&V Presentation](#) for more details.

## **6. Special Topics**

*a) Presentation on Energy Efficiency in Schools*

Mr. Balfe gave a brief introduction/background on Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships and what they do. He noted that this presentation focused on why we should be supporting energy upgrades in schools, why it's important, and why RI should continue to support these types of programs.

Please refer to [NEEP's Presentation](#) for more details.

Ms. Verrengia asked Ms. Trietch the reason behind NEEP's presentation. Ms. Trietch replied that the Council leadership wanted to make sure there was a regional perspective of why schools are a focus for this year. She also noted that NEEP has a lot of regional expertise about the broader benefits of school energy upgrades such as health and learning benefits. She noted that Mr. Drummond from National Grid will now round out this presentation by showing how National Grid is supporting all of these opportunities in RI.

Ms. Verrengia added that she is extremely supportive and thankful to both of them for being here presenting on this topic.

Mr. Drummond from National Grid then started his portion of the presentation by stating that many people and organizations are really focusing on Public School in Rhode Island. He then covered Why National Grid is working with the public-school market; why this is a priority now; what National Grid's approach is; key drivers and challenges; and then additional resources.

Please refer to [National Grid EE Opportunity with Public Schools in RI](#) presentation for more details.

Mr. Guerard quickly noted that the Council's Potential Study will look into public schools and buildings to give a better sense of potential for Energy Efficiency savings.

*b) Presentation on Office of Energy Resources Workforce Development Efforts*

Ms. Beland introduced herself and gave a brief background on her presentation and the need for energy workforce development in RI. She then highlighted that the 2018 RI Clean Energy Jobs report indicated that there were about 15,866 clean energy jobs in RI which is a 72% growth in the clean energy workforce since 2014.

Ms. Beland then reported that for the years of 2019-2020:

- It is likely EE jobs will stay steady at around 10,000 jobs
- There is a lot of optimism for offshore wind, including supply chain opportunities
- Solar jobs are continuing to decline, reflecting national trends
- It is possible that the State may not meet the Governor's Goal of 20,000 Clean Energy jobs by 2020 but every is working to continue supporting job growth in clean energy sectors.

Ms. Beland the went over the new Rhode Island Clean Energy Internship Program – including program timeline and goals. This program is administered through OER and seeks to pair interns with energy firms throughout the state.

Please refer to Ms. Beland's [Workforce Development](#) presentation for more details.

## 7. Public Comment

### *a) Public Comment*

Michael O'Brien Crayne on behalf of EcoMetrics spoke on the importance of focusing on public schools. He stated that any energy efficiency/energy improvements should be included as part of a school's curriculum so that students learn about new energy technologies. He asked both National Grid and the EERMC to support these kinds of opportunities that will help kids to get interested in energy at a young age.

Chairman Powell and Commissioner Grant read Ms. Salem's comment (since she could not be present at today's meeting but she had written it on the public comment sign-up sheet). Ms. Salem asked for help/testimony to support Appliance Standards legislation at the General Assembly. Ms. Salem also shared her contact info if anyone was is interested in providing testimony.

## 8. Council Business

### *a) Review of 2019 Annual Council Report to the General Assembly*

Ms. Sholly quickly went over the EERMC Annual report the General Assembly timeline. She highlighted that by March 28<sup>th</sup> written sections are due; April 18<sup>th</sup> present first draft; April 15<sup>th</sup> Council edits are due; May 16<sup>th</sup> present and vote on final draft; May 18<sup>th</sup> OER submits e-version and before June 1<sup>st</sup> hard copies are printed.

Please refer to [Updates on: Annual Report & EERMC Handbook](#) presentation.

### *b) Presentation on the Council Member Handbook*

Ms. Sholly shared brief highlights/content for the EERMC Member Handbook. She noted that the C-Team is thinking about making videos/webinars explaining complex topics in a very easy/simple way later in the year. She noted that the draft Handbook is going to be ready by the April Council's meeting, but if any members have feedback on the draft before them, please let her know as soon as possible.

Please refer to [Updates on: Annual Report & EERMC Handbook](#) & [RI EERMC Member Handbook](#) for more information/details.

Mr. Kravatz quickly noted that the C-Team is extremely excited and happy about finalizing the Council member handbook - they have been working very hard to finish it.

Chairman Powell stated that he thinks it looks great so far – he is extremely impressed, and it is terrific to have something like this available to the current/ and future Council members.

## **9. Adjournment**

Chairman Powell requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hubbard made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Verrengia seconded it. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37PM.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 18, 2019 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM

Conference Room A, 2nd Floor, Department of Administration, Providence, RI

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**Members in Attendance:** Chris Powell, Anthony Hubbard, Karen Verrengia, Joseph Garlick, Jennifer Hutchinson.

**Others Present:** Nick Ucci, Rachel Henschel, Mike Guerard, Mark Kravatz, Becca Trietch, Sara Canabarro, Dr. Carrie Gill, Denilex Rodriguez, Matt Ray, Angela Li, Romilee Emerick, Noel King, William Codner, Brad Piper, Elizabeth Terry, David Sungarian, Matt Ray, Erika Niedowski, Kai Salem, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Peter Case, Chris Porter, Rachel Sholly, Tim Roughan,

All meeting materials can be accessed here: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-april-2019/>

### 1. Call to Order

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 3:34PM.

### 2. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Powell requested to postpone the approval of the meeting minutes since they did not have a quorum.

### 3. Executive Director Report

Chairman Powell skipped this update until after his report.

### 4. Chairperson Report

Chairman Powell reported that since they need all Council members to be present for a quorum, and they are missing at least one Council member today, the members will not be able to vote on the items listed in the agenda, as well as the meeting minutes. Even though the Council will not be able to vote on the Council's 2020 Plan Priorities, the C-Team will still be presenting our draft priorities to National Grid and National Grid's Technical working groups (formally called the Collaborative) later this month. Therefore, the Council's review and feedback on the Priorities are extremely important today. Chairman Powell noted that if any members have not been able to review the latest version of the Priorities Resolution, please take a look at the version included in today's packets.

As always, for those who would like to make a public comment on the Council's draft 2020 Priorities or any other topics, please sign-up near the foods and drinks. There is a public comment period earlier in the meeting for the 2020 Priorities, and another public comment period at the end of the meeting for any other comments.

Chairman Powell stated that during the rest of today's meeting the Council will hear about: a summary from the C-Team on the discussions that have happened thus far in 2019 with National Grid's Technical Working Groups (there is one tech group focused on the EE Plan and one focused on the SRP Plan). As you are all aware, the C-Team participates in these tech groups on our behalf, but we are welcome to attend if desired. These groups help inform and advise National Grid on the development of annual EE and SRP Plans. We are aiming to have quarterly updates from the C-Team on the outcomes of these tech group meetings, so we can be better informed prior to seeing the first drafts of the 2020 Plans.

Next, the Council will see two presentations from National Grid on some 2019 pilot efforts, followed by energy efficiency efforts underway in Pascoag District, and lastly end the meeting with some council business and have the other opportunity for public comment.

Chairman Powell stated that since Commissioner Grant isn't present at today's meeting, Mr. Ucci will be giving the Executive Director Report on her behalf.

Mr. Ucci reported that at the last meeting, Commissioner Grant went over OER's RGGI allocation plan – the public comment hearing was today, and any written comments can be submitted for the next 10 days. He stated that the RevWind 400MW offshore wind project contract is now with the Public Utilities Commission – the hearings will start April 20<sup>th</sup> and OER anticipates a decision by May 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Ucci quickly noted that this project alone could meet 25% of Rhode Island's electric load. Mr. Ucci also mentioned that the other Renewable Energy 400MW project proposals are currently under review.

Lastly, Mr. Ucci noted that the Lead by Example Awards Ceremony is coming up – the deadline is April 26<sup>th</sup> and to please encourage anyone that they may know to sign up. He quickly spoke on how the Department of Labor and Training awarded a grant to the Oil Heat Institute to support delivered fuel service provider training in heat pumps, weatherization and integrated controls. He congratulated the team who pulled together the application.

Chairman Powell asked for an update on the Council's membership process. Mr. Ucci replied that there are no new updates – nominations are still in process.

## **5. Program Oversight**

### *a) Update on the Energy Efficiency (EE) Technical Working Group and the System Reliability Procurement (SRP) Technical Working Group meetings*

Mr. Guerard gave a high-level overview of the topics that had been discussed at the EE and SRP Technical Working Groups. He highlighted that two new developments were formalized at the February meeting:

- The "Collaborative" was officially renamed the Energy Efficiency Technical Working Group
- A separate group to focus on System Reliability was confirmed and named the System Reliability Procurement Technical Working Group and will operate on a similar monthly schedule.

Mr. Guerard stated that the first change is in recognition of the groups' roles in providing informed, engaged input and opinions to National Grid as it develops its annual and three-year plans. The expectation is that the active stakeholders will have the option to become a settling party for the filing of plans with the RI Public Utilities Commission (PUC). And, the second change reflects the consensus view that the System Reliability Procurement Plans require additional time and focus than has previously been allocated and therefore it needed a separate working group.

Chairman Powell asked who GECA is Mr. Guerard replied that GECA stands for Green Energy Consumers Alliance, which was formally known as People's Power & Light. They had been mentioned as an active participant in the Technical Working Groups.

Mr. Guerard quickly went over the topic areas planned for the next (3) months in the Technical Working Groups. He noted he will share the new link to National Grids website where more info can be found on the EE and SRP technical working groups.

Lastly, Mr. Guerard added that he will share/send out more information on the SRP working group meetings if anyone would like to attend/join. Ms. Verrengia stated that she has been dialing-in to these meetings and finds it to be very beneficial.

Please refer to [EE & SRP Memo](#).

*b) Discussion on Council Priorities for the 2020 Energy Efficiency & System Reliability Procurement Plans*

Mr. Guerard gave a brief introduction of the EERMC Priorities for the 2020 Annual Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Plans.

Mr. Kravatz stated that this is the first time the Council has developed priorities – this document attempts to formally summarize the Council's priorities to help inform National Grid as they develop their annual Plans. He quickly highlighted some priorities and thanked all the Council members for setting up their 1:1's to go over these priorities and other topics with the Consultant Team.

Please refer to [2020 EERMC Priorities](#).

*c) Public Comment on Council Priorities*

No Public Comments.

*d) Vote on Council Priorities for the 2020 Energy Efficiency (EE) & System Reliability Procurement (SRP) Plans*

Chairman Powell postponed this item since they did not have a quorum present.

**6. Special Topics (35 min, 4:25 – 5:00 pm)**

*a) Presentation on 2019 Sense & Smart Lighting Pilots*

Ms. Li gave a brief introduction to the Home Energy Management Presentation and introduced Mr. Piper.

Mr. Piper highlighted that the Smart Lighting Study focused on 85 homes between MA and RI; they connected lamps, light level (lux) sensors, room level and whole home level occupancy sensors. They also tested and evaluated their baseload simulation validation methodology. Mr. Piper continued going over the study and its findings. Please refer to [Home Energy Management Presentation](#).

Chairman Powell asked why this study was only focused on lighting when other major appliances could also be incorporated into the hub (electronic control) system. Ms. Li replied

that National Grid will most likely look into other options in the future, but right now there is a focus on lighting to see what other lighting savings can be found.

Mr. Ucci asked what the cost was per home (average/median). Mr. Piper replied that he does not have the exact number with him at the moment. Mr. Ucci also asked about what kind of feedback they received. Mr. Piper stated that most of their feedback was positive, however, the batteries for some of the technologies were a challenge, and some people had privacy concerns with the sensors – making sure it wasn't an actual camera.

Chairman Powell asked about the Geo-Fencing, if it was a localized sensor or followed the people around. Mr. Piper replied that it only goes a few feet from where the Hub system is located.

Mr. Piper highlighted that this study started in 2017, and it's incredible how much technology has changed since then.

Ms. Li then gave a brief introduction to the National Grid/Sense Home Energy Monitor Program Presentation and introduced Mr. King.

Mr. King quickly went over what Sense is, and how it works – it's a technology that can help to disaggregate energy usage in a home. He noted that the assessment being presented started in 2018 and that the full review will occur this summer. Mr. King went over some savings examples/opportunities. Please refer to [Sense Home Energy Monitor Program](#).

Mr. Hubbard asked how the Sense monitor works. Mr. King replied that the Sense box is connected to the electric panel and broadcasts through WiFi. Mr. Hubbard asked if there's any discrepancy between Sense's data and National Grid's. Mr. Piper and Ms. Li replied that they haven't done that comparison yet but will be looking into this once they have the results.

Mr. Ucci asked if customers can put in information about a specific appliance such as brand/model/year etc into the app to help with better results. Mr. Piper replied that once Sense starts recognizing appliances, the app will ask you to input additional information.

Mr. Kravatz asked about its pricing. Mr. Piper replied that the unit costs \$299; however, if customers agree to share the data with National Grid, they can obtain Sense for free. He added that it is possible that these sensors could be incorporated into AMI meters in the future.

*b) Presentation on Energy Efficiency Efforts by Pascoag Utility District*

Dr. Gill gave a presentation on the Pascoag Utility District Energy Efficiency Efforts. Please refer to [PUD Energy Efficiency Programs](#). Dr. Gill also introduced URI's Energy Fellow Intern – Denilex Rodriguez who is helping her with this program. Dr. Gill noted that overall, they are extremely excited about this program and where it's heading.

Ms. Verrengia asked if Pascoag is offering financing options like the ones National Grid offers. Dr. Gill replied that they currently do not have any options like National Grid's, but they are actively exploring other strategies, such as possibly partnering up with smaller banks, and commercial financing options such as C-PACE.

Chairman Powell asked if they have system benefit charges on their utility bills like National Grid customers. Dr. Gill replied that they do, but it is only 0.21cents, which is much smaller than National Grid's and has therefore limited the energy efficiency services provided.

## **7. Council Business (25 min, 5:00 – 5:25 pm)**

### *a) Review of 2019 Annual Council Report to the General Assembly*

Ms. Sholly gave a brief update on the EERMC Annual Report – she noted that the current draft version does not include National Grids final numbers, therefore the Council members will see placeholders for those items.

Ms. Sholly asked the Council members to please let her know if they have any feedback and send it to her by April 25<sup>th</sup> (the same date that National Grid will send her data to include in the report). She stated that the goal is to present & vote on the final draft at the next meeting (May 16<sup>th</sup>).

Ms. Verrengia asked about the vendor section – she wants to make that RI Vendors are listed first in the back of the report since this is a Rhode Island report, and the Council is responsible for it. Ms. Sholly made a note to change this.

Please refer to [2019 EERMC Annual Report Timeline](#) and [2019 EERMC Annual Report- Draft](#).

### *b) Potential Study Update*

Mr. Guerard gave a brief update on the Potential Study – he noted that the RFP deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>. After they receive proposals in response to the RFP they report how many bids were received to the Council. Mr. Guerard noted it is extremely important to have a quorum in June (20<sup>th</sup>), so they can vote on the vendor selection.

Mr. Kravatz noted that they already have 2 Council members who have volunteered to serve on the Evaluation Team but they are still searching for one more. Ms. Trietch added that she will be reaching out to the Council Members individually since they need one more Council member to be part of the Evaluation Team. She noted that since this study is being done by the Council, they need to have at least 3 members to evaluate the different proposals.

Ms. Henschel asked about the process for collaborating on the Potential Study project evaluation/review process. She noted that her team from National Grid should be involved in the scoring/review of the proposals. Ms. Trietch replied that she needs to reach out to Legal to find out about the evaluation process. Mr. Ucci added that maybe they can provide National Grid, or the parties involved an NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) – he stated he will connect with Ms. Trietch and work on finding out the best option for the Council. Ms. Henschel added it would be beneficial for the Council to have National Grid involved in the selection process since the Study will be extremely data driven.

### *c) Council Quarter 1 Budget Update*

Ms. Trietch quickly went over the 2019 Quarter 1 Budget Summary – she noted that they haven't paid a few items yet, and that under Public Education, they still do not have the final amounts as all (3) contracts are currently under review.

Ms. Trietch noted that there is nothing major to flag for the Council.

Please refer to [2019 Quarter 1 Budget](#).

## **8. Public Comment on All Other Topics**

Mr. Schrag (on behalf of the Public Utilities Division) would like to better understand how National Grid would participate in the Potential Study scoring/review process – he expressed some concerns that there could be a conflict of interest for National Grid to be involved.

Ms. Salem (on behalf of Green Energy Consumers Alliance) spoke on the RGGI funds allocation. She stated that she would like to see more of the RGGI Dollars primarily used towards Energy Efficiency rather than Renewable Energy – she noted that this year \$2 out of \$3 Million dollars are going towards solar). She added that she would like to see more sustainable funding sources for Renewable Energy instead of just RGGI.

## **9. Adjournment**

Chairman Powell adjourned the meeting at 5:04PM.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 20, 2019 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM

Conference Room A, 2nd Floor, Department of Administration, Providence, RI

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**Members in Attendance:** Chris Powell, Anthony Hubbard, Carol Grant, Roberta Fagan, Tom Magliocchetti, Karen Verrengia, Joe Garlick, Tim Roughan, Rachel Henschel.

**Others Present:** Mike Guerard, Mark Kravatz, Becca Trietch, Dr. Carrie Gill, Nathan Cleveland, John Richards, Angela Li, Laura Rodormer, David MacLellan, Matt Ray, Matt Chase, John Totorella, Fred Sneesby, Jonathan Rasco, Chris Porter, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Luke Phaneuf, Joel Munoz, Aidan Connell

All meeting materials can be accessed here: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-june-2019/>

### 1. Call to Order

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 3:35PM.

### 2. Chairperson Report

Chairman Powell reported that since they do not have (6) voting members present at today's meeting they will not be able hold votes on meeting meetings or on selecting a vendor for the potential study.

Chairman Powell also informed everyone that Commissioner Grant will be approximately 1 hour late and the Executive Director's report will therefore be moved to the end of the meeting.

Chairman Powell stated that during today's meeting the Council members will hear from the Council's Consultant-Team (C-Team) and National Grid on the year-end results from the 2018 Energy Efficiency (EE) programs. There will also be an overview of the 2020 Annual Plan Development and Review process from the C-Team – as a reminder, this schedule has changed from past years to allow more time for feedback.

Following that, National Grid will present some insights from their customer feedback and analysis efforts and how those help to inform and improve programs and services.

Additionally, National Grid will be presenting their 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan Outline Memorandum, which is a new feature and is designed to highlight key topics to be covered in the draft 2020 EE Plan. The C-Team will also provide commentary and facilitate discussion on some of the elements of the 2020 EE Outline Memorandum, with a focus on key areas for Council members.

National Grid will also be presenting on the 2019 and 2020 System Reliability Procurement efforts and we will have both National Grid and other stakeholders presenting on Income Eligible Services as well as hearing about some updates to the Small Business Program.

Lastly, Chairman Powell asked Ms. Trietch to introduce the newest Office of Energy Resources (OER) staff member, Nathan Cleveland, to the Council. Nathan will be helping with the Council going forward. He the newest addition to OER's EE team.

### 3. Program Oversight

a) *Presentation: Year-End Report on 2018 Programs*

Mr. Guerard and Mr. Richards presented on the Year-End report for 2018's EE programs. Notably, the results were very similar to the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter (Q4) report that was given to the Council though it was mentioned there was some float between sectors. Overall variance from Q4 was 0% in the electric sector and 1% in the gas sector.

Mr. Richards went through the spreadsheet outlining the results and Mr. Guerard highlighted that there were some minor account changes since the 4<sup>th</sup> Q report due to late invoices being processed. Additionally, he went into detail about the significant change from Q4 results in the Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Multifamily program (which was +57%). Mr. Richards reported that the difference was attributable to correcting a pipe wrapping measure, but the overall portfolio impact was minor given that it is such a small piece of the portfolio.

Both Mr. Guerard and Mr. Richards indicated that 2018 was a success and that they were looking forward to 2019.

*b) Overview of 2020 Annual Plan Development & Review Process*

Mr. Kravatz gave an overview of the 2020 annual planning and review process highlighting the significant changes to prior cycles with the introduction of the outline from National Grid and the increased time windows for providing comments and feedback.

Chairman Powell asked about the scheduling of the final vote on the annual plan, which Mr. Kravatz indicated was still in October but that this revised process allows for more input and feedback earlier in the development process leading up to that final vote.

*c) National Grid Presentation on Customer Feedback & Analysis*

Ms. Li provided some insights on the customer feedback and analysis efforts that National Grid has undertaken in an effort to better inform and improve their programs and services. They have created a customer panel of 6,100 ratepayers who they engage with twice a month.

Chairman Powell asked if those 6,100 panel members were all in Rhode Island and Ms. Li indicated that they were portfolio-wide (e.g. RI, MA, NY).

Mr. Garlick inquired how those 6,100 panel members were selected and what the demographics of that group was. Ms. Li informed the Council that the customer panel was comprised of respondents to an email asking for participation and that National Grid had specific demographic requirements they prioritized in selecting from the pool of respondents to the email inquiry.

Ms. Li continued reviewing the insights provided by this group indicating that 90% of customers want to be more efficient and that 75% of them have taken some steps to do so, with rebates (66%) being a big driver for action.

Mr. Guerard inquired how the company was tracking all of this feedback and integrating it into their decision making on programming and services. Ms. Li replied that they have the ability to quickly aggregate the data they collect from these efforts and that the primary influence so far has been to provide more robust FAQs and to improve the messaging of their offerings to customers.

Ms. Henschel added that it was a challenge to distill all of their customer insight efforts into 15 minutes and that the Insight team was very sophisticated and that customers were a strategic priority for the company.

Chairman Powell commented that he would love to see specifically how customer feedback is influencing programs/services. Ms. Li asked what the best way to synthesize and deliver that information to the Council would be and Chairman Powell suggested perhaps highlighting trends or providing a summary of the top 10 issues, perhaps as part of a year-end report.

*d) National Grid Presentation on the 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan Outline Memorandum*

Mr. Ray presented an overview of the reasoning behind the creation of this new plan outline memorandum, which is to serve as a high-level overview and to clearly identify key areas the company will highlight as they draft the 2020 plan. This is a new opportunity to involve stakeholders in the planning process earlier on and provide additional time to receive feedback and comments from all of them.

Ms. Verrengia asked if changes would be highlighted between versions of the drafts to make tracking key changes easier. Mr. Ray indicated they would indeed be doing this.

Ms. Henschel added that they have circulated both redlined and short highlight/summary documents of plans in the past and are committed to still doing so.

Mr. Ray closed by explaining the way that the company has utilized the Energy Efficiency Technical Working Group (EE tech group) meetings - formerly known as the Collaborative - to continually inform their efforts and engage stakeholders more robustly.

*e) Consultant Team & Council: Comments & Discussion on the 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan Outline Memorandum*

Mr. Guerard then provided some commentary from the C-Team on the 2020 EE plan outline memorandum and modified planning process, saying that the preview this outline provides is of great value and it does a good job framing expectations and proposes direction for the plan without being prescriptive on the details. The expanded planning process that the memorandum is a part of also facilitates more stakeholder engagement.

Chairman Powell asked if there was a Council member consistently present at the EE tech group meetings. Ms. Verrengia stated that she consistently tried to join, either in person or on the phone. Mr. Guerard also indicated that the C-Team is always present at these meetings as well and representing the Council's priorities. Mr. Kravatz added to this that when key topics are being discussed at these meetings, the C-Team does notify key Council members and often encourages them to attend.

Mr. Guerard then indicated that one of the key takeaways from the outline memorandum was the proposed change to using lifetime MMBtu for goals and targets and that there were a lot of potential ramifications to that change that would need to be discussed with respect to goals, targets, and incentives for the company; it is a priority to avoid "unintended consequences". Chairman Powell asked how a change to MMBtu would affect program priorities, and specifically mentioned what impacts this may have on the income eligible programs? Mr. Guerard said that "unintended consequences" the C-Team will be looking into those exact type of impacts and will be discussing further with the Council. Ms. Henschel commented that she didn't see income eligible services being adversely impacted by this change and felt that the switch to MMBtu better aligns the company's incentives across the board but that they always need to think about program prioritization and balance, and she welcomes input from the Council.

Mr. Guerard also presented a set of "ongoing issues" identified in the memorandum, which include: all cost-effective savings targets, equity, innovation, financing, and environmental/carbon issues. These ongoing issues are accompanied by a set of "rapidly evolving" issues, which include: the future of lighting, heating decarbonization, workforce development, and integration and coordination, especially Power Sector Transformation (PST).

Chairman Powell expressed concerns about the impact of heating electrification efforts on customers – heat pumps may cost more for customers than other fuels given high electric rates in New England. Ms. Henschel said that National Grid is monitoring that, to which Chairman Powell responded that they should look at lessons learned from electrification efforts in other locations.

Mr. Magliochetti asked what success looks like when tackling the “rapidly evolving” issues and indicated that staying in front of these shifts was critical.

Ms. Fagan pointed out that the ongoing, basic issues feed the rapidly evolving issues and should be addressed in parallel.

Mr. Guerard said that those concerns should inform Council efforts on target and goal setting in order to best respond to the market, to which Mr. Kravatz suggested that Council members should pay close attention to these “hot topics” as the draft comes out and provide feedback on how the plan addresses those.

Mr. Roughan mentioned that retro commissioning (RCx) will also be important long-term if we move to lifetime savings calculations. Ms. Henschel indicated that the company has a new initiative about providing RCx to a broader audience and offered to provide more information on that to Chairman Powell and the Council.

Mr. Roughan commented that RCx really provided his organization with sustained savings and Chairman Powell mentioned that RCx is easier in commercial applications where there is a person dedicated to watching energy usage and that it’s important to figure out how to bring this to residential customers as well.

Ms. Verrengia asked if RCx is still available for schools/public bldgs. She also spoke to providing MScheck certification for heat pumps, so there is an incentive to make sure heat pumps are performing correctly given the performance drop-off with improperly installed equipment.

Chairman Powell asked for more presentations on best practices from other places, like Maine or Massachusetts, with prior experience in addressing these heat pump issues.

*f) National Grid presentation on System Reliability Procurement*

Mr. Chase provided an overview of what is covered under System Reliability Procurement (SRP), with a particular focus on Non-Wires Alternatives (NWAs) and also where SRP differs from both EE and Infrastructure, Safety, and Reliability (ISR) planning.

Chairman Powell inquired how electric vehicles and charging infrastructure related to SRP and wondered if transportation electrification could make feeder loading issues worse. Mr. Roughan responded that this is why coordination with Power sector Transformation regarding time of use rates as well as demand response efforts will be so critical in order to avoid exacerbating these feeder and other capacity issues that SRP is trying to address.

Mr. Chase provided updates on the progress of the 2019 plan to date, with everything either on target or ahead of schedule so far. He also gave the Council an update on the drafting timeline for the 2020 SRP plan, which closely mirrors that of the EE plan.

**4. Special Topics**

*a) Presentation on Income Eligible Energy Efficiency Programs*

Ms. Rodormer from National Grid introduced those who would be joining her to present (Mr. MacClellan, Ms. Vavak, Mr. Sneesby, and Mr. Rasco) and provided an overview of topics to be covered, then turned it over to Mr. MacClellan.

Mr. MacClellan reviewed the recent history of the program and the sources of funding for the income eligible/weatherization assistance program collaboration which breakdown as follows: ~\$11MM for

National Grid, ~\$3.5MM from Health & Human Services, and ~\$1.8MM from the Department of Energy's (DOE's) WAP.

Mr. Kravatz asked what protocols are being followed when carrying out this work and Mr. MacClellan said DOE standards were used for WAP and National Grid standards were used for Appliance Management Program (AMP) work. Mr. Guerard asked if using the DOE standards and letting those drive other programs/spending was the best course of action, given issues with time/effort involved to implement. Mr. MacClellan said that the DOE standards were the industry gold standard presently and that using them has been successful and well regarded and the quality of work has been very high.

Mr. Sneesby then presented some of the improvements made to the service delivered through these programs, including efforts to balance quality with increased demand. He also indicated that they are working on workforce training to replace aging auditors and on streamlining service delivery to reduce time lag between customer commitment and service delivery. Mr. Sneesby also requested that DHS participate more with the Council and the Technical Working Group. Chairman Powell reiterated that income eligible (IE) services are a priority of the Council.

Ms. Vavak then shared some of the specific outreach and marketing strategies the company is utilizing for IE customers. The company has embedded customer advocates in IE communities to provide more high-touch, personal service to this cohort and initial response has been positive.

Ms. Verrengia made a comment that saying "low -income" creates a stigma and that "income eligible" is a preferable term. Ms. Vavak said she'd heard that feedback from National Grid customers as well and they have utilized that in their marketing and messaging deliberately.

Mr. Guerard asked about DOE weatherization program and whether it was still paused as DOE reviewed auditing procedures and reporting. Mr. Sneesby responded that it was still operating but that the DOE wanted auditors to do a more thorough job and to approve all audits themselves, which has led to a large slowdown but not a full suspension of work.

#### *b) Update on the Eligibility Changes Made for the Small Business Program*

Mr. Richards shared that they have adjusted what the eligibility for qualifying as a small business is, with new threshold set at under 1 million kWh for the year. This made it easier for customers to understand and also allows the company to serve more people as 200 new customers now qualify as a result of this adjustment.

Ms. Verrengia asked if RISE will be reaching out to these customers who were previously ineligible to encourage them to engage again. Mr. Richards indicated that this outreach has already begun and that 20 customers have already proceeded with audits as a result.

## **5. Council Business**

### *a) Discussion on the Council's 2019 Annual Report to the General Assembly*

Mr. Guerard said that the annual report has not changed since his last reporting and that we are simply waiting for a quorum to vote on the report.

## **6. Executive Director Report**

Commissioner Grant announced that the five (5) candidates for open Council seats have all submitted their required paperwork and they are all under consideration by the Senate with their approval likely to come before the rapidly approaching end of the legislative session. She indicated that they would all be strong additions to the group and that we are excited to welcome them to the Council soon.

**7. Public Comment**

*a) Public Comment*

There were no public comments made.

**8. Adjournment**

Chairman Powell requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Verrengia made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Hubbard seconded it. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40PM.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 25, 2019 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM

Conference Room B, 2nd Floor, Department of Administration, Providence, RI

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**Members in Attendance:** Chris Powell, Anthony Hubbard, Carol Grant, Tom Magliocchetti, Karen Verrengia, Tim Roughan, Rachel Henschel, Butch Roberts, Bob White, Peter Gill Case, Kurt Teichert, Nick Ucci, Bill Riccio, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks.

**Others Present:** Mike Guerard, Mark Kravatz, Dr. Carrie Gill, Nathan Cleveland, John Richards, Laura Rodormer, Matt Ray, Matt Chase, John Tortorella, Chris Porter, Joel Munoz, Adrian Caesar, Hayley Kenyon, Louis Cotoia, Cheryl Boyd, Bryan Evans, Abbie Hasenbus, Ben Rivers

All meeting materials can be accessed here: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-july-2019/>

### 1. Call to Order

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 3:34PM.

### 2. Introductions

With so many new members recently appointed to the Council, Chairman Powell asked that all members of the council introduce themselves and the role they are representing so that everyone, including the public, can get more familiar with the membership of this body.

All members in attendance briefly gave their name and role on the council.

### 3. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Powell explained that because the Council lacked a quorum at prior meetings to conduct votes, they would take advantage of today's quorum to vote on meeting minutes from January through June. Copies of each of those meeting's minutes are available in the left pocket of Council members materials packets. He also reminded everyone that only Council members in attendance at those meetings are able to vote on the minutes.

Ms. Verrengia made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes as written; Vice-Chair Hubbard seconded the motion, and the vote to approve as written was unanimous.

Ms. Verrengia made a motion to amend both the February and March meeting minutes to include her name in the attendance header of each document to properly reflect her attendance and to approve those minutes subject to that amendment. Vice-Chair Hubbard seconded the motion and the vote to approve the February and March meeting minutes, subject to amending the attendance record, was unanimous.

Ms. Verrengia made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes as written; Vice-Chair Hubbard seconded the motion, and the vote to approve as written was unanimous.

Ms. Verrengia made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes as written; Vice-Chair Hubbard seconded the motion, and the vote to approve as written was unanimous.

Ms. Verrengia made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes as written; Vice-Chair Hubbard seconded the motion, and the vote to approve as written was unanimous.

#### **4. Executive Director Report**

Commissioner Grant reported that Governor Raimondo recently issued an Executive Order ([Executive Order 19-06](#)) on heating sector transformation, which the Office of Energy Resources and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers will lead. This effort will have a similar feel to the ongoing power sector transformation initiative and a report in April of 2020 will lay out the agenda for the future of this effort. The process will involve significant engagement of stakeholders and Commissioner Grant encouraged everyone to let the Office of Energy Resources know of anyone who should be engaged or in the work ahead.

#### **5. Chairperson Report**

Chairman Powell formally welcomed the newly appointed members of the Council to their first meeting and thanked those who were able to participate in the prior week's retreat.

Anyone wishing to make public comment was instructed by Chairman Powell to use the sign-up sheet at the entry table and also noted that there would be two opportunities for public comment, both after the discussion of the first draft of the Energy Efficiency Plan as well as prior to the close of the meeting.

Chairman Powell then reviewed the agenda for the meeting, informing everyone that we would be hearing more about National Grid's first draft of the 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan, hearing a presentation about the 2019 Energy Expo, and discussing the first draft of the SRP plan.

Council members were then informed by Chairman Powell that in the left pocket of their folders was an EERMC Q2 budget report for their review. While this is not a topic for discussion at this meeting, he encouraged any members with questions to reach out to Ms. Trietch or Mr. Cleveland at the Office of Energy Resources. Chairman Powell also reminded Council members that the consultant team from Optimal Energy will be reaching out to each of them, if they haven't already, to schedule one-on-one meetings during which they will solicit feedback from Council members on the draft annual plans to provide to National Grid.

Ms. Verrengia made a motion to amend the agenda for today's meeting to move agenda item seven (7) – the 2019 Energy Expo presentation – ahead of agenda item six (6) – the Energy Efficiency Program Oversight discussion. Mr. White seconded the motion, and the vote to amend the agenda was unanimous.

With that, Chairman Powell called up the representatives from the Rhode Island Builders Association for the Energy Expo presentation.

#### **6. Special Topic**

##### *a) Presentation on the 2019 Energy Expo*

Mr. Cotoia and Ms. Boyd, representing the Rhode Island Builders Association (RIBA), gave their presentation on the 2019 Energy Expo. Mr. Cotoia began by providing some background on the Council's involvement with the Expo, dating back to 2014 when the Council initially became a key sponsor of the event. Since then, the Council had remained a key annual supporter.

Mr. Cotoia provided some statistics on the 2019 Expo which indicated that while attendance was down in 2019 from the prior year (likely due to unseasonably warm weather on the weekend) the quality of the guests remained high. The slides demonstrating attendee personal information (age, gender, financial means, etc.) are all based on the post event survey done by RIBA and is kept totally anonymous to facilitate comfort and participation in the survey. Social media is playing an increasing

role in outreach/awareness for the Expo and despite the attendance dip, metrics for performance and engagement for the 2019 Expo remained high. Specifically, Mr. Cotoia also mentioned the following: that on-site light bulb sales decreased this year – likely in part because of lower than anticipated weekend attendance and the maturity of the lighting market – but remained a key “take home” item for many attendees; that school participation has dramatically increased and that the Expo has become part of the curriculum in some schools; and that awareness of energy efficiency has increase year over year, especially with respect to a customer’s willingness to pay for more energy efficient homes.

Ms. Verrengia commented that she was pleased that the Council has continued to support this program each year and has been very impressed with the progress and success of the Expo over time.

Ms. Henschel asked if their data had any information about the future workforce participation in the energy and building sector for those student participants in the Expo. Mr. Cotoia and Ms. Boyd explained that there were privacy issues that prevent detailed tracking of students but said that anecdotally the indications are that there is a positive relationship there.

Mr. Cotoia then mentioned how National Grid is now consistently featured in RIBA’s monthly publication and the articles have been getting significant traction and engagement. RIBA is interested in working with the Council and other stakeholders on developing the theme/messaging for the 2020 Expo.

Mr. White asked if they had any exhibits demonstrating the progress in piping over time, similar to the exhibits depicting improvements in insulation and wiring. Mr. Cotoia indicated that there are only two (2) school programs in the state dealing with piping but they were hoping to focus more on this in the future.

Mr. Cotoia and Ms. Boyd closed their presentation by outlining the visibility provided through a sponsorship of the Expo and how they were excited to continue working with the Council, National Grid, and other stakeholders to put on an even better show next year.

#### *b) Discussion & Vote on Energy Expo Sponsorship in 2020*

Following the presentation by Ms. Boyd and Mr. Cotoia, Chairman Powell opened the discussion about the Council funding the 2020 Energy Expo by asking if there was a specific dollar amount attached to their sponsorship. Mr. Ucci explained to the group that the Council wasn’t voting on a specific dollar amount today, as any funding for the 2020 Expo would be contingent on future budgetary discussions later in the year but did note that typically the funding level has been \$40,000 with a direct match from National Grid.

Mr. Teichert then asked what would change if the Council didn’t fund the Expo; would it still happen? Chairman Powell indicated that without this funding the energy piece of the Expo would certainly not happen.

Ms. Verrengia reiterated that sponsoring the Expo puts the energy demonstration in the main concourse, which means that all of the energy exhibits are in the hallway outside the main hall and that all attendees have to pass by it on the way in and out, which is great visibility.

Mr. Riccio asked if there was a monetary cap on how much they could spend on this sponsorship, to which Chairman Powell replied that the Council budget runs on a calendar year basis and not on a fiscal year ending June 30, and so exact funding can’t be determined until later in the year.

Mr. Ucci and Commissioner Grant supported Chairman Powell statement on the budgetary cycle and reiterated that this vote was not for a specific dollar amount but merely to determine if the Council felt this would generally be a good investment and the exact dollar amount could be voted on at a later meeting when budget planning begins. Mr. Guerard then explained how an affirmative vote on this

item today would simply put a placeholder in the budget for planning purposes and that the Council could then vote on a specific dollar amount in a future meeting with more accurate budget numbers.

Mr. Riccio then asked if the 2019 budget sheet shows an expense from the prior year's Expo and Chairman Powell indicated that this was correct and that funding for the Expo one year is reflected on the Council's budget in the following year.

Mr. Gill Case then made a motion to include funding of the 2020 Energy Expo in the 2020 Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council's budget, with the amount of funding contingent on available funds. Vice-Chair Hubbard seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

## **7. Program Oversight**

### *a) National Grid Presentation on the First Draft of the 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan.*

Mr. Ray presented on the first draft of the National Grid 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan by first reviewing the goals of the plan, which are: adherence to Least Cost Procurement standards, being informed by the targets and commitments made in the three-year plan, and being responsive to stakeholder priorities as outlined in presentations at the Energy Efficiency Technical Working Group. Mr. Ray indicated that the stakeholder engagement process outlined 107 priorities for the 2020 plan and that National Grid focused most heavily on those priorities which were supported by 10+ comments from stakeholders.

The focus of the plan, according to Mr. Ray, was to address these significant stakeholder priorities across the residential and commercial and industrial sectors. Specifically, in the residential sector the Company was focused on the enhancement of the income eligible services programs, participation, and workforce; electrification of the heating sector through heat pump goals and the inclusion of integrated controls on those systems, and more in-depth customer marketing based on a detailed segmentation analysis. In the commercial sector, Mr. Ray indicated the Company was most focused on workforce development through building operator certifications, heat pump equipment and other focused trainings as well as through their code compliance initiative. National Grid is also using a targeted approach to larger customers, with a focus on chain restaurants and the lodging/hospitality industry and is continuing its efforts to focus on small business customers, particularly in environmental justice zones.

The Company is also proposing for the 2020 plan to change how the Company measures their performance and tracking of savings versus goals. Specifically, Mr. Ray introduced the Company's proposal to change from annual savings measures to a lifetime, fuel agnostic MMBtu metric. Mr. Ray outlined National Grid's rationale for this change as being a more comprehensive metric that focuses on deeper savings through measures with a longer lifespan and puts this plan (and the Company) in better alignment with state policy goals, decarbonization efforts, and a focus on the future of the energy landscape.

Mr. Richards, from National Grid, then came forward to discuss the differences between annual and lifetime goals and provided examples in the market rate residential sector using 2020 goals to illustrate the change in these metrics. He specifically stated that the examples were presented in the market rate section because the metric change doesn't have as drastic an effect in the income eligible or commercial and industrial sectors. The change in metrics from annual to lifetime increases emphasis on the EnergyWise program and the EnergyStar HVAC efforts and de-emphasizes EnergyStar Lighting and Home Energy Reports, which provide shorter-term savings. Mr. Richards also provided a similar graphical representation of the proposed change's impact on the gas sector, which mirrors the electric side in emphasizing the EnergyWise programs and HVAC efforts while de-emphasizing Home Energy Reports.

Mr. Richards then explained that the 2020 plan has a lower target for the electric side of the business than projected for 2020 in the three-year plan, and on the gas side the target for 2020 matches that of the three-year plan. Despite this lower projection for electric, the Company is projected to exceed the total three-year savings goal (all three years combined) thanks to a strong year-one performance in both the gas and electric portfolios. Mr. Richards then provided reasoning behind the electric side changes, illustrating that differed Combined Heat and Power (CHP) projects and Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification (EM&V) updates were the big drivers in expected savings, though the Company has tried to offset these reductions in claimable savings with improved program performance in other areas.

Mr. Porter from National Grid then came up to go over the budget numbers for the plan as well as proposed adjustments to the energy efficiency charge and the performance incentive. On the electric portfolio, the budget is increasing for 2020 but remains under budget of the total electric budget (over the three years) of the three-year plan. For the gas portfolio, the budget is 3% over the three-year plan targets, but the program has over delivered savings every year.

In the first draft of the EE Plan, the Company has proposed that the energy efficiency charge increase by 30% from \$0.011 to \$0.014 per kWh. Mr. Porter outlined the major contributing factors to this adjustment, including: a negative energy efficiency fund balance of ~\$10MM; \$7MM in increased program spending; declining revenues from the Forward Capacity Market of ~\$6MM; and declining kWh sales of ~1-2%. The Company has also proposed that the gas efficiency charge increase from \$0.07 to \$0.11 on the residential side and \$0.04 to \$0.08 on the commercial and industrial sector. Mr. Porter indicated that these changes are driven by a negative fund balance of ~\$11MM and increased program spending of ~\$3MM.

Mr. Porter then covered the Company's proposal to increase their performance incentive mechanism (PIM) from 5% to 5.5% if the Company hits 100% of the 2020 savings goal. He indicated that the PIM was a signal to the Company and that it would give them more "skin in the game" for their performance, as they view the move to lifetime MMBtu as riskier from a business perspective.

Chairman Powell asked if the earning of 5.5% would be based on the achievement of lifetime MMBtu savings, to which Mr. Porter indicated that it would be. Mr. Riccio then stated that the Company was asking for a 10% raise, to which Mr. Porter agreed and said they were asking for this increase due to increased risk.

Mr. Gill Case then asked if the increased risk was related to the change to the lifetime MMBtu metric. Mr. Porter indicated this was correct because National Grid feels that reaching those goals will be tougher and more expensive. Mr. Gill Case then asked if the Company was expecting ratepayers to then help National Grid make up for declining sales through the increased performance incentive when they should have been able to foresee that? Mr. Porter then clarified that kWh sales were not a part of the performance incentive payout to National Grid and Chairman Powell, in response to Mr. Gill Case's question, stated that this is simply a proposal and part of a negotiation process.

Mr. White asked if this surcharge applied to residential only or all sectors, to which Mr. Richards replied that electric side of the portfolio had the same surcharge for all but that the gas side had different surcharges for residential and commercial and industrial customers.

Mr. Porter then clarified that the increase of 10% was only in the Company's achievable reward based on the program budget and that they still had to hit savings targets to earn it, and reiterated that switching to lifetime MMBtu is harder because the Company lacks the flexibility it has previously had with an annual metric to boost performance as the year ends through mechanisms like flash lighting sales. Mr. Guerard replied that based on the ~\$140MM budget the Company was looking for a \$700,000 increase in the performance incentive and asked what warrants that increase? Mr. Porter

replied that it was to balance the difficulty and risk of switching to lifetime MMBtu with the Company's financial opportunity.

Mr. Riccio then asked if the Company wanted a 10% raise, why aren't they increasing their goal? Ms. Henschel then replied that the Company had changed everything in the 2020 plan, to which Mr. Riccio responded that the annual metrics were the status quo frame of reference for many people, so why the 10% increase (in addition to the metric change)? Ms. Henschel replied that the increase was reflective of the increased risk.

Mr. Riccio then said that lifetime was a much more complex metric than annual and asked how lifetime savings were being defined for measures under the switch. Mr. Porter replied that the lifetime savings value of measures is determined through an industry standard process and not set by the Company. Mr. Riccio then stated that there were numerous acronyms being utilized without being defined and that made it more difficult for new people to follow the conversation. Mr. Porter responded by clarifying that each measure (or individual item) has a useful service life and that savings of a measure are equal to the lifespan of the measure times the industry agreed upon savings it generates. Chairman Powell then went on to explain that a light bulb has a short life span and so the lifetime savings of that are relatively small compared to a longer lifespan measure like a heating system, which has significant lifetime savings but those tend to cost more and likely require increased incentives; insulation is another good example of a measure with high lifetime savings.

Mr. Ucci commented that this was simply a first draft from National Grid and that stakeholders now get to test their assumptions, and this will be iterated on to ideally ensure everyone is comfortable with the end product. Mr. Guerard added that there are two big changes proposed that need to be discussed, the switch from annual to lifetime measurement, but also the shift from specific fuel targets to an all fuels MMBtu.

Chairman Powell mentioned that this switch to a lifetime metric was driven by the Council's desire to address delivered fuel use and to get National Grid to engage with those customers. Mr. Gill Case indicated that the proposed PIM increase didn't pass his 1<sup>st</sup> read through, to which Chairman Powell reiterated that the performance incentive is different from the lifetime conversion to an extent. Mr. Porter commented that aligning goals all the way through typically leads to the best outcomes for everyone, and Chairman Powell noted that the Company needs to get a return on investment for their efforts. Mr. Gill Case remarked that he was addressing the change to 5.5% performance incentive specifically.

Mr. Roberts asked if National Grid's goals are harder and they want more money, what if the performance incentive remains the same but the goals decrease to lower the Company's risk? Mr. Teichert noted that the Company was above their goal in 2018 and asked if they typically meet or exceed their target each year. Mr. Porter remarked that he felt the Company was typically in the 95-105% range of meeting their goal for the previous few years. Mr. Guerard remarked that National Grid had hit or beat its targets each of the past five years and reminded everyone that the 2020 targets they already set were annual metrics and not lifetime, so the 2020 goal being proposed was not approved by this council and so the annual numbers would need to be converted to lifetime for reporting in this proposed plan.

Ms. Henschel then stated that National Grid would be happy to provide more detailed examples at a future meeting that better illustrate why they see more risk and walk the Council through those. Mr. Roughan stated that lighting measures are quick and easy which allows the Company to be more agile during the year but that deeper measures take more time and are harder to sell and thus come with more risk and so should be rewarded more. Mr. Rivers, from National Grid, remarked that it might be helpful for the new Council members to recognize that the decrease in kWh sales is not tied to the performance incentive targets or the proposed increase in the performance incentive to 5.5% and that those decreased sales are represented in the increase energy efficiency surcharge. To close out this

portion of the meeting, Mr. Ray reminded everyone that stakeholder comments on the first draft were due by August 9<sup>th</sup>.

*b) Presentation on Benefit-Cost Model Inputs & Evaluation Results Impacting the 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan*

Mr. Kravatz, from Optimal Consulting, gave an overview of the Technical Reference Manual, which is the foundational document for measure characterization and details how savings are calculated (both annual and lifetime savings). It contains all the inputs and algorithms that determine what savings can be claimed from a given measure. These standards thereby inform program design and evaluations, and help dictate year over year program changes in the plans.

Mr. Tortorella, from National Grid, then highlighted some of the key evaluations that have been undertaken that influence the design of the 2020 plan. There are two Commercial and Industrial sector studies that are in progress, both are impact evaluations of 2016 custom installations for gas and electric customers, respectively. The realization rates in these studies are down slightly from the projected numbers and so that will likely have an impact on claimable savings for the Company. However, he expects these studies to be done by mid-August and the actual impact will be clearer then.

Three studies on the residential side have been completed – a residential lighting market assessment, a residential appliance recycling savings update, and a Wi-Fi thermostat savings study – all of which will inform program design and goals for 2020.

Mr. Kravatz then clarified the definition of a realization rate, indicating that it tracks what savings were actually achieved with a given measure, with low realization rates impacting both savings and the likelihood of that measure continuing to be offered.

Mr. White asked who does all of the evaluations and what the sample size of these evaluations were. Mr. Kravatz replied that all evaluations are done by third-party companies selected through a competitive procurement process and Ms. Henschel stated that ISO-New England sets the precision levels that need to be hit for evaluations which informs the size of the sample needed. Chairman Powell noted that realization rates are also impacted by free-ridership. Mr. Kravatz also stated that the standard was robust, and that the consultant team and the Office of Energy Resources hold the evaluators accountable.

Chairman Powell then announced that agenda item eight (8) on *System Reliability Procurement Oversight* would be removed from today's agenda and discussed at a future meeting in the interest of time.

*c) Consultant Team Presentation & Council Discussion on the First Draft of the 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan*

Mr. Guerard began by reiterating to the Council that the consultant team would be scheduling one-on-one meetings with individual members prior to August 9<sup>th</sup> (the deadline to submit comments to National Grid) in order to gather Council member thoughts. He also mentioned that a second draft of the Energy Efficiency Plan, incorporating all stakeholder feedback would be sent out prior to the next Council meeting and that we would continue to discuss issues raised today at that time.

With respect to the 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan, Mr. Guerard noted that the annual plan is tied to the targets set in the three-year plan and that some changes in year-3 aren't unusual. He continued by saying that annual plans need to adhere to Least Cost Procurement law and are informed by prior years performance. The results of the evaluation studies inform program delivery and measure selection as well. He also said that it was the Council's job to take into account innovation and to push National Grid to embrace new opportunities and that the annual plans are also informed by regulatory and

Public Utility Commission directives, state policy goals, other state agencies (e.g. building code changes) as well as legislative changes. Mr. Guerard illustrated to the Council the number of filters the consultant team uses to parse the data and ensure the plan adheres to all of its legal requirements.

Mr. Guerard then highlighted a couple of areas that the consultant team was looking at in the 2020 plan, including the annual transfer amount to the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank in support of the Efficient Buildings Fund, which supports energy efficiency in municipal buildings. The Public Utilities Commission is currently trying to determine how those funds are utilized and what the cost effectiveness of those loans are, with a placeholder amount in the budget until that gets taken care of.

Additionally, Mr. Guerard noted there will be updated language regarding Combined Heat & Power (CHP) projects, particularly on the notification process for larger projects for which the Company pre-collects money to spread the collections over multiple years to minimize spikes to the system benefit charge. This notification process would ideally include the Office of Energy Resources, the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers, and the Council. Chairman Powell asked how that notification process fits into the CHP project timeline and Ms. Henschel indicated that because many CHP projects are multi-year complex projects that determining when the right time to collect the money and how to ensure the process keeps moving forward for the customer were tricky things to balance.

Ms. Verrengia noted that a customer may not commit to a large project like this without a guarantee of an incentive to which Ms. Henschel replied that the Company wants to ensure this process benefits customers and that they are being transparent throughout. Chairman Powell suggested that one option would be to develop a non-binding memorandum of understanding to allow projects to move forward to which Ms. Henschel replied that the Company was making memorandums of understanding easier to execute.

Commissioner Grant then commented that Ms. Trietch was very involved in process improvements to CHP development and that adjustments are likely for the second draft. Mr. Magliocchetti suggested that a case study of a successful CHP project might be helpful and illustrative and noted that National Grid was very supportive of his efforts to utilize this program.

Mr. Kravatz then reminded Council members to check their email for the one-on-one meetings the consultant team is trying to schedule. Vice-Chair Hubbard asked if the consultant team had been tracking feedback from prior conversations between the Council members and the consultant team. Mr. Guerard indicated that they were doing.

## **8. Public Comment**

### *a) Public Comment*

There were no public comments made.

## **9. Adjournment**

Chairman Powell requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Riccio made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Verrengia seconded it. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34PM.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 29 2019 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM

Conference Room A, 2nd Floor, Department of Administration, Providence, RI

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**Members in Attendance:** Chris Powell, Anthony Hubbard, Carol Grant, Karen Verrengia, Tim Roughan, Rachel Henschel, Butch Roberts, Bob White, Peter Gill Case, Kurt Teichert, Bill Riccio, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks.

**Others Present:** Nick Ucci, Mike Guerard, Mark Kravatz, Becca Trietch, Dr. Carrie Gill, Nathan Cleveland, Matt Ray, Matt Chase, John Tortorella, Chris Porter, Joel Munoz, Adrian Caesar, Alice Daniel, Ben Rivers, Linda George, Erika Niedowski, Kai Salem, Angela Li, Sydney Usatine, Craig Johnson

All meeting materials can be accessed here: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-august-2019/>

### 1. Call to Order

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 3:30PM.

### 2. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve July's meeting minutes. Mr. Riccio made a motion, and Ms. Verrengia seconded it. All approved.

### 3. Executive Director Report

Commissioner Grant reported that she has a couple of updates on the Energy world:

1. Clean Energy for RI – Quarterly updates have been posted on OER's website, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report posted last week shows 793MW of Clean Energy towards the 1000MW Goal by 2020. She noted as OER does its calculations, they do expect it to hit the 1000MW goal just by using the existing programs that are already on the way.

2. Announcement – It was announced publicly today that the National Governors Association is partnering with the Department of Energy to work together to provide technical support and other expertise to continue the modernization of the Grid. RI, Maryland, New Jersey, and New Mexico will be working with these two organizations.

Commissioner Grant stated that OER is supportive of the continued updates to the system data portal, and engagement with 3<sup>rd</sup> party providers. She also noted that OER appreciates the discussion of coordination with other filings, especially EE – ISR – SRP.

### 4. Chairperson Report

Chairman Powell stated that during today's meeting the Council will:

1. Learn more about National Grid's Quarter 2 Report and their 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft of the 2020 EE Plan
2. Discuss the 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft of the 2020 SRP Plan

Chairman Powell noted as usual for anyone who wants to make a public comment at today's meeting please sign-up near the food and drinks. We have specific public comment periods during the EE and SRP portions of the agenda. There is also general comment period at the end of the meeting for any comments unrelated to the EE or SRP Plans.

Chairman Powell reported that the C-Team will be reaching out to schedule one-on-one phone calls with each Council member. Comments to National Grid on the Second draft EE Plan are due September 6<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, discussions with the C-Team should occur before this date. The C-Team will be incorporating our thoughts into the feedback provided to National Grid on their second draft EE and SRP Plans. These phone calls are also an opportunity for you to have any of your questions answered.

Lastly, Chairman Powell noted that third draft of the EE Plan will be released the day of our next meeting (September 19<sup>th</sup>). Therefore, there will be no expectation that Council members have reviewed the third draft by the start of our September meeting. Instead, we will hear from the Company during that meeting how they attempted to address our comments/concerns from the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft we are now reviewing. The Council will vote on the final plans (both EE and SRP) at our October meeting which is scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## 5. Energy Efficiency Program Oversight

### *a) National Grid Presentation on the 2019 Quarter 2 Program Report*

Please refer to [National Grid 2nd Quarter Results](#) presentation.

Mr. Ray went over the Residential results. Some overview and highlights include:

- Under the Market Rate: 41.6% of the annual electric goal (38,150MWh) and 52.3% of the annual gas goal (100,359 MMBtu) has been met.
- Under the Income Eligible: 31.1% of the annual electric goal (2,168MWh) and 45.0% of the annual gas goal (13,342 MMBtu) has been met.
  
- New Appliance Recycling Facility
- Heat Pump Water Heaters added to online marketplace
- Standardization Group Established
- Residential New Construction Program Awards

Mr. Rivers went over the Commercial and Industrial results. Some overview and highlights include:

- New Construction: 24.2% of the annual electric goal (2,626 MWh) and 22.0% of the annual gas goal (9,378 MMBtu) has been met.
- Retrofit: 20.3% of the annual electric goal (14,834 MWh) and 13.1% of the annual gas goal (20,312MMBtu) has been met
- Small Business: 47.1% of the annual electric goal (5,727 MWh) and 67.5% of the annual gas goal (1,728 MMBtu) has been met.
  
- Small Business Direct Install
- Commercial and Industrial Pilots, Assessments, and Demonstrations
- Codes and Standards

Chairman Powell stated that everyone knows Income Eligible has been a problem for quite some time now and does not seem like we are where we have to be. He noted he's going to keep bringing it up because as a Council they have to figure this out – maybe hire other experts or think of other ways to reach this goal.

Ms. Henschel asked which program he was referring to. Chairman Powell replied that multifamily is

the biggest issue. Ms. Henschel replied that Single family and multifamily are totally different challenges, but when looked at it together, sector wise, they will reach the goal - However, Multifamily electric will underperform.

*b) National Grid Presentation on the Second Draft of the 2020 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan*

Please refer to [National Grid 2nd Draft of the 2020 Annual EE Plan](#) presentation.

Mr. Porter gave an overview of the changes first draft to second draft of the plan.

Mr. Ray spoke on the Residential and Income Eligible Sector, as well as the Commercial and Industrial Sector Changes.

Mr. Tortorella went over/spoke on the graphs covering the budget and savings goals and targets.

Mr. Ray concluded the presentation by going over the Important dates, highlighting that September 6<sup>th</sup> is when the Second Draft Stakeholder Comments are due.

Mr. Roberts asked how gas surcharge differs between residential and commercial & industrial. Ms. Henschel replied that on the electric side it's the same surcharge for all customers – the gas side, they look at collections from residential and commercial customers, and National Grid takes an equal contribution from both sectors to fund the Income Eligible budget, and then surcharge is set. Mr. Roberts then asked if there is a charge on delivered fuels to which Ms. Henschel replied no. Mr. Guerard added that at one point there was a talk about putting small surcharge on Oil and Propane, but never went anywhere after it was looked at.

Mr. Gill Case asked if the incentives still include incremental incentives for achieving greater than 100% of savings goal. Mr. Porter replied that yes, but it is capped at 125%, and it becomes a linear flat design.

Chairman Powell asked if it was possible to see what makes up the charge – maybe a breakdown. Mr. Porter replied he will try to make a table explaining it.

Ms. Henschel noted that everyone's comments will help inform what the team can control – the team can control what the budget is, what savings to propose, but there are other factors like updating the rate, as well as sales forecast -that are outside of their control.

Mr. Porter added that they are constantly working with external stakeholders and C-Team to ensure National Grid is doing everything possible with the use of budget, and customer dollars to fund programs, and also striking a balance in maximizing achievable and cost-effective savings.

*c) Consultant Team Presentation & Council Discussion on the Quarter 2 Report and Second Draft of the 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan*

Please refer to [C-Team Quarter 2 Report](#) presentation.

Mr. Johnson introduced himself.

He then proceeded to go over the Performance Graphs, both current and historical, to put National Grid's Quarter 2 performance in context. He noted that many programs were behind their historical progress at this point, which is concerning.

Mr. Guerard went over the preliminary summary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the 2020 EE plan which highlights:

- Content of draft Plan v2 reflects responsiveness to stakeholder input
- Variance in savings goals from EERMC-proposed and PUC-approved 2020 targets improved
- Budget, and related system benefit charge (SBC) was reduced
- Still more room for improvement
- Additional electric savings and further reduction in budget and SBC
- Draft Plan v2 initial release had incomplete Residential and C&I attachments
- Recently received Benefit-Cost (BC) Model review in process

- Evaluation studies still pending and/or too recently completed to be able to incorporate into current draft
- Discussions on policy related components such as performance incentives, CHP, codes, etc. continue between OER, DPUC, the Technical Working Group stakeholders, consultant team and the Company

Mr. Guerard concluded the presentation by going over the next Steps for the C-Team, and the Next Step Milestones in which he highlighted that the memo from C- Team to EERMC will be completed for October 3<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting.

Ms. Verrengia thanked the C- Team for all their work, and she is very thankful for the detailed memo overview which makes it so easy to understand – they help a lot.

Mr. Guerard asked the Council members to please reach out to him or Craig if they have any questions, comments, or concerns.

*d) Public Comment on the Second Draft 2020 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan*

Linda George (Division of Public Utilities) introduced herself and gave a brief background on what the Division does.

Ms. George started off by thanking everyone for their efforts around Energy Efficiency. She stated that she has a few points to go over:

1. Incentive Mechanism: DPUC is opposed to the proposed increase in performance incentive; the EE program which is fully funded by ratepayers does not contribute in risk for the company and that this does not deserve additional compensation. DPUC appreciates that the company offers feedback on this issue, and that they restored the historical shareholder incentive to 5%. DPUC recommends that the company looks at reducing the peak hour incentive structure similar to the electric program.

Even though all parties have agreed to address this feature on the next years plan, the Division is open to alternative design to the 2020 Program Year. The Division would like to propose some preliminary concepts and discussion amongst all parties.

2. Budget: The Division is concerned that the current incentive structure encourages the Company to impose large budgets because it makes it easier for the company to achieve the efficiency targets and performance incentive would be larger. The past years shows trend of over budgeting – company should be required to meet goals with smaller budget.

3. Building Code Enhancement: The Division recognizes the important role that Building Code plays in Energy Efficiency, building design, and technology. However, the company’s proposal to engage in building codes enhancement represents legislative engagement that should not be funded by the ratepayers.

4. Combined Heat and Power (CHP): The Division’s proposal details recommendation to the company regarding reform of CHP program, It should be a requirement that the company conducts a natural gas analysis prior to undertaking and even negotiate CHP projects over \$1 Million Dollars. The Division believes it should be a requirement that the company discloses annually the pipeline of CHP Projects. The Division also believes that there should be an obligation that the company negotiates any CHP Incentives at least cost for ratepayers.

5. Efficient Building Fund: The Division recognizes that these projects often take longer to complete and involve engagement with multiple parties. As a result, it is extremely important that the company develops accounting and reporting formats on EBF dollars in order to calculate appropriated savings tied to these projects. In addition, it should also detail National Grids role in

these projects in order to access the proposed incentive narrative.

Final comment: The Division is willing to work collaboratively with the company and all other parties around Energy Efficiency.

Kai Salem (Green Energy Consumers Alliance) introduced herself and gave a brief background on what the company does.

Ms. Salem stated that she has a few items that she would like to go over:

1. They are disappointed to see that some things are going backwards, like the lifetime savings – they have been talking about this issue for years, since 2013, yet the Plan continues to fall away from this issue. They really believe that the lifetime savings is the most important metric and hopes to see it in the future.
2. Since the Plan does not really focus on the lifetime savings, it should lay down the groundwork for the future on things like heating electrification, demand response, and other areas – some are included but they need to be enhanced.
3. They thank everyone for their work and are very happy to see all the stakeholder involvement in shaping the Plan, and they are thankful for the extra time to review it – it was great.

Erika Niedowski (Acadia Center) quickly introduced herself and gave a brief background on what the company does.

Ms. Niedowski stated that she is super excited to see a full room of Council members and welcomed everyone- she is looking forward to working with everyone on the upcoming EE Plans.

She reported she is currently “digesting” the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the Plan- 2 main areas that she would like to speak about: Proposed switch to lifetime savings measure and performance incentive.

Ms. Niedowski quoted she “did not have an appetite” for the new proposed performance incentive on the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft –likes that it is being walked backwards. She stated that she hopes in the future if the Division makes some changes, maybe the company will make those changes as well on how they collect those incentives.

Ms. Niedowski stated that her 2<sup>nd</sup> issue is the lifetime savings measures. Acadia center are supportive in general of moving to lifetime savings as a measure, especially because it can help achieve State Policy goals around electrification, not only helps consumer savings, job growth, but its also great for environmental reasons.

Ms. Niedowski reported that she likes seeing the return of measuring of reduced peak demand – thinks it’s a very important goal and is happy to see it on the Plan.

She concluded by saying that she is still not done going through all the material yet- but is looking forward to working with National Grid, C-Team, the Council and Technical Working Group. Acadia Center will be looking very close at the budget, EE charge, and equity of distribution of efforts to the low-income.

Ms. Niedowski thanked the Council and others for putting RI in a really good spot on Energy Efficiency work.

## **6. System Reliability Procurement Oversight**

- a) *Consultant Team & National Grid Presentation on Comments on the First & Second Drafts of the 2020 System Reliability Procurement Plan*

Mr. Chase introduced himself and went over the presentation. Mr. Chase went over what the Purpose of SRP (System Reliability Procurement) is and what NWA (Non-Wires Alternatives) are.

He reported that “while the Company does not have viable NWA projects to propose in the 2020 SRP Report, the Company will state its intent to continue exploring these NWA opportunities” and quickly went over the South County East NWA Proposals that did not move forward.

Chairman Powell asked if this didn’t pass the first time, why do they think it will pass the next one? Mr. Chase replied that he believes the market vendors did not have all the benefits clearly outlined to them- so the team is looking into clearly outlining in the RFP the scope of work and the funding options. They are also going to best state the possible additional funding mechanisms through the RFP in line with the benefits. The team will also specify the requirements even further with tighter perimeters, so it’ll be easier for vendors to understand.

Ms. Verrengia agreed with these changes, stating that she believes it’ll make a big difference for the next RFP’s.

Mr. Chase continued to go over the presentation, which included: 2020 SRP Report Commitments (continued engagement with technical working group, exploration of locational incentives, data governance, and a revised NWA screening process) NWA Proposals in 2020 SRP Report (4 South County East projects that all did not move forward), Proposal Summary (only a brief request for marketing funding in 2020), First and Second Draft comments, and the Third draft planned updates.

Mr. Guerard very quickly went over the C-Team review of the 2020 SRP 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft presentation. He gave a brief summary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft SRP plan:

- Content of draft Plan v2 reflects responsiveness to stakeholder input
- Successful launch of SRP focused Technical Working Group in 2019 allowed for consistent and more comprehensive engagement
- Future consideration of non-pipe alternatives for areas of natural gas restraints was added into 2020 considerations
- While no 2020 NWA projects included, stakeholder expectations of Grid to support and improve identification of future needs recognized
- Proposed 2020 Activities mainly to support projects starting in 2021
- No planned non wire alternative projects budgeted in 2020
- 2 of the 3 unsuccessful RFPs for NWAs in South Kingstown/Narragansett will be re issued in 2020
- Budget request will be limited to supporting market engagement, with the RI System Data Portal continuing to be an important tool to support developers’ identification of grid system beneficial locations for future projects

Mr. Guerard went over the Next Steps, highlighting that the Review of the Final Plan is due September 19<sup>th</sup> and the memo from the C-Team to EERMC will be completed for October 3<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting.

#### *b) Council Discussion*

Chairman Powell brought up the worry about CHP being sited on a gas constrained pipeline, and how they have to be careful answering questions regarding this matter. Mr. Guerard noted that some CHP program enhancements are addressing this matter.

Mr. Gill Case noted that he wants to see SRP grow more, especially with Storage. Commissioner Grant added that OER is also supportive of Storage and she will keep the Council updated on that work as it progresses.

Mr. Teichert asked if the Potential Study would cover the SRP potential. Mr. Guerard replied that they have added renewables to it and also a focus on demand response – a way to get delivered fuels market a

better understanding as well as opportunities for strategic electrification. All these areas are part of Energy Efficiency.

When it comes to NWA, there are a lot of other groups already looking into this, so the NWA do not come from the SRP. It is a different group at National Grid that looks at the NWA locations – SRP does not. Mr. Guerard noted that they are having a kickoff meeting focused on the potential study – this is going beyond the traditional Energy Efficiency.

*c) Public Comment on the Second Draft 2020 System Reliability Procurement Plan*

None.

**7. Council Business**

*a) Update on Potential Study*

Mr. Guerard reported that they have finalized the contract with Dunsky and Marisa (Council's attorney) has already made her comments, and now its on the hands of OER's attorney who is currently away but will be back by next week. He noted that they will have a kickoff meeting towards the second- half of September. Mr. Guerard added that he hopes to have Alex Hill from Dunsky attend the next Council meeting to provide the Council with some updates and to answer any questions the members might have.

**8. Public Comment on All Other Topics**

None.

**9. Adjournment**

Chairman Powell requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Roberts made a motion, and Mr. White seconded it. All approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:26pm.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 19, 2019 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM

Conference Room A, 2nd Floor, Department of Administration, Providence, RI

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**Members in attendance:** Chris Powell, Anthony Hubbard, Karen Verrengia, Tim Roughan, Rachel Henschel, Butch Roberts, Kurt Teichert, Peter Gill Case, Tom Magliocchetti, Joe Garlick, Bob White, Roberta Fagan

**Others Present:** Nick Ucci, Mike Guerard, Mark Kravatz, Becca Trietch, Nathan Cleveland, Matt Ray, Joel Munoz, Sydney Usatine, John Richards, Chris Porter, Kai Salem, Erika Niedowski, Ben Rivers, Mona Chandra, Laura Rodormer, Dave Sungarian, Sam Ross, Matt Chase

### 1. Call to Order

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 3:34PM.

### 2. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve August meeting minutes. Mr. Roberts made a motion, and Mr. White seconded it. All Approved.

### 3. Executive Director Report

#### a) General Update

Mr. Ucci reported that Commissioner Grant is out of the State this week, so he will be giving a brief update on her behalf.

Mr. Ucci stated that Rhode Island is part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and that twice a year, OER allocates the funds that RI receives for the Clean Energy programs and investments. OER just put forward the proposed allocation program for the fall round:

- Municipal LED Streetlight Incentives \$600,000.00: OER will continue supporting municipalities seeking to purchase their streetlights and convert to LED's.
- Muni-Centric NWA (PUD & BIPCO) \$500,000.00: Continuing engagement with Pascoag Utility District and Block Island Power; OER will create an incentive program to support municipally-owned utility investment in non-wires alternatives (e.g. storage) to relieve stresses on local distribution systems.
- REF Storage \$1,500,000.00: Funding for the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) to establish an incentive program for storage deployment. OER will work with Commerce to develop and implement this program.
- REF Microgrid \$1,500,000.00: OER will work to establish a grant program through REF for microgrids
- REF Small Solar \$419,758.69: OER continues its support for smaller solar projects awarded through REF

Mr. Ucci noted that all this information is available on OER's website and that Public Hearing on the RGGI plan is October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00AM at the Department of Administration, Conference Room C.

Mr. Ucci offered to touch base offline if any council member has questions/ concerns.

#### **4. Chairperson Report**

##### *a) General Update*

Chairman Powell reported that during today's meeting the Council will:

1. Hear from National Grid about the 3<sup>rd</sup> drafts of their EE and SRP Plans. These third drafts were released this morning, so there is no expectation that anyone has read them.
2. The Council will also hear from the Consultant Team about responses to stakeholder feedback provided on the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft Plans; and
3. There will be plenty of time for public comments and Council discussion

He stated as usual, for anyone who wants to make a public comment at today's meeting please sign-up near the food and drinks. We have specific public comment periods during the EE and SRP portions of the agenda. There is also general comment period at the end of the meeting for any comments unrelated to the EE or SRP Plans.

Chairman Powell noted that the C-Team has provided each Council member with a memo to point you to sections of the Plan that are likely important to the ratepayers you represent. If you have any questions on the Plans, please don't hesitate to reach out to the C-Team or OER.

As a reminder, the Council will vote on the final plans (both EE and SRP) at our October meeting which is scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Therefore, if you have any questions please reach out sooner rather than later. October 3<sup>rd</sup> is only 2 weeks away.

Lastly, in the left-hand pocket of your folders, please note two materials:

1. A Save the Date for our Annual Public Energy Education Event. This year our event is focused on workforce development and will be held on Oct 29<sup>th</sup>. The University of Rhode Island's Outreach Center is helping to pull this event together for us; and
2. The C-Team has provided a list of energy acronyms in your folders. Hopefully this list will help everyone. However, please don't hesitate to continue calling people out for using too many acronyms!

#### **5. Energy Efficiency Program Oversight**

##### *a) Consultant Team Presentation the 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan Drafts*

Please refer to [C-Team 2020 EE Plan Drafts](#) presentation and [2020 Annual Plan - Summary on Budget Issues](#) Memo.

Mr. Guerard stated that they only received the third draft about an hour ago and haven't had any time to process it yet- so they are only going to focus on the results between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> draft.

Mr. Guerard went over the Status of Key 2020 Plan issues:

1. Savings and Budget – still believe there is a gap here (e.g. acquisition costs)
2. Bill Impacts & Cross Program attachments – received for 1<sup>st</sup> time with third draft

3. Unanswered questions
  - C-Team: A few outstanding BC Model questions; overarching data transparency
  - Stakeholders: The Division and TEC-RI have outstanding questions as well
4. EBF - data and language supporting funding; determine funding source
5. Program Incentive Mechanisms (PIMs) – confirm in 3<sup>rd</sup> draft
6. Combined Heat and Power (CHP) – confirm in 3<sup>rd</sup> draft

Mr. Ross went over the charts, electric and gas portfolio savings (annual MMBtus), and saving benefit charge charts, highlight changes in the drafts of the 2020 plan and providing comparison to historical numbers.

Mr. Guerard concluded by going over the next steps and timeline:

#### 2020 Plan

- Resolution on key 2020 plan issues by October 3 meeting
  - E.g. budget, savings, outstanding questions, EBF, PIMs, CHP

There was discussion amongst Ms. Henschel, Chairman Powell, and Mr. Porter regarding OBR/EBF funds and the proper balance of reserves vs. new ratepayer collections. Mr. Powell indicated that the Company is working on revised language to be shared with stakeholders on September 26.

- Prompt delivery of 3<sup>rd</sup> draft BC Model
  - Need to review text & BC Model, ask questions, receive & assess answers
- Vote on 2020 plan (3<sup>rd</sup> draft + final changes) at EERMC October 3 meeting

#### Future Planning Cycles

- Prompt and comprehensive deliverables (drafts, BC Models, responses to questions)
- More transparency into details of changes from prior year
  - Data granularity in BC models (especially C&I), clarity on forecasting methods
  - Explanation of changes – **why** there are changes, not just **what** they are
- Year-End Report must have a BC Model version delivered

*b) National Grid Presentation on the Third (Final) Draft of the 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan*

Please refer to [National Grid 2020 EE Plan Third Draft](#) presentation.

Mr. Porter and Mr. Richards went over the presentation.

Mr. Porter gave a brief overview, which highlights:

- In 2020, serving more customers, with more energy efficiency products and services, at lower costs
- Seeing that this plan does more with less is complicated:
  - Highest number of unique participants than ever before yet lower savings goals than previous years because that's the nature of market transformation
  - Lower customer rebates and costs are hard to see when the Company is delivering more products and services, and when the Company increases efforts to serve Income Eligible customers
- Company has responded to ~1,700 comments through drafting process
- Measure savings and costs have been reviewed line-by-line with external subject matter experts

Mr. Richards went over the 2020 Plan Third Draft by the Numbers and went over the charts displaying budgets, savings targets, and the associated goals.

Mr. Porter highlighted some important dates:

September 26<sup>th</sup> – Company deadline for additional responses to stakeholder comments

October 3<sup>rd</sup> – EERMC Votes on 2020 Plan

October 15<sup>th</sup> – Plan Filed with PUC

*c) Council Discussion on the Third (final) Draft of the 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan*

Mr. Teichert indicated that the electric goal for 2020 was about 6% below the 3 Year Plan target and he wanted to know how that impacts the Company's performance incentive.

Mr. Porter responded that if the Company is below 100% of its goal, its roughly a 2-3x change for each percentage point below that threshold.

The National Grid team then reviewed the Three-Year planning Process in some detail to differentiate 2020 targets and goals from the cumulative 3 year plan totals that were included on the same slides, as there was some confusion about how three year targets are set versus annual targets.

Chairman Powell also gave a brief overview of the development of the three year planning process in Rhode Island and indicated that having these longer range target makes it easier to plan annually.

Mr. Kravatz then asked when responses to the outstanding stakeholder questions (DPUC, TEC-RI) should be expected from the Company.

Mr. Powell committed National Grid to getting them out to stakeholders no later than Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> and indicated they would send responses out earlier if they were able.

*d) Consultant Team Presentation on the Draft 2020 Cost-Effectiveness Reports*

Please refer to [C-Team Draft 2020 Cost - Effectiveness Report](#)

Mr. Guerard gave a brief overview of the report and asked Council members to let him know if they have any questions/comments/concerns.

He noted that they will have a final report by the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, and will make adjustments based on the Council's vote – this report needs to be submitted to the PUC.

Chairman Powell stated that he wants to make sure all Council members understand what TRC Test and RI Test (ref. page 5) are and its importance.

Mr. Guerard gave a quick explanation of what these tests stand for; Chairman Powell asked the C-Team to add a paragraph explaining what both tests stand for to the document.

*e) Public Comment on the Third (final) Draft 2020 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan & the Council's Draft Cost-Effectiveness Report*

Joel Munoz (Division of Public Utilities) thanked all parties and stakeholders for their hard-work and dedication during this process.

Mr. Munoz stated that as it relates to the plan, the Division would like to express support for the program design and believe it's a great foundation for success. He noted the Division has always promised to, and continue to work with C- Team, OER, and stakeholders to approve many aspects of the current plan – “ we as a group are reaching reasonable compromises on many issues” – that being said, he added that there remains one major issue area of concern to the Division : Overall Spending Budget.

Mr. Munoz reported that the Division's opinion is that the company has not yet provided sufficient evidence to support the budget request. The Division shared informally, on August 10<sup>th</sup>, some questions, and then followed up formally on September 6<sup>th</sup> with additional, more detailed questions – the Division has yet to receive any answers to those questions. He added that the Division appreciates that the company is busy drafting and implementing thousands of comments from all parties involved, but still anxiously waits for the answers to those questions. Mr. Munoz noted that the Division also anticipates engaging in further questions in the coming weeks – “because we are anticipating all questions in the future, the Division does not expect to be able to support, nor oppose the Plan's Spending Budget by October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.”

## **6. System Reliability Procurement Oversight (35 min, 4:50 – 5:25 pm)**

### *a) National Grid Presentation on the Third (final) Draft of the 2020 System Reliability Procurement Plan*

Please refer to [Third \(Final\) Draft of 2020 SRP Plan](#) presentation.

Mr. Chase gave a brief background of the SRP plan objectives.

He highlighted some major revisions to the third draft, which includes:

- Executive Summary now includes high-level proposal and funding request info and list of Company commitments
- Inclusion of commitment to perform background research on Non-Pipeline Alternatives (NPAs)
- Section 4 Funding Request table modified for deeper detail
- Section 6 Docket 4600 table now specific to 2020 proposals
- Section 8 NWAs in System Planning reworked for clarity on planning process
- Section 8.1 now details active area studies and reevaluated opportunities
- Section 9 updated to detail NWA opportunities status and path forward

Mr. Chase concluded the presentation by going over the Summary of the 2020 SRP Report:

- Funding Request: The funding request for the 2020 SRP is small
- Proposals: Formal proposals focus on action- based earnings and SRP Market Engagement
- Commitments: The Company makes several commitments for 2020
- NWA's: The Company commits to investigate alternate solution pathways for the Narragansett 42F1 and South Kingstown NWA opportunities.

Mr. Guerard asked for Mr. Chase to clarify what were the Actions associated with earning the \$11,865 (ref. to slide 7).

Mr. Chase stated he doesn't have the exact answer right now, but they are detailed on section 5.3 of the 2020 SRP Report – which are reiterated from the 2018 SRP Report. He noted he can circle back with Mr. Guerard if he has any additional questions/concerns about it.

### *b) Council Discussion*

None.

### *c) Public Comment on the Third (final) Draft 2020 System Reliability Procurement Plan*

None.

## **7. Council Business (5 min, 5:25 – 5:30 pm)**

*a) Process Summary for Council Voting on the 2020 Energy Efficiency & System Reliability Procurement Plans*

Please refer to [2020 EEPP & SRP Next Steps](#) timeline.

Mr. Guerard went over the timeline, highlighting that the most important date for the Council members will be September 30<sup>th</sup> – the members will have to review all changes to the third and final draft of the plan.

Mr. Gill Case asked if there was a “Plan B” – there is a lot to process within a couple of days before Voting takes place.

Chairman Powell stated that unfortunately, this year, it’s the first time the Council has such a tight timeline – which does not allow for more/extra time to vote on the plan. He noted that if anyone has any questions or major concerns now, or after going over the final draft, to please reach out to Mike/ C-Team. He also reiterated that the Council’s role is to ensure that the plan meets their needs and objectives as a body, and that it may not meet the needs of other stakeholders, and that each Council member will have the option to vote in favor of, in opposition to, or in favor with exceptions at the October 3 meeting.

Mr. Guerard added that the C- Team will work on putting together a Memo after they go over the Third Draft and will share with the Council as soon as possible to help inform their decision-making – so please reach out with any questions or concerns.

There was a brief discussion amongst all members about the Plan/ Budget and dates. Mr. Ucci indicated the before the Council will take their vote on October 3, OER and the public will be making comments at that meeting which may inform Council members as well.

Mr. Roberts asked what the process was if the Council doesn’t vote to approve the plan.

Mr. Ucci replied that in that case, the plan would be contested in front of the Public Utilities Commission and gets litigated there.

Chairman Powell indicated that the Public Utilities Commission needs to accept the EERMC recommendation but can still reject the plan and send back for revision. He also indicated that the Council’s legal representative should attend the October 3 meeting and be available to answer questions in the interim as needed.

**Public Comment on All Other Topics**

None.

**8. Adjournment**

Chairman Powell requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gill Case made a motion and Mr. Garlick seconded it. All Approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45PM.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 3, 2019 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM

Conference Room B, 2nd Floor, Department of Administration, Providence, RI

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**Members in attendance:** Chris Powell, Anthony Hubbard, Karen Verrengia, Rachel Henschel, Butch Roberts, Kurt Teichert, Peter Gill Case, Joe Garlick, Bob White, Roberta Fagan, Bill Riccio.

**Others Present:** Carol Grant, Nick Ucci, Mike Guerard, Mark Kravatz, Sam Ross, Becca Trietch, Nathan Cleveland, Matt Ray, Matt Chase, Chris Porter, Linda George, Jonathan Schrag, Joel Munoz, Sydney Usatine, John Richards, Chris Porter, Kai Salem, Erika Niedowski, Daniel Tukey, John Tortorella, Yasmin Yacoby, Marisa Desautel.

All meeting materials can be accessed here: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-october-2019/>

### 1. Call to Order

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 3:32PM.

### 2. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Ms. Verrengia made a motion to approve minutes as written, and Mr. White seconded it. All Approved.

### 3. Executive Director Report

#### a) General Update

Commissioner Grant congratulated everyone in the room - RI ranked #3 again on the ACEEE annual scorecard of State Efficiency - CA is #1, and MA is #2. RI has been in the top 5 for a long time, and this was the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row that RI achieved a perfect score on utility efficiency programs, to which the EERMC plays a major role.

Commissioner Grant also made a couple of quick introductions:

- Linda George: she will be the "Acting Administrator" for the DPUC for now - Mr. Lynch has taken a new position.
- Yasmin Yacoby: she is going to be working at OER on energy justice issues, especially focused on bringing EE to all communities.

### 4. Chairperson Report

#### a) General Update

Chairman Powell reported that during today's meeting the Council will vote on the 2020 EE and SRP Plans - to do this the Council will:

1. Hear from National Grid about the latest drafts of their EE and SRP Plans. All members received these versions via email this morning. However, a memo explaining the changes from the third drafts was sent earlier this week.
2. Hear from the Consultant Team about their recommendations on our votes.
3. Lastly, there will be time for public comments and Council discussion to help inform the Council's votes.

Chairman Powell stated that as usual, for anyone who wants to make a public comment at today's meeting please sign-up near the food and drinks. We have specific public comment periods during the EE and SRP portions of the agenda. There is also general comment period at the end of the meeting for any comments unrelated to the EE or SRP Plans.

He noted that at the end of our meeting, we will need to vote on the Cost-Effectiveness report drafted by the Consultant-Team. This report needs to be filed with the Public Utilities Commission by the EERMC. Marisa Desautel, the Council attorney, will be doing this for us.

Chairman Powell reported that for Council members specifically – in the left-hand pocket of your folders, you'll find the final invite to our Annual Public Energy Education Event. This year our event is focused on workforce development and will be held on Oct 29<sup>th</sup>. The University of Rhode Island's Outreach Center is helping to pull this event together for us. Please help to get the word out through your networks. If you need any additional printed invitations, please see Becca.

- Also, all official council members have been invited to attend Senator Whitehouse's Energy & Environment Day which is tomorrow at the RI Convention Center. Becca re-sent the invitation to Council members this morning in case the original invitation was blocked by your email filters. Please let Becca know before the end of our meeting if you will be attending so she can make sure you are on the attendee list.

## **5. System Reliability Procurement Oversight**

### *a) National Grid Presentation on the 2020 System Reliability Procurement Plan*

Please refer to [2020 System Reliability Procurement Plan](#) presentation.

Mr. Chase reported that not much has changed since the previous draft- two major changes include:

- Section 1: Executive Summary – Added commitment for section 8.1 on developing an NWA RFP for the East Bay opportunity
- Section 4: Funding Request for SRP – SRP Charge Adjustment detail

Mr. Chase went over the SRP Charge Adjustment (accounting error) – Mr. Riccio asked a few questions about this accounting error, including if customers got overcharged as a result to this error, how the company missed this for over three years, and if it accrued interest over the years. Ms. Henschel explained that the “money is technically going back to customers because the charge will be lower next year”; also the reporting group responsible for this, caught the error and it will be corrected for the 2020 programs.

Mr. Riccio asked if this was a responsibility of the Council - to audit the company's financial reports. Chairman Powell replied that that the EERMC is responsible for making recommendations, but the DPUC as well as the PUC should probably lead an audit for this situation. Mr. White made a motion that the Council be given the outcome of any audit being done on the company's finances that impacts EE or SRP accounts/programs in the future. This motion was tabled for further discussion at an upcoming meeting.

Chairman Powell requested an analysis/report-out as to how this happened to this charge and how its being solved as soon as possible.

*b) Consultant Team Presentation the 2020 System Reliability Procurement Plan & Cost-Effectiveness Analysis*

Please refer to [C- Team 2020 System Reliability Procurement Plan](#) presentation.

Mr. Guerard noted that the commitment by the Company to explore Non-Pipe Alternatives for Gas is really important and that the future is going to have roles for both Non-Wire Alternatives (NWA's) and Non-Pipe Alternatives.

*c) Public Comment on the 2020 System Reliability Procurement Plan*

Linda George (DPUC) reported that the Division supports the SRP Plan.

She stated that the Division exercises a "CPA" like oversight function based on reports generated by the company – in other words, the Division works with information that the company provides (more comments about reporting to follow during EE comments). In regards to Mr. Riccio's concerns about the interest due to the accounting error, she noted that when there is an over-collection of EE/SRP funds, interest flows back to the ratepayers – when there is an under-collection of EE/SRP funds, interest flows back to the company. To clarify, interest goes both ways.

Kai Salem (Green Energy Consumers Alliance) stated that there are a few items she would like to mention:

1. NWA's are an increasingly important part of the future of our electric grid and natural gas system. Rather than looking immediately at building traditional infrastructure to serve our growing energy needs, we need to be growing into approaches that are less expensive, lower emissions and better for our energy system.
2. We need to find ways to make NWA's more central to our energy system planning process; unfortunately, our current standards and statute does not allow for that to be as robust as necessary, but this is one of the reasons why Green Energy Consumers Alliance supports this SRP Plan- because it shows good faith from National Grid and stakeholders to work within our framework to maximize possibilities of system reliability.
3. We believe this plan fulfills the Statute & Standards despite uncertainty resulting from last years PUC's process which deeply changed last years proposed SRP plan. Despite ongoing questions about NWA projects, National Grid has been very responsive throughout this process and Green Energy Consumers Alliance appreciates the creation of the technical working group for SRP. Especially supportive of the commitment to explore Non-Pipe Alternatives as well.

Ms. Salem stated that this plan points towards a better future for SRP – Green Energy Consumers Alliance supports this plan.

*d) Council Discussion & Vote on the 2020 System Reliability Procurement Plan*

Commissioner Grant reported that OER supports the SRP Plans for many of the same reasons others have stated.

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve the System Reliability Plan. Mr. White made a motion to approve the version of the 2020 System Reliability Procurement Plan presented today by National Grid to the Council. Furthermore, the Council directed Marisa Desautel to provide a signature page to National Grid prior to October 15th as part of the Settlement of Parties for the PUC (Public Utilities Commission) filing. Mr. Garlick seconded this motion. All Approved.

## 6. Energy Efficiency Program Oversight

### *a) National Grid Presentation on the 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan*

Please refer to [2020 Energy Efficiency Plan](#) presentation.

Mr. Porter went over the following presentation categories – five areas of updates since the 3<sup>rd</sup> Draft Presentation:

- PIM Changes
- Right-Sizing of OBR Funding
- Further Budget Reductions
- Additional Clarity on Specific Process Issues
  - CHP
  - RIIB EBF
  - EM&V Oversight
- Bill Impacts Analysis

Mr. Porter concluded the presentation with the ACEEE Scorecard Ranking overview which described Rhode Island's EE programs as nation-leading.

Mr. Riccio asked what defines transportation and Appliance Standards efficiency policies which were included in ACEEE's scorecard. Commissioner Grant stated that OER puts all this information together, Nathan Cleveland specifically, and we can take a deep dive into ACEEE's scoring at a later meeting.

### *b) Consultant Team Presentation on the 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan & Cost- Effectiveness Analysis*

Please refer to [C-Team 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan](#) presentation.

Mr. Guerard, Mr. Ross, and Mr. Kravatz covered the presentation linked above.

Chairman Powell asked for Mr. Ucci to give a presentation on the state of energy markets to explain how energy cost matters, affects what we do, and how we do it. Specifically, he requested a look at the effects of efficiency and how its helping drive down the cost of capacity.

Mr. Guerard spoke to the last slide of the presentation, which covers the C-Team's recommendations and reasoning behind it and recommended the Council approve the 2020 EE plan.

Ms. Verrengia thanked the C-Team for explaining all the details about both SRP and EE plans. She thanked all parties for their professionalism and the C-Team for having all the hard-discussions to get to where they are now.

### *c) Public Comment*

Acting Administrator Linda George stated that the Division supports the programs in this plan; they were designed by the company with input from various stakeholders and the Plan lays out the foundation for continuous success in State Leading EE programs.

She noted that the Division still has questions about the budget. The company did respond to the Division's questions sent last week; however, the responses were not sufficiently detailed to allow the Division to say they support the funding budget – The Division will follow up with the company and work with them over then next few weeks.

Ms. George added that the Division intends to propose more detailed reporting requirements regarding the spending budget- they are still developing reporting requirements that will be used and submitted by the company.

She noted that her most important comment, is to not delay the vote today based on these ongoing inquiries from the DPUC. The questions about reporting requirements should not delay the Council's vote, in fact the Division urges the Council to approve this plan. The Division looks forward to working with the company, C-Team, OER and others to define the appropriate reporting requirements over the next few weeks, prior to the PUC hearing in December.

Ms. Niedowski (Acadia Center) congratulated everyone on the ACEEE rankings. She was very excited to hear the interest of Council members on Appliance Standards and encourages the Council members to tell the Governor's office to support the legislation for appliance standards next year.

She stated that this Plan is a good plan, it is strongly cost-effective, and Energy Efficiency is a great deal for Rhode Islanders – she urges the Council to vote to approve this plan.

Ms. Niedowski mentioned that the increase in savings with the decrease in budget over the course of the drafts was good to see but added that a continued over-reliance on lighting is a concern. Increased deployment of heat pumps, workforce investments, active demand response programs, and goals to improve income eligible programs were described as positives of the Plan; Acadia Center also supports the PIM change to better align with state policy goals.

She concluded by stating that Acadia is looking forward to the Three- Year Plan to keep driving towards the future of energy efficiency and looks forward to working with everyone.

Ms. Salem gave a brief background on what the Green Energy Consumers Alliance does.

She stated that over the years, their comments tend to hit the same notes:

- Prioritize deep sustained carbon emission reductions – there should be a bigger focus on lifetime targets rather than annual targets.
- Need to be investing more, not less, on the EE programs; given the demonstrated cost-effectiveness of measures in efficiency, additional investment would continue to get even more savings both on emissions and cost of energy overall.
- Need to focus on equity – for Income- Eligible, Demand Response and renters; Demand response and Heating electrification will be the future of EE.

Ms. Salem added that looking at the plan, they see some progress on most priorities – the 2020 Plan proposes improvements to the LMI programs in particular.

She noted that the process and format of this plan has also improved significantly – it was great to present their priorities in early Spring, and the new structure of the plan is a big improvement.

Ms. Salem urges the Council to approve this plan because it is cost- effective. However, she also noted that appliance standards and more EE is needed to get our GHG reduction goals as it clearly shows on the ACEEE ranking. GECA is excited about the Three- Year Plan process and views the Plan as an incremental step forward.

*d) Council Discussion & Vote on the 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan*

Mr. Teichert echoed Ms. Salem's comments about needing to do more – need to lean budgets while finding more savings. He noted that he supports the plan but hopes to put forward more aggressive higher goals and more cost-effective measures moving forward in the next few years.

Mr. Roberts appreciates the C-Team and National Grid's hard-work and support – but when he looks at the increased charge in C&I on the electric and gas side it is too big of a shock. While he supports the plans, he defaults to what Mr. Teichert said, that we can do better with the budget and efficiencies in the programs. He noted that while he supports a lot of this plan, he cannot approve it because of the significant increase in the system benefit charge.

Ms. Fagan stated that even though she is a non-voting member she appreciates the commitment to help with workforce development in the delivered fuels community. She encouraged using the word displacement rather than switching when talking about heating electrification, because switching may leave many people/workers behind and we don't want to lose jobs while we do this.

Mr. Gill Case stated that since its his first time through this process, he appreciates the C-Team effort, professionalism, and all their hard-work. He noted that comparing changes from the 1<sup>st</sup> draft to this draft, he questions why the 1<sup>st</sup> draft didn't look like this from the start- it almost suggests that the negotiation process was what this was all about. While he admires what has happened and appreciates what the C-Team does and thanks them for helping the members see clearly, he believes that the process was unmanageable – too many documents received too late and too many unanswered questions. He added that he is going to be focusing on the process next year to try to improve it.

Ms. Verrengia quickly spoke on how the process was run over the past few years, and how this year a big change was that they had a lot of input from many different parties that they did not have the previous years.

Mr. Roberts added that there should be more focus on comparisons to previous years plans rather than all the comparisons between drafts of this plan.

Mr. Riccio echoed what Mr. Gill Case said – the process is burdensome, and it needs to be improved; It is too much to digest last minute before voting.

Chairman Powell thanked the C- Team and noted that they relied more on them this year due to the changes in schedule, process, and new council members.

Commissioner Grant noted that OER supports this plan – and recommends the Council to approve the plan and vote on a 'not to exceed' budget language.

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve the 2020 EE plan. Mr. Hubbard made a motion to approve the version of the 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan presented today (10/3/2019) by National Grid to the Council – document dated Oct 15, 2019 – with a total electric budget not to exceed \$111,359,910 and a total natural gas budget not to exceed \$34,354,500. Furthermore, the Council directs Marisa Desautel to provide a signature page to National Grid prior to October 15th as part of the Settlement of Parties for the PUC (Public Utilities Commission) filing. Mr. Garlick seconded this motion. All approved, except Mr. Roberts who was opposed, and Ms. Verrengia, who recused herself from voting.

## **7. Council Business**

### *a) Consultant Team Summary of the Cost-Effectiveness Report on the 2020 Annual Plans*

Please refer to [Cost- Effectiveness report](#) document.

Mr. Guerard summarized the Cost-Effectiveness report. The report states that the proposed 2020 programs are cost effective and comply with the Least-Cost Procurement law.

*b) Council Discussion & Vote on the Cost-Effectiveness Report*

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve the Cost-Effectiveness report.

Mr. Gill Case made a motion to approve the cost-effectiveness report and to direct the Consultant-Team to update the report, on behalf of the Council, if any grammatical or reference errors are found, any dates must be updated, or any relevant budget reductions occur within the 2020 EE Plan. Also, to direct the consultant team to work with Marisa Desautel to submit the report to the PUC prior to the November 5, 2019 deadline. Mr. White seconded this motion. All approved.

**8. Public Comment on All Other Topics**

Ms. Verrengia spoke to the EERMC public education event ( [EERMC Public Education Flyer](#)) that's taking place on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 3:00- 5:00PM at Iron Works Tavern, in Warwick.

No other public comment.

**9. Adjournment**

Chairman Powell requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Riccio made a motion and Mr. Roberts seconded it. All Approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54PM.