

Memo



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

To: Energy Efficiency & Resource Management Council
From: EERMC Consultant Team
CC: Becca Trietch
Date: September 17, 2020
Subject: EE and SRP Technical Working Group Updates

CONSULTANT TEAM

National Grid's Energy Efficiency (EE) Technical Working Group (TWG) and the Systems Reliability Procurement (SRP) TWG recently convened to discuss and gather feedback on relevant EE and SRP topics. The following intends to provide you with a high-level update regarding issues addressed in each meeting. Additional information about the TWG is on National Grid's website.¹

1. ENERGY EFFICIENCY TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

The EE TWG met on August 14th and September 11th. The meeting agenda items included the following:

- Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification Update
- Overview of Equity Considerations in the Upcoming Energy Efficiency Plans
- Overview on Barrier Considerations in the Upcoming Plans Energy Efficiency Plans
- Overview of the First Draft of the 2021 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan

Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification (EM&V) Update

- The EERMC's Consulting Team (C-Team) and National Grid ("the Company") presented an overview of EM&V and studies that would be impacting the 2021 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan.
- The C-Team gave an overview of EM&V, which included information about what EM&V is, why it is conducted, and the different types and methods of studies. The overview also included a review of the EM&V team in Rhode Island and its oversight process.
- The Company reviewed the studies that would be informing and impacting the 2021 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan. For each study, the Company reviewed the type of study, which programs it would impact, and what the impact to said programs would be.
- The Office of Energy Resources (OER) requested that National Grid keep the TWG up to date on any major measures that would be impacted by EM&V studies that had not yet been completed.

Overview of Equity Considerations in the Upcoming Energy Efficiency Plans

- The Company reviewed how equity is considered in recently adopted updates to the Least Cost Procurement Standards.
- The Company reviewed how equity was considered in past Plans and how they would be approaching equity in future Plans.
- The Company reviewed their near-term and long-term approach to advancing equity in its energy efficiency Plans.
- A near-term approach to addressing and advancing equity proposed by National Grid was the development of an Equity Working Group. Several stakeholders strongly encouraged the Company to start that working group as soon as possible.
- Stakeholders also supported the need, and urgency, for a Rhode Island specific non-participant study as proposed by the Company.

¹ <https://www.nationalgridus.com/ri-energy-efficiency-technical-working-group>

Overview of Barrier Considerations in the Upcoming Energy Efficiency Plans

- The Company gave an overview of its consideration of, and approach to addressing, barriers to achieving higher levels of savings in the upcoming 2021-2023 Three-Year and 2021 Annual Plans.
- The Company reviewed key categories of barriers, which included financial, workforce, customer, code, and other.
- The Company's Commercial and Industrial (C&I) team reviewed barriers to adoption, and the Company's actions to address barriers, for select top energy savings measures in the electric and gas programs.
- The Company's Residential and Income Eligible team reviewed barriers to adoption, and the Company's actions to address barriers, for select top energy savings end-use categories in the electric and gas programs.
- The Company's sector teams also provided an update on their review of the C-Team's matrices of potential program design enhancements.

Overview of the First Draft of the 2021 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan

- The Company gave a presentation on the first draft of the 2021 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan.
- The Company reviewed high-level savings and benefits as well as an overview of changes in the First Draft of the Plan from 2021 in the First Draft of the 2021-2023 Three-Year Plan. The Company also highlighted differences between the First Draft, previous years' results, and the scenarios presented in the Market Potential Study.
- The Company's sector teams reviewed key highlights from the First Draft of the Plan, gave an overview of the factors influencing the System Benefit Charge (SBC), and reviewed the process for finalizing the Plan.
- Stakeholders expressed support for the Company's enhanced focus on equity in the 2021 Plan and encouraged the Company to provide additional detail about how it will track progress.
- Stakeholders expressed understanding and support to limit increases to the SBC for 2021 and recommended that the Company explore all avenues to achieve cost-efficiency.
- Some stakeholders expressed disappointment with the level of savings proposed in the Plan.

2. SYSTEM RELIABILITY PROCUREMENT (SRP) TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

The SRP TWG met on August 19th. The meeting agenda items for this meetings included the following:

- Updates on Bristol 51 and South Kingstown Non-Wires Alternatives (NWA) opportunities
- Discussion of Non-Pipes Alternatives (NPA) and next steps for developing that framework within SRP
- Discussion of the first draft of the SRP Three-Year Plan

The Company and the C-Team gave an update on the SRP Three-Year Plan at the August EERMC Meeting. Associated presentations can be found [here](#).