

Memo



To: Energy Efficiency & Resource Management Council
From: EERMC Consultant Team
CC: Becca Trietch / OER
Date: April 22, 2021
Subject: EERMC Consultant Team 1st Quarter Report

CONSULTANT TEAM

I. SUMMARY

This document summarizes the work completed by the EERMC Consultant Team (C-Team) during the first quarter of 2021 and gives a preview of our work ahead. Section II highlights each of the C-Team's tasks and deliverables in Q1 and when each occurred. Each item is organized to align with the C-Team's [Scope of Work \(SOW\)](#) which was presented at the December 2020 EERMC meeting. Section III previews the key issues, deliverables, and tasks that the C-Team has identified, and in some cases, is already working on in Q2. As with Section II, these items are organized by tasks as outlined in our SOW. Finally, Section IV presents the timeline associated with the 2022 Plan Core- and Variable-Factors that the C-Team referenced in [a presentation](#) to the Council at its March EERMC meeting.

II. UPDATES ON KEY AREAS OF WORK IN Q1

Task 1: EERMC Oversight

Task #	Activity	Tasks/Deliverable	Date(s)/Time Period
1.1	EERMC Meetings	Reviewed and provided feedback on January, February, and March meeting agendas with OER.	2 weeks prior to meetings
		Developed 15 presentations and memos for January, February, and March meetings. Presentation and memo topics included: Review of 2020 SRP, PUC rulings on National Grid's EE Plans, 2021 EERMC schedule, C-Team workplan, comments on 2021-2023 SRP Plan, 2021 Performance Incentive Mechanism proposal and deliberations, 2020 Q4 results, Council EE and SRP priorities, EERMC Annual Report, EM&V impacts on 2022 plan considerations, and updates on EE and SRP TWG meetings.	1 week prior to meetings
		Attended and participated in meetings with relevant subject-matter experts.	January 21 February 18 March 18
1.2	EERMC Executive Committee Meeting	Attended the March meeting.	March 25
		Debriefed with OER and follow-up tasks to enhance future meetings.	March 26-31
1.3	Councilor Briefings	Scheduled requested Q2 meetings with council member Peter Case.	March

Task #	Activity	Tasks/Deliverable	Date(s)/Time Period
1.4	Councilor Retreat & Orientation	Held C-Team Internal meetings to develop draft objectives and agendas for the EERMC Retreat, including review of past events and supporting materials.	February-March
		Developed and distributed survey to Councilors on retreat topics and structure.	March 17
1.5	EE & SRP Technical Working Groups (TWG)	Attended all five Q1 TWG meetings with relevant staff assigned to participated in each.	January 20 (SRP) February 17 (SRP) February 25 (EE) March 17 (SRP) March 25 (EE)
1.6	Equity Working Group	Monitored developments on launch plans, including review of potential participants. No meetings held in Q1 as activity focused on National Grid hiring a facilitator.	Monthly status check-ins with OER & Grid
1.7	EERMC Education Working Group	Scheduled and facilitated monthly meetings; developed and distributed meeting notes. Topic areas covered and with supporting prep and follow-up tasks included: Education RFPs for videos, public outreach and K-12 Education, Education budget review/options, NEED K-12 curriculum.	January 6 February 3 March 3
1.8	OER/Division/C-Team Meetings	Attended 7 bi-weekly check-in meetings to coordinate with state agencies on EE topics and issues relating to LCP.	January 4 January 19 February 1 February 15 March 1 March 15 March 29
1.9	OER/National Grid/C-Team Meetings	Attended 6 bi-weekly check-in meetings to coordinate on issues relating to National Grid delivery and design of programs and resulting communications with the EERMC.	January 19 February 2 February 16 March 2 March 16 March 30
1.10	Refresh & Maintain Website	Uploaded all Council meeting materials and other relevant documents.	Ongoing
		Initiated design website updates and developed status memo for April.	March
1.11	Educational Tools	Reviewed EERMC Council Member Handbook to identify potential updates.	February-March
1.12	Manage Consultants as Needed	No dedicated activity on this in Q1	n/a

Task 2: Development of Work Products and Representation of the EERMC

Task #	Activity	Tasks/Deliverable	Date(s)/Time Period
2.1	EERMC Annual Report	Coordinated and contributed to the development of content for the report with National Grid, OER, and the C-Team.	February, March
		Developed first draft of report and timeline for vote on final draft.	March 1 - 18
2.2	State & Regional Policy	2021 Avoided Energy Supply Component Study - C-Team assigned a lead staff to support OER, the Division and EERMC's interests in the regional process, and to participate in regular update and feedback meetings for the RI group.	February 2 February 18 March 2 March 11 March 25
		Participated in discussions with OER and Grid on content for Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP)'s <i>RI State Partnership MOU Agreement</i> .	February - March
		Reviewed and monitored draft legislation proposed in the General Assembly that may impact LCP, including Act on Climate, and two versions of LCP extension.	February-March
2.3	Stakeholder Forums	Coordinated and attended second Multifamily Brainstorming Session with National Grid including stakeholders from RI Housing, the Housing Network, CDCs, developers, and the lead vendors for the retrofit and new construction MF programs.	January 13
		Ad hoc check-in calls with stakeholders, including Acadia Center and GECA.	January-March
2.4	Annual Timeline	Based on council member and stakeholder feedback, developed a timeline, tasks and milestones for key EERMC responsibilities, with emphasis on streamlining the 2022 Annual Plan development, review and approval process.	January
2.5	Quarterly Written Progress Reports	Assembled content throughout Q1 for inclusion in the first report to be issued in April.	January-March

Task 3: Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Program Design and Delivery

Task #	Activity	Tasks/Deliverable	Date(s)/Time Period
3.1	Residential & Income Eligible Sector Monthly Meetings	Coordinated, drafted agendas, and facilitated monthly meetings. Meeting topics included review and discussion on the C-Team's draft implementation and oversight tracker based on 2021 EEPP, discussion on standardized meeting content, cadence of data sharing, review and discussion on tracking metrics, methods, and timelines for residential and income eligible commitments in the 2021 EEPP, review and discussion on 2021 residential RFPs, and update from OER and National Grid on the OER/National Grid Heat Pump Rebate Program, all in addition to standing agenda item of monitoring monthly program performance.	January 27* February 11 March 4
		Reviewed and transformed raw data on program activity from National Grid into a monthly data report. Distributed data report to sector team, including OER and Division. Reviewed data and sent questions to National Grid team for response. <i>Note – This applies to both the residential/income eligible and the C&I sectors and is not repeated under Task 3.2.</i>	3-week process in advance of each sector team meeting
		In Q4 of 2020, the C-Team developed a commitments tracker which includes all of the commitments made by National Grid in its 2021 Annual Plan. In Q1 of 2021, the C-Team worked with National Grid, OER, and the Division to review and come to a consensus on appropriate metrics, methods, and timelines for tracking each of the commitments made. This tracker will be used to inform reporting to the EERMC beginning in Q2. <i>Note – This applies to both the residential/income eligible and the C&I sectors and is not repeated under Task 3.2.</i>	January-March
3.2	Commercial & Industrial Sector Monthly Meetings	Coordinated, drafted agendas, and facilitated monthly meetings. Meeting topics included review and discussion on the C-Team's draft implementation and oversight tracker, discussion on standardized meeting content, cadence of data sharing, review and discussion on tracking metrics, methods, and timelines for residential and income eligible commitments in the 2021 plan, review and discussion on 2021 residential RFPs, and discussion on future sector team meeting topics, all in addition to standing agenda item of monitoring monthly program performance.	January 27* February 11 March 4

Task #	Activity	Tasks/Deliverable	Date(s)/Time Period
3.3	EM&V: C&I and Residential Studies	Coordinated, drafted agendas, and facilitated monthly meetings.	January 6* January 27 (Res) February 3 (C&I) February 24 (Res) March 3 (C&I) March 24 (Res)
		Coordinated and attended 1 study-specific meeting on the participant/non-participant study.	February 11
		Reviewed and provided comments on more than 10 study documents.	January-March
3.4	2022 Annual Plan Development	Set up planning and tasks related to Core & Variable Factors to guide Plan development oversight (See table in Section IV of this report).	February-March
3.5	CHP Annual Public Meeting	Held discussions with OER on timing for meeting. Targeting May 2021 to hold meeting.	March
3.6	PUC Technical Sessions & Open Meetings on 2022 EE and SRP Plans	While no PUC meetings related to the 2022 Plan were held, multiple meetings with the PUC were scheduled relating to final rulings on the 2021 Plan, primarily relating to the Performance Incentive Mechanism (PIM). Subject-matter experts from the C-Team attended technical sessions, open meetings, and workshops held by the PUC. Meetings were also held to coordinate and prepare for PUC meetings with other stakeholders including OER, the Division, and National Grid. Additionally, significant time was invested in review and analysis of the various proposed PIM models to inform positions and comments that were submitted to EERMC.	January - March: Review, analysis, and stakeholder coordination January 15: PUC Open Meeting February 4: PUC Technical Session February 15: PUC Open Meeting February 25: PUC Workshop
3.7	Cost-Effectiveness Analysis & Report	No dedicated activity on this in Q1.	n/a
3.8	Quarterly Memos	Developed and submitted EE & SRP TWG summary reports to EERMC.	Monthly
3.9	Oversight of Third-Party Studies	No dedicated activity on this in Q1.	n/a

*Denotes cross-sector meeting.

Task 4: Advancing Integrated Approaches and Addressing Emerging Issues

Task #	Activity	Tasks/Deliverable	Date(s)/Time Period
4.1	Scoping Meetings with OER and/or EERMC	Met regularly with OER to review objectives and deliverables relating to EERMC meeting presentations.	January - March
4.2	Analysis, Research Papers, White Papers	No dedicated activity on this in Q1 beyond materials developed for EERMC meetings.	n/a

III. KEY ISSUES, DELIVERABLES, AND TASKS UPCOMING IN Q2

Task #	Task Name	Key Activities	Time Period
1	EERMC Oversight	Council meetings - review agendas, develop content, and attend meetings.	Ongoing
		Councilor Retreat	May or June
		Attend monthly EE and SRP TWG meetings.	Ongoing
		Equity Working Group	As scheduled
		Schedule and facilitate monthly EERMC Education Working Group meetings.	Ongoing
		Attend bi-weekly check-in meetings with OER, Division, and C-Team.	Ongoing
		Attend bi-weekly check-in meetings with OER, National Grid, and C-Team.	Ongoing
		Implement appearance upgrades to EERMC website.	April
		Schedule 1-1 EERMC member meetings, upon request	Ongoing
		Upload all Council meeting materials and other relevant documents.	Ongoing
2	Development of Work Products and Representation of the EERMC	Produce final draft of EERMC Annual Report for Council vote and submission to the General Assembly.	April
		Finalize report on 2021 Avoided Energy Supply Component Study and related sensitivity analyses and identify potential impacts on 2022 Plan.	April-May
		Coordinate follow-up activities for the MF Brainstorming Sessions held in January 2021 and December 2020	May and/or June

Task #	Task Name	Key Activities	Time Period
3	Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Program Design and Delivery	Coordinate, draft agendas, and facilitate monthly residential and C&I sector strategy team meetings.	Ongoing
		Coordinate, draft agendas, and facilitate monthly residential and C&I sector EM&V meetings.	Ongoing
		Coordinate, draft agendas for, and facilitate 2022 Annual Plan deep dive meetings. Currently there are 8 deep dive planning meetings scheduled during the second quarter.	Ongoing
		CHP Annual Public Meeting	Targeting May
		Attend open meeting on final PUC ruling for the 2021 Annual Plan. Prepare a summary report describing final outcomes.	April/May
4	Advancing Integrated Approaches and Addressing Emerging Issues	TBD	

IV. TIMELINE FOR CORE AND VARIABLE FACTORS IN 2022 PLANNING

Core Factors	Timeline
Targets and Resulting 3-Year Plan	Completed - To be referenced throughout 2022 Plan development
LCP Standards	Completed - To be referenced throughout 2022 Plan development
Previous Year's Results	Final report issued in May by National Grid
Current Year's Implementation Experience (including Pilots)	Ongoing
Program Evaluation, Measurement and Verification	Ongoing
Avoided Energy Supply Component Study (AESC)	Report on results in April

Variable Factors	Timeline
EERMC & Other Stakeholder Priority Lists	April
"Innovation" - Evolving markets & new and/or improved technologies	Q2-Q3
Regulatory: Public Utilities Commission	Ongoing
State & Local Policy Objectives	Ongoing
Other state agencies and quasi-agencies	Ongoing
Legislative	Ongoing