

Memo



To: Energy Efficiency & Resource Management Council
From: EERMC Consultant Team
CC: Becca Trietch
Date: April 15, 2021
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 March 25th. The meeting focused on stakeholder priorities for the 2022 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan. This meeting featured presentation of Priorities by the RI Office of Energy Resources (OER), Acadia Center, and Green Energy Consumers Alliance (GECA). Additional stakeholder priorities, including the EERMC's, will be presented at the April meeting. The March meeting also included a presentation from National Grid on Codes and Standards.

a) Updates and Announcements

- National Grid announced the proposed sale to PPL Electric Utilities.
- PPL will be acquiring Narragansett Electric, contingent on a 9-12 month regulatory approval process as well as an internal transition process which could take a couple years.
- The National Grid Rhode Island team is still learning about the details of the situation, so there are still many unknowns.

b) Presentation of Stakeholder Priorities

- OER, Acadia Center and GECA presented to National Grid and other TWG members their Priorities to support development of the 2022 Annual Plan to be filed with the RI Public Utilities Commission on October 1, 2021.
- National Grid will review and align the proposed priorities for consideration in developing the 2021 Plan Outline and first draft of the Plan once all stakeholder priorities are presented, including those scheduled for the April meeting.

c) National Grid Codes and Standards Presentation

- RI has the lowest codes and standards score among the top 5 in ACEEE ranking – lost our #3 ranking to VT because they pursued codes & standards (C&S).
- Utilities can play two main roles in supporting C&S
 - Compliance support – maximize savings from C&S that are already in place

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

- Advancement support – accelerate promulgation of new, more efficient C&S
- Conclusions
 - RI can drive energy savings across all building sector segments through C&S support
 - National Grid’s current RI C&S support initiative can only pursue a fraction of this opportunity.
 - Expanding the C&S support initiative in 2022 could align with stakeholder priorities.
 - Extra attention over the next few months is needed to include this in the 2022 Plan.
- Discussion
 - General support of past efforts and objectives was expressed during discussions, and general support going forward pending seeing specific details on approach, costs, and potential savings.
 - While it was noted there has been good outreach to train building inspectors, developers, etc. as to what to expect under new C&S, there is still significant need to get code compliance more broadly adopted. There is clear need for building out the (education/compliance) infrastructure on the ground to more fully see the improvements.
 - It was agreed that further discussion and input is needed to maximize the value from C&S efforts.

2. SYSTEM RELIABILITY PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

The high-level topics covered during the first Quarter of 2021 were as follows:

March, 2021

- Discussed schedule for SRP TWG for first six months of 2021
- South Kingstown NWA RFP update – 3 bids received
- SRP 3YP comments received, responses provided
- NPA program development update – screening criteria and evaluation process expected in 2020 Year End report
- Stakeholder presentations in April SRP TWG

February, 2021

- Review of 2021 SRP commitments
- Presentation on learnings from NY NWA experience
- Electric forecasting deep dive
- Next steps
 - NPA program development
 - NWA RFP updates

January, 2021

- 2020 Commitments Review – all completed

- NPA program development update – definition and screening criteria next focus, incl. integration with gas distribution planning
- NWA RFPs – South Kingstown and Bonnet 42F1 out to market
- Aquidneck Island Solutions presentation