

Memo



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

To: Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council
From: EERMC Consultant Team
CC: Office of Energy Resources
Date: July 28, 2022
Subject: Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement Technical Working Group Updates

CONSULTANT TEAM

Rhode Island Energy's Energy Efficiency (EE) and System Reliability Procurement (SRP) Technical Working Groups (TWG) meet throughout the year to discuss and gather feedback on relevant EE and SRP topics. The following intends to provide a high-level update regarding recent activity with these meetings. Additional information about the TWGs is available on National Grid's website¹ as well as upon request.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

EE TWG meetings were resumed in 2022 starting in March. Initially convened by National Grid prior to the sale of their distribution utility businesses to PPL, the EE TWG has continued to convene as planned under the oversight of Rhode Island Energy. There have been five meetings so far this year, summarized below:

March 24th Meeting

- Brief, 1-hour meeting with a focus on reviewing stakeholder survey results and previewing TWG schedule for next several months
- Stakeholder survey had very small sample size, consequently couldn't inform actionable insights

April 28th Meeting

- Review of 2021 preliminary results for EE programs
- Review and discussion of supply chain concerns, study to assess impacts
- Open discussion regarding 2023 Planning Process
 - Review key dates
 - Convey priorities from stakeholders, including equity and full support for review process
 - Discussion of need to assess tradeoffs in different program areas
 - E.g., reduce support for gas appliances and shift that funding to weatherization or controls

May 26th Meeting

- OER priorities presentation
- Building Analytics Platform presentation from Leidos
- High-level presentations on Participation and Multifamily Census Study and Nonparticipant Market Barriers Study, similar content to what the EERMC reviewed during the June CEA meeting.

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

June 23rd Meeting

- Review planning process expectations for 2023 Annual EE Plan
- Focus on Plan Outline Memorandum discussion

July 22nd Meeting

- Interesting discussion on supply chain study from RI Energy contractor Guidehouse
 - Main data points were verbal conversations with select group of peer utilities
 - Found meaningful cost increases in some measure groups, though lack of actual sales data renders these findings less actionable, more qualitative and directional
- Significant discussion of 1st draft 2023 EE Annual Plan
 - Concerns raised by many stakeholders, including C-team and Councilors in attendance, regarding limited, blank, and/or overly high-level equity content
 - Recommendations raised for further scrutiny of large forecasted 2022 year end fund balance
 - C-Team surfaced significant improvements for carbon reporting approach
 - Concerns raised regarding very large cost increases throughout portfolio, especially C&I sector (not explainable through lighting)
 - Approach to handling inflation in BC models discussed, noting differences for different aspects of the model
 - Notable decline in savings discussed as well
 - Several near-term follow up conversations scheduled to dig deeper

SYSTEM RELIABILITY PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

SRP TWG convened regularly through May under National Grid. After sale of distribution utility businesses to PPL, SRP TWG has not convened in 2022 and has not communicated clear plans regarding when they expect SRP TWG to resume regular meetings.

January 19th Meeting

- Reviewed NPA program development progress
- National Grid provided update regarding NPA data requests from PUC, which included particular attention to the proposed NPA evaluation categories and how the NPA process differs from the NWA process
- Reviewed progress to date on 2021-2023 SRP Plan commitments

February 16th Meeting

- Overview of Gas NPA BCA model with focus on the specific costs and benefits to be included
- Update on PPL Transition – introduced SRP lead Steve Lasher for PPL

April 20th Meeting

- Stakeholder presentations on SRP priorities, including Division, OER, Acadia Center, Conservation Law Foundation, and Northeast Clean Energy Council
 - EERMC did not present yet, as priorities had not been formally approved by Council
- Brief review of SRP Year End Report key updates and expectations

May 18th Meeting

- SRP Year End Report revisions review and discussion
- C-Team able to present Council SRP priorities
- Announcement that transition has been delayed, PPL team is seeking new SRP transition manager.