

Memo



To: The Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council (EERMC)
From: EERMC Consultant Team and Office of Energy Resources
Date: February 15, 2024
Subject: February EERMC Meeting Briefing Memo

CONSULTANT TEAM

PURPOSE OF BRIEFING MEMO

The purpose of this briefing memo is to assist Councilors with digesting the many materials and decisions it may need to make at each meeting. It follows a similar format to the official meeting agenda so Councilors can follow along throughout the meeting. For each agenda item, this memo will highlight key considerations for the Council and clearly indicate what actions (if any) the Council needs to make. The Consultant Team (C-Team) has worked with the Office of Energy Resources (OER) to also incorporate the content that Councilors are used to seeing in the “Recommended Vote Language” document. This ensures the Council has a single point of reference during meetings. This memo will also note any supplemental materials that are provided, but not associated with, specific agenda items. Finally, this being an early iteration of this briefing memo, the C-Team and OER welcomes any feedback on the format and content.

6. PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

6a. Rhode Island Energy 2024 System Reliability Procurement Investment Proposal for the Electric Demand Response Program

Key Considerations

- The key consideration for the Council is what (if any) action it would like to take on this investment proposal.
- This decision is similar to the one it had to consider for the SRP investment proposal for the gas demand response pilot at the Council’s October meeting.
- The Proposal that the Company is asking the Council to consider is for its Electric Demand Response Program (known as ConnectedSolutions), which up until this year was previously filed as part of the Energy Efficiency plans.

Council Actions

[Required Vote] [**Potential Vote**] [No Vote]

In accordance with Section 6.3.G of the Least Cost Procurement (LCP) Standards:

“The distribution company [Rhode Island Energy] shall submit any draft [System Reliability Procurement] SRP Proposal to the Council and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers for their review six weeks prior to filing the SRP Proposal with the [Public Utilities Commission] PUC. The Council may determine its endorsement or opposition, involvement or abstention, or any other level of action related to the filing on a case-by-case basis.”

Because the LCP Standards indicate that the Council “*may*” (as opposed to “*shall*”), the Council *is not obligated* to take any action. If the Council does wish to take action, it must decide between one or more options, each of which are outlined below.

- **Endorse:** Allows the Company to communicate to the PUC in their testimony that they submitted the Proposal to the Council, and that the Council endorsed it.
- **Oppose:** Allows the Company to communicate to the PUC in their testimony that they submitted the Proposal to the Council, and that the Council opposed it.
- **Involvement:** Directs the Council’s legal representative to file necessary documents to ensure the Council can participate as a Party in any proceedings related to the filing.
- **Abstention:** Allows the Company to communicate to the PUC in their testimony that they submitted the Proposal to the Council, but that the Council decided to not weigh in on it.

Key Discussion Question(s) Prior to Potential Vote

1. Are there any adjustments to the Program Proposal that should be made to better fulfill Least Cost Procurement requirements?
2. Are there any adjustments to the Program Proposal that should be made to better support the groups represented by Council Members?
3. How would the Council like to engage on the continued review of the investment proposals?

Recommended Vote Language

1. A motion to endorse the Rhode Island Energy 2024 System Reliability Procurement Investment Proposal for the Electric Demand Response Program as presented by Rhode Island Energy to the Council on January 25, 2024.
2. A motion to oppose the Rhode Island Energy 2024 System Reliability Procurement Investment Proposal for the Electric Demand Response Program as presented by Rhode Island Energy to the Council on January 25, 2024.
3. A motion to direct the Council’s Attorney to file necessary documents to ensure the Council may be able to participate as a party in any proceedings related to the filing and to direct the Consultant Team to engage in the Docket in consultation with Council leadership.
4. A motion to abstain from taking a position on the Rhode Island Energy 2024 System Reliability Procurement Investment Proposal for the Electric Demand Response Program as presented by Rhode Island Energy to the Council on January 25, 2024.

6b. Consultant Team Review of Data Snapshot

Key Considerations

- The C-Team will be preparing monthly data snapshots for the Council moving forward.

- This presentation includes examples of what the snapshots will look like and how the C-Team envisions them being used by Councilors or other stakeholders.

Council Actions

[Required Vote] [Potential Vote] [**No Vote**]

No votes are required, however, the Council may wish to provide comments to the Consultant Team on the design and contents of the data snapshot.

6c. Discussion of Council Priorities for the 2025 Program Year

Key Considerations

- In the coming months, the Council will formalize its priorities for the Company to consider during the development of the 2025 Energy Efficiency Plan
- The C-Team has prepared a memo and accompanying presentation with draft priorities for the Council to consider
- Any feedback received from Councilors will be incorporated into an updated draft memo of priorities for the Council to consider in March

Council Actions

[Required Vote] [**Potential Vote**] [No Vote]

A vote is not required at this time and it is perfectly acceptable for the Council to provide input on the first draft of the priorities with the intent of coming back in March for a potential vote on an updated version.

Key Discussion Question(s) Prior to Potential Vote

- How can Council Priorities provide the best guidance to the Company?
- Do the priorities reflect the standards of least-cost procurement?
- Do the priorities reflect the needs of all constituent groups represented by the Council?

Recommended Vote Language:

Formal adoption of the Priorities for the 2025 Energy Efficiency Annual Plan: A motion to adopt the Priorities for the 2025 Energy Efficiency Annual Plan as presented by the Consultant team on February 15th, 2024.

Adoption of the Priorities for the 2025 Energy Efficiency Annual with amendments: A motion to adopt the Priorities for the 2025 Energy Efficiency Annual Plan as presented by the Consultant team on February 15th, 2024, with the following amendments *{state amendments}*.

7. COUNCIL BUSINESS

7a. Presentation and Vote on Council's Rebranding and Materials

Key Considerations

- The Council will review the final drafts of the Council's rebranded name, logo, and website
- The C-Team has prepared a short presentation that covers the outcomes of the rebranding process
- The Council's updated website can not go live until the Council's vendor is able to work with the State's IT staff. Once that connection is made, the Council's site will go live.

Council Actions

[Required Vote] [Potential Vote] [No Vote]

To provide formal direction to the Consultant Team and the Office of Energy Resources as the Executive Secretary, a vote is recommended to formally adopt the rebrand.

Key Discussion Question(s) Prior to Potential Vote

- Do the updated materials provide the Council with an easy-to-recognize and distinct identity?

Recommended Vote Language

Formal adoption of the Council's rebrand: Motion to adopt the updated name, logo, website as presented by the Council's Consultant Team on February 15, 2024 and to direct the Office of Energy Resources and the Consultant Team to adopt and implement the branding updates.

Formal adoption of the Council's rebrand, with amendments: Motion to adopt the updated name, logo, website as presented by the Council's Consultant Team on February 15, 2024 with the following amendments *{state amendments}* and to direct the Office of Energy Resources and the Consultant Team to adopt and implement the branding updates.

7b. Review and Potential Vote on the Consultant Team's 2024 Draft Scope of Work

Key Considerations

- The C-Team has provided a draft of their 2024 scope of work (SOW) and budget
- The SOW memo builds off the 2023 SOW, with updates and changes described
- The proposed budget is based off the allocation in the Council's original 2024 budget proposal

Council Actions

[Required Vote] [Potential Vote] [No Vote]

The Council may wish to vote on the C-Team’s proposed SOW and/or budget for 2024. Any votes the Council may take related to the consultant services budget item as part of its discussion on agenda item 7a. may impact whether the Council wishes to vote on the C-Team’s SOW and/or budget in January.

Key Discussion Question(s) Prior to Potential Vote

1. Does the scope of work provided meet the Council’s needs?
2. Is the scope of work clear?
3. Does this scope of work provide support for core Council activities and priorities?
4. Are there any adjustments that should be made to the scope of work?

Recommended Vote Language

1. *A motion to adopt the 2024 Scope of Work:* A motion to approve the 2024 scope of work for the Consultant team, led by Optimal Energy, and the associated budget for that scope of work as presented at the January 25th, 2024 Council Meeting. Further, to direct the Office of Energy Resources to incorporate this approved scope of work and budget into the current consultant services contract.
2. *A motion to adopt the 2024 Scope of Work, with amendments:* A motion to approve the 2024 scope of work for the Consultant team, led by Optimal Energy, and the associated budget for that scope of work with the following amendments: {state amendments}. Further to direct the Office of Energy Resources to incorporate this amended scope of work and budget into the current consultant services contract.
3. *A motion to request revisions and/or significant modifications:* A motion to request that the Consultant Team, led by Optimal Energy, make significant revisions to the scope of work and present that for Council consideration at the February meeting. Specifically, the revised document should address: {specific area(s) of concern}.

7c. Updates on the Energy Efficiency Program Administration Procurement Process and Council Nominations to join Scoring Committee in Advisory Roles

Key Considerations

- OER will share updates on the EE Program Administration procurement
- Council may discuss candidates to join OER in the review of vendor submissions in scoring advisory roles
- The Council may enter into an Executive Session for this agenda item

Council Actions

[Required Vote] [Potential Vote] [No Vote]

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

EERMC Calendar of Events

The C-Team has provided an update to the Council's Calendar of Events which includes meeting dates, topics, and milestones for planning activities related to the 2025 EE Plan.

Initial Draft of the March Council Meeting Agenda

A initial draft of the March Council meeting agenda has been provided for Councilor review. Councilors should provide any feedback on the draft agenda by no later than Friday March 8, 2024.

2023 & 2024 EERMC Budget Trackers

These trackers contain the most recent updates to the Council's budgets fro 2023 and 2024.

January Energy Efficiency Equity Working Group Meeting

The following materials from the January Equity Working Group meeting are provided as supplemental materials for Councilor reference

- Rhode Island Energy Efficiency Equity Working Group Year 4 Kickoff Meeting
- Meeting Notes

February Energy Efficiency Technical Working Group Materials

The Company utilized three presentations at its February EE TWG meeting. Those are listed below and provided as supplemental materials for Councilor reference.

- PUC Ordered Inflation Reduction Act Analysis
- Docket 23-35-EE Hearing Outcomes
- Future EE TWG Topics

RI Investigation into the Future of the Regulated Gas Distribution Business – Technical Analysis Draft Results

Preliminary and draft results of the technical analysis conducted by Energy+Environmental Economics (E3) in the Futore of Gas Docket. These results were presented to the Stakeholder Group on February 13th and are being provided to the Council for reference.