

ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL

DATABASE SUBCOMMITTEE

April 29, 2013

Subcommittee: Tina Halfpenny, Chair, Commissioner Mark Sylvia, Matthew Saunders, Robert Rio, Jeremy McDiarmid, Penn Loh, John Howat, Eric Winkler.

Attendees: Nancy Seidman-DEP, Brad Swing-City of Boston, Matt Nelson, Lisa Shea – NSTAR; Lynn Westerlind-National Grid; Monica Cohen-Columbia Gas; Christina Dietrich-ENE; Shaela Collins-RichMay; Lawrence Masland, Steve Venezia-DOER; Eric Belliveau-Optimal Energy-Council Consultants.

The Chair immediately opened the discussion with changes to the Title given to the draft RFR. There was a brief discussion that resulted in the adoption of language worked out at the previous meeting regarding the Title.

Proposal Submission Requirements

Ms. Collins raised the issue as a proposed insertion under the heading of Proposal Submission Requirements that language be inserted citing a statutory restriction that any consultants serving the Council have no contractual relationship with the gas and electric utilities in Massachusetts or their affiliates. McDiarmid suggested that this matter be “parked” for later. Halfpenny took Collins’ comment under advisement.

The group decided to start its review of the RFR draft from the beginning and walk through the revised draft. Some members appeared to have varying versions of the revised draft.

Background

Statewide Database as a Resource

Rio questioned the treatment of the Green Justice Coalition (“GJC”) as a “stakeholder” and asked that they be removed from the list of stakeholders. After a brief discussion the GJC was deleted from that list. There then followed a discussion concerning the Charter of the Database Subcommittee that resulted in the deletion of a quote and the retention of a footnote on page 5 referencing the Charter.

Project Support

The meeting turned to address confidentiality issues regarding coordinating with the PAs and their contractor staff. The group agreed that an additional sentence reflecting that the PAs will coordinate access to other sources of data would be inserted into the draft.

Current Energy Efficiency Program Tracking Systems and Current PA Program Reporting

There was significant discussion by Cohen and Collins that the current draft contained language on pages 6 and 7 that was factually inaccurate. In response a section was deleted and offered to insert an entire new section that, in their view, was factually true of all PAs. They noted that gas and electric PAs track different data so that the statement existing in the current version of the draft was not accurate. Collins asserted that the title of the section should be revised to reflect “current” PA program reporting. The next iteration of revisions would reflect that much of the existing draft language was to be stricken and new language inserted as a result of the discussion.

Other Resources

It was noted that a mention of PARIS, the existing DOER database, should be cited as an additional resources. There was also further mention of the Technical Reference Manual and its accuracy. In acknowledging the ISO-New England database, Collins pointed out that the text should reference the confidential nature of the transfer of measure level data by the PAs to ISO.

Scope of Work

Halfpenny invited subcommittee members whether they had any additional comments to make regarding the text for Scope of Work on pages 11 through 14.

Representatives from the PAs wanted more clarity concerning the Requirements Specification in Task 1. There was some disagreement about some items contained within the bullets. After polling the subcommittee members, Halfpenny found that the majority of members preferred to retain the bullets as drafted.

With respect to commentary regarding the facilitation of the Database Working Group captured in Task 2, PA representatives raised discussion whether such a facilitator was even necessary. An offer was made that the PAs could internally review, discuss and improve protocols for data collection to be input to a statewide database. The suggestion was that perhaps a facilitator was not necessary to do this. In response, Halfpenny, Saunders, McDiarmid, Loh, Howat, Seidman and Commissioner Sylvia each re-affirmed the need to have an independent third-party facilitator for the Working Group.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 pm.