

ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

April 24, 2013

Committee: Tina Halfpenny, Chair; Jeremy McDiarmid, Matthew Saunders, Elliott Jacobson.

Attendees: Christina Dietrich-ENE, Lisa Shea-NSTAR, Lynn Westerlind-National Grid, Amy ?, Shaela Collins & Emmett Lyne-RichMay, Eric Belliveau-Optimal Energy, Council Consultants, Steve Venezia-DOER. Paul Johnson-Greentek arrived at 10:37.

Halfpenny convened the meeting at 10:00 am and stated that the committee would address matters relating to the budget review of the Consultant 1st Quarter expenditures; the upcoming Technical Session of the Streamlining Working Group announced by the DPU in D.P.U. 11-120-A; and topics for the May meeting of the whole EEAC.

Saunders asked Belliveau about the 45% “spend” for the line item for Consulting Team Coordination. He was concerned that nearly half the line item allotment was spent only one-quarter of the way through the year and inquired what Optimal could do to get the spending back on track. Belliveau provided a reassuring response that indicated that this line item could be brought back in line with budgetary requirements for the year. Belliveau offered that the new councilor selection process and the EEAC updating of the website took more man-hours than expected and that this might explain some of the disproportional first quarter spending. Halfpenny observed, as did others, that the rest of the budget seemed to be right in line with where spending should be at the end of the first quarter. Belliveau noted that expenditures were a little “lumpy” but that Optimal is tracking things closely. Spending is about 26% of the total budget at the end of the first quarter.

Halfpenny turned the discussion to the recently announced initial meeting of the Department of Public Utilities (“DPU”) 11-120, Phase II “Streamlining” Working Group on May 7th. Halfpenny stated that she would be away on that date but that she had notified Hearing Officer Leupold that the DOER would like to present at the WG. Halfpenny expressed concerns that reporting requirements might be different as between the EEAC and the DPU. She was told that the WG would be an open dialogue, though she had not yet received a definite approval or denial to her request to have DOER or someone representing DOER make a presentation to the Working Group.

The group had a general discussion regarding expectations for the Working Group. Lyne discussed the fruitful cooperation between the PAs and the Council Consultants at a meeting earlier in April in attempting to streamline efforts at reporting. This led to a discussion of updating the Technical Reference Manual (“TRM”) and the degree of frequency with which the TRM would be updating: annually or once during the term of a Three-Year Plan. There was extended discussion as well of the application of the AESC Avoided Cost Study and how this might affect the TRM and the input values. Westerlind mentioned that, at present, only free-

ridership and spillover are reconciled annually and retrospectively. She also stated that 2013 is seen as a transition year with respect to the Avoided Cost Study. Additional discussion covered scenarios whereby the AESC study might so significantly change certain values that the PAs would need to file a Mid-Term Modification (“MTM”) or, at a minimum, run a screening model to ascertain whether the Avoided Cost Study would materially change values. Lyne suggested the need for the group to continue this discussion with respect to having a single reference or source where “current” values can be found or ascertained.

Westerlind was “volunteered” to construct a visual flow-chart to explain the values and the inter-relationships between the TRM and Avoided Cost Study and how they affect PA planning.

Halfpenny then opened up discussion concerning the agenda for the EEAC May 16th meeting. It was expected that the Quarterly Reports would be a major portion of that meeting. There will be co-presentations by the Council Consultants and the PAs as represented by the Cape Light Compact. Approximately 45 minutes is anticipated to be allotted to this discussion, which will also include highlights of the Action Plan and a focus on 2013 Council Priorities. Some new formats will be used.

Other topics that the Executive Committee expects will be addressed at the May meeting are: progress with the Statewide Database, the AESC Study, the Commercial Real Estate Working Group efforts, and an update on the DPU’s treatment of Performance Metrics. Participants noted that Action Plan updates will probably be subsumed with the larger discussion of Quarterly Reports. Time permitting, there will also be some discussion regarding the Stakeholder Process with an update likely provided by Frank Gundal of NSTAR and an update of discussions of the Energy Efficiency Policy Commission on which both Jacobson and Rio sit as well as a representative from the Attorney General.

Johnson made an inquiry regarding the next round of vendor procurements by the PAs. Halfpenny responded that there should soon be a procurement schedule published on the MassSave website, hopefully as soon as May with respect to the Lead Vendor RFPs.

There was recognition that a discussion concerning recent developments in the Home Energy Services initiative would occur at the EEAC perhaps as early as June and a need to finish efforts to update the Council’s by-laws. Halfpenny further reminded the Executive Committee members that the full Council needs soon to discuss the re-appointment of the Executive Committee pursuant to the by-laws and that this ought likely be discussed at the June meeting.

The meeting ended at 11:10 am.