



## MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday, November 15, 2017**

100 Cambridge St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Conference Rooms B & C

Boston, MA 02114

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**Councilors Present:** Eric Beaton (for Chrystal Kornegay), JoAnn Bodemer (for Maggie Downey), Don Boecke (for Maura Healey), Cindy Carroll, Elizabeth Cellucci, Larry Chretien, Rebecca Davis, Paul Gromer, Frank Gundal (for Tilak Subrahmanian), Paul Johnson, Judith Judson, Richard Malmstrom, Deirdre Manning, Michael McDonagh, Jeremy Newberger, Jerrold Oppenheim (for Elliott Jacobson), Robert Rio, Victoria Rojo, Michael Sommer, Stephanie Terach (for Trish Walker), Mary Wambui, Sharon Weber (for Martin Suuberg)

**Councilors Absent:** Amy Boyd, Michael Ferrante, Charlie Harak, Andrew Newman

**Consultants Present:** Eric Belliveau, Craig Johnson, Jeff Schlegel

**DOER Staff Present:** Rachel Evans, Ian Finlayson, Alex Pollard, Matt Rusteika, Arah Schuur

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### 1. Call to Order

Commissioner Judson, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:13 PM.

### 2. Public Comment

Sam Milton of Climate Resources Group gave public comment to the Council to talk about commercial cannabis cultivation. He indicated that commercial cannabis cultivation is a highly energy intensive industry and that the Council should think about how it might impact their work.

Steve Cowell of E4TheFuture gave public comment to the Council. First, he indicated that he is concerned about the adoption rates and satisfaction of the Mass Save Program and that he recommended that the PAs or the Council conduct a customer satisfaction survey so that any

misconceptions about the program can be identified and addressed. Second, he noted that there was some legislation being drafted to expand the eligibility of measures that could be used as part of the programs. Lastly, he noted that he was working on a survey of small commercial customers that would yield better data for the PAs to use and that it should be available in the coming months.

### **3. Council Updates and Business**

#### ***Introduce New Council Members***

Commissioner Judson introduced Mary Wambui as a new Council member occupying the residential consumers seat. She added that Wambui is an asset manager with the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation and that she has expertise in financing energy efficiency projects.

Commissioner Judson introduced Rebecca Davis as a new Council member occupying the Massachusetts cities and towns seat. She added that Davis is the Deputy Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and that she will bring experience in her ability to work with cities and towns of all sizes in the state

Commissioner Judson added that Davis would be replacing former Councilor Brad Swing and she thanked him for his service. Swing indicated that it had been an honor to be part of the process and that he enjoyed his time on the Council.

#### ***EEAC Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2017***

Malmstrom motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Manning seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. Davis and Wambui abstained. The minutes were approved, as submitted, by the Council.

#### ***EEAC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – September 6, 2017***

Boecke motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Malmstrom seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed or abstaining. The minutes were approved, as submitted, by the Executive Committee.

#### ***EEAC Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2017***

Manning motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Malmstrom seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed. Davis, McDonagh, Wambui, and Weber abstained. The minutes were approved, as submitted, by the Council.

#### ***EEAC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – October 4, 2017***

The approval of these meeting minutes was postponed.

#### ***EEAC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – November 1, 2017***

Boecke motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Malmstrom seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed or abstaining. The minutes were approved, as submitted, by the Executive Committee.

#### **4. Unitil Mid-Term Modification Request**

Carroll reviewed Unitil's Mid-Term Modification (MTM) request with the Council. She began by noting that the request was for additional budget in the amount of \$590,000 for the electric residential products program. She noted that they have experienced higher than expected demand and that their planned spending and savings were already at or above 100%. Carroll also highlighted the reasons for the higher than expected demand as well as the expected impacts on savings and benefits if the MTM were to be approved.

Schlegel indicated that the consultant team (C-Team) had reviewed the request and had asked some questions about discrepancy between the increases in savings versus spending. He added that Unitil addressed their questions and that the C-Team recommends that the Council support the MTM request.

Malmstrom indicated that the Executive Committee (ExCom) had also reviewed the request and recommend support of the MTM. Boecke indicated that the Attorney General's office also supports the MTM. Finally, Commissioner Judson indicated that DOER would also be in support of the MTM.

Chretien noted that the MTM was illustrative of the need for higher goals. He indicated that this MTM request shows that higher goals could have been set and achieved.

Malmstrom motioned to approve Unitil's Mid-Term Modification Request. Manning seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed or abstaining. The motion to approve Unitil's Mid-Term Modification Request was passed by the Council.

#### **5. Summer Demonstration Updates**

##### ***Eversource and Unitil***

Michael Goldman gave a high-level overview of the status of 2016-2018 demonstration projects. He also gave an update on the DPU's review and Order addressing the proposed Eversource and Unitil demonstration offerings. He highlighted what offerings the DPU approved and rejected, as well as other information that came out of the Order.

Commissioner Judson asked when they might have usable results from the demonstrations that were approved. Goldman indicated that it would vary by technology and that the battery storage demonstration would take the longest amount of time to get results. Johnson asked what pieces are in place and what needs to be completed to get the demonstrations up and running. Goldman indicated that they had been working with vendors on contracts and that now they just need to work on finalizing the last pieces of those contracts.

##### ***Cape Light Compact***

Austin Brandt updated the Council on Cape Light Compact's summer demonstration offering. In his update he reviewed their planned offering, changes in the offering from 2016 to 2017, and results and key takeaways from their 2017 demonstration offering.

Johnson indicated that he thought the incentive they offered was too low. He asked if they had experimented with changing the incentive level. Brandt noted that research on that topic has shown that participants who have already invested money in Wi-Fi thermostats see this type of incentive as icing on the cake. Brandt added that keeping the incentive as low as possible is therefore ideal. Lastly, he noted that Cape Light Compact has not ruled out changing the incentive structure.

Weber asked why they needed to re-recruit customers. Brandt noted that there are a few reasons, one of which would be if a customer moved and the thermostat remained in the home. In this scenario, a new homeowner might automatically be enrolled in a program they never signed up for.

### ***National Grid***

Ezra McCarthy updated the Council on National Grid's summer demonstration offering. He began by giving an overview of their planned large commercial and industrial (C&I) and residential offerings. He went on to give updates on each of the offerings. For the large C&I offering, he reviewed enrollment, performance, results and evaluation, and planned improvements for next year. For the residential offering, he reviewed all of the same items, as well as implementation updates that occurred in 2017. He concluded by reviewing the preliminary results of the residential demonstration and the cost-effectiveness of the two demonstrations.

Rojo asked if any of the events they called occurred on the peak day of June 13, 2017. McCarthy indicated that they did not because they were still signing up customers at that point. He noted that they would have called an event had they been live at that point.

Weber asked if they were doing the same thing as Cape Light Compact with respect to re-enrolling customers each year on the residential side. McCarthy indicated that they were, but that they were taking steps to make it easier for past participants to re-enroll.

Johnson asked what was causing the decrease in their program planning and administration, marketing, and evaluation costs. McCarthy indicated that they shifted their marketing approach.

### ***DOER Update on Demand Management Grant Program***

Lyn Huckabee updated the Council on DOER's Demand Management Grant Program. Huckabee began by giving an overview of the program and demonstrating how the projects fit in with the PAs' portfolio of demonstrations. She then highlighted the details and issues of the various battery, thermal, and controls projects. She concluded with a review of their first impressions of the projects so far.

Johnson asked if they could share any issues they might have had with pairing batteries with solar. Commissioner Judson indicated that they are looking into whether or not solar would still qualify for net-metering if it were coupled with battery storage. She also indicated that DPU advised that they could maintain eligibility and that the DPU has opened a proceeding to consider the issue.

### ***Eversource Active Demand Management Update***

Goldman updated the Council on an active demand management demonstration where Eversource combined eCurv's software and controls system with Advanced Microgrid Solutions' (AMS) battery system as an integrated service. In his presentation he reviewed the project's objective as well as preliminary results and next steps for the two sites where they deployed the demonstration project.

## **6. Potential Studies**

Michael Goldman and Ezra McCarthy, on behalf of the PAs, gave a presentation on the PA's consideration of demand in their potential studies. Goldman began by reviewing the demand potential study framework. McCarthy noted that passive demand would be evaluated in all of the PA's potential studies, while active demand response would be evaluated in Cape Light Compact's potential study as well as through separate studies conducted by National Grid and Eversource. McCarthy also reviewed their active demand potential research plans. He concluded by reviewing how the potential studies and demonstrations would be aligned to inform the 2019-2021 Plan.

Belliveau indicated that the C-Team would be putting all of this information together in their assessment of potential that would be completed early in 2018.

## **7. Cost-Effectiveness of Active Demand Management**

McCarthy gave a presentation on active demand reduction cost-effectiveness considerations. He began by highlighting the benefits that they are currently able to claim as well as new benefits that they are investigating. Next, he reviewed the benefits and costs associated with the large C&I load curtailment and residential direct load control programs. He also highlighted challenges and considerations for assessing cost-effectiveness of active demand management and discussed whether or not it would make sense to bid active demand management into the Forward Capacity Market. Lastly, McCarthy reviewed their findings from some jurisdictional research they did on the topic.

Johnson asked what the incentive is for the PAs to offer demand reduction. McCarthy indicated that it is an opportunity to add services to customers that allow them to manage their demand charges.

## **8. Avoided Energy Supply Cost Study Update**

Schlegel updated the Council on the 2018 Avoided Energy Supply Cost (AESC) Study. His presentation included a timeline and overview of the AESC study. It also included a list of avoided cost values that would be estimated in the study as well as an example of how those would be used to calculate benefits. Schlegel also indicated the 2018 study would use peak energy periods as opposed to ISO-NE's broad definition of peak and that it would include hourly avoided costs for all 8,760 hours of the year.

Johnson asked how it can be a regional study but be used differently across states. Schlegel indicated that the states come together to determine what gets evaluated in the study, but once completed each state gets to choose how it gets used.

Chretien underscored the importance of getting the results of this study on time so that they can be used in the first draft of the 2019-2021 Plan. He also indicated that he expects to see the avoided cost of Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) compliance included in the 2019-2021 Plan. Davis asked what was happening with the avoided cost of GWSA compliance. Schlegel indicated that Department of Environmental Protection regulations 310 CMR 7.74 (electricity generator emissions limits) and 7.75 (clean energy standard) are two regulations the study is using to model impacts.

Newberger noted that the AESC study produces long-term avoided costs and that short-term perturbations are not determinative to the long-term outlook.

## **9. Adjournment**

Commissioner Judson, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:15 PM.