

Memo

To: **EEAC**
From: **Eric Belliveau and the EEAC Consultant Team**
Date: **March 11, 2016**
Subject: **February Monthly Report**

The Consultant Team is pleased to provide this update to the Council on our recent activities.

SUMMARY OF MAIN TASKS COVERED IN EACH SECTION OF THE REPORT

EM&V

- Advancing ~ 40 new studies to the implementation stage and advancing ~30 studies currently in the implementation
- Processing several draft final EM&V reports
- Presenting results of the 2013 Residential Customer Profile study and assisting with the development of a presentation on the 2014 C&I Customer Profile study
- Assisting the C&I Advisory Group in its development of a white paper on C&I ex-ante baseline assumptions
- Developing an approach to ensure the availability of EM&V contractors with demand response skills

PLANNING & ANALYSIS

- Preparing for, attending, and providing technical support for the EEAC and ExCom meetings
- Providing technical support on demand reduction issues for the Demand Savings Group and Council Subcommittee on Demand
- Reviewing the quarterly reports and developing potential changes to the quarterly reports going forward
- Reviewing and commenting on the revised draft AESC study addendum on “super peak” or four-hour energy costing periods and demand response energy values
- Completing the review of and presenting a summary on the DPU Order on the 2016-2018 Plan

RESIDENTIAL AND LOW INCOME

- Developing a residential outlook presentation for the February 17 Council meeting
- Working with the EM&V Advisory Group, DOER, and PAs on the Residential Customer Profile Study presentation for the February Council meeting
- Beginning work to identify effective residential demand reduction strategies
- Discussing lighting with the Residential Management Committee

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

- Developing content for the March presentation on the 2014 C&I Customer Profile
- Reviewing and sharing information on best practices in small business and net zero energy initiatives with Efficiency Vermont
- Reviewing the C&I Customer Profile study
- Providing feedback and making suggestions for improvements to CHP best practices workplan

TECHNICAL SERVICES

- Continuing regular administrative functions, including EEAC meeting minutes and website maintenance and document uploads
- Editing and revising a draft version of the 2014 Annual Report to the Legislature

EVALUATION, MEASUREMENT & VERIFICATION

Oversee EM&V Planning

In February, the EM&V Advisory Group continued its work with the PAs to advance the roughly 40 new studies laid out in the Strategic Evaluation Plan to the implementation stage. This process is occurring in two waves. The first wave, focusing on those studies viewed as most urgent, began in October 2015 and is now largely complete. The second wave began in January, and is expected to last several months.

The PAs and the EM&V Advisory Group also held a contract initiation meeting with the new Residential Data Management EM&V contractor team, featuring extensive discussions regarding the shape of the Residential Customer Profile study for 2014 and beyond.

Oversee EM&V Study Implementation

The Group advanced toward completion roughly 30 studies currently in the implementation stage. Some of these are highly data-intensive studies, with correspondingly long timelines, which were begun at least a year ago and are now nearing completion. A few examples include: the C&I On-Site and Market Share study; Minisplit Field Monitoring study; and Residential Single-Family New Construction Baseline and Code Compliance study. The rest of the studies currently in the implementation stage are those from the first wave of new 2016-2018 studies discussed in the planning section above. The number of studies in the implementation stage is steadily increasing as additional 2016-2018 studies clear the planning stage.

Oversee EM&V Reporting

Working with the PAs, the Group processed a number of final EM&V reports in various stages of completion. These include reports on the 2014 C&I Customer Profile Report; Residential Lighting Market Assessment Model (MAM) update; CCSI Circuit Rider Interviews; CCSI Commercial Training Assessment; Minisplit Field Monitoring Cooling Savings Analysis; C&I On-Site Study; and NRNC NEI study.

Council and Stakeholder Engagement

The Group presented the results of the 2013 Residential Customer Profile study at the Council's February meeting and began assisting the C&I Advisory Group with a presentation on the 2014 C&I Customer Profile study for the Council's March meeting.

Also in February, the PAs and the EM&V Group began work on a new format for the EM&V portion of the quarterly report, as well as a new and improved version of the EM&V Gantt chart. Once complete, the new version of the EM&V Gantt chart is expected to be posted on the Council's website and updated on a monthly basis.

EM&V Policy Issues

The Group assisted the C&I Group in its development of a white paper on C&I ex-ante baseline assumptions. The Group also worked with DOER and the PAs on handling 2015 carryover funding for the Northeast EM&V Forum.

Miscellaneous Activities

The rise of demand savings as a high-profile policy issue has resulted in a need for EM&V to be prepared to perform evaluations and other studies in support of demand response programs. Because the administration of demand response programs had previously been largely separated from that for energy efficiency programs, this function had not previously been included in the scope of work for any of the current EM&V contractor teams. In February, the PAs and the EM&V Group agreed to both a short-term and a longer-term approach to ensuring the availability of appropriate EM&V contractor skills in the demand response area. Under the short-term approach, all of the existing contractor teams have been invited to provide their qualifications in this area. Based on the results, one or more of the existing teams will be invited to add EM&V demand response studies to their responsibilities for roughly the next 12 months. One key short-term activity will be providing EM&V support for

National Grid's 2016 demand response demonstration programs. Under the longer-term approach, demand response will be called out as a key function in the overall cross-cutting EM&V RFP that is scheduled for release in late 2016. Depending on contractor response, demand response may then be either included as part of a broader cross-cutting contract, or made the subject of a dedicated EM&V contract.

PLANNING AND ANALYSIS

In February 2016, the Planning and Analysis (P&A) Advisory Group focused on the primary tasks described below to assist the Council. The Group's primary tasks were providing technical support for the Demand Savings Group and the Council Subcommittee on Demand, identifying and developing potential changes to the quarterly reports going forward, reviewing and commenting on the revised draft AESC study addendum on "super peak" (four-hour) energy costing periods and demand response values, and completing the review of the DPU Order on the 2016-2018 Plan including presenting a summary of the DPU Order to the Council.

Participate in EEAC Meetings; Brief and Support the Council

The P&A Advisory Group prepared for, attended, and provided technical support for the EEAC and ExCom meetings during the month. The Group coordinated with DOER as chair of the Council on a weekly basis, and briefed individual Councilors in advance of the EEAC meeting and during the month. The substantive issues and outcomes are summarized in the task descriptions below. Also, the P&A Advisory Group assisted with the development and coordination of potential topics and themes for future EEAC meetings in 2016. EEAC Meeting and Council support is on-going and is a regular monthly task area.

Support the Council on Regulatory Issues and DPU Proceedings

The P&A Advisory Group completed a review of the DPU Order on the 2016-2018 Plan (received January 28th) and developed and gave a summary presentation to the Council in February.

Provide Technical Analysis and Review/Assess Reports

The P&A Advisory Group developed a summary of the content and format of past quarterly reports and some of the key changes that have been requested. This information was presented for during the February EEAC meeting for Council consideration of potential changes to the quarterly reports going forward. The Consultants met with the PAs during a PAG meeting to review potential revisions and to develop a revised quarterly report template, which the Council will review in March.

The P&A Advisory Group reviewed the revised draft AESC study addendum on "super peak" (four-hour) energy costing periods and demand response values. The Group also provided oral and written comments on the revised draft addendum, addressed the terminology issues, and followed up with the contractor (TCR) and the study manager on a few outstanding technical issues. The Group discussed the draft results and their potential implications for demand reduction offerings. The final AESC addendum should be available in early March.

The Group also coordinated with the EM&V Group and the PAs on the review of the 2016-2018 Plan-version of the Technical Reference Manual. Discussions and information exchange are ongoing.

Planning and Analysis Support for Implementation of the 2016-2018 Plan

The P&A Advisory Group provided the Council with information and analysis to explore and advance future opportunities for energy efficiency and demand reduction programs through the implementation of the 2016-2018 Plan. The Group assessed and reviewed potential changes in the EE marketplace, program development, delivery, and evaluation results as an early and ongoing activity in 2016.

The P&A Advisory Group provided technical support for the Demand Savings Group and the new Council Subcommittee on Demand. To support the Demand Savings Group discussions, the P&A Group coordinated with the PAs on some technical aspects of demand issues, including drivers of costs/prices and strategies to reduce the costs/prices. The Group provided technical assistance on demand reduction per Council priority number five – "Identify opportunities for the Council to advance a grid that supports distributed resource investment, active demand response, and planning in a manner that decreases costs, increases resilience and reliability, supports

innovation, and improves both the environment and the economy.” P&A Group representatives attended and participated in meetings of the Demand Savings Group and the Council Subcommittee during February and provided summary terminology and classification for demand reduction strategies.

RESIDENTIAL AND LOW INCOME SECTORS

Technical Support for Programs and Effective Practices

The Residential Advisory Group began work to identify effective residential demand reduction strategies to support the Council’s 2016 demand reduction priority and the work of the Demand Savings Group and Demand Reduction Subcommittee. The Group’s work in February included reviewing the residential demand reduction strategies National Grid, Cape Light Compact, and Eversource included in their 2016-2018 plans. The Group will also compile information on residential demand reduction efforts from other program administrators outside of Massachusetts.

The Group reviewed the PAs’ 2015 Q4 report and associated residential and low income sector results and compiled a list of follow up questions for the PAs. The Group also provided input on suggested enhancements to the quarterly report to support the discussion at the February 17 Council meeting and information provided to the Council in advance of the meeting. In addition, the Group reviewed proposed federal LED and CFL efficiency standards to assess implications for future electric savings in Massachusetts as well as reviewed and commented on the PAs’ 2015 lighting Market Adoption Model.

Participate in RMC and Council Meetings

The Group prepared and presented a [residential outlook presentation](#) for the informal portion of the Council’s February meeting and answered questions from Councilors. The presentation highlighted the Group’s 2016 work plan priorities. It also worked closely with the EM&V Group on the [Residential Customer Profile Study presentation](#). In preparation for the meeting, the Group also reviewed and commented on the PAs’ draft presentations on their new initiatives for renters and moderate income customers, update on work to more effectively leverage multi-family refinancing events, and Residential Customer Profile Study. The Group participated in councilor briefings on February 16 and 17.

The Residential Advisory Group met with the Residential Management Committee on February 10 and discussed the Consultants’ draft residential outlook and Residential Customer Profile Study presentations for the February 17 Council meeting. The PAs expressed concerns about the latter and the Group participated in additional discussions with DOER and the PAs to determine appropriate revisions to the presentation.

During the February 24 RMC meeting, the Consultants and PAs began a discussion of the implications of various lighting developments on the PAs’ implementation plans, savings and costs for 2017 and beyond. The Group compiled a list of discussion questions that the PAs will review and discuss internally in coming weeks. This topic will be revisited at an upcoming RMC meeting.

Coordinate with EM&V Efforts and Incorporate Feedback from EM&V Studies into the Programs

Members of the Residential and EM&V Advisory Groups participated in our monthly coordinating call to exchange updates on work and developments of shared responsibility. The Group also provided additional input on a draft Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pump Cooling Season Results memorandum and continued to assess ENERGY STAR market share information for dehumidifiers.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

Technical Support for Programs and Effective Practices

In February, the C&I Advisory Group reviewed DPU findings on the 2016-2018 plan, reviewed mid-sized customer data provided by the PAs, provided data on hospital participation in the programs to a Council member, and reviewed ISO usage and demand data. The Group participated in Consultant Team calls.

Technical Support for New Technologies and Innovation

The Group reviewed the Efficiency Vermont Net Zero Energy Pilot results in preparation for sharing it with the CIMC in March.

Reporting Updates and Best Practices

The Group obtained a presentation of the Efficiency Vermont approach to achieving deep energy savings with small businesses and provided it to DOER.

Participate in CIMC and Council Meetings

The Group created and delivered a presentation to the Council in January on trends that may impact energy efficiency. The Consultant Team finalized a follow on memo in February based on this presentation.

The Group did not participate in EEAC or CIMC meetings in February due to personnel conflicts.

Incorporate Feedback from EM&V and Studies into the Programs

The Group reviewed the proposed work plan for the Combined Heat and Power best practices study and provided feedback to DNV GL. The Group reviewed the 2014 C&I Customer Profile Study in anticipation of presenting on it at the March EEAC meeting.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Produce Minutes from all EEAC Meetings

The Consultant Team is charged with producing draft and final meeting minutes for each EEAC monthly meeting. The Team produced draft minutes for the February 17 EEAC meeting and forwarded them to the EEAC Chair. The EEAC approved January 20, 2016 meeting minutes at their February meeting. These minutes along with all documents and presentations distributed at the February meeting have been posted on the EEAC website.

EEAC Website Upgrades, Revisions & Maintenance

Consultant Team staff continue to manage the updated website on a day-to-day basis. In February, this included posting materials for the February 17 EEAC meetings and other meetings that occurred during the month.

For the month of February 2016 there were:

- 1,190 sessions
- 598 users: 33.5% new visitors and 66.5% returning visitors
- 3,771 page views with an average of 3.2 page views per session

Produce the Annual Report to the DPU and Legislature

In February, a draft of the 2014 Annual Report continued through the revision and approval process.