



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 3, 2022
Virtual Meeting: Zoom

Executive Committee Members Present: Greg Abbe, Jo Ann Bodemer, Amy Boyd, Emmett Lyne, Maggie McCarey

Executive Committee Members Absent: Dennis Villanueva

Other Attendees: Eric Belliveau, Adrian Caesar, Paul Johnson, Rachel Evans, Elliott Jacobson, Maggie Downey, Leah Cohen, Alyssa Vargas, Audrey Eidelman Kiernan, Kate Peters, Joe Dorfler, Brian Beote, Jerrold Oppenheim, Stephanie Terach

1. Call to Order

McCarey, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

2. Executive Committee Updates and Business

Term Reports

McCarey congratulated the program administrators (PAs) for filing their 2019-2021 Term Reports, which contain evaluated 2019-2021 program performance results. Lyne thanked all program implementers for contributing to 2019-2021 implementation efforts. Lyne summarized 2019-2021 program results across all electric and gas PAs:

- **Electric Statewide Achievement (2019-2021)**
 - o Net Benefits: 94%
 - o Lifetime Savings: 90%
 - o Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions: 101%
 - o Spending: 96%
- **Gas Statewide Achievement (2019-2021)**
 - o Net Benefits: 101%
 - o Lifetime Savings: 91%
 - o Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions: 83%
 - o Spending: 108%

Lyne stated that the 2019-2021 Term Reports explain all deviations in spending and savings. Lyne added that the Term Reports include detailed background information on Technical Reference Manuals (TRMs), evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V), savings calculations, performance incentive calculations, and detailed PA testimony. Lyne said 2019-2021 achievement was strong in light of the pandemic and program shutdown. Lyne said the PAs look forward to achieving the 2022-2024 goals.

McCarey noted that the 2019-2021 Term Reports would be discussed by both the PAs and Consultant (C-Team) during the September EEAC meeting.

Liberty's Mid-Term Modification (MTM) Request

Terach announced that Liberty had filed its MTM request at the Department of Public Utilities (DPU). Terach said that the EEAC recommendations, including the suggestion to spread resulting bill impacts over two years, were incorporated into the MTM filing. Terach said the DPU has issued two sets of information requests and responses were due on August 5th and August 9th. Terach noted an order of notice was distributed to all Liberty town and municipal councils. Terach said Blount Seafoods, the customer implementing the large electrification project triggering the MTM request, is enthusiastic and looking forward to proceeding with project. Lyne said the MTM filing includes detailed savings and incentive calculations.

McCarey recalled general support for the MTM, but that the additional details on bill impacts included in the filing will be important for Council review. McCarey said the Council wanted to mitigate adverse bill impacts, especially for small commercial & industrial (C&I) customers. McCarey asked whether the project was eligible for other non-energy efficiency program incentives. Terach said the project was not eligible for any Alternative Portfolio Standards (APS) incentives since APS requires space-heating load reductions, whereas the Blount Seafoods project will offset process heating loads. Terach said the PAs are still exploring non-ratepayer funding sources. Regarding bill impacts, Terach indicated that spreading the increased collections over two years would increase rates from \$0.06 to \$0.12, which is comparable to other PAs. McCarey said she would follow up with DOER staff on the APS eligibility criteria.

Bodemer appreciated that Liberty would spread bill impacts over two years. Bodemer assumed that Blount Seafoods had been paying into energy efficiency programs previously. Terach confirmed the customer was a ratepayer. Terach believed it might make sense to limit bill impacts to one year, as the customer will be consuming more gas in the first year since the project will not be completed until the second year. Terach said both scenarios of bill impacts were presented to show how they would impact customers, but acknowledged the two-year bill impact spread would be better for smaller C&I customers. Bodemer agreed that the 5,200 other commercial customers in Liberty's service territory would be less impacted by bill impacts spread over two years.

Belliveau asked if an ammonia baseline was explored as a value component from the project. Terach asked for more information so Liberty could investigate. Belliveau said there are federal regulations and funding for refrigerant gas reductions that may be available.

McCarey stated that the deadline for comments on the Liberty MTM is August 18th, so the Council would vote on a resolution during the August EEAC meeting. McCarey said the Council has a standard MTM resolution format which will include comments on bill impacts, external funding, and serving smaller customers in Liberty's service territory.

Renter Strategic Plan Listening Sessions

McCarey noted that the first Renter Strategic Plan listening session was held on the evening of August 1st and helpful feedback was provided. McCarey said a second listening session will be held during the hour prior to the August 17th EEAC meeting. McCarey said that the EEAC also requested written feedback from stakeholders by August 17th. McCarey said the Equity Working Group would develop consensus comments on the Renter Strategic Plan to incorporate into the EEAC Resolution.

Johnson expressed dissatisfaction with the draft Renter Strategic Plan, as the proposed strategies did not seem to support renter participation. Johnson requested the number of weatherized renter units. Johnson appreciated that the PAs were meeting with landlord groups, but there is a small number of such groups. Johnson recommended that the PAs engage with landlords directly and more aggressively to increase the likelihood of their participation. McCarey said some Equity Working Group members provided similar comments, but encouraged Johnson to send written comments on the Renter Strategic Plan.

Boyd asked if there would be a second iteration of the Renter Strategic Plan to review, or if the Council would submit a resolution. McCarey replied that the Council would submit comments on the draft Plan in the form of a resolution, which the PAs would then integrate into an updated Renter Strategic Plan prior to filing with the DPU. McCarey said the Council may decide to develop another resolution in October prior to Renter Strategic Plan finalization.

Technical Consultant Procurement

McCarey said DOER is drafting the procurement document for the EEAC technical consultant services which would be shared to the Executive Committee for review. McCarey noted that executive sessions would be held to review and score technical consultant proposals. McCarey said the request for proposals would be modified to reflect changes to programs priorities and Council needs.

C&I Working Group Convened by DOER and Program Administrators

McCarey announced that the PAs and DOER hosted the first C&I Working Group on August 1st, during which the group drafted a charter and discussed key topics. McCarey said the C&I Working Group would issue a survey to C&I customers about well-functioning program areas and those that require improvements. McCarey indicated that Commercial stakeholders and Councilors provided meaningful input. McCarey said the C&I Working Group Charter and list of members would be posted once finalized, but the Group would meet in October and December while providing quarterly reports to the Council. McCarey said Villanueva and Rio were the EEAC representatives during the C&I Working Group kickoff meeting.

3. August EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda Topics

McCarey announced that the August EEAC Meeting Agenda would include discussion and votes on the Renter Strategic Plan and the Liberty MTM, as well as multifamily program implementation updates. McCarey said that public comment would be solicited before the meeting, but asked if the proposed time allotments on the agenda were appropriate.

Belliveau said the C-Team and PAs would focus on historical multifamily program performance, barriers, current offerings, implementation strategies. Belliveau suggested that the multifamily segment participates at lower rates across the country, but reaching these customers is important to goals so all strategies should be explored.

Peters asked that any data requests for PAs be provided as soon as possible to avoid bandwidth issues. Peters noted that the PAs planned for income-eligible presentations in August, so shifting to multifamily would not allow staff much time to prepare materials. Peters said they want to provide good information to the Council. McCarey told Peters to list any materials that would be problematic for the PAs to develop. Peters said knowing there will not be a PA presentation on income-eligible programs is helpful. Lyne said PAs are also focused on the 2022 Q2 report development.

Johnson did not support skipping public comment during the August EEAC meeting due to the Renter Strategic Plan listening session. McCarey replied that the Council chooses to have public comment at each meeting, but important voting needs to occur during the August EEAC meeting. McCarey said the meeting agenda would clarify that there will be no public comment period during the August EEAC meeting.

Abbe supported hosting the listening session in advance and forgoing public comment. Abbe believed public comment is useful, but very time consuming, and important Council agenda items need to be covered.

Bodemer said the August EEAC meeting notice should indicate that the preceding hour is for the Renter Strategic Plan listening session and other general public comment. Evans emphasized that public comment is discretionary to the EEAC Chair, and it has impacted Council business when extended beyond the time allotted. McCarey said participants in the Renter Strategic Plan listening session would not be precluded from providing general public comment. Evans recommended forgoing public comment during the August EEAC meeting. McCarey said holding public comment at the end of the meeting would be an option.

Lyne said DOER needs leeway in conducting EEAC meetings and expressed PA support for the decision made on public comment for August.

Boyd said the Council should listen and be responsive to public comment. Boyd supported holding a public comment period at the end of the August meeting. Boyd also said it could be limited to a 15-minute timeframe with additional public comment at the end. Boyd also supported moving public comment to the end of the meeting or omitting it from the agenda given the preceding listening session. McCarey reiterated that written public comment is always accepted and verbal public comment has been helpful, but it should not impede EEAC business.

Jacobson said LEAN has a lot of information on multifamily strategy and can support presentation development. Jacobson also said public comment does not need to be at the beginning of the August meeting.

Johnson stated that no one reads written public comment prior to meetings, but the August agenda and listening session meeting notice need to specify when general public comment will be solicited. Johnson opposed removing a verbal public comment period, as it would not be a good path forward. Johnson said the EEAC Resolution on the Renter Strategic Plan would not be good without Council comments in advance. Johnson said the Council has not studied and discussed it enough together. Johnson asked that the Council receive a presentation on the Renter Strategic Plan. McCarey responded that the Plan has been available since June 30th and councilors have reviewed it. McCarey said the Council would not be able to submit formal comments on the draft Renter Strategic Plan without voting on a resolution. McCarey also said this process mirrored the 2022-2024 Plan development process, where the Equity Working Group developed equity recommendations, presented them to the Council, and incorporated Council feedback. Johnson said the Equity Working Group recommendations on the Renter Strategic Plan need to be provided in advance of the August EEAC meeting. McCarey confirmed these recommendations would be available in advance for Council review.

Lyne noted that the PAs review the written public comment section on the EEAC website on a monthly basis. McCarey added that DOER tracks, reviews, and shares public comment with appropriate energy efficiency staff.

4. September EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda Topics

McCarey indicated that the September EEAC Meeting would cover weatherization pricing updates, Q2 2022 semi-annual reporting, the 2019-2021 Term Report, and PA updates on the Renter Strategic Plan.

Johnson asked when Ralph Prahel would present EM&V findings to the Council. Belliveau said Prahel may be available for October. McCarey said Bob Wirtshafter would be available in August to discuss key evaluation studies. Lyne also recalled that EM&V updates would likely be presented in October.

5. Adjournment

McCarey, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:07 AM.

Meeting Materials:

- August 3, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
- August 17, 2022 EEAC Draft Meeting Agenda