



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 10, 2023
Virtual Meeting: Zoom

Executive Committee Members Present: Greg Abbe, Jo Ann Bodemer (for Commissioner Mahony), Emmett Lyne, Kyle Murray, William Rose

Executive Committee Members Absent: (None)

Other Attendees: Adrian Caesar, Ina Dasso, Eric Belliveau, Gretchen Calcagni, Alyssa Vargas, David Lyons, Kate Peters, Rachel Evans, Benjamin Silverman, Brian Beote, Bill Graham, Paul Johnson, Leah Cohen, Maggie Downey, Steve Menges, Audrey Eidelman Kiernan, Jerrold Oppenheim

1. Call to Order

Bodemer, acting on behalf of the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

2. Executive Committee Updates and Business

Bodemer indicated that the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) had recommended new Councilors to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) with hope that the DPU will announce appointments before the EEAC meeting in January. Bodemer also said that DOER is reviewing the Executive Committee and Equity Working Group charters to inform the election of new members to each EEAC subcommittee.

Bodemer presented the Executive Committee and EEAC meeting schedule and topics for 2024, which includes a 30-minute reduction for Executive Committee meeting time. Bodemer said that the Council may schedule an additional meeting on June 26 in order to finalize its comments and Resolution on the draft 2025-2027 Plan.

Jacobson joined the virtual meeting at 10:10 AM.

Bodemer stated that DOER will host virtual-listening sessions for the 2025-2027 Plan during the first week of April, May, and June. Bodemer added that DOER will schedule listening sessions

in the morning, afternoon, and evening of each month to support accessibility. Lyne and Abbe supported the strategy to host multiple listening sessions. Bodemer encouraged the Executive Committee and other participants to share the listening sessions with their networks.

Murray asked if the program administrators (PAs) could share notices for the listening sessions with customers. Lyne replied that he would confirm with the PAs.

Bodemer presented the proposed 2024 Budget for the EEAC Consultants and Calcagni explained the request to transfer \$210,799 of unused 2023 funds to 2024. Calcagni said that the EEAC Consultants had developed the 2023 budget based on the accelerated schedule for development of the three-year plan, but some tasks such as review of the PA potential studies did not start until 2024. Bodemer said that the EEAC Consultants will share a memo with more details on their proposed 2024 budget.

Bodemer asked Calcagni to summarize highlights and key tasks included in the EEAC Consultant workplan for 2024. Calcagni replied that work in developing the 2025-2027 Plan will require significant time, but the Consultants' other tasks include analysis of potential studies, review of Mid-Term Modifications (MTMs), and analysis of program results. Belliveau said that the EEAC Consultants submit invoices for all completed work which are reviewed by DOER.

Bodemer stated that DOER is collaborating with the Office of the Attorney General (AGO) and the PAs to develop a 2025-2027 Term Sheet. Bodemer said that the goal is to put forth a strong 2025-2027 Plan that is implementable and will achieve goals the EEAC and the Commonwealth want to achieve through its energy-efficiency programs.

Jacobson noted that the Low-income Energy Affordability Network (LEAN) met with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to discuss the timing and instructions of federal funds for heat-pumps and encouraged DOER to engage in management of these funds. Bodemer directed Jacobson to connect DHCD with Ian Finlayson, who is overseeing the Home Efficiency Rebates and Home Electrification Appliance Rebate funds from the Inflation Reduction Act. Bodemer added that Jacobson should include Alissa Whiteman, who manages income-eligible and moderate-income programs for DOER, in these efforts.

3. January EEAC Meeting – Finalize Agenda

Bodemer announced that the January EEAC Meeting agenda would include review of 2024 EEAC meeting topics and dates, the EEAC Consultant workplan, the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center program called Training for Residential Energy Contractors (TREC), Avoided Energy Supply Cost Study, Cape Light Compact mid-term modification, and votes on the EEAC priorities for 2024 and 2022-2024 MTMs.

Bodemer said that Harak and Wambui had provided feedback on equity language in the 2024 Priorities, but no other Councilors provided feedback. Bodemer also said that the DPU has not ruled on the latest MTMs filed by the PAs.

Downey stated that Cape Light Compact has no remaining budget for its income-eligible programs and Abbe asked for an explanation of what this means in practice. Downey responded that Cape Light Compact is completing projects in the current queue but cannot review or consider new projects until the budget issue is resolved.

Evans asked if Cape Light Compact had notified the DPU. Downey confirmed that the DPU is aware that the energy-efficiency surcharge (EES) line is \$0 for income-eligible programs. Eidelman Kiernan said that Cape Light Compact filed this MTM in September and received two rounds of discovery requests from the AGO but none from the DPU. Cape Light Compact had filed its EES for 2024 inclusive of the MTM request, but the DPU asked them to refile the EES exclusive of the incremental budget in the MTM request. Eidelman Kiernan clarified for the DPU that without approval of the MTM, Cape Light Compact will have to cease income-eligible services. Eidelman Kiernan said that the DPU is aware of this issue and approved the EES filing in December exclusive of the MTM budget.

Jacobson asked if Action for Boston Community Development can support gas projects in the Cape. Downey said that only income-eligible customers heating with delivered fuels and electric resistance are impacted.

Lyne stated that Berkshire and Liberty had filed a settlement for their MTMs in which LEAN and DOER had joined, with hopes of expediting the approval of MTMs. Bodemer said that the settlement may help since the Liberty and Berkshire MTMs involved controversial decisions, but the Cape Light Compact MTM will benefit income-eligible customers and the delay of approval is unfortunate.

Abbe commented that the January EEAC meeting is packed and DOER should consider reordering the agenda to allow for deeper discussion of the AESC study. Abbe said that Berkshire and Liberty should discuss outcomes from their MTMs, as many questions pertained to balancing climate goals and cost-effectiveness. Lyne said the conditional settlement required Liberty and Berkshire to adjust their programs to achieve cost-effectiveness at the sector-level as required by statute. Lyne said cost-effectiveness was improved by changing the measure mix, but the DPU will need to approve some individual measures that are not cost-effective. Bodemer said that the PAs can provide an update once the DPU makes its rulings.

Evans noted that these MTMs are available online in the DPU File Room (Docket No. 23-91 and Docket No. 23-93). Rose said that he can discuss the settlement in greater detail with Abbe but agreed that the PAs should present on the DPU ruling.

Bodemer confirmed that DOER would reorder the January EEAC agenda to prioritize time-sensitive topics.

4. February EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda

Bodemer announced that the February EEAC Meeting agenda would include introductions for new Councilors, review of the PA potential studies, a vote on the 2024 EEAC Budget, and an update on evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V) programs.

Bodemer said the Consultants identified that the potential-study results require additional quality assurance so the Council will discuss this topic in February instead of January.

Evans indicated that DOER will check if the EEAC Consultant workplan for 2024 requires a Council vote since it is incorporated into the Council Budget and 2023 funds will carry over into 2024. Bodemer said there is not a vote on the substance of the workplan and asked if the Council could approve the funding carryover and Council budget in February. Evans said that DOER will need to confirm the appropriate next steps.

5. Adjournment

Bodemer, acting on behalf of the Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:43 AM.

Meeting Materials

- Official Meeting Notice
- Meeting Link
- Agenda