

MEMORANDUM

To: Energy Efficiency Advisory Council

From: Paul Horowitz

Date: June 8, 2010

Subject: May Team Monthly Report – Activities Undertaken, Six-Week Look Forward,
Assessment

Councilors – Enclosed below are reports from the consultant team groups (Planning & Analysis, Residential and Low Income, C&I, EM&V) on activities undertaken during May and a look forward to the following six weeks. An assessment of the state of activities based on the experiences of the month and the upcoming tasks is also included. Also included is a brief summary of project management activities.

Monthly Consultant Report on Activities – May 2010

Planning and Analysis Team

I. Activities during May 2010

Planning and Analysis

- Reviewed NGrid's proposed 2010 mid-course modifications.
- Reviewed DPU bill impact analysis revisions, discussed additional analysis indicated in DPU decision, and participated in 08-50 bill impact working group (May 10).
- Analyzed options, opportunities, and models for contractor participation in residential programs.

Financing

- Assisted in completing the financing/OBR working group report, including the revised residential owner, residential renter, and small business matrices of key issues for the report, for presentation to the EEAC and DPU.
- Worked with DOER to make progress on key unresolved issues, for both OBR and outside capital, including consideration of other options for financing and outside capital since the DOE Retrofit Ramp Up funding was not awarded to MA.

Marketing

- Reviewed marketing activities for achieving deeper savings.

Reporting

- Reviewed and analyzed 2010 quarterly reports (second reports) and data provided by the PAs. Analyzed and followed up with PAs on the data in the summary tables, including on lifetime energy savings and program-level results.
- Reviewed and commented on the PA quarterly reports (second part of the two-part reporting) for EEAC meeting.
- Reviewed issues and DPU orders/guidelines in preparation for Annual Report topics at June 7 08-50 working group meeting.

TRM (Technical Reference Manual)

- The various TRM working groups moved closer to finalizing the overarching issues of the TRM project, including Impact Factors, naming conventions, and the process to update and apply the TRM going forward. Near final drafts were presented and reviewed at the High Level Working Group meeting in early May. Additionally, the Measure Level Detail working groups (10 separate teams of PA reps and consultants) started or accelerated their efforts to cover all of the prescriptive measures to be included in version 1.0 of the TRM.

II. Anticipated activities over next six weeks

- Review and consider improvements for bill and rate impact analysis, considering the issues raised in the DPU decisions, and continue work with the 08-50 working group.
- Resolve outstanding/unresolved financing OBR issues (e.g., financing for rental properties), participate in rental financing task force, and report back to EEAC.

- Coordinate with DOER (Tom/others) on development of sources of and approaches to attain outside capital for financing. Assist in developing options or alternatives, including revised Heat Loan, as interim/hybrid approach. Work on C&I financing in parallel (see note below).
- Follow up on marketing and messaging concerns related to encouraging deeper savings, and on fully integrated financing for 2010.
- Participate in 08-50 working group on Annual Reports and mid-course modifications, as scheduled by DPU.
- Develop schedule and perform initial planning tasks/coordination with PAs for mid-course adjustments for 2011 and 2012 (budgets, savings, performance incentives, program modifications, etc.). Review any PA-proposed mid-course modifications for 2010.
- Preparation for EEAC meetings in June and July (including document prep).
- Review gas costs and inconsistencies, resolve as necessary.
- Lead and participate with PAs in TRM working group and subgroups to continue TRM technical work, to stay on schedule to complete draft by June 30. Starting in June, the key objectives of the TRM project will be to have all elements of the TRM assembled, including Introduction, TRM in the Context of Efficiency Programs Program plans (Screening Process, Avoided Costs, Load Shapes, PARIS, etc.), TRM Update Process, Measure Characterization Structure, Impact Factors for Calculating Adjusted Gross and Net Savings, all prescriptive measures, and Appendices (Net-to-Gross Impact Factors, Acronyms and Glossary) by June 30. The Consultant Team, with on-going support from the Core Working Group, will then create the final draft of the document with a target of submitting it to PAs and stakeholders by August 1 for finalization and eventual submittal with 2011 Program Plans (mid-course modifications) in October.

III. Overall assessment of project

Making progress in many areas, including:

- Completed OBR report to EEAC
- Revised bill impacts analysis substantially underway
- Completed first quarterly reports and EEAC review of quarterly reports
- Developing TRM (Technical Reference Manual)

But there are lots of tasks for the PAs to do, and progress is slower than it should be or it needs to be if MA expects to achieve the 2011 and 2012 goals and benefits. See prior monthly reports for additional details.

PA planning and analysis staff are very busy and still split many ways across many tasks – planning and analysis, 08-50 working group processes (bill impacts, reporting and mid-course adjustments), assisting with the launch/development of new and revised programs and pilots, implementation support, development of financing, and EM&V (plus support for the DPU proceedings). Also, PAs spent significant efforts on the Great Appliance Exchange in May and prior months.

And just ahead is the planning process for mid-course modifications for 2011 and 2012. This will take place in June through October 2010 (EEAC consultant-recommended schedule), and will require significant effort due to the number of modifications and their interactions in the various planning documents (e.g., budgets, savings, performance incentives, performance metrics, program modifications, etc.).

Key challenge seems to be finding adequate time to look ahead and work on the key building blocks for the mid-term and the future, while faced with immediate and short-term assignments, as well as fires to fight. The EE programs are behind on most of the key building blocks necessary to achieve 2% savings in 2011 and 2.4% savings in 2012.

Making progress on financing and marketing, but slower than expected or hoped.

Regarding financing, the key questions are: what financing is available or will be available soon to assist customers in the 2010 programs, vs. what financing are we working on for the longer term, for 2011 and beyond (the statewide loan fund being developed will not be operational until 2011 at the earliest)? For example, for the revised MassSAVE program, which launched in early April, the only EE program financing that is available to customers now is the HEAT Loan program. While the HEAT Loan program element has some positive features (e.g., low cost of capital), it is not very convenient for customers and it does not appear to be fully integrated with the MassSAVE program, at least not yet. This raises questions regarding priorities and resource allocation, e.g., should the PAs focus on working with the HEAT Loan lenders to improve that financing offering, should the PAs focus with DOER more on the longer term and the statewide loan fund provisions, or do they have to do both concurrently (including a potential hybrid approach in the interim)?

Issues regarding financing and OBR for residential renters need additional attention and a committed focus. Work is underway in the rental financing task force, and the task force is scheduled to meet weekly to make progress.

The PAs also need to make progress on innovative C&I financing in parallel, as the PAs highlighted in their presentation to the Council in March. Innovative C&I financing is equally important, and in some ways it is both easier and more complex (lots of options, lots of different markets/segments and customer needs, etc.). The PAs are retaining an expert financing/funding consultant to assist with statewide efforts.

Regarding marketing, the launch of the new website in March was a major step forward, and the PA presentation to the Council was very informative. (Counterfeit MassSAVE web site has been taken down; PAs are addressing the issue.) Marketing focused on achieving deeper savings (in order to lay the groundwork for achieving the much higher goals and benefits in 2011 and 2012), based on what we have seen and heard so far, may not be proceeding as well. Some of the marketing- and education-related tasks in MassSAVE, for example, have been lagging (e.g., leave-behind information, interactive piece, integration of financing, sales training for contractors). Much of the planning/design effort in MassSave Home Energy has been focused on the residential contractor issues; progress on other priorities also needed.

Residential & Low-Income Team

I. Activities during May 2010

The principal focus of the residential consulting team in May has been on working with the PAs to implement planned 2010 program activities. Efforts have been made in each of the major program areas, particularly concentrated on the two programs highlighted in the ‘Council Priorities and Key Actions for 2010’ document, MassSAVE/Weatherization and Residential Lighting and Appliances (Products).

MassSAVE/Weatherization

The Residential Management Committee (RMC) has been meeting weekly since the beginning of January to address the remaining MassSAVE/Weatherization program design and start-up tasks.

A primary focus has been on preparing the MassSAVE Technical & Process Manual that will serve as the principal reference document for the program. The technical portion of the manual has been finalized and distributed to participating contractors, while the process portion of the manual is still being refined. Another major focus has been on improving the energy assessment report template so it can serve most effectively as an educational and marketing tool to motivate customers to pursue deeper energy saving measures. The PAs have made additional progress in the following areas in May:

- Integrating independent energy assessment providers into the program under vendors – PAs are in the process of selecting qualified audit providers for program participation.
- Continued PA efforts on a draft scope of work for Statewide Contractor Management Vendor to coordinate the activities of independent contractors in the program.
- Continued discussions on the potential implications for the MassSAVE program of the pending Federal HomeStar legislation.
- More effectively serving landlords and tenants through the program. A revised draft Landlord/Tenant action plan was reviewed and discussed in May, with specific PA action items identified for follow up.
- The RMC ratified the new program name “Mass Save Home Energy Services (1-4 Family)” intended to help customers clearly identify with the program.

Other important issues still need to be addressed, including:

- Full integration into program of energy assessment providers, home performance contractors, and installation contractors. To be discussed in the Ad Hoc group.
- Additional program marketing to drive participation.
- Defining the specifics of the duct testing/sealing program offering. A cross-program Duct Sealing Forum is planned for June 10th.
- Integrating the deliverables from the 2009 MassSAVE metrics ‘Comprehensive Education Package’ and ‘Single Statewide Audit’ into the program.
- Consultants to work with the PAs to help develop building energy labeling pilot and provide guidance to ensure relevance to national and DOE labeling efforts.

Residential Lighting and Appliances (Products)

The PAs completed their review of the approximately 130 responses to their 2010 lighting Negotiated Cooperative Promotion (NCP) RFP. From this larger pool, 17 promotions targeting hard-to-reach customers were selected, representing 16 discrete retailers, most of which are

participating in multiple locations. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed, or are in the process of final negotiations, with these retailers and their manufacturer partners. At the end of the month the PAs summarized for the Council Consultants the HTR CLF promotions to insure that the promotions are consistent with previous discussions and agreements as to the definition of “hard to reach.”

The PAs’ appliance efforts were increasingly focused on developing a second phase to April’s Great Appliance Exchange (GAX). DOER and the PAs are working to make final the program design. The budget for GAX2.0 will include PA Appliance Program funds potentially supplemented with unspent funds from the first round of GAX. The planned GAX 2.0 appliance rebate promotion would be run for a single weekend this summer.

The PAs have begun to implement their 2010 consumer electronics efforts, but are still addressing some program design and implementation challenges. There are few advanced power strips currently available at retail. A NEEP sponsored forum in Albany in late June will focus on advanced power strips.

Other Key Programs/Pilots:

- Residential New Construction: Forecasts continue to show exceeding electric-only goals well before the end of the year, so the JMC focus has been on exploring ways to reduce costs. Since multifamily buildings have been a significant cost to the program, the JMC and its contractors have been researching alternative proposals for qualifying multifamily buildings using sampling techniques and instituting new standards to reduce rater time and costs. The PAs also continued their planning for a re-bid schedule for the implementation contractor and held meetings to outline new program design elements and an RFP timeline. Consultants, PAs, NMR and NEEP held a follow-up meeting to plan for next steps on calculating savings from code support activities and coordinating these efforts with C&I. The JMC has a good handle on the future of the residential new construction market in Massachusetts and are planning well for the future.
- HVAC – Gas & Electric: The gas and electric PAs held a joint gas-electric integration discussion as part of the May 21st GasNetworks meeting. There was strong agreement among the gas and electric HVAC programs to move forward with the six items included in the CoolSmart-GasNetworks Gas & Electric Integration Proposal that the CoolSmart Sponsors had developed last year. It was noted that there had already been progress on several of the items, training and marketing most notably. The PAs will provide the Council’s Consultants with a more detailed timeline as to how each of these items will be accomplished.
 - The CoolSmart PAs have been active in offering training for their new Quality Installation (QI) tool, Cool Analyzer. To date the PAs have help 27 refresher classes and recertified 347 technicians. They have also held 24 classes for new technicians and certified 134 new technicians, representing 47 new HVAC that had not previously participated in the Cool Smart Program.
 - The PAs continue to make good progress to develop and get into the field their heat pump water heater (HPWH) pilot. The Council’s Consultants reviewed and supported final contractor installation guidelines and participant screening criteria.
 - In May the Council Consultants worked with the PAs and their program contractors to schedule a duct sealing forum for June 10. Representatives from

nearly all of the PAs' residential programs w\are expected to participate: Existing Homes 1-4 family, low income, residential new construction, CoolSmart and GasNetworks.

- Multi-family Retrofit: The PAs selected RISE as their Multifamily Market Integrator (MMI). An initial meeting was held with RISE in mid-May. A formal kick-off meeting was held on June 2.
- Deep Energy Retrofit (DER) pilot: May activities centered on preparing for the May 19th discussion forum with national labs (LBNL and NREL) on potential synergies in deep energy retrofit pilot work.
- Low-Income 1-4: Efforts in May centered on performing site visits on completed and in-process projects to gather information on program performance.
- Independent Contractors: DOER, the PAs, Peregrine Energy, and consultants worked with independent contractors to address their outstanding concerns relative to the gas weatherization program. An initial meeting was held on May 19th and a follow-up meeting is scheduled for June 2nd.

II. Anticipated activities over next six weeks

The focus of our activities over the next six weeks will be continued engagement with the PAs to move from the more broadly defined program and pilot descriptions in the Three Year Plans to field implementation, as quickly as possible. Some of the primary themes that we will be addressing include the following.

- Lighting: The PAs will begin to implement their 2010 hard-to-reach lighting negotiated cooperative promotions.
- Products: The PAs will be principally focused on completing the development and beginning the implementation of the second Phase of the Great Appliance Exchange. They will also continue efforts to implement their consumer electronics and pool pump rebate efforts.
- Residential New Construction: Consultants will continue working with the PAs and others to move forward the plans for Code compliance and savings attribution. Next steps will be to develop proposals to put in front of the EEAC and DPU. The PAs will go off on their own now to prepare the RFP for program implementation (currently held by ICF) to be issued by early summer, for contractor selection in mid-summer and in place by fall. Multifamily new construction qualification standards will be addressed in the near future, along with rating reimbursement and incentive amounts in an effort to reduce budgets. JMC members and their program contractor will participate in the upcoming duct sealing summit.
- Codes & Standards Metric: As a follow up from the 2009 Codes and Standards metric, PA program managers and consultants met with the NMR evaluators to discuss next steps in moving forward with implementing the initiative to claim savings for code support activities. This group suggested forming a cross sector/cross program Code Team to include representation from residential and C&I new construction programs and from products programs with a charge of following codes and standards activities and moving ahead with the codes and savings attribution planning developed in 2009. A few of the next steps over the next six weeks include securing internal PA approval, the development of a resolution for the EEAC to consider on allowing PAs to claim savings for code support work, and approaching

the DPU with the same. All of this activity would be in preparation for the 2011 filing.

- Comprehensive Education Package metric: The PAs and their vendors are continuing to work feverishly on the second phase of the comprehensive education package, the interactive component, to be completed by June 30th. DOER and the consultants will continue to work in close collaboration with the project team.
- Gas & Electric Integration: As noted above, the Consultants will work with the PAs, primarily through the GasNetworks forum, on overall program integration efforts to develop a more detailed draft gas and electric integration plan and timeline. Duct sealing will also be highlighted as an important first step in cross-program HVAC integration efforts as part of larger discussions on duct sealing on June 10. The consultants are scheduling this cross-program duct sealing forum to address issues of standards consistency, contractor training and availability and applicability of duct sealing services in all programs, and to support the recently adopted revised state Energy Code.
- O-Power/Grounded Power: With the significant annual energy savings expected from O-Power, the Consultants will continue to monitor program start-up and work with the PAs to monitor and guide program development going forward, including statewide expansion across both electric and gas PAs.
- Residential Retrofit Ad Hoc Group: The Consultants will help to guide the Ad Hoc group to make the necessary key program design decisions on the Mass Save Home Energy Services program for 2011.
- EM&V Activities: With the extensive array of residential EM&V projects in 2010, the Consultants will continue to work to facilitate the successful coordination among the PAs implementation and evaluation groups.
- Reporting Enhancements: In each of the programs and pilots the Consultants will continue to work with the PAs on enhancing and optimizing program reporting to help streamline consultant engagement with the working groups and to provide the necessary information and data reporting to the Council.

III. Overall assessment of project

Overall, the PAs are very engaged and are making progress on 2010 program and pilot start-up, but there continues to be a lot of planning and transition work to be accomplished. There has generally been good cooperation among the PAs, and with the Consultants, in the program working groups. There remain, however, several key issues that will require Consultant attention to the PAs efforts in order to ensure successful resolution. Key issues that still need to be addressed/resolved include: 1) Development of residential retrofit program design proposal from Ad Hoc group, 2) Gas and electric integration of primary elements of the HVAC programs, 3) Lighting program planning/re-design, 4) Successful integration of the new MassSAVE program collateral pieces (Energy Assessment Report, Comprehensive Education Package), and 5) Developing a policy and procedure for programs to continue operating even if they exceed budget.

C&I Team

I Activities during May, 2010

- The PAs have entered into an agreement with the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) to develop an online repository of program-specific training and technical information. For example, video of the staff presentations from the Trade Ally Open Houses will be available for allies who couldn't attend an open house, or for those who did but want a refresher on program rules. The PAs will also be offering cross fuel "opportunity identification" training for gas and electric account managers. While participation will be mandatory for all field staff, given busy schedules, there will be both an online and live options.
- The C&I managers are joining a residential effort already underway to develop initiatives to improve energy codes compliance, and take the credit for demonstrable, verifiable savings.
- The PAs established a working group to finish harmonizing all aspects of each of their municipal initiative requirements and incentives.
- The PAs are updating their outreach to water and wastewater facilities, working off an "opportunity list" provided by DEP. There will be a compiled status report from all PAs, delivered in mid-June.
- Likewise, the PAs are updating their activity with municipalities who received the first round of Energy Audit Program (EAP) audits. There will be a compiled status report from all PAs, delivered in mid-June.
- The PAs continue to develop a procedure, with criteria, for managing the volume of unsolicited proposals received from companies, non-profits, communities, etc.

II. Outstanding/Notable Issues

- The PAs continue to struggle fielding numerous inquiries, proposals, requests for meetings, requests for special initiatives, etc. from private businesses, non-profits, trade associations, community-based organizations, and state agencies, all of whom who want to "help" market and deliver program services. Historically, each PA has attempted to service these constituent requests individually as they came in, without reference to a common set of criteria or strategy. The result has been somewhat inconsistent messaging to supplicants and a considerable diversion of PA staff time from goal achievement. It is the expectation that putting the above-referenced unsolicited proposal criteria will allow or efficient and consistent management of these requests.
- A related issue is PA-specific pilots or field "tests of concept". Several of the PAs have initiated, or felt compelled to initiate, individual pilots that have not been formulated in consort with their peers or germane to the focus of the Three Year Plans. These efforts may not have involved Council evaluation consultants in early planning and objective-setting for these efforts. The consultants intend to develop some proposed "pilot criteria" that could be used to screen individual pilot concepts or proposals in the future, including assurance the EM&V staff are involved in vetting them at the early stages.

- There remains a common concern amongst the PAs and the Council consultants that PAs are being asked to participate in many state or regional initiatives that do not advance achievement of goals and yet demand the attention of staff resources. The consultant team expects to engage more with DOER and the PAs to better understand the various initiatives and develop procedures and plans that effectively integrate these efforts and ensure they enhance each other rather than compete in the market and create confusion.

II. Anticipated activities over next six weeks

- Continue to monitor PA program coordination and implementation tasks.
- Continue to assist PAs in developing joint program management coordination and decision-making systems that can expedite the delivery of seamless customer experiences, maximize the efficient use of combined PA staff resources and expertise, and facilitate rapid program delivery interpretations and corrections when necessary.
- Work with the PAs to finalize a process to review and assess third party proposal for services to the PAs, as well as a process for joint participation in regional and national organizations and research efforts.
- Continue to work with the PAs and EEAC/DOER to ensure an efficient, timely, consistent and accurate method for cost-effectiveness screening of custom measures across the state with a common tool and development of a consistent policy on fuel switching.
- Continue to work with PAs to develop a clear and effective plan for pursuing deep retrofits over time.
- Monitor PA progress toward savings and spending goals, as well as planning efforts and development and implementation of new strategies and services.
- Work with the PAs and EEAC/DOER to better understand and integrate the state- and federal-level initiatives (*e.g.*, the Green Communities efforts of DOER) with the PA programs to ensure the most effective services that enhance and leverage each other and avoid disruption in the market.

III. Overall assessment of project

PA staff are clearly focused on goal attainment. The magnitude of this task, and continuing demands on their time and resources from outside parties, has left little time for thoughtful reflection on potential program enhancement strategies that might require long lead times or outside research and development. The PA managers are fully aware of this and are hopeful that improvements in joint management structure and procedures for managing third party inquires will free up the time and resources to refocus in this area.

The PAs continue to make progress in developing joint decision-making processes and melding different individual programs and processes. There still needs to be closure on a working relationship that delegates some level of authority – at least on routine matters – to the parties

that regularly attend the managers group meetings. While improved significantly, decision-making on routine matters is still taking too long.

The consultants continually monitor energy efficiency program activities in other leading jurisdictions and it is our assessment that with regard to the critical issues that face the Massachusetts programs – going deep and comprehensive in buildings, securing and deploying outside financing, for example – no other jurisdictions are closer to comprehensive solutions than are we. It continues to be a challenge for all.

EM&V Team

I. Activities during May 2010

Implementation of new EM&V Framework. By the end of May, kickoff meetings had been held with five of the seven EM&V contractor teams, with the last two scheduled for the first half of June. Work had begun on many of the studies to be performed over the next twelve months. However, there was increasing potential for delays in the completion of contracts between some PAs and some lead evaluation contractors to hold up full-scale implementation of studies. This issue is discussed further below.

Due to a combination of the fact that program changes have been progressing somewhat more slowly than had been anticipated earlier in the year and the EM&V contracting issues noted above, the PAs and the EEAC Consultants have agreed to cancel the global process and marketing evaluation. This study had been intended to provide very early evaluation feedback on the effectiveness of program changes to feed into the mid-course adjustment process. We will continue to pursue the same research objectives that had been adopted for this study, but do not expect to have results in time to inform the mid-course adjustment process.

The mix of program approaches being tried in Massachusetts continues to evolve, and our objective is to have EM&V keep pace with the changes. One example of such evolution is that behavioral programs appear to have developed a higher profile than they had just a few months ago when the EM&V RFPs were developed. Accordingly, we now have in the works a wider range of evaluations of these programs than had been envisioned in the RFPs.

Implementation of EM&V Studies. We continued in April to provide input into the implementation and reporting of some 12-14 EM&V studies being conducted either under the pre-EEAC system or regionally by the Northeast EM&V Forum. A number of the studies being conducted under the pre-EEAC system are wrapping up and are likely to be included in the PAs' 2009 annual reports.

Providing EM&V Input Into Policy and Program Planning Issues. One prominent policy issue that we worked on in May was coordination of EM&V planning and implementation with the development of the Technical Reference Manual (TRM). There are important reciprocal links between the two activities, in that the TRM both helps to drive EM&V information requirements and determines what kind of evaluation analyses are methodologically feasible, while the available EM&V methods and data help to shape both the structure of the TRM and the initial parameter assumptions.

Limitation of team activities to remain within budget. With the recent rapid expansion in the scope and magnitude of EM&V activities in Massachusetts, it has become clear that the EM&V team must cut back its level of involvement in some areas in order to remain within its authorized budget. In May we instituted the following changes:

- *Reduction in level of review of interim work products.* Because it is much easier and less expensive to address methodological problems in real-time than retroactively, we see review of interim work products such as sampling plans, analysis plans, and draft data collection instruments as a core component of our work. However, the scope of EM&V activities in Massachusetts has increased to a level at which our budget can

no longer support doing this consistently. Going forward, we will therefore be reviewing interim work products somewhat selectively. One effect of this change is that there will be some methodological steps taken in the evaluations that we will not be able to vet in real time.

- *Elimination of all duplication of research area coverage.* Until now, where the content of a particular study spanned different issues or program areas being covered by multiple team members, both team members would track the work. We have eliminated all such cases of duplication of coverage. One effect of this change is that we will be able to provide somewhat less coordination of research efforts across program areas and substantive research issues. Our hope is that the PAs will take up the slack by increasing their level of coordination accordingly.
- *Reduction in level of participation in the Northeast EM&V Forum.* Both the PAs and the EEAC consultants have been participating actively in the studies being administered by this multi-state collaborative mechanism. We continue to see this as an important function, given that the studies being conducted by the Forum will be used both to help support PA savings claims and to shape the methods being used in MA-specific studies. However, given the range of other team responsibilities, and the fact that on a hour-for-hour basis our involvement in these studies tends to yield less incremental impact than for Massachusetts-specific studies, it is likely that we will have to reduce our level of involvement in the Forum somewhat. One effect of this change is that, for Forum research efforts, there will be some decisions pertaining to the selection of studies to be performed, the methods to be employed, or the contractors to be hired, for which we will not be able to vouch.

II. Anticipated activities over next six weeks

Over the next six weeks we anticipate continuing to move forward with implementation of 2010 studies, at the same time that a number of pre-2010 studies are wrapping up. We will be keeping a close eye on the contracting process and if necessary attempting to facilitate its completion. We expect coordination of the EM&V and TRM processes to continue to be a significant activity.

III. Overall assessment of project

The development and implementation of the new EM&V framework generally remains on track, with the PAs adapting well to the transition to the new system. However, the contracting delays discussed above are of increasing concern. Many of the contracts have been completed, and a majority of them are well under way. However, as noted in last month's report, there is a least-common denominator effect, in that delays in contracting for any one PA can hold up implementation for an entire research area. With the exception of the global process and marketing evaluation, which had been intended as a very fast-track project, these delays are not yet holding up study implementation, because the EM&V contractors have been prepared to do at least some work on an at-risk basis. However, EM&V contractors are typically reluctant to proceed with major data collection activities without completed contracts – and the time for major data collection activities to begin for the 2010 studies is rapidly approaching.

As discussed above, the rapid increase in the scope and magnitude of EM&V activities in Massachusetts is necessitating more selective coverage of some activities by the EM&V Team.

Project Management

I. Activities in May 2010

- Kept team informed of directives from the Council and DPU's orders regarding focus of activities in May and upcoming in June;
- Maintained regular communication with team regarding on-going activities, issues, updates
- Maintained regular communication with DOER about project updates and issues

II. Anticipated activities over next six weeks

- Coordinate consultant team input into preparation of Council meeting materials;
- Continue regular communications with team regarding on-going activities, issues, updates;
- Address change in day-to-day interactions with DOER as a result of Mike Sherman's impending departure
- Manage new or enhanced team assignments in the context of approved workplan and budget.
- Continue regular communications with DOER.