



EEB Residential Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 10, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Webinar Only

MINUTES¹

In Attendance

Voting Board Members: Amy McLean (Committee Chair), Brenda Watson, Mike Li
Utility Representatives: Will Riddle, Tasha Perreault, Ron Araujo, Diane Del Rosso, Tammy Wilson, Larry Rush, Jerry Graham

Board Consultants: Richard Faesy, Glenn Reed, Craig Diamond

Others: Donna Wells, Emily Basham, Madeline Priest, Brian Biernat, Brent Borgnine, Jamie Watson, Ida Churchill, Frank Melanson, Debra Hall, Stephanie Weiner, Tom Belair, Sam Ross, Kyle Ellsworth, Tiffany Cunningham, Heather Stokes, Anne Hulick, Lorenzo Wyatt, Art St. Armand, Craig Olisky, Christopher Jobson, Brendan Thomas, Joe Roy, James Correira, Joe Buonannata, Rebecca Baez Castro, John Figlewski, Michelle Long, Pete Carlson, Alfred Bilodeau, Mike Uhl, Michael Grimaldi, Mike Cresta, Tim Fabuien, DJ Sacridier, Gina Crist, Paul Scicchitano, Julia Discuillo, Michael Malmrose, Lindsey VanLew, Edgardo Mejias, Patrice Gillespie, Steve Cowell, Guy West

Meeting procedures and process update

Ms. McLean provided a brief overview the Residential Committee's procedures for public comments and input.

Public Input/Comments

- Steve Cowell, E4TheFuture - Mr. Cowell noted there would be a webinar on June 11 in five states regarding health and safety training for contractors returning to on-premises work.
- Tim Fabuien, Aiello Home Services - Mr. Fabuien said that the Companies' requirement for energy efficiency workers to wear N95 masks was unnecessary, and that it would be very difficult for vendors to obtain N95 masks given their shortage in the marketplace. He also said that N95 masks would increase anxiety with workers and customers, were difficult to wear, and could also contribute to heat exhaustion for individuals who wear them.
- Pete Carlson, The Energy Store - Mr. Carlson said he agreed with Mr. Fabuien's comments. He said that cloth masks were sufficient for energy efficiency workers.
- It was noted that several other vendors on the call (via comments in the Chat Box) agreed with Mr. Fabuien's and Mr. Carlson's comments.

¹ Meeting materials available in Box.com: <https://app.box.com/s/c24yylep11zigu3nozy5pl6u65w0rz6s>

Approve 5/13/20 Residential Committee Meeting Minutes

The Committee agreed that that May 13 meeting minutes would be voted on via email after the meeting. On 6/11/20, the email vote was conducted, and the minutes were approved.

2020 Plan Update Conditions of Approval May 18 Resolution

Mr. Faesy provided a presentation with on update on several Conditions of Approval in DEEP's 5/18/20 resolution, including DEEP's decision on the HES co-pay and windows incentives.

Companies' Updates

2020 results through April. Mr. Araujo and Mr. Riddle reported that savings and expenditures were somewhat behind target for HES and HES-IE. This was to be expected given the temporary suspension of on-premises work. The Companies noted that the results for May were likely to show even greater reductions in expenditures and savings.

HES & HES-IE

- Training and certifications - Ms. Del Rosso provided an update on the Companies' training and certification activities. She noted there had been a health & safety training on May 22, and that there would be a multi-state training webinar on June 11 regarding health & safety and return to work requirements.
- Plans for re-opening - the Companies said they would be starting new marketing campaigns soon to stimulate demand for services. In regard to worker training and certification, Mr. Araujo said that there were several criteria that needed to be met for vendors to resume on-premises services, including: attending the June 11 health & safety training (or a recording of the training); passing a test; and additional requirements. He said it was most likely for most vendors that work could resume the week of June 22, since it would probably take that long to complete the requirements.
- Crumbling Foundations - Ms. Del Rosso said the Companies were developing educational materials and potential customer rebates.
- New insulation rebates - Ms. Del Rosso said that information on the insulation rebates had been sent to contractors.

Behavior/Customer Engagement Program Status

Mr. Araujo said that the previous behavior program had been stopped about one year ago. Since that time, Eversource has been developing a more targeted and effective approach for a behavior program. Mr. Araujo said that the goal was to launch the new program later this summer.

Green Bank Quarterly Update

- RSIP update - Ms. Basham provided an update on the program. She said that project volume was lower than expected due to Covid-19 impacts. She said that the 350 MW goal for the program would be reached sometime this October to December. She said the program was still requiring HES or equivalent, but they were allowing a six month delay due to Covid-19 issues.

- Smart-E special offer - Mr. Buonannata provided an update on the program. He said that 2020 project volume had been 50% lower than in 2019, and that the program had previously been temporarily suspended due to Covid-19. He said the program was supporting the state’s decarbonization goals by including heat pumps, insulation, batteries and home EV charging.
- Green and Healthy Homes financing - Ms. Priest provided an update on the project. She said that the process had been delayed by Covid-19, but the draft report had been written and was being reviewed by the Department of Public Health. She said she would circulate the report once it was finalized, and update the Residential Committee.

Virtual & Remote Energy Assessments

Mr. Faesy provided a presentation on a survey study that had been conducted on virtual and remote assessments by Energy Futures Group and Optimal Energy. The survey was completed by 19 energy efficiency firms across New England. Mr. Faesy noted that virtual and remote assessment were still very new, and limited information was available, but initial results showed that the approaches had several potential benefits. Following Mr. Faesy’s presentation, Mr. Roy and Ms. Weiner presented on their experience thus far with virtual and remote assessments. Both Mr. Roy and Ms. Weiner said that remote and virtual assessments had shown some very promising benefits in regard to program efficiency and customer education and engagement. Then Mr. Araujo provided an update on the Companies’ experience with virtual and remote assessments. He said that 77 projects had been completed thus far, and he concurred with the findings of the EFG/Optimal survey and the experience of Mr. Roy and Ms. Weiner that the approach had many promising aspects, and customer feedback had generally been positive to date. He said the Companies believed that virtual and remote assessment would eventually become integral parts of the Residential programs.

2021 Plan Update Overview

Mr. Araujo said that the Companies had kicked off their planning process with the Board consultants. He said the main issue with the 2021 Plan Update was dealing with the uncertainty of Covid-19, and getting the on-premises work going again.

Agenda items for future Residential Committee meetings

- July 1 Compliance Filings Review
- Healthy Homes / Weatherization Barrier Funding Opportunities
 - Barrired Homes Report - Companies
 - LIHEAP Funds – Brenda Watson
 - Weatherization Assistance Program - DEEP
- Reports from GC3 and PURA Energy Affordability Dockets
- DEEP’s plans on cost effectiveness test
- DEEP’s plans on electrification

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm.