



## EEB Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 1:00 – 3:30 PM

Webinar Only

### DRAFT MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

#### **In Attendance**

Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Amanda Gill, Amy McLean, Neil Beup, Donna Wells, George Lawrence, Glenn Reed, Jack Traver, Joel Kopylec, John Viglione, John Wright, Karlyn Lempa, Lawrence Rush, Linda King, Liz Murphy, Michael Li, Patrice Gillespie, Richard Faesy, Stephen Bruno, Amanda Gill, Bernard Pelletier, Bruce McDermott, Claire Sickinger, Dan Robertson, Diane Del Rosso, Ghani Ramandi, Guy West, Karlyn Lempa, Kare Donatelli, Leticia Colon, L. McCarthy, Mike Weismann, Paul Horowitz, Robert Auer, Russell King, Scott Fotre, Scott Whittier, TM, Steven Bruno, Stephen Cowell.

#### **1. Process**

**A. Roll call of Board Members, Consultants, Company Staff and DEEP Staff**

**B. Review of virtual meeting procedures** was reviewed by Mr. Beup.

**C. Minutes** - approve minutes from July 8, 2020 Board meeting. Amanda Fargo-Johnson and Amy McLean moved and seconded approval of the minutes from the previous board meeting. The motion passed.

**D. Public Comments** – none.

#### **2. Programs and Planning (125 minutes)**

**A. Companies' 2020 Year-end Revenue and Budget Projections**

##### **1. August 31 DEEP filing**

Mr. Bruno updated the group with July 2020 numbers, the percentage of the budget spent and the year-end revenue and spending forecast for Eversource. Mr. Kopylec presented the UI budget spent through July 2020. The year-end spending forecast is a total of 15.7% under budget for the Companies resulting in \$35.7 in budget revenues filed on 3/1/2020. Mr. Bruno stated the maximum of 5% may be carried forward and the remaining over collection will be returned to customers. The Companies will work with EEB consultants and DEEP on additional PMI adjustments.

##### **1. Planned revisions to 2020 PMIs**

Mr. Reed presented proposed 2020 PMI adjustment process to the group. The Companies, consultants and DEEP will meet in September and October to develop a proposed methodology to revise 2020 PMIs. Proposed revisions of PMIs will be at the October Board Meeting, allowing the companies to file on or before November 1, 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> Meeting materials available in Box.com: <https://app.box.com/s/4cdyi76p7oivy5z74kigyibu7nn00ux3>

## **B. Plan Update Review and Board Vote – Companies and Consultant - 30 minutes**

Mr. Reed noted the following things are still open: updated benefit cost analyses and results; inclusion of evaluation recommendation summaries, marketing plan, customer engagement, and review of public input comments. Review of 2021 performance management incentives focusing on equity has a place holder with the EEB.

Mr. Beup agreed this is an important topic to continue to discuss. Ms. McLean stated residential customer's participation and equity is an issue and it is a good time to open up this discussion. Secondary metrics for the residential sector will be assessed to see if program environment justifies any changes.

Mr. Bruno discussed the following updates: The 2021 Residential Portfolio incentives; the Companies will raise co-pay to \$50 (previously \$75 on July 1, 2021; HES and HES-IE Health and Safety working group has been added; Continuation to offer enhancements made to the HES repayment plan in 2020; Eversource has a RFP active for customer engagement. 2021 program modifications from the March 2020 filing; ECB will have four new pathways; UI will have a new virtual commissioning pilot combined with AMI; a new launch and repackaging for the small manufacturers and micro-business pilot for Q4 is starting up; education updates to educate the workforce will include Sales Force training; compliance orders and benefit cost chapter is updated for Residential and C&I; 2021 LT savings for electric decreased 31% and natural gas decreased 11% based on higher incentive level assumptions into 2021 combined with retail lighting product changes; and, 2021 key PSD program changes for electric and natural gas were discussed (see slide 9 for details). Due to continued review of the above, no final information was available for board vote.

## **C. Update on Companies' marketing activities – Companies**

Mr. Rush talked about UI's 2020 marketing and outreach through grassroots outreach and direct mailing to hardship customers in both Spanish and English. As well as re-engaging past participants to encourage deeper improvements and add-on measures, outreach to distance learning, food bank inserts; and, a cross promotion campaign of HES and small business programs through social media and traditional media outlets.

Ms. Gill discussed the launch in mid-October of the UI Micro-Business Energy Advantage (MBEA) Pilot Program with financing options for businesses at or below 25kW usage. Collateral pieces are translated into Spanish and Portuguese with other languages as needed. The pilot program will be used to gather data about DEI and target distressed businesses that could not qualify for financing or that have signed on to a payment plan with a project cost cap of \$20,000 with a flat 80% incentive and guaranteed financing.

Mr. Rush showed examples of Energize CT branding for Residential and "A Little Less Uncertainty" campaign brochures.

Mr. Bruno showed Eversource's residential marketing campaign calendar through the end of the year focusing on distressed communities and customers in arrears available both digitally and in print ads in Spanish and English. Product offers for the residential customers was also highlighted. Mr. Lawrence commented that Portuguese and Spanish clubs and societies may be

a good marketing target as well.

**D. Covid-19 Response – 20 minutes (skipped)**

1. Returning to on-premise service delivery
2. Reporting of monthly savings, revenues and budgets

**E. Energize CT Alternative RFP Update – Companies - 10 Minutes**

Mr. Reed noted the RFP is located in the box.com folder and after internal review it will be released to the Board for additional comments. The process will be roughly 9 weeks. Ms. Murphy added the discussion from the last board meeting was incorporated in the RFP for Board comments.

**F. Committee Updates – 10 minutes**

Ms. McLean updated the Board on the Residential Committee’s progress for the workshop. Mr. Faesy mentioned the committee was looking at new construction compliance with energy codes in several states to potentially promulgate these ideas in Connecticut.

Ms. McLean updated the board that the Evaluation Committee chose to approve the best option and move forward with the allocation.

Mr. Beup noted the C&I Committee spent time working through equity related issues and how to make determinations and the Reduced rate going forward rather than sending a direct refund out. Mr. Araujo stated the process reviewed by the board and approved by DEEP manages the process for carryover funds. Mr. Li responded if DEEP thought too much was being collected in the current year, the rate could be lowered now DRAFT versus waiting until March 1. A public meeting to gain stakeholder feedback is planned for around September 21. Then a decision will be made about bill credits. Mr. Lawrence also added discussion was started for C&I metrics as a result of the DEEP Order 18.

**3. Other (5 minutes)**

**A. Notice of Equitable Energy Proceeding – DEEP – 5 Minutes**

With regard to the equitable energy proceeding, Mr. Li said in the short-term, information is needed for the plan update and then utilities would be directed to make changes for the 2021 year. Longer-term discussion centers around the input for the three-year plan. There has been a concern that the process is hard for stakeholders with government language, process and procedures so DEEP sent out a simplified notice asking questions about impact and translating input into programs as merited. Comments are due by 10/05/2020. Mr. Li followed up by saying DEEP would potentially put out draft proposals for input based on the responses received for the Board’s consideration as part of the process to approve the plan update at the end of the year.

**4. Closing Public Comments – (3 minutes per organization) – none.**

**Adjourn**

Jack Traver and Amanda Fargo-Johnson moved as seconded for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 2:44 pm.