

Memo

To: **EEAC**
From: **Eric Belliveau and the EEAC Consultant Team**
Date: **April 15, 2016**
Subject: **March Monthly Report**

The Consultant Team is pleased to provide this update to the Council on our recent activities.

SUMMARY OF MAIN TASKS COVERED IN EACH SECTION OF THE REPORT

EM&V

- Holding contract initiation meetings with two new EM&V contractor teams
- Advancing ~ 40 new studies to the implementation stage, advancing ~30 studies currently in the implementation, and processing several draft final EM&V reports
- Assisting with a presentation on the 2014 C&I Customer Profile Study
- Assisting with the development of a white paper on C&I ex-ante baseline assumptions
- Reviewing responses from existing contractor teams to the shorter-term invitation for qualifications on demand response

PLANNING & ANALYSIS

- Preparing for, attending, and providing technical support for the EEAC and ExCom meetings
- Providing technical support on demand reduction issues for the Demand Savings Group
- Providing input to and review of the PA-developed draft Demand Savings Group report
- Reviewing and commenting on the revised draft AESC study addendum
- Considering options for updating the AESC avoided cost values prior to the next full study in 2018
- Assisting the C&I Group with the development of presentations for the March EEAC meeting

RESIDENTIAL AND LOW INCOME

- Working with the RMC to develop performance indicators for the renter initiative
- Reviewing and assessing the implications of and PA responses to the closing of Next Step Living
- Beginning work on the innovations presentations for the April Council meeting
- Providing input on a variety of EM&V draft work products

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

- Developing content for the March presentation on the 2014 C&I Customer Profile
- Reviewing Efficiency Vermont's small business outreach presentation and discussing with DOER
- Reviewing the C&I Customer Profile study
- Providing feedback and making suggestions for improvements to CHP best practices workplan

TECHNICAL SERVICES

- Continuing regular administrative functions, including EEAC meeting minutes and website maintenance and document uploads
- Continuing to support the review process for the 2014 Annual Report to the Legislature

EVALUATION, MEASUREMENT & VERIFICATION

Oversee EM&V Planning

In March, the PAs and the EM&V Advisory Group held contract initiation meetings with two new EM&V contractor teams selected through the recent Residential EM&V RFP: the Residential Retrofit/HVAC team, led by Navigant; and the Residential Products and New Construction team, led by NMR. These two teams are expected to be responsible for the bulk of residential EM&V studies to be performed through 2018.

The Group also continued its work with the PAs to advance the roughly 40 new studies laid out in the Strategic Evaluation Plan to the implementation stage. This process has been occurring in two waves. The first wave, focusing on those studies viewed as most urgent, began in October 2015 and is now largely complete. The second wave began in early 2016, and is expected to last several months.

Oversee EM&V Study Implementation

The Group advanced toward completion roughly 30 studies currently in the implementation stage. The bulk of these are studies from the first wave of new 2016-2018 studies discussed in the planning section above. A few are highly data-intensive studies, with correspondingly long timelines, which were begun at least a year ago and are now nearing completion. Two examples of the latter category are the Minisplit Field Monitoring study and the Residential Single-Family New Construction Baseline and Code Compliance study. The number of studies in the implementation stage is steadily increasing as additional 2016-2018 studies clear the planning stage.

Oversee EM&V Reporting

Working with the PAs, the Group processed a number of final EM&V reports in various stages of completion. A particular area of emphasis has been the draft final report on the C&I On-Site study, which has been one of the most ambitious EM&V studies ever fielded in Massachusetts. Other reports in process in March include the Residential Lighting Market Assessment Model (MAM) update; Minisplit Field Monitoring Cooling Savings analysis; NRNC NEI study; Commercial Code Documentation study; CLC Behavioral Pilot impact evaluation; and early reporting on results from the latest Massachusetts/New York residential lighting saturation comparison study.

Council and Stakeholder Engagement

The Group assisted the C&I team with a presentation on the 2014 C&I Customer Profile study for the Council's March meeting, and also began laying the groundwork for an overall EM&V presentation slated for the May Council meeting.

EM&V Policy Issues

The Group assisted the C&I team in its development of a white paper on C&I ex-ante baseline assumptions, and also monitored developments in the Demand Savings area for EM&V implications.

Miscellaneous Activities

As discussed in the February report, the PAs and the EM&V group have agreed on both a short-term and a longer-term approach to providing EM&V support for new demand response programs. For the short-term (the remainder of 2016) demand response EM&V activities will be assigned to existing contractor teams, based on the responses to an invitation for qualifications that was distributed in February. Over the longer term, demand response will be called out as a key function in the overall cross-cutting EM&V RFP that is slated for release in late 2016. Depending on contractor response, demand response may then be either included as part of a broader cross-cutting contract, or made the subject of a dedicated EM&V contract.

In March, the EM&V Group and the PAs received and reviewed responses from existing contractor teams to the shorter-term invitation for qualifications described above. Based on the responses, interviews were scheduled for early April, after which two DR EM&V contractor teams were expected to be engaged for the remainder of 2016.

PLANNING AND ANALYSIS

In March 2016, the Planning and Analysis (P&A) Advisory Group focused on the tasks described below to assist the Council. The Group's primary tasks were providing technical support for the Demand Savings Group and coordinating with the PAs on demand issues, including providing input to and review of the PA-developed Demand Savings Group report, reviewing and commenting on the revised draft AESC study addendum on four-hour peak ("super peak") energy costing periods and demand response values, and assisting the C&I Group with the development of presentations for the March EEAC meeting.

Participate in EEAC Meetings; Brief and Support the Council

The P&A Advisory Group prepared for, attended, and provided technical support for the EEAC and ExCom meetings during the month. The Group coordinated with DOER as chair of the Council on a weekly basis, and briefed individual Councilors in advance of the EEAC meeting and during the month. The substantive issues and outcomes are summarized in the task descriptions below. Also, the P&A Advisory Group assisted with the development, planning, and coordination of potential topics for future EEAC meetings. EEAC meeting and Council support is on-going and is a regular monthly task area.

Provide Technical Analysis and Review/Assess Reports

The P&A Advisory Group reviewed the revised final draft of the 2015 AESC study addendum/supplement on four-hour peak (formerly labeled "super peak") energy costing periods and demand response values. The Group also provided comments on the revised final draft addendum in early March and followed up with the contractor (TCR) and the study manager on a few technical issues and final report clarifications during a conference call. The final AESC addendum was distributed in March. The P&A Group also reviewed the TCR-proposed options for a partial update of the AESC study (prior to the next full study in 2018), participated in the Study Group conference call on update options, and provided comments and suggestions to DOER and the study manager.

Planning and Analysis Support for Implementation of the 2016-2018 Plan

The P&A Advisory Group provided the Council with information and analysis to explore and advance future opportunities for energy efficiency and demand reduction programs through the implementation of the 2016-2018 Plan. In March, the Group assisted the C&I Group with the analysis of C&I issues, and assisted with the development of C&I presentations for the March EEAC meeting.

The P&A Advisory Group provided technical support for the Demand Savings Group and the Council discussion of peak demand issues. The Group coordinated with the PAs on some technical aspects of demand issues, including the drivers of costs/prices and strategies to reduce the costs/prices. The P&A Group also provided input to, reviewed, and commented on the draft demand slides presented to the Council at the March meeting. We participated in several discussions and conference calls with the PAs, including an informational briefing provided by several demand response experts. The P&A Group attended and participated in an in-person meeting with ISO-NE, the PAs, DOER and the AG on demand issues. The P&A Group provided input to, reviewed, and commented on the draft report of the Demand Savings Group, which the PAs prepared during March. We also coordinated with DOER regarding the planning and scheduling of demand presentations for future Council meetings.

RESIDENTIAL AND LOW INCOME SECTORS

Technical Support for Programs and Effective Practices

The Residential Advisory Group began work to support a Consultant Team presentation topic on innovations for the April 20 Council meeting. This included brainstorming and researching possible approaches to highlight for low-e storm windows, Tier 2 power strips, and using a universal data management platform to proactively engage with customers and other program partners while reducing administrative costs. The Group also continued its participation in demand reduction support activities, including reviewing planned efforts by National Grid in Rhode Island and the PAs' demand reduction update memorandum.

Participate in RMC and Council Meetings

In March, the Group's primary focus of discussion with the Residential Management Committee was developing performance indicators for the new renter and moderate income customer initiatives. At the March 9 RMC meeting, this effort kicked off with a discussion of preliminary objectives, ideas, and challenges that could then be used to compile a more concrete list of indicators. Using input from the discussion on March 9, the Residential Advisory Group developed draft lists of renter initiative data points and associated performance indicators for the RMC's consideration. The RMC and Group members discussed and refined the Group's draft at the March 23 RMC meeting. RMC members agreed to consult with HES program staff and lead vendors and bring additional input to the RMC's April meeting.

On March 18 an unexpected announcement indicated that Next Step Living, a major vendor of services to the HES Initiative in the Eversource, National Grid, and Columbia Gas service territories, had closed its business operations. The Group conducted discussions with the RMC, Eversource, DOER, and individual Council members about this development and how the PAs were working to ensure their customers would not be overly disrupted. The Group will continue to monitor the situation.

Coordinate with EM&V Efforts and Incorporate Feedback from EM&V Studies into the Programs

Members of the Residential and EM&V Advisory Groups participated in our monthly coordinating call to exchange updates on work and shared responsibility developments. The Group also participated in ongoing discussions regarding the lighting Market Adoption Model; provided additional input on a draft Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pump Cooling Season Results memorandum; and commented on drafts of HVAC manufacturer interviews, an evaluation report on Cape Light Compact's behavioral pilot and lighting interactive effects methodology.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

Technical Support for Programs and Effective Practices

In March, the C&I Advisory Group spent time on an extensive review of the 2014 C&I Customer Profile study and prepared a presentation of the key findings of the study to the Council. The Group also participated in Consultant Team calls.

Technical Support for New Technologies and Innovation

The Group reviewed Efficiency Vermont's small business outreach presentation and discussed this program with DOER. We reviewed Energy Star 2.0 standards with respect to lighting, to inform the Lighting Codes memo scheduled for delivery in April. We helped to finalize the memo on consultant identified trends in energy efficiency and trends external to EE that may have an impact on EE.

Reporting Updates and Best Practices

The Group discussed Efficiency Vermont's Net Zero Energy Pilot results with the CIMC in March.

Participate in CIMC and Council Meetings

As noted above, the Group created and delivered a presentation to the Council in March on the 2014 C&I Customer Profile. The consultants also highlighted a series of four memos written for the Council about Strategic Energy Management, Massachusetts Upstream programs, Training and Education Opportunities currently offered in Massachusetts, and an EM&V oriented memo about how better documentation of custom projects can improve the Program Administrator's realization rates.

Incorporate Feedback from EM&V and Studies into the Programs

The Group reviewed the proposed work plan for the Combined Heat and Power best practices study and provided feedback to DNV GL. The Group reviewed the 2014 C&I Customer Profile study in anticipation of presenting on it at the March EEAC meeting.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Produce Minutes from all EEAC Meetings

The Consultant Team is charged with producing draft and final meeting minutes for each EEAC monthly meeting. The Team produced draft minutes for the March 16 EEAC meeting and forwarded them to the EEAC Chair. The EEAC approved February 17, 2016 meeting minutes at their March meeting. These minutes along with all documents and presentations distributed at the March meeting have been posted on the EEAC website.

EEAC Website Upgrades, Revisions & Maintenance

Consultant Team staff continue to manage the updated website on a day-to-day basis. In March, this included posting materials for the March 16 EEAC meetings and other meetings that occurred during the month.

For the month of March 2016 there were:

- 1,530 sessions
- 812 users: 39% new visitors and 61% returning visitors
- 5,044 page views with an average of 3.3 page views per session

Produce the Annual Report to the DPU and Legislature

In March, a draft of the 2014 Annual Report continued through the revision and approval process.