



EEB Evaluation Committee

Monthly Meeting

Monday March 11, 2013 - 10-11:30 am

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection – Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
Office of Consumer Counsel Conference Room
10 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut

MINUTES¹

Present: Amy Thompson (Chair), Taren O'Connor [EEB]; Cindy Jacobs [DEEP]; Scott Dimetrosky (phone), Lori Lewis, Kim Oswald (phone), Lisa Skumatz (phone) [Evaluation Consultants]; Geoff Embree, Paul Gray, Joe Swift [CL&P and UI]; Tim Cole [EEB Executive Secretary / Scribe]

The meeting began at 10 am, with Committee Chair Amy Thompson presiding.

1. Public Comment – There was no public comment.
2. Approval of Minutes – Ms. Thompson moved approval of the February 4, 2013 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Taren O'Connor and passed with all in favor. It was agreed that Tim Cole would circulate the revised draft of the January 9, 2013 minutes for an electronic vote.
3. Update on Projects
 - a. Lisa Skumatz reviewed the monthly status report and project Gantt chart with the Committee. She highlighted the following items in the course of the review:
 - It is now time to decide about holding a technical meeting on the results of the study of Year 1 of the CL&P Home Energy Reports pilot. Cindy Jacobs indicated she would talk to Tracy Babbidge about whether DEEP preferred a technical meeting or a presentation. Taren O'Connor stated that the Office of Consumer Counsel would request a technical meeting. Ms. Skumatz agreed to work with DEEP / PURA and Mr. Cole to find a suitable time. Ms. Thompson suggested it would be a good idea to arrange study presentations around C&I or Residential Committee meetings, depending on the topic.
 - Regarding the progress of the regional Lighting Hours of Use study, there are some issues around coordination with other states. It is about one-third done now and will likely end with a technical meeting.
 - For the HES Persistence of Savings study and Process Evaluation, the scope of work is now complete and the contractor has started work.
 - Regarding the Weatherization Baseline study, it is expected it will be finished in July, with a final report ready for review in August, followed by a technical meeting. The process is time sensitive because of DEEP's timetable for developing the 2014 IRP,

¹ Meeting Materials Available at Box.net folder <https://www.box.com/s/52fii2fsoe66earu7g8x>

- the first annual update of the 2013-15 C&LM plan, the possible implications for the contemplated energy efficiency potential assessment.
- Regarding the Housing Characterization study, the draft report has been written and is currently being reviewed by the consultants. It will be released soon for comment. The time table has been matched to that of the Weatherization Baseline study. Ms. Jacobs inquired why it appeared more of the budget for the study had been spent than the amount of work completed. Kim Oswald noted that the contractor had to purchase the database up front, and has been doing the analytical work on the data since then.
 - The Ground Source Heat Pump impact study and market assessment is due to be completed in May, with a technical meeting to follow. Ms. Skumatz is working with the contractor on some outstanding issues regarding budget overruns, timetable, and assumptions about housing sizes included in the sample. Joe Swift also stated his concern about the timing of the samplings, in consideration of seasonal variations in the data. Ms. Skumatz will review the timing issue and report back.
 - The SBEA impact evaluation is projected to continue through the fall, with completion by December, with a technical meeting to follow. The related Barriers to Participation and Low Income and Limited English studies are on hold, awaiting review of the scopes of work. Ms. Thompson indicated that the Committee would review these two studies at its next meeting.
 - Regarding the Large C&I market assessment and trend analysis, Ms. Oswald reported that the draft final report will be coming out soon. Ms. Skumatz will forward it to Mr. Cole for distribution. Ms. Skumatz noted that a presentation of the results is likely to follow. Ms. Thompson asked her to coordinate the presentation with the C&I Committee.
 - Regarding the prospective All-fuels Potential study, which may be undertaken to support the new IRP, the project is still in development. Mr. Swift expressed concerns about the methodology proposed by contractor NMR, and worried about whether the results would in fact have value. Ms. Skumatz agreed to follow up with him offline to discuss possible solutions to his concerns. Ms. Oswald noted that the process is time sensitive and the scope of work needs to be agreed upon quickly.
 - Concerning the backlog of presentations needing to be scheduled, Ms. Skumatz noted that focus groups on the recent HES focus groups and Residential New Construction studies need to be coordinated with the Residential Committee, and the presentations on the Retrocommissioning and Free-ridership studies need to be coordinated with the C&I Committee. She will contact the chairs and consultants of both committees to make the arrangements.

b. Discussion of Transition-related Issues

- Regarding the format of the monthly update, Ms. Skumatz asked for comments from the Committee. Ms. Jacobs indicated she would provide some feedback offline. She and Mr. Swift and Ms. Thompson expressed their happiness about the Gantt chart

the SERA team has developed to track the progress of studies from inception to completion.

- Ms. Skumatz reported that the team is considering offering webinars on topics of interest to the Committee and asked the Committee to think about whether and how this would be a valuable activity.
- Regarding immediate transition issues, Ms. Oswald that she has been responding to whatever the SERA group needs and providing documentation as requested. She and Ms. Skumatz concurred that at this stage management of studies has been taken over by the SERA team, while Ms. Oswald is assisting with the wrap up details for the CL&P HER pilot and the Retrocommissioning studies. They have had joint meeting with contractors to discuss the handoff. She will be coordinating the electronic bulk transfer of files with Ms. Skumatz and Mr. Cole this week.
- On the topic of consultant workplans, Ms. Thompson noted that a workplan needs to be finalized and approved for SERA, and at the same time the PO for Ms. Oswald should remain open so she can bill for transition-related time. A draft workplan for SERA is expected this week and will be circulated for review.

4. Other

- Ms. Thompson asked the Committee to review the proposed policy statement she and Ms. Skumatz had drafted regarding when and how technical meetings would be requested and scheduled. Ms. Jacobs indicated that DEEP would like to offer some friendly suggestions, especially to clarify the roles of DEEP and PURA so questions do not arise with PURA later. At Ms. Thompson's request, she agreed to forward the revised language to Mr. Cole, who would circulate if for an electronic vote. Ms. Thompson noted that once approved the policy could be added to the Program Evaluation and Market Assessment Roadmap the next time it is formally revised.
- Ms. Jacobs asked that she and Rick Rodrigue be included on the same distribution list with Tracy Babbidge. Mr. Cole and Ms. Skumatz agreed to review and update the Committee's distribution lists.
- Paul Gray inquired when the Committee would begin work on the 2014 Evaluation Budget, and noted that the Companies really need to have it ready by July in order to meet their own regulatory deadlines. He also inquired about how funds remaining in the evaluation budget carry over from year to year. Ms. Skumatz indicated she would talk with him offline to clarify the issue. Ms. Thompson suggested that the Committee should make sure to address these issues at its next meeting.

With no further business to attend to, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Cole / EEB Executive Secretary