

## EEB Meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 | 1:00PM – 3:30PM

[Meeting Materials](#) | [Meeting Recording 1](#) [Meeting Recording 2](#)

## Minutes

### 1. Process

#### A. Roll call of Board members

Board members: Melissa Kops, Shubhada Kambli (DEEP), Stephen Bruno, John Wright, Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Kathy Fay, Karraine Moody, Anne-Marie Knight, Jack Traver, Hammad Chaudhry, Neil Beup, Anthony Kosior, Donald Mauritz, John Viglione, Larry Rush, Ron Araujo

Board consultants: Emily Rice, Stacy Sherwood, Allison Carson, Lisa Skumatz, Phil Mosenthal, Richard Faesy, Ralph Prah, Scott Pigg, George Lawrence

Other attendees: Claire Sickinger, Daniel Rabin, Daniel Robertson, Chad Ihrig, Devan Willemsen, Greg Caggiano, Jeff Howard, Joseph Roy, Michelle Long, Mike Uhl, Natalia Sudyka, Violette Radomski, Brian Sullivan, Diane Del Rosso, Kara Marshall, Wenqing Bouche, Tin Fabien

#### B. Approval of minutes

Mr. John Viglione motioned to approve the November minutes; Mr. Anthony Kosior seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0, with no abstentions. Please note Ms. Knight, Mr. Traver, and Ms. Fay joined after this vote.

#### C. Review of Public Participation Guidelines

Mr. Beup reviewed the [participation guidelines](#).

#### D. Introduction of New Residential Board Member, Karraine Moody

Ms. Karraine Moody was appointed to the Board in December as the Residential Customer Representative. Ms. Moody is the CEO of Habitat for Humanity – North Central Connecticut. The Board welcomed Ms. Moody.

#### E. Recognition of December E-Votes

- 2023 Board Calendar

The Board approved the 2023 meeting schedule 10-0. You can find Board events on the [Board Calendar webpage](#).

- 2023 Work Plans for Executive Secretary and Technical Consultants

The Board voted 8-0, with DEEP abstaining, to approve the 2023 Evaluation Administrator Workplan and the 2023 Technical Consultant and Executive Secretary Workplans and Budgets.

- Guiding Principles for Energy Efficiency Funding

The Board voted 5-0, with DEEP abstaining, on [Inflation Reduction Act principles](#).

Mr. Beup addressed concerned Ms. Kops expressed via email regarding evotes and the difficulty for the Board to provide substantive input. Mr. Beup indicated the Board would adjust its practices regarding documents, ensuring Board members can provide editorial input and discuss as much as possible prior to voting on materials.

#### F. Public Comments

There were no comments offered.

## 2. Programs and Planning

### A. Focus Area: Energy Data Privacy: Understanding limitations and how data can be utilized – Technical Consultants and Companies

Ms. Stacy Sherwood provided a presentation on [Energy Data Privacy](#), which the Technical Consultants created with input from DEEP and the Companies. The presentation provides information on the new CT consumer protection law around code of conduct for distribution companies, legal limitations around the statute, and future uses of data. Ms. Sherwood led a discussion around next steps, and talking points are on slide 20.

Mr. Ron Araujo asked if the Technical Consultants assessed how the new law would impact evaluation activity? Specifically, as it applies to customers that don't have an agreement with the Companies for evaluations. Ms. Sherwood indicated that the Evaluation Administrator may need to review this.

Mr. Araujo asked if the Technical Consultants asked if there was a regulatory option to override the statute for specific purposes that would enable Companies to continue to perform evaluation or marketing activities. Ms. Sherwood indicated that she did not see a "workaround" in other states but noted that the State may want to consider a different statute or other ways to address issues.

Mr. Stephen Bruno indicated that the Company legal teams are currently reviewing what is required and what issues may arise.

The law takes effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Melissa Kops asked if the Evaluation Committee will be reviewing this statute before then to determine what action, if any, needs to be taken. Ms. Sherwood indicated the next step is for the Evaluation team and Companies to coordinate with DEEP and do just that.

An attendee asked what extent the EEB evaluates data collected in terms of program effectiveness. Mr. Bruno explained that the Companies review usage information, participation, and savings information. Mr. Beup added that as the Board targets underserved areas, there are more data points that are being reviewed. The Board discussed that some of the data and results from subsequent analysis may be restricted from sharing. The Board also discussed what information can be shared back with the customers to encourage participation and educate; the statute has implications on what can be shared in this regard.

Mr. George Lawrence commented that anonymized customer data should be allowable under the statute. Ms. Sherwood noted that Connecticut would need to clarify this.

Ms. Lisa Skumatz noted that the topic of publicly shared data has come up in Evaluation. Ms. Kops asked if it was confirmed that consumer usage data is included in the personal data category. Ms. Sherwood noted that DEEP would need to answer this question as usage data can be considered personal data and can be used as an identifier.

Ms. Kathy Fay asked if prospective homebuyers would still be able to view usage data to make buying decisions, or how homeowners can control what data is available. Mr. Araujo explained that customers can request and receive data, but when a third-party requests data there is a problem.

Regarding the PURA statute requiring a legislative request to acquire aggregate town usage, Ms. Fay said that the process of accessing this data already moves slowly and this change could impact whole town energy efficiency objectives. Mr. Beup noted this is a PURA issue. Ms. Fay said that the EEB could make a recommendation to encourage the most effective approach.

Ms. Kops asked if consent forms could be changed to address the issue? And further pondered whether this requires a legislative or regulatory change. Mr. Araujo clarified that concern is around customer data when there isn't an opt-in.

Ms. Fay asked if the utilities can make the HES and HES-IE reports available on the customer web portal. The Companies will follow up on this.

B. Evaluation Update – Evaluation Administrator

Ms. Lisa Skumatz, Evaluation Administrator, provided an [update from the Evaluation Team](#). Ms. Skumatz's presentation included background information on Evaluation and an overview of the new Google Doc Tracking Tool for evaluation studies. The tracking tool allows stakeholders to check on the status of studies.

Mr. Ralph Prah and Mr. Scott Pigg provided an update on two evaluation studies: the Energy Efficiency to Greenhouse Gas Framework and Residential HVAC/ Direct Hot Water Metering.

Ms. Skumatz gave a preview of upcoming Evaluation Administrator products. The Evaluation Team is working on a total of 59 studies, 11 carryovers from the previous Plan and 48 studies for the 2022-2024 Plan.

Ms. Melissa Kops asked if the Evaluation team is tracking the weatherization levels of homes when tracking the heat pump performance. Ms. Skumatz said the pre-screening questionnaire has several questions, but she would need to follow up. Ms. Kops asked if the heat pump water heater study will include comparison to gas-fired appliances. Mr. Pigg said he doesn't know if it's in the scope by can follow up with an answer.

Ms. Kathy Fay shared that she wanted to make Evaluation work more accessible and commended the Evaluation Administrator for making changes quickly. Ms. Fay encouraged stakeholders to review evaluation reports and ask questions. At the request of Ms. Fay, Ms. Skumatz explained the evaluation process from the kickoff meeting and how everyone can be engaged. At the onset of a study, Companies and Technical Consultants advise the scope and during the kickoff meeting the EA reviews the project scope, goals, etc. The kickoff slides are shared on the [Evaluation Reports](#) page.

Mr. Stephen Bruno suggested that the Board discuss what metrics should be tracked regarding emissions and greenhouse gases and define those metrics. Mr. Prah agreed and said this is a component of the study which will wrap up in May.

C. Interim Determination on 2023 Plan – DEEP

Ms. Shubhada Kambli announced that DEEP will issue a Draft Determination on the 2023 Plan Update and public comment period in the coming weeks. In its interim approval of the 2023 Plan Update for the 2022-2024 Budget in December, DEEP acknowledged the strains on funding and recommended steps to address those strains. The budget determination emphasized the sequencing of funding streams will be increasingly important, and it directs utilities to expend CAM funds ahead of other funds. DEEP approved the overall budget but

reserved the right to provide guidance on spending levels, program offerings, and prioritization of funding streams.

D. 2022-2024 C&LM Plan Update Process and Schedule for March 1 Filing – Companies

Mr. Stephen Bruno provided a [timeline and steps](#) for the March 1 filing of the 2023 Plan Update. The Companies will present the 2022 budgets at the February Board meeting. Mr. Bruno expressed the Companies appreciation for additional \$3million in RGI funds that were allocated in 2022.

E. Annual Legislative Report Update – Companies

Mr. Stephen Bruno provided a [timeline and outline](#) of the 2022 Annual Legislative Report (ALR). The Companies will work with Board Consultants to develop the content and will engage with the Board over the next several weeks. The ALR will be filed and distributed to the Legislature March 1.

Mr. Beup said the letter comes from the Chair and the Vice Chair and noted that Mr. Viglione should be included. Mr. Beup noted that the report comes from the full Board, and all Board members should be able to contribute. Mr. Beup expressed concerns about the timeline.

Mr. Bruno suggested that the Executive Secretary distribute the draft to the Board and Mr. Beup said that should be done as soon as possible. Ms. Amanda Fargo-Johnson indicated that she doesn't look on Box for information and relies on prompts to direct her to materials when they are ready for review. Ms. Fargo-Johnson agreed Board members should have access to this information as soon as possible. Ms. Fay indicated that documents should be stored on Box but appreciates receiving materials via email.

Ms. Melissa Kops suggested a live document so Board members can see other comments in real time. Ms. Emily Rice will work with Mr. Bruno to get the ALR materials organized and will distribute to the Board by the end of the week.

F. Residential New Construction- All Electric Filing – Companies

Mr. Ron Araujo discussed the Residential New Construction filing in response to DEEP's Condition of Approval that required an amendment to the originally filed Plan. The Companies have worked with the Lead Residential Consultant and are still working on the draft, but plan to file next week. Mr. Araujo alerted the Board to a proposed new metric for residential new construction. More details on the proposed metric were [presented](#) to the Residential Committee earlier today.

G. 2022 ACEEE State Scorecard Ranking – Technical Consultants

The Technical Consultants provided a presentation on the [ACEEE State Scorecard](#) which is a ranking performed by the American Council on Energy Efficiency and the Economy (ACEEE). The presentation included a history of the State Scorecard, an explanation of Connecticut's ranking (#9), and a comparison to surrounding states.

Mr. George Lawrence indicated that ACEEE is a reputable organization that leads in research and advocacy on energy efficiency that are good for the economy.

Mr. Beup asked what appliance standards are considered and whether state or federal standards are best. Ms. Sherwood noted that following federal appliance standards is the best way to receive points for the Appliance Efficiency Standards. Mr. Araujo noted that DEEP has proposed legislation that would bring

up minimum efficiency levels for various appliances that are higher than the federal efficiency levels.

Mr. Araujo commented on the savings as a percentage of sales metric and is curious how ACEEE treats conversion from fossil fuels to electricity. Mr. Lawrence noted that some of the states ahead of Connecticut have much larger budgets. Mr. Pahl commented that EV charging will add to load but not savings.

Ms. Kops asked for a summary of suggestions for the EEB that can help raise the score. Ms. Sherwood said the Technical Consultants would add this to their to do list for this year.

#### H. Marketing and Policy Working Group Committees – Technical Consultants

Ms. Sherwood provided an [overview of two committees](#) the Consultants will be leading: Marketing led by Ashley Nicholls and Policy Working Group led by Dan Mellinger. Ms. Sherwood encouraged Board members to join these groups and let attendees know that the Consultants will be reaching out.

Mr. Araujo shared that the Companies have started the Policy Working Group and suggested Mr. Peter Clint should reach out to Mr. Mellinger to coordinate. Mr. Sherwood agreed.

Mr. Beup shared that the C&I Committee met at the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology and received information on a few valuable case studies from the Companies. Mr. Beup suggested that the Board receive a presentation on these details.

### 3. DEEP Updates

Ms. Shubhada Kambli provided updates in [a presentation](#) for the following items:

#### A. 2023 CTAC Schedule

The CTAC schedule has been updated and posted. Agendas will be organized and labeled based on sectors the content focuses on. Most meetings are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. The January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held on Zoom.

#### B. Interim Determination of the Plan & Release of Conditions of Approval

A list of updates for Conditions of Approval that DEEP has issued can be found on slide 4. DEEP has been working to resolve the Conditions of Approval of the 2022-2024 C&LM Plan as it prepares to issue a Draft Determination on the 2023 Plan Update.

#### C. Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) Update

DEEP completed 7 technical sessions in December and a Request for Information closed January 6. Recordings and presentations are available [here](#). DEEP is using information gathered from the session and written comments to draft white papers on hydrogen, building thermal decarbonization, and active demand response. To participate in this process please monitor DEEP's [CES webpage](#) and contact [Becca Trietch](#).

Ms. Melissa Kops asked why the energy concierge was suspended. Mr. Araujo explained that he concierge was suspended because the Companies launched a new service that informed homeowners on how to solicit bids and replace their HVAC system and because of so many changes in that space.

Ms. Fay asked how DEEP concluded to cancel the concierge service as it came out of the [GC3 proceeding](#). Ms. Kambli indicated that DEEP could follow up.

### 4. Public Comments

Mr. Mike Uhl, System Smart, asked if Abode is operating in the same circumstances and permissions available to them in Massachusetts. Mr. Araujo said he could not answer that. Mr. Uhl asked if Abode

can use regional references like the NEEP dashboards to show their comparison tools to customers. Mr. Araujo said some of the tools developed by NYSERTA have been rebranded for use in Connecticut. Mr. Uhl noted that Abode may not be allowed and suggested that all the tools that could benefit customers be used. [Mr. Araujo](#) asked Mr. Uhl to send specific information so he can address accordingly.

Ms. Kathy Fay said that there isn't a working definition of energy concierge, and suggested the Board look into that and define energy concierge.

5. Adjourn

Mr. John Wright motioned to adjourn; Ms. Kathy Fay seconded the motion. The motion passed 11-0.