



Energy Efficiency Board
October 12, 2022 | 1:00 – 3:30 pm

[Meeting Recording](#)

Documents for the meeting are located here:
<https://app.box.com/s/kjrekjyp8ghzq1wd7to61bg69o2bi3hf>

Minutes

1. Process

A. Roll call of Board Members

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

B. Minutes – Approve minutes from September 2022 Board Meeting

Mr. Jack Traver motioned to approve the September minutes, Ms. Amanda Fargo-Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0, with DEEP abstaining.

C. Nomination and Vote for EEB Vice Chair

Mr. Neil Beup announced that Mr. John Viglione offered to serve as Vice Chair. Ms. Amanda Fargo-Johnson nominated Mr. John Viglione as Vice Chair. The Board voted to approve Mr. John Viglione as Vice Chair and the vote passed 10-0 with no abstentions.

D. Announcement of the New Residential Board Member

Ms. Kate Donatelli, DEEP, shared that DEEP is in the process of filling two Board vacancies, one for the Residential representative seat and the other for an Environmental representative seat, formerly occupied by Ms. Amy McLean. Ms. Donatelli indicated that DEEP is in the final stages of appointing the Residential seat and is just starting the process to fill the Environmental seat.

E. Joint Green Bank Committee Board Member position

Mr. Neil Beup shared that the Board needs to appoint a member to serve on the Joint Committee, which meets quarterly and encouraged Board members to consider volunteering to serve in this role.

2. Public comments

Mr. Neil Beup shared guidelines on the public comment process, and a copy can be found in the [materials folder](#). Mr. Beup said that side conversations in the chat box can be distracting to Board members, so the Board will be streamlining those comments and questions to the Executive Secretary.

This way those comments can get recorded and questions responded to at an appropriate time. Ms. Emily Rice, Executive Secretary, added that attendees can use the “raise hand” function and the Chair of the meeting can determine if there’s time to address comments outside of the public comment portion of the meeting.

Ms. Rice also noted that the Board is updating its mailing lists and shared a slide deck outlining the upcoming changes and how to register for the 2023 mailing lists. A copy of the slide deck is in the [materials folder](#). Everyone should subscribe to the Board mailing lists in order to receive Board correspondence after January 1, 2023. Contact the Executive Secretary with questions.

3. Programs and Planning

A. Board Consultant Budget Discussion and Vote – Consultant Committee

Ms. Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Chair of the Consultant Committee, shared that the Consultant Committee has been negotiating with the recently approved Technical Consultant for 2023-2025, Energy Futures Group (EFG), on its budget for 2023-2025. The Board’s Consultants (Technical Consultant, Executive Secretary, and DEI Consultant) are included in the C&LM Plan Administrative Budget item for Board Consultants. The budget for Board Consultants is flat lined for 2023-2025, so EFG’s proposed budget along with other variables would have caused a deficit in years 2024 and 2025.

The Consultant Committee provided a [memo](#) to the Board, located in the [materials folder](#), outlining its recommendation to increase the Board’s budget for Board Consultants as well as its plan to manage the Technical Consultant budget. The Board entertained a motion to approve the Consultant Committee’s recommendation to increase the Board Consultant budget for 2023 to \$826,075 from \$800,000 and to accept EFG’s revised proposal that reflects changes to the Technical Consultant budget. Mr. Jack Traver motioned to approve, Mr. John Viglione seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0 with no abstentions.

B. Evaluation Cost Overruns Discussion – Evaluation Committee

Ms. Kathy Fay, Chair of Evaluation Committee, shared with the Board that there have been cost overruns of approximately \$180K caused by data delays on some evaluation studies. Ms. Fay indicated that the Evaluation Committee is currently working with the Companies and DEEP to determine a solution it can recommend to the Board. Ms. Fay noted that the Committee will ensure this does not impact programs or the Evaluation Budget. Mr. Neil Beup noted that data collection delays have been an ongoing issue. Mr. Beup hopes that a solution can be found.

C. Evaluation Costs and Vote – Evaluation Committee

Ms. Lisa Skumatz, Evaluation Administrator, shared a [memo](#) from the Evaluation Committee that outlines the Evaluation budget and scope of work development process. Ms. Skumatz’ material also highlights changes to studies. Mr. John Wright motioned to approve the 2023 Evaluation Plan Update and Ms. Kathy Fay seconded the motion. The Motion passed 10-0 with no abstentions.

D. Discussion and Vote on 2023 Plan Update Budget and Savings Tables and Text – Companies, Consultants, and Board

Mr. Stephen Bruno, Eversource, provided an [overview of changes](#) to the 2023 Plan Update since the September Board meeting. Regarding the summary of kW impacts from recommended changes, Ms. Melissa Kops said the Evaluation Study indicated the results were not as drastic. Ms. Amanda Fargo-Johnson asked about meeting the legislative goal of reduced energy consumption by not less than 1.6 million MMBtu. Mr. Bruno noted that another \$50-70

million in funding would be needed to meet that goal, adding that the influx of Inflation Reduction Act could help bridge that gap. Ms. Kate Donatelli, DEEP, said that DEEP will be looking in the C&LM Plan for barriers to meeting statutory goals as well as the plan to meet those goals.

Ms. Fargo-Johnson asked if it were realistic to assume IRA funding could be used, and Ms. Donatelli said DEEP was hopeful but will have to wait for guidance. Ms. Fargo-Johnson asked what happens if the Board can meet its statutory goal. Ms. Donatelli said the statute does not lay out specifically what the repercussions would be. Mr. Bruno suggested DEEP revisit the goal to ensure it is appropriate and realistic. The Board further discussed the specifics of the statutory goals and the variable factors considered when they were set.

The Technical Consultants provided a [memo](#) outlining recommendations for the 2023 Plan Update and Ms. Stacy Sherwood, Lead Technical Consultant, walked through a [presentation](#) of those points with the Board. The presentation also includes an overview of the development process for the Plan Update and the Technical Consultant's recommendation. The Technical Consultants are recommending the Board approve the 2023 Plan Update, with conditions of approval for the November 1 filing. Conditions of approval and recommended enhancements that are not conditional have been outlined in the Technical Consultant memo.

Regarding the heat pump water heater recommendations, Ms. Melissa Kops asked if it could a requirement or incent for smart grid ports on heat pump water heaters could be added so they can be utilized in demand response. Mr. Richard Faesy, Residential Consultant, said this can be included in the mix and Mr. Ron Araujo said many units have demand response capabilities and the Companies are considering how to incorporate heat pumps in demand response.

Ms. Melissa Kops and Ms. Kathy Fay discussed ensuring heat pump systems are designed for weatherized heating loads and cooling loads and Ms. Sherwood said this can be included in the recommendations.

Given the outcome of the vote under Item 3A, Ms. Sherwood added that the budget for Consultants be increased to \$826,075. Additionally, the Technical Consultants recommend the conditional approval that Companies work with the Policy Working Group (PWG) to provide more opportunities for regional research and development.

Ms. Fay noted that the heat pump recommendations should apply to both commercial and residential applications.

Mr. Jack Traver motioned to approve the Technical Consultants recommendations for conditional approval of the 2023 Plan Update, Mr. John Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 with DEEP abstaining.

E. Review of Natural Gas Incentives – Technical Consultants

The Technical Consultants provided a [presentation on natural gas incentives](#) that includes an assessment of existing incentives, a review of savings and participation impacts by sector, considerations of incentive levels, and recommended next steps. The Technical Consultants suggested the Board consider the questions and considerations raised in the presentation.

The Board and Companies discussed existing natural gas incentives.

F. IRA Guiding Principles Discussion – Technical Consultants

Given the incoming Inflation Reduction Act funds, the Technical Consultants have put together guiding principles for planning and incorporating funds with the C&LM Plan. These principles guide future decisions for allocating funds the most effectively and efficiently. Mr. Richard Faesy provided a [presentation](#) outlining these recommendations, which can apply any source of new funds.

G. Update on Energize CT Website – Technical Consultants

Ms. Stacy Sherwood shared that the EnergizeCT Website will be launching in the next few weeks and the Executive Secretary will update the Board when that happens. This launch is a “soft launch” and the Technical Consultants will be getting feedback from stakeholders before a full launch later on.

4. DEEP Updates – DEEP

Ms. Kate Donatelli provided updates via a [slide deck](#) on the following:

- CTAC Review
CTAC met on September 28. Contractors discussed the HES-IE window incentive proposal, CES heat pump barriers, and Inflation Reduction Act planning. Ms. Donatelli noted good progress was made on the HES-IE window incentive, though flagged the incentive cap as something to keep an eye on given contractor feedback. The next meeting will be November 23 1:00PM-3:00PM, which may be rescheduled due to the Thanksgiving holiday.
- PURA Solar Docket
PURA performed a review of the Residential Renewable Energy Solutions (RRES) program and requested feedback from DEEP regarding the role of the Home Energy Solutions (HES) program in RRES. DEEP submitted a brief with recommendations, which can be found in the presentation on slide 2. A decision is expected soon.
- Overview of Companies Response to COA #7
DEEP’s [Determination](#) on the 2022-2024 C&LM Plan was issued on June 2, 2022 and included several Conditions of Approval. Ms. Donatelli provided an overview of the Conditions of Approval that have been responded to so far. Condition of Approval #7 directed the Companies to develop a data dictionary, which was [filed](#) on October 3. Other DEEP energy filings can be found on [DEEP’s website](#), and a guide can be found in the presentation on slide 6.
- Comprehensive Energy Strategy
DEEP issued its [Notice of Technical Meetings](#) on August 1st for the Comprehensive Energy Strategy. DEEP is hosting a series of Technical Meetings which will inform the development of the CES. Ms. Donatelli provided the updated Technical Meeting Schedule, which can be found on slide 8. Session 4: Building Thermal Decarbonization: Economic potential and technology targets has been cancelled, but a summary of public comments provided on the topic so far will be shared. Additionally, there will be future opportunities to provide feedback on this topic.
An additional set of Technical Meetings (Sessions 5-7) will be scheduled over the coming weeks. Ms. Donatelli provided a recap from Sessions 2 and 3, which can be found on slide 9. DEEP also issued a [Request for Written Comments](#) on August 18. A schedule of deadlines for comment on issues, by Technical Meeting Session can be

found on slide 10.

5. Public Comments

Ms. Sam Dynowski, Sierra Club of Connecticut, responded to the Natural Gas Incentives presentation and reminded the Board that DEEP's final determination on the C&LM Plan includes a phase-out of natural gas incentives. Ms. Dynowski acknowledged the updates to the C&LM Plan includes some phasing out but recommends further steps to phase our gas incentives in the residential portfolio now and to not wait until 2024. Ms. Dynowski noted that incoming IRA funds can be leveraged to assist with this goal.

6. Adjourn

Mr. Jack Traver motioned to adjourn, and Ms. Amanda Fargo-Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0 and the meeting was adjourned.