



EEB Residential Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 8, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
(Webinar Only)

MINUTES¹ (Draft)

In Attendance

Voting Board Members: Amy Mclean (Committee Chair), Brenda Watson

Utility Representatives: Ron Araujo, Will Riddle, Larry Rush, Diane Del Rosso, Michael Cresta, Tammy Wilson, Jerry Graham

Board Consultants: Richard Faesy, Glenn Reed, Craig Diamond, Linda King

Others: Donna Wells, Patrice Gillespie, William Wesson, Anne Hulick, Pete Carlson, Art St. Armand, Brendan Thomas, Ida Churchill, Steve Cowell, Joe Roy, Rebecca Baez Castro, Damaris Velez, Vivian Perez, Stephanie Weiner, Tim Fabuien, Madeline Priest, Art Marcellinus, Guy West, Heather Stokes, Brian Biernat

Meeting procedures and process update

Ms. McLean reviewed the public input guidelines for Residential Committee meetings.

Public Input/Comments

Steve Cowell, E4TheFuture - Mr. Cowell provided a Covid-19 update from E4TheFuture and the Buildings Performance Association. He said they had made good progress on improving the supply of personal protective equipment for contractors. He said that soon they would complete an updated protocol on using blower doors in homes, which could improve air quality in homes. Mr. Araujo noted that there was guidance already available on the use of blower doors.

Approve 6/10/20 Residential Committee Meeting Minutes

Ms. Watson moved to approve. Amy 2nd. Minutes approved.

Companies' updates, status and results through May

Ms. McLean requested that the Companies provide a high level update, focusing on the most relevant information. Mr. Araujo said that for Eversource electric and gas, they were somewhat behind on savings and spending goals. He said they were now seeing the impact of the suspension of on-premises work. Mr. Riddle said that the Avangrid companies were very behind on goals due to the suspension of on-premises work. He said they were 2 to 3 times below goals for spending and savings.

¹ Meeting materials available in Box.com: <https://app.box.com/s/ofikmpd7r7ubvwbwnyi98d39y8he19bk>

Report on Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) and PURA Energy Affordability Dockets

Ms. Watson provided an update. She said that the GC3 had two committees, each with its own subcommittees. She said that there had recently been a greater focus on environmental equity. She said the GC3 had been making good progress, and that the next large milestone was January 2021. In regard to the PURA dockets, Ms. Watson noted that the Dockets had Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4. Ms. Watson briefly reviewed the various docket tracks. She noted that Operation Fuel was engaged only in PURA's Energy Affordability docket.

Weatherization Health & Safety Barrier Funding

- Mr. Faesy provided an overview presentation on weatherization barrier funding challenges and opportunities.
- Mr. Araujo provided a presentation on weatherization barriers. Mr. Faesy asked about vermiculite, and he noted that it often contains asbestos. Mr. Araujo said that vermiculite was generally associated with asbestos in heating equipment as insulation. Mr. Faesy noted that there was a national organization that provided funding for vermiculite remediation. Mr. Rush said that the Companies' guidance to contractors included information on that organization, called the Zonolite Attic Insulation Trust. It was noted that the Trust's funds had come from a lawsuit. Mr. Cowell asked about the guidance on blower door tests. Mr. Araujo said all the health & safety barrier conditions would prevent the use of the blower door test. Mr. Araujo said there was a financing vehicle available for health & safety issues in CT.
- Ms. Watson provided an overview on Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding. She noted that the LIHEAP was a federal program. She said that CT had received an additional \$14 million through the CARES Act to be used through September 2021. For 2019, she said that CT received \$75 million, aimed at serving 81,000 homes. She said the Low Income Energy Advisory Board was established to oversee CT's energy assistance programs. Ms. Watson said there was a guidebook which provided information on these resources. She said that 5% of LIHEAP funds could be used for energy efficiency, and that so far 28,000 homes had been served by the 5%. It was noted that some LIHEAP funds had been returned to the federal government, which was not a good outcome because the state was not able to take advantage of all the funds. She said that PURA had recently become aware of this issue.
- Mr. Biernat from DEEP provided a presentation on the health & safety components of the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). Ms. McLean asked how the WAP and HES-IE programs worked together. Mr. Biernat said that the two programs work together closely, although they had different eligibility guidelines. Ms. McLean noted that the average cost of remediation was \$21,000, but there was not nearly that much available from other funding sources. Mr. Biernat said that the WAP usually addressed only a limited number of issues. He said they also sometimes found situations in which WAP funding was not enough to overcome health & safety barriers. Mr. Araujo noted that the C&LM health & safety pilot program had included fixing root causes of issues (e.g., fixing a rain gutter to prevent water from entering a basement and causing mold).

2021 Plan Update

- Mr. Faesy provided an overview presentation on key issues that could potentially be addressed in the 2021 Plan Update.
- Discussion of weatherization barrier funding - Ms. McLean said that there was an opportunity in the next three year plan to make significant changes. But for the Plan Update, she suggested that steps and placeholders be developed that would go into the next three year plan. Ms. McLean asked who in CT had responsibility for health & safety in homes? It was acknowledged that it was not clear who had that responsibility. It could be the Department of Social Services (DSS). Ms. McLean said that the programs should streamline their eligibility criteria. Ms. Watson said she agreed. Mr. Araujo noted that there was no budget for health & safety in the C&LM plan. He asked if that should be changed for Plan Update or the next three year plan. He said that perhaps there could be a budget for remediating minor barriers. Ms. McLean agreed that there should be a budget for that. Mr. Araujo said they were looking at that in MA. Mr. Riddle said Avangrid was doing that in MA already (health & safety as a category of repairs needed to remove health & safety barriers). Mr. Faesy said there was some room to reduce cost-effectiveness but still meet cost-effectiveness requirements. Mr. Reed said DEEP's Condition 2 included non-energy efficiency issues. He noted that there were trade-offs. Mr. Riddle said the programs needed to look carefully at spending C&LM funds on barriers. He asked if budgets could be more effectively used on non-barriered homes, to move most cost-effectively toward the 80% weatherization goal. Ms. Watson said we should find out from the DSS what funding could be made available to CT's C&LM programs. Ms. McLean noted there were trade-offs between equity (preference given to low-income homes) and getting to the 80% weatherization most efficiently. Ms. McLean and Ms. Watson noted that state-wide collaboration could be much better optimized on energy and equity issues. Ms. Watson provided an example: regarding delivered fuel, perhaps too many funds were being spent on repairing delivered fuel equipment rather than converting to natural gas or heat pumps. Ms. McLean suggested that a next step should be to invite a DSS representative to a future Residential and/or EEB meeting.
- Discussion on managing the transition away from C&LM lighting incentives - Mr. Faesy asked if any lighting changes were needed for the 2021 Plan Update, or if changes should wait for the three year plan. He said there was a lighting evaluation study being undertaken now. He discussed key preliminary conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation report. It was noted that the study's data was from 2019. Mr. Araujo said he was concerned that longer hours spent at home (due to Covid-19) could have an impact in the coming winter months when lighting is used more often. He also said he was concerned that CT was lagging other states in adoption of LEDs, and that the reason might be due primarily to budget cuts from the C&LM funds diversion. He said it could be premature to reduce incentives in the 2021 Plan Update. He suggested not making any changes for the Plan Update, and waiting for the three year plan. Ms. McLean agreed with that. Mr. Reed suggested that more discussions were needed among the consultants, Companies, and Evaluators to see if there were any small changes that might be beneficial for the

2021 Update, but he agreed that significant changes should wait for the three year plan.

Agenda items for future Residential Committee meetings

- 2021 Plan Update
- Follow-up on GC3
- Q2 Program Update
 - a. Residential New Construction, Multifamily, HVAC
 - b. Code Savings Attribution
- DEEP's plans on cost effectiveness test
- DEEP's plans on electrification

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

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