August 3rd, 2022

Lisa A. Skumatz, Ph.D.

Skumatz Economic Research Associates (SERA)

762 Eldorado Drive

Superior, CO 80027

RE: Air Sealing and Insulation Gross Realization Rate Recommendation for PSD

Dear Dr. Skumatz,

Eversource Energy (“Eversource”) is pleased to submit these written comments regarding the Review Draft evaluation memo: “Air Sealing and Insulation Gross Realization Rate Recommendation for PSD”(“Draft Report” or “Memo”), submitted July 1, 2022 by NMR Group (“Evaluator”). Eversource received the Review Draft Report on July 1, 2022 by the Evaluator with a request to provide comments by July 15, 2022, and subsequently asked for an extension until August 3rd, 2022. Per the Energy Efficiency Board Evaluation Road Map Process, these comments are for consideration for inclusion in the Final Report.

The Draft Report recommends applying a placeholder gross realization rate of at least 50% relative to the reported savings for 2019 participants for air sealing and insulations for both programs, HES and HES- IE, pending the completion of the study.

**General Comments on Draft Report Findings**

Eversource appreciates the evaluator’s efforts to conduct a comprehensive, thorough impact evaluation of the Companies’ HES program. We value the evaluator’s analysis and provide the following high-level overview of our comments and questions on the draft memo. Full and detailed comments can be found in the attached document “R1983 Gas Weatherization PSDMemo01JULY2022\_ES comments”



**Comments and Questions:**

1. The memo shows high level savings results categorized as “Core (Air Sealing Only)” and Rebated (Air Sealing & Insulation). Please clarify if duct sealing is included in air sealing. There has been difficulty separating out the effects of these two measures in previous billing analysis of the program.
2. Blower guided air sealing is not possible at all locations due to health and safety barriers, such as mold. This would not prevent a house from receiving insulation. Please clarify if homes that received insulation though were not eligible for air sealing were included in the “rebated” category.
3. To better understand how to improve the realization rates going forward, it would be helpful if results could be provided by home heating type, ex: boilers (no ducts) vs furnaces (ducted homes), by vendor who installed the measure, and by gas company. This would help in understanding whether realization rate issues may be coming from duct sealing or air sealing, be a programmatic issue, an installation issue, or a reporting issue.
4. Please provide a deeper explanation of the underlying causes of declining pre-program consumption. Is it possible the age distribution in the participating homes is changing over the years, or the requirement to undergo an HES evaluation for solar is increasing the average efficiency of the cohorts? We would also like to understand how the pandemic may have affected these consumption trends.
5. Please specify in the report if the suggested gross realization rate would be applicable for only gas air sealing and insulation, or if the results are applicable to delivered fuels as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Kiersten Williams

Kiersten Williams

Analyst, Evaluation | Energy Efficiency | Eversource

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