

Dear Efficiency for All & Signatories:

The Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) has received your letter dated August 29, 2023, and a formal follow up on this letter dated September 27, 2023. Your letters have been incorporated into the record as a Public Comment under the 2022-2024 Conservation and Load Management Plan. DEEP has also received your letter dated October 11, 2023, regarding the Technical Meeting held on September 28, 2023. Your letter has been incorporated into the public record as comments responsive to DEEP's Request for Written Comments and Notice of Technical Meeting dated October 12, 2023. DEEP appreciates that EFA and Signatories have brought these important issues to its attention and will closely consider the input. DEEP will continue to seek additional engagement through the various ongoing processes described below. DEEP is committed to fostering an equitable and inclusive environment for all in its public engagement and welcomes specific input regarding how to make its processes more inclusive and equitable.

As a reminder, there are standardized processes in place to receive feedback related to the Conservation and Load Management Plan, which are outlined below. Stakeholders are encouraged to use these existing channels to ensure that their feedback is incorporated into the public record. In addition to these regularly scheduled opportunities, the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Board (EEB) and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) regularly hold Public Input Sessions, issue Notices of Request for Written Comments, and seek feedback relating to meeting topics and agendas. Many meetings are accessible to both in person and remote attendees. As an example, recently, DEEP held a day-long hybrid in-person and remote meeting and invited program contractors to the table with the utilities and other stakeholders to give input into a variety of matters, including some of those outlined in the letters noted above. Other issues will be explored through DEEP's upcoming process to review, modify, and approve the 2024 Conservation and Load Management Plan Update.

DEEP is aware that contractors requested until January 1 to provide input into their issues of concern. While DEEP endeavors to be as flexible as possible regarding timing for input, there is an annual budget that needs to be managed to, and programmatic decisions often impact that budget. Therefore, DEEP may require input in a shorter timeline than contractors may prefer. DEEP is in the process of releasing a directive to the Utility program administrators to develop more clear approaches for program changes in upcoming program years.

In the meantime, Stakeholders are strongly encouraged to continue to participate in the following:

Energy Efficiency Board (EEB) and EEB Committees. These meetings are typically held at 10 Franklin Square and at Eversource headquarters. There are regular opportunities for public comment during both the Board and Committee meetings.

While DEEP sits on the EEB, the agency does not run or facilitate these meetings. They are organized by the Executive Secretary and facilitated by the EEB and Committee Chairs. For more information on the Board and its meeting procedures, please contact the EEB Executive Secretary at <u>eeb_secretary@energizect.com</u>. More information on the meeting schedule and materials can be found on the <u>EEB website</u>.

Contractor Technical Advisory Committee. These meetings, which are typically held bi- monthly, are coordinated by DEEP. Agendas are developed with input from participants. For more information on the CTAC meetings, including agendas, please visit the <u>CTAC webpage</u>.



Annual Plan Update Reviews. Proposed annual updates to the C&LM Plan are submitted by the Utilities after review and approval by the EEB in November of each year. DEEP is currently conducting a process to review the 2024 Plan Update and is hosting a <u>technical meeting</u> on December 14, 2023, for this purpose. DEEP has invited stakeholders, including program contractors, to present at the technical meeting. The Utilities will present proposed changes to the C&LM programs during the technical meeting. There will also be opportunities for public comment and for <u>written comments</u>. There will be opportunities for stakeholders to ask questions during the technical meeting.

As always, we value the feedback that program contractors provide, we recognize the time commitment that thoughtful comments require, and all comments will be considered as DEEP reviews pending proposals.

Best,

Victoria Hackett

Vicki Hackett Bureau Chief of Energy & Technology Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection