

# Memo



**To:** RI Energy Efficiency & Resource Management Council  
**From:** Jeff Loiter, Mike Guerard  
**Date:** July 19, 2018  
**Subject:** Update on Potential Study Progress and Schedule

CONSULTANT TEAM

This memo summarizes the status of the multi-year process that will culminate in a new estimate of energy efficiency potential for use in program planning and goal-setting. The table below summarizes the timing of the key steps in this process and briefly explains the key steps.

Step	Timing	Description
<b>Primary Data Collection</b>	On-going, through 2Q2019	National Grid collecting primary data
<b>Draft RFP</b>	4Q2018	Will include estimate of budget and initial scope (see below)
<b>Issue RFP</b>	1Q2019	EERMC works with OER to issue RFP to qualified providers that meets state procurement guidelines
<b>Select Vendor</b>	2Q2019	A technical review team as designated by the EERMC Chief Purchasing Officer will vet proposals and make recommendations for a full council vote
<b>Draft Study Results</b>	4Q2019	Majority of work will occur in the second half of 2019
<b>Final Study Results and Report</b>	2Q2020	Study results will inform the next three-year plan, covering 2021-2023

Defining the scope of the potential study will be a critical task for the Council, OER, National Grid, and other stakeholders to complete before issuing the RFP. Previously, energy efficiency, CHP, and renewable energy potential were assessed in separate studies. Given the increasing importance of the Power Sector Transformation process and on integrating many diverse energy resources into a coherent and more comprehensive energy strategy, it may be preferable to the Council to have the new study consider the collective potential of a range of energy resources other than (but including) energy efficiency. In addition, reduction in peak demand (both in the summer and winter) is becoming more important relative to reductions in annual energy consumption; the potential study should provide robust and confident estimates of both energy and demand reductions. While this may add complexity to the scope, it is also more likely to result in estimates of potential for different resource types that are based on the same underlying assumptions and methodologies. Some of the resource types that should be considered include the following.

- “Traditional” energy efficiency focused on permanent, equipment-based, reductions in energy consumption and reduced peak demand
- Behavioral approaches to both energy and peak demand reduction
- Active demand response for times of peak energy demand
- Distributed energy resources, including generation (e.g., on-site solar PV, CHP) and storage

- Electrification of heating and (potentially) transportation