



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 18, 2019 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM

Conference Room A, 2nd Floor, Department of Administration, Providence, RI

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**Members in Attendance:** Chris Powell, Anthony Hubbard, Karen Verrengia, Joseph Garlick, Jennifer Hutchinson.

**Others Present:** Nick Ucci, Rachel Henschel, Mike Guerard, Mark Kravatz, Becca Trietch, Sara Canabarro, Dr. Carrie Gill, Denilex Rodriguez, Matt Ray, Angela Li, Romilee Emerick, Noel King, William Codner, Brad Piper, Elizabeth Terry, David Sungarian, Matt Ray, Erika Niedowski, Kai Salem, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Peter Case, Chris Porter, Rachel Sholly, Tim Roughan,

All meeting materials can be accessed here: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-april-2019/>

### 1. Call to Order

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 3:34PM.

### 2. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Powell requested to postpone the approval of the meeting minutes since they did not have a quorum.

### 3. Executive Director Report

Chairman Powell skipped this update until after his report.

### 4. Chairperson Report

Chairman Powell reported that since they need all Council members to be present for a quorum, and they are missing at least one Council member today, the members will not be able to vote on the items listed in the agenda, as well as the meeting minutes. Even though the Council will not be able to vote on the Council's 2020 Plan Priorities, the C-Team will still be presenting our draft priorities to National Grid and National Grid's Technical working groups (formally called the Collaborative) later this month. Therefore, the Council's review and feedback on the Priorities are extremely important today. Chairman Powell noted that if any members have not been able to review the latest version of the Priorities Resolution, please take a look at the version included in today's packets.

As always, for those who would like to make a public comment on the Council's draft 2020 Priorities or any other topics, please sign-up near the foods and drinks. There is a public comment period earlier in the meeting for the 2020 Priorities, and another public comment period at the end of the meeting for any other comments.

Chairman Powell stated that during the rest of today's meeting the Council will hear about: a summary from the C-Team on the discussions that have happened thus far in 2019 with National Grid's Technical Working Groups (there is one tech group focused on the EE Plan and one focused on the SRP Plan). As you are all aware, the C-Team participates in these tech groups on our behalf, but we are welcome to attend if desired. These groups help inform and advise National Grid on the development of annual EE and SRP Plans. We are aiming to have quarterly updates from the C-Team on the outcomes of these tech group meetings, so we can be better informed prior to seeing the first drafts of the 2020 Plans.

Next, the Council will see two presentations from National Grid on some 2019 pilot efforts, followed by energy efficiency efforts underway in Pascoag District, and lastly end the meeting with some council business and have the other opportunity for public comment.

Chairman Powell stated that since Commissioner Grant isn't present at today's meeting, Mr. Ucci will be giving the Executive Director Report on her behalf.

Mr. Ucci reported that at the last meeting, Commissioner Grant went over OER's RGGI allocation plan – the public comment hearing was today, and any written comments can be submitted for the next 10 days. He stated that the RevWind 400MW offshore wind project contract is now with the Public Utilities Commission – the hearings will start April 20<sup>th</sup> and OER anticipates a decision by May 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Ucci quickly noted that this project alone could meet 25% of Rhode Island's electric load. Mr. Ucci also mentioned that the other Renewable Energy 400MW project proposals are currently under review.

Lastly, Mr. Ucci noted that the Lead by Example Awards Ceremony is coming up – the deadline is April 26<sup>th</sup> and to please encourage anyone that they may know to sign up. He quickly spoke on how the Department of Labor and Training awarded a grant to the Oil Heat Institute to support delivered fuel service provider training in heat pumps, weatherization and integrated controls. He congratulated the team who pulled together the application.

Chairman Powell asked for an update on the Council's membership process. Mr. Ucci replied that there are no new updates – nominations are still in process.

## **5. Program Oversight**

### *a) Update on the Energy Efficiency (EE) Technical Working Group and the System Reliability Procurement (SRP) Technical Working Group meetings*

Mr. Guerard gave a high-level overview of the topics that had been discussed at the EE and SRP Technical Working Groups. He highlighted that two new developments were formalized at the February meeting:

- The "Collaborative" was officially renamed the Energy Efficiency Technical Working Group
- A separate group to focus on System Reliability was confirmed and named the System Reliability Procurement Technical Working Group and will operate on a similar monthly schedule.

Mr. Guerard stated that the first change is in recognition of the groups' roles in providing informed, engaged input and opinions to National Grid as it develops its annual and three-year plans. The expectation is that the active stakeholders will have the option to become a settling party for the filing of plans with the RI Public Utilities Commission (PUC). And, the second change reflects the consensus view that the System Reliability Procurement Plans require additional time and focus than has previously been allocated and therefore it needed a separate working group.

Chairman Powell asked who GECA is Mr. Guerard replied that GECA stands for Green Energy Consumers Alliance, which was formally known as People's Power & Light. They had been mentioned as an active participant in the Technical Working Groups.

Mr. Guerard quickly went over the topic areas planned for the next (3) months in the Technical Working Groups. He noted he will share the new link to National Grids website where more info can be found on the EE and SRP technical working groups.

Lastly, Mr. Guerard added that he will share/send out more information on the SRP working group meetings if anyone would like to attend/join. Ms. Verrengia stated that she has been dialing-in to these meetings and finds it to be very beneficial.

Please refer to [EE & SRP Memo](#).

*b) Discussion on Council Priorities for the 2020 Energy Efficiency & System Reliability Procurement Plans*

Mr. Guerard gave a brief introduction of the EERMC Priorities for the 2020 Annual Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Plans.

Mr. Kravatz stated that this is the first time the Council has developed priorities – this document attempts to formally summarize the Council's priorities to help inform National Grid as they develop their annual Plans. He quickly highlighted some priorities and thanked all the Council members for setting up their 1:1's to go over these priorities and other topics with the Consultant Team.

Please refer to [2020 EERMC Priorities](#).

*c) Public Comment on Council Priorities*

No Public Comments.

*d) Vote on Council Priorities for the 2020 Energy Efficiency (EE) & System Reliability Procurement (SRP) Plans*

Chairman Powell postponed this item since they did not have a quorum present.

**6. Special Topics (35 min, 4:25 – 5:00 pm)**

*a) Presentation on 2019 Sense & Smart Lighting Pilots*

Ms. Li gave a brief introduction to the Home Energy Management Presentation and introduced Mr. Piper.

Mr. Piper highlighted that the Smart Lighting Study focused on 85 homes between MA and RI; they connected lamps, light level (lux) sensors, room level and whole home level occupancy sensors. They also tested and evaluated their baseload simulation validation methodology. Mr. Piper continued going over the study and its findings. Please refer to [Home Energy Management Presentation](#).

Chairman Powell asked why this study was only focused on lighting when other major appliances could also be incorporated into the hub (electronic control) system. Ms. Li replied

that National Grid will most likely look into other options in the future, but right now there is a focus on lighting to see what other lighting savings can be found.

Mr. Ucci asked what the cost was per home (average/median). Mr. Piper replied that he does not have the exact number with him at the moment. Mr. Ucci also asked about what kind of feedback they received. Mr. Piper stated that most of their feedback was positive, however, the batteries for some of the technologies were a challenge, and some people had privacy concerns with the sensors – making sure it wasn't an actual camera.

Chairman Powell asked about the Geo-Fencing, if it was a localized sensor or followed the people around. Mr. Piper replied that it only goes a few feet from where the Hub system is located.

Mr. Piper highlighted that this study started in 2017, and it's incredible how much technology has changed since then.

Ms. Li then gave a brief introduction to the National Grid/Sense Home Energy Monitor Program Presentation and introduced Mr. King.

Mr. King quickly went over what Sense is, and how it works – it's a technology that can help to disaggregate energy usage in a home. He noted that the assessment being presented started in 2018 and that the full review will occur this summer. Mr. King went over some savings examples/opportunities. Please refer to [Sense Home Energy Monitor Program](#).

Mr. Hubbard asked how the Sense monitor works. Mr. King replied that the Sense box is connected to the electric panel and broadcasts through WiFi. Mr. Hubbard asked if there's any discrepancy between Sense's data and National Grid's. Mr. Piper and Ms. Li replied that they haven't done that comparison yet but will be looking into this once they have the results.

Mr. Ucci asked if customers can put in information about a specific appliance such as brand/model/year etc into the app to help with better results. Mr. Piper replied that once Sense starts recognizing appliances, the app will ask you to input additional information.

Mr. Kravatz asked about its pricing. Mr. Piper replied that the unit costs \$299; however, if customers agree to share the data with National Grid, they can obtain Sense for free. He added that it is possible that these sensors could be incorporated into AMI meters in the future.

*b) Presentation on Energy Efficiency Efforts by Pascoag Utility District*

Dr. Gill gave a presentation on the Pascoag Utility District Energy Efficiency Efforts. Please refer to [PUD Energy Efficiency Programs](#). Dr. Gill also introduced URI's Energy Fellow Intern – Denilex Rodriguez who is helping her with this program. Dr. Gill noted that overall, they are extremely excited about this program and where it's heading.

Ms. Verrengia asked if Pascoag is offering financing options like the ones National Grid offers. Dr. Gill replied that they currently do not have any options like National Grid's, but they are actively exploring other strategies, such as possibly partnering up with smaller banks, and commercial financing options such as C-PACE.

Chairman Powell asked if they have system benefit charges on their utility bills like National Grid customers. Dr. Gill replied that they do, but it is only 0.21cents, which is much smaller than National Grid's and has therefore limited the energy efficiency services provided.

## **7. Council Business (25 min, 5:00 – 5:25 pm)**

### *a) Review of 2019 Annual Council Report to the General Assembly*

Ms. Sholly gave a brief update on the EERMC Annual Report – she noted that the current draft version does not include National Grids final numbers, therefore the Council members will see placeholders for those items.

Ms. Sholly asked the Council members to please let her know if they have any feedback and send it to her by April 25<sup>th</sup> (the same date that National Grid will send her data to include in the report). She stated that the goal is to present & vote on the final draft at the next meeting (May 16<sup>th</sup>).

Ms. Verrengia asked about the vendor section – she wants to make that RI Vendors are listed first in the back of the report since this is a Rhode Island report, and the Council is responsible for it. Ms. Sholly made a note to change this.

Please refer to [2019 EERMC Annual Report Timeline](#) and [2019 EERMC Annual Report- Draft](#).

### *b) Potential Study Update*

Mr. Guerard gave a brief update on the Potential Study – he noted that the RFP deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>. After they receive proposals in response to the RFP they report how many bids were received to the Council. Mr. Guerard noted it is extremely important to have a quorum in June (20<sup>th</sup>), so they can vote on the vendor selection.

Mr. Kravatz noted that they already have 2 Council members who have volunteered to serve on the Evaluation Team but they are still searching for one more. Ms. Trietch added that she will be reaching out to the Council Members individually since they need one more Council member to be part of the Evaluation Team. She noted that since this study is being done by the Council, they need to have at least 3 members to evaluate the different proposals.

Ms. Henschel asked about the process for collaborating on the Potential Study project evaluation/review process. She noted that her team from National Grid should be involved in the scoring/review of the proposals. Ms. Trietch replied that she needs to reach out to Legal to find out about the evaluation process. Mr. Ucci added that maybe they can provide National Grid, or the parties involved an NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) – he stated he will connect with Ms. Trietch and work on finding out the best option for the Council. Ms. Henschel added it would be beneficial for the Council to have National Grid involved in the selection process since the Study will be extremely data driven.

### *c) Council Quarter 1 Budget Update*

Ms. Trietch quickly went over the 2019 Quarter 1 Budget Summary – she noted that they haven't paid a few items yet, and that under Public Education, they still do not have the final amounts as all (3) contracts are currently under review.

Ms. Trietch noted that there is nothing major to flag for the Council.

Please refer to [2019 Quarter 1 Budget](#).

## **8. Public Comment on All Other Topics**

Mr. Schrag (on behalf of the Public Utilities Division) would like to better understand how National Grid would participate in the Potential Study scoring/review process – he expressed some concerns that there could be a conflict of interest for National Grid to be involved.

Ms. Salem (on behalf of Green Energy Consumers Alliance) spoke on the RGGI funds allocation. She stated that she would like to see more of the RGGI Dollars primarily used towards Energy Efficiency rather than Renewable Energy – she noted that this year \$2 out of \$3 Million dollars are going towards solar). She added that she would like to see more sustainable funding sources for Renewable Energy instead of just RGGI.

## **9. Adjournment**

Chairman Powell adjourned the meeting at 5:04PM.