

Memo



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

CONSULTANT TEAM

To: RI Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council
From: EERMC Consultant Team
Date: January 20, 2022
Subject: 2021 Consultant Team Budget Increase Request

At the conclusion of 2021, the Consultant Team (C-Team) appreciates the opportunity to apprise the EERMC (“the Council”) on the status of the Scope of Work (SOW) and budget approved for 2021.

The C-Team is requesting an increase to its budget for calendar year 2021 in the amount of \$24,420.90 to enable payment for work that was performed in Q4 that was not anticipated in our approved SOW and associated budget. The C-Team consulted in advance with the Office of Energy Resources (OER) in Q4 2021 about the possibility of the need to spend beyond our approved budget. At the time of that conversation, the C-Team did have funds remaining, and it was determined that it would be more efficient to wait and see whether an ask for additional budget would be necessary as opposed to attempting to estimate the amount that would be needed and seeking approval for that in December, as the need was relatively uncertain, due in large part to the unprecedented nature of the proceedings in Docket 5189, the first contested energy efficiency plan docket.

In the concluding months of the year there have been several developments that have deviated from what was included in the C-Team’s original SOW. The vast majority of additional work is associated with the Council decision to not endorse the 2022 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan (“the Plan”). In support of this decision, the C-Team undertook work beyond the existing SOW and contractual limit in the interest of ensuring comprehensive, robust services on the Council’s behalf during the proceedings in Docket 5189 at the PUC. These included:

- **Development of the Council’s first-ever report documenting reasons for not endorsing a plan**, which summarized the Council’s decision, reasons for its decision, and highlighted other areas of concern that the Council communicated leading up to and during its vote on September 23rd, 2021.
- **Developing and reviewing responses to nearly thirty (30) sets of data requests**, including developing and reviewing responses to two (2) sets of data requests that the C-Team submitted on behalf of the EERMC to the Company, assisting the OER in developing responses to eight (8) sets of data requests that were directed at the EERMC from other intervening parties, and review responses to seventeen (17) sets of data requests that were directed by and to other intervening parties. In total, nearly 450 questions were asked between parties over the course of the proceedings through the end of December.
- **Development and review of pre-filed testimony**, including developing pre-filed testimony authored by the C-Team on behalf of the Council, as well as review of pre-filed testimony of other intervening parties.

- **Participation in evidentiary hearings at the PUC**, including attendance and participation in cross-examination at two hearings in December, attendance in several preparation and procedural calls leading up to the hearings, and continued engagement with the Council’s legal representative to understand the nature and scope of the proceedings and ensure the C-Team was fully prepared to represent the Council in a first-ever contested case.
- **Review and analysis on various versions of the Plan that came to light during the proceedings**, including review and analysis of impacts to budgets, savings, and benefits associated with four (4) different versions of the Plan.

Though important, these work areas arose only in the fall of 2021, and consequently were not planned for in the C-Team’s original 2021 scope of work, and similarly were not anticipated in June of 2021 when the C-Team brought forth to the Council a memo and request to increase the originally proposed budget by \$69,000¹. The reasons for that request included additional or expanded areas of work, examples of which included increased need to support PUC rulings on the 2021 Annual Plan, monitoring changes in activities related to National Grid’s proposed sale, and reviewing and assessing how state policy and legislative developments might impact business-as-usual proceedings.

The table below summarizes our initial, supplemental, and total budget requests dating back to 2015, and highlights the total supplemental request for 2021. The proposed supplemental budget for 2021 is inclusive of the \$69,000 supplemental budget that was approved by the Council on June 17th, 2021.

Year	Initial Budget	Supplemental Budget	Total Budget
2015	\$702,000	\$80,000	\$782,000
2016	\$775,450	\$55,000	\$830,450
2017	\$778,990	\$130,840	\$909,830
2018	\$613,000	\$120,120	\$733,120
2019	\$876,000	\$0	\$876,000
2020	\$945,000	\$0	\$945,000
2021	\$631,263	\$93,420.90	\$724,683.90

In summary, the C-Team performed work in Q4 2021 beyond the anticipated SOW and existing contractual limit to ensure comprehensive and robust services on behalf of the Council during the contested hearings in Docket 5189 at the PUC. As a result, the C-Team is requesting an increase of the total budget in the amount of \$24,420.90, which brings the total budget for 2021 to \$724,683.90. We appreciate your consideration of this proposal.

¹ http://rieermc.ri.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/c-team-sow-update_2021.05.20-final.pdf