

In the Matter Of:

Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control

PROPOSED 2021 WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Hearing

January 07, 2021

Wilcox & Fetzer

1330 King Street

Wilmington, DE 19801

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STATE OF DELAWARE
DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

IN RE: :
 :
PROPOSED 2021 :
WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE:
PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION:

Public hearing taken
pursuant to notice via remote
videoconferencing of all participants
beginning at 10:00 a.m., on Thursday,
January 7, 2021, before Gloria M.
D'Amore, Registered Professional Reporter
and Notary Public.

- - -

WILCOX & FETZER
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APPEARANCES :

On behalf of the State of Delaware
Delaware Department of Natural
Resources & Environmental Control:
THERESA NEWMAN, HEARING OFFICER

On behalf of the State of Delaware
Delaware Department of Natural
Resources & Environmental Control
Division of Climate, Coastal
and Energy:
KAREN FORREST, PLANNER II
CHERYL GMUER



1 HEARING OFFICER NEWMAN:

2 Good morning. I believe everyone is now
3 connected and ready. So we will begin
4 the Virtual Public Hearing.

5 Thank you for taking the
6 time out of your busy schedules to
7 connect with us today. The date is
8 Thursday, January 7, 2021. And the time
9 is now 10:00 a.m.

10 We are here this morning to
11 provide a virtual platform for the State
12 of Delaware's Department of Natural
13 Resources and Environmental Control to
14 conduct its virtual public hearing on the
15 proposed 2021 Weatherization Assistance
16 Program Grant Application.

17 My name is Theresa Newman,
18 and Secretary Garvin has appointed me to
19 serve as The Hearing Officer for today's
20 formal proceeding.

21 There have been changes made
22 to DNREC's standard hearing protocols,
23 necessitated by Delaware's ongoing State
24 of Emergency due to the COVID-19



1 pandemic.

2 First and foremost, this
3 hearing is being conducted virtually. No
4 one is together in the same room.
5 Everyone is participating independently
6 at their own respective location.

7 While we are not physically
8 gathered together, WebEx does generate a
9 list of those that are virtually present
10 for this proceeding. So the Department
11 will have a record of those who have
12 electronically joined this event.

13 At the conclusion of these
14 introductory remarks, I will be turning
15 the hearing over to the Department's
16 Staff to provide their presentation for
17 the record being generated in this
18 matter. Whereas, we would then allow the
19 public to provide verbal comment, the
20 Department did not receive any public
21 comment registration prior to the
22 hearing. Therefore, there will be no
23 verbal comments provided during this
24 virtual hearing.



1 There is a court reporter
2 virtually present who will prepare a
3 verbatim transcript of the hearing
4 pursuant to the statutory requirement for
5 DNREC to have the record prepared. And
6 as always, the transcript will be posted
7 on the hearing website dedicated to this
8 matter as soon as it is received.

9 In addition, I would
10 encourage those who are attending today's
11 hearing to also visit the hearing webpage
12 dedicated to this matter for additional
13 details concerning the proposed matter.

14 The hearing webpage can be
15 found online under the Administrative Law
16 Section of DNREC's website that will be
17 listed at the conclusion of today's
18 hearing.

19 Before we begin the
20 presentation today, please be advised
21 that the following protocol remains in
22 place for all DNREC public hearings.

23 All comments received must
24 be limited solely to the subject matter

1 of today's hearing.

2 All comments pertinent to
3 the subject matter of this virtual
4 hearing will be incorporated into the
5 record being generated in this matter.

6 In order to ensure that
7 everyone who wishes to offer comments for
8 the Department's consideration is
9 accommodated, the record in this matter
10 shall remain open through January 22,
11 2021. There is only one authentic record
12 of this formal proceeding, and it is the
13 official court reporter's verbatim
14 transcript.

15 Lastly, per DNREC's
16 standards of hearing protocols, there
17 will be no Q&A or chat session permitted
18 during the hearing.

19 As previously stated, DNREC
20 wishes to ensure that everyone is enabled
21 to offer their comment for inclusion into
22 the record being generated in this
23 matter.

24 Therefore, the record will



1 remain open through January 22, 2021, so
2 that the public may offer written comment
3 should they wish to do so.

4 Comments may be submitted
5 through a comment form link on the
6 hearing webpage via E-mail to
7 DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov or via
8 the U.S. Postal Service at the physical
9 address for DNREC indicated on the
10 hearing page and/or the public notices
11 previously issued in the matter.

12 Written comments to DNREC
13 may not be submitted using social media
14 platforms, such as Twitter, Facebook,
15 YouTube or text messaging.

16 Please remember that all
17 comment received either through USPS or
18 via the electronic mechanism noted just
19 now, as long as received by the
20 Department on or before the January 22,
21 2021, will bear the exact same weight and
22 will be considered equally.

23 With that being said, I will
24 now hand it over to Ms. Karen Forrest,



1 with the Division of Climate, Coastal and
2 Energy to provide the Department's
3 presentation.

4 MS. FORREST: Good morning.
5 Thank you, Hearing Officer Newman. My
6 name is Karen Forrest, and I serve as a
7 Planner II for the Delaware
8 Weatherization Assistance Program.

9 This hearing is being held
10 pursuant to 10 CFR Section 440.14, which
11 requires a public hearing to be held on
12 Weatherization Grant Applications prior
13 to submission to the US Department of
14 Energy.

15 We have one grant
16 application before us today for the
17 Federal Fiscal Year 2021 for the
18 Weatherization Assistance Program.

19 The grant application is
20 available online at the DNREC
21 Weatherization Assistance Program page at
22 de.gov/wap. It was posted on the State
23 Calendar and was the subject of legal
24 notices in newspapers of statewide



1 circulation published on Sunday,
2 December 27, 2020; namely The News
3 Journal and The Delaware State News.

4 This application is a
5 continuation of the 2017 Weatherization
6 Grant representing the fifth year of a
7 three-year term grant that has been
8 extended by two years as per the guidance
9 in the Department of Energy's WPN 21-1 in
10 Section 2.2 dated December 4, 2020.

11 It is required by the
12 Department of Energy that I inform you
13 that the budget for the Weatherization
14 Assistance Program has not been approved
15 and that it is under a Congressional
16 Continuing Resolution.

17 States have been instructed
18 to develop their State Plans using the
19 same funding level as the Department of
20 Energy's 2020 Appropriated Funds outlined
21 in WPN 20-2.

22 The Weatherization
23 Assistance Program will make the required
24 adjustments to the State Plan when the



1 allocations are announced.

2 The WPN 20-2 used for the
3 2021 application allocation is \$844,216
4 as you will in the grant application
5 before us today.

6 In Program Year 2021, the
7 sole Subgrantee for Delaware, the Energy
8 Coordinating Agency, called ECA, will be
9 serving the entire State.

10 ECA was awarded the
11 Weatherization Contract for Kent and
12 Sussex County in September 2020, which
13 executed the Weatherization Contract in
14 New Castle County since April of 2018.

15 There have been no other
16 significant changes to the implementation
17 of the Weatherization Assistance Program,
18 and DNREC is proposing to use the same
19 rules and procedures currently in place
20 under the 2021 Grant.

21 That concludes my prepared
22 testimony here today.

23 I do, however, wish to enter
24 four exhibits into the record as follows.



1 One, The News Journal Print
2 Confirmation of the Weatherization
3 Assistance Program Public Notice that was
4 advertised on December 27, 2020.

5 Two, The Delaware State News
6 Print Confirmation of the Weatherization
7 Assistance Program Public Notice that was
8 advertised on December 27, 2020.

9 Three, a copy of the 2021
10 Weatherization Assistance Program Grant
11 Application.

12 Four, a posting to the State
13 Public Meeting Calendar.

14 And now, I will turn it back
15 over to The Hearing Officer, Theresa
16 Newman.

17 Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER NEWMAN:
19 Thank you, Ms. Forrest.

20 Does this conclude the
21 Department's presentation?

22 MS. FORREST: Yes.

23 HEARING OFFICER NEWMAN:
24 Thank you.



1 I have received an
2 electronic version of the proposed
3 exhibits by the Department, and hereby
4 mark the exhibits as Department's
5 Exhibit 1 through 4.

6 This does conclude today's
7 hearing. Please note that the hearing
8 record will remain open through
9 January 22, 2021.

10 I want to thank you all for
11 attending the Virtual Public Hearing.

12 The hearing is now concluded
13 at 10:08 a.m.

14 Thank you.

15 (Public Hearing was
16 concluded at 10:08 a.m.)

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Print Confirmation of the
Weatherization Program Public
Notice

Exhibit 2 The Delaware State 11

News Print Confirmation of the
Weatherization Program Public Notice

Exhibit 3 Copy of the 2021 11

Weatherization Assistance
Program Grant Application

Exhibit 4 Posting to the State 11

Public Meeting Calendar

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24 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER PAGE

1 State of Delaware:

2 New Castle County:

3

4 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

5

6 I, Gloria M. D'Amore, Registered
7 Professional Reporter and Notary Public,
8 do hereby certify that the foregoing
9 record, Pages 1 to 14 inclusive, is a
10 true and accurate transcript of my
11 stenographic notes taken on Thursday,
12 January 7, 2021, in the above-captioned
13 matter.

14 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
15 set my hand and seal this 8th day of
16 January, 2021, at Wilmington, Delaware.

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GLORIA M. D'AMORE, RPR

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