

In the Matter Of:

Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

September 15, 2022



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DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
DIVISION OF CLIMATE, COASTAL & ENERGY

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

IN RE:)
)
WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE)
PROGRAM: BIPARTISAN)
INFRASTRUCTURE LAW (BIL))
GRANT FUNDS)

Thursday, September 15, 2022
1:00 p.m.

BEFORE:

THERESA NEWMAN, HEARING OFFICER

PRESENT FOR DIVISION OF CLIMATE,
COASTAL & ENERGY:

KAREN FORREST
EDWARD SYNOSKI

LEXITAS REPORTING
Registered Professional Reporters
1330 King Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19801
(302) 655-0477
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1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Good
2 afternoon. I believe everyone is now
3 connected and ready, so we will begin
4 the virtual public hearing.

5 Thank you all for taking the
6 time out of your busy schedules to
7 connect with us today. The date is
8 Thursday, September 15th, 2022, and the
9 time now is 1:00 p.m.

10 We are here this afternoon
11 to provide a virtual platform for the
12 State of Delaware's Department of
13 Natural Resources and Environmental
14 Control to conduct this virtual public
15 hearing on the Proposed Weatherization
16 Assistance Program, Energy Bipartisan
17 Infrastructure Law Grant Application.

18 My name is Theresa Newman,
19 and Secretary Garvin has appointed me
20 to serve as the Hearing Officer for the
21 formal proceeding.

22 First and foremost, this
23 hearing is being conducted virtually.
24 Everyone is participating virtually at

1 their own respective locations. While
2 we are not physically gathered, Webex
3 does generate a list of those that are
4 virtually present for the proceedings
5 so that the Department will have a
6 record of those who have electronically
7 joined this event.

8 At the conclusion of the
9 introductory remarks, I will be turning
10 the hearing over to the Department
11 staff to provide their presentation for
12 the record being generated in this
13 matter. Whereas we would allow the
14 public to provide verbal comment, the
15 Department did not receive any public
16 comment registration prior to the
17 hearing at 12:00 p.m., therefore, there
18 will be no verbal comment provided
19 during this virtual hearing.

20 There is a court reporter
21 virtually present who will prepare a
22 verbatim transcript of the hearing
23 pursuant to the requirement for DNREC
24 to have the transcript prepared. As

1 always, that transcript will be
2 available and posted on the hearing web
3 page dedicated to this matter as soon
4 as it is received.

5 In addition, I would
6 encourage those who are attending
7 today's hearing to also visit the
8 hearing web page dedicated to this
9 matter for additional details
10 concerning the proposed application.
11 The hearing web page can be found
12 online under the Administrative Law
13 section of DNREC's website that will be
14 listed at the conclusion of today's
15 hearing.

16 Before we begin the
17 presentation this afternoon, please be
18 advised that the following protocols
19 remain in place for all DNREC public
20 hearings. All comments received must
21 be limited to solely the subject matter
22 of today's hearing. All comments
23 pertinent to the subject matter of the
24 virtual hearing will be incorporated

1 into the hearing record generated in
2 this matter.

3 In order to ensure that
4 everyone who wishes to offer comment to
5 the Department is considered, the
6 record in this matter shall remain open
7 through September 30th, 2022.

8 There is only one authentic
9 record of this formal proceeding, and
10 it is the official court reporter's
11 verbatim transcript.

12 Lastly, per DNREC standard
13 hearing protocols, there will be no
14 Q and A or chat session permitted
15 during this hearing.

16 As previously stated, DNREC
17 wishes to ensure that everyone is
18 enabled to offer their comment for
19 inclusion into the record being
20 generated in this matter; therefore,
21 the record will remain open through
22 September 30th, 2022 so that the public
23 may offer written comment, should they
24 wish to do so. Comments may be

1 received and submitted through a
2 comment form link on the hearing web
3 page via email to DNREChearingcomments@
4 Delaware.gov or via the U.S. Postal
5 Services at the physical address for
6 DNREC indicated on the hearing web page
7 and/or the public notices previously
8 issued in this matter. Written
9 comments to DNREC may not be submitted
10 using social media platforms such as
11 Twitter, Facebook, YouTube or text
12 messaging. Please remember that all
13 comments received either through USPS
14 or via the electronic mechanism just
15 noted now, as long as received by the
16 Department on or before September 30th,
17 2022, will bear the exact same weight
18 and will be considered equally.

19 I will now hand it over to
20 Ms. Karen Forest with the Division of
21 Climate, Coastal & Energy to provide
22 the Department's presentation.

23 MS. FORREST: Good
24 afternoon. Thank you, Hearing Officer

1 Newman. My name is Karen Forrest, and
2 I serve as a Planner II for the
3 Delaware Weatherization Assistance
4 Program.

5 This hearing is being held
6 pursuant to 10 CFR Section 440-16(a),
7 which requires a public hearing be held
8 on weatherization grant applications
9 prior to submission to the U.S.
10 Department of Energy. We have one
11 grant application before us today for
12 the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 beginning
13 on October 1st, 2022 for the
14 Weatherization Assistance Program.

15 The grant application is
16 available online at the DNREC
17 Weatherization Assistance Program page
18 at de.gov/wap. It was posted on the
19 State Calendar and was the subject of
20 legal notices in newspapers of
21 statewide circulation published on
22 Friday, February 26, 2022, namely the
23 News Journal and the Delaware State
24 News.

1 This application is a new
2 Weatherization Grant representing the
3 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
4 first year in a five-year grant cycle.
5 It is required by the Department of
6 Energy that I inform you of the BIL
7 budget. The Weatherization Program
8 Notice (WPN BIL) 22-1 and 22-2 used for
9 the 2022 application allocation is
10 \$10,189,866, as you will see in the
11 grant application before us today.
12 From that, the DOE requires \$1,817,076
13 be spent on training and technical
14 assistance. The Weatherization
15 Assistance Program will make the
16 required revisions to the State Plan,
17 if necessary

18 In program year 2023, there
19 will be a subgrantee to provide
20 services to support the Weatherization
21 Grant representing the BIL. The first
22 program year is considered a ramp up
23 period by the DOE, and, therefore, much
24 of the required training will be

1 completed this year.

2 That concludes my prepared
3 testimony here today. I do, however,
4 wish to enter four exhibits into the
5 record as follows:

6 Exhibit 1. Confirmation of
7 public notice publication in the News
8 Journal on Friday, August 26th, 2020.

9 Exhibit 2. Confirmation of
10 public notice publication in the
11 Delaware State News on Friday,
12 August 26th, 2022.

13 Exhibit 3. 2022
14 Weatherization Assistance Program
15 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grant
16 application.

17 Exhibit 4. Public hearing
18 notice as published on the State Public
19 Meeting Calendar on August 30th, 2022.

20 Now I'll turn it back to our
21 Hearing Officer, Theresa Newman. Thank
22 you.

23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank
24 you, Ms. Forrest. I have

1 electronically received the proposed
2 exhibits that were just mentioned, and
3 I do hereby mark the exhibits as
4 Department's Exhibits 1 through 4.

5 (Department Exhibits 1
6 through 4 received in evidence.)

7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Does
8 this conclude the Department's
9 presentation, Ms. Forrest?

10 MS. FORREST: It does, yes.

11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank
12 you.

13 As the Department has
14 concluded their presentation, please
15 note the hearing record will remain
16 open through September 30, 2022.

17 I want to thank you all for
18 attending the virtual public hearing
19 today.

20 The hearing is now concluded
21 at 1:08 p.m.

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DEPARTMENT'S EXHIBITS

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Exhibit 3. 2022 Weatherization
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Exhibit 4. Public hearing notice
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