

2024 WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

Moderated by Theresa Smith
Thursday, February 15, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Remote Proceeding

Reported by: Jo Ann Betler, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC, CPE

JOB NO: 607257

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A P P E A R A N C E S

List of Attendees:

Theresa Smith, Hearing Officer

Janella Sapp, Administrative Specialist, Office of the
Secretary at DNREC

Matthew Henderson, DNREC

Heather Hubbard, DE SEO

Savanna Chessher

Amber Franklin

Matthew Himmelein, DE WAP Tech

Mike Mahaffie

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. SMITH: Good morning.

3 I believe everyone is now connected and
4 ready, so we will begin the virtual public hearing.

5 Before we begin, I will hand it over to
6 Janella Sapp with the Office of the Secretary to go over
7 the closed captioned feature available in multiple
8 different languages.

9 MS. SAPP: Good morning. My name is
10 Janella Sapp. As the hearing officer said, I'm the
11 administrative specialist with the Office of the
12 Secretary, and I'm here to assist her today.

13 I would like to make sure everyone is
14 aware that the Zoom platform we're using has the ability
15 for closed captioning in multiple languages.

16 To start closed captioning, if you're
17 using a computer, at the bottom of your screen you
18 should see a "Show Captions" button. If you don't see a
19 "Show Captions" button, you may have to select the three
20 dots that say "More."

21 Once you find your "Show Captions" button,
22 you should click the caret pointing up, which will bring
23 you your translation options. You can select your
24 preferred language from there.

1 If your preferred language isn't listed,
2 you can select "More" and all of the languages available
3 will be listed.

4 If you're on a smartphone, at the bottom
5 of your screen select the "Captions" button indicated by
6 CC. If your preferred language is not listed at the
7 bottom, you may have to select the three dots that say
8 "More."

9 You should then select "Meeting settings,"
10 with the gear icon next to it. Once the setting page
11 comes up, located at the bottom, select "Translation
12 language."

13 From there you will be able to select your
14 preferred language. Then select "Done" at the top right
15 corner, and then "Done" again.

16 If the captions are not automatically
17 popping up, you may need to select "Captions" again and
18 select "Show captions."

19 Now I'll turn it back to the hearing
20 officer.

21 MS. SMITH: Thank you, Ms. Sapp.

22 I want to thank you all for taking the
23 time out of your schedule to connect with us today.
24 Today is Thursday, February 15th, 2024, and the time is

1 now 10:02 a.m.

2 We are here this morning to provide a
3 virtual platform for the State of Delaware's Department
4 of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to
5 conduct a virtual public hearing on the proposed 2024
6 Weatherization Assistance Program Grant Application.

7 My name is Theresa Smith, and Secretary
8 Garvin has appointed me to serve as the hearing officer
9 for today's formal procedure.

10 First and foremost, this hearing is being
11 conducted virtually. Everyone is participating
12 independently at their own respective locations. While
13 we are not physically gathered, Webex -- I'm sorry, Zoom
14 does generate a list of those that are virtually present
15 for this proceeding so that the Department will have a
16 record of those who have electronically joined this
17 event.

18 At the conclusion of the introductory
19 remarks, I will be turning the hearing over to the
20 Department staff to provide their presentation for the
21 record being generated in this matter. Whereas we would
22 then allow public -- the public to provide verbal
23 comments of -- the Department did not receive any public
24 comment registration prior to the hearing, therefore,

1 there will be no verbal comments provided during this
2 virtual hearing.

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

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

16 Before we begin the presentation, please
17 be advised that the following protocol will remain in
18 place for all DNREC public hearings. All comments
19 received must be limited solely to the subject matter of
20 tonight's hearing -- today's hearing. All comments
21 pertinent to the subject matter of the virtual hearing
22 will be incorporated into the record being generated in
23 this matter. In order to ensure that everyone who
24 wishes to offer comment for the Department's

1 consideration is accommodated, the record in this matter
2 will be open through March 1st, 2024.

3 There is only one authentic record of the
4 formal proceeding, and it is the official court
5 reporter's verbatim transcript.

6 Lastly, DNREC standard hearing protocols.
7 There will be no Q and A or chat session permitted
8 during the hearing.

9 As previously stated, DNREC wishes to
10 ensure that everyone is enabled to offer their comments
11 for inclusion into the record being generated in this
12 matter. Therefore, the record will be remain open
13 through March 1st, 2024, so that the public may offer
14 written comments should they wish to do so.

15 Comments may be submitted through the
16 comment form link on the hearing web page, via email to
17 DNREChearingcomments@Delaware.gov or via the U.S. Postal
18 Service at the physical address for DNREC indicated on
19 the hearing webpage and/or the public notices previously
20 issued in this matter.

21 Written comments to DNREC may not be
22 submitted using social media platforms such as Twitter,
23 Facebook, YouTube, or text messaging. Please remember
24 that all comments received through USPS or via the

1 electronic mechanisms noted just now as long as it is
2 received by the Department on or before March 1st, 2024,
3 will bear the exact same weight and will be considered
4 equally.

5 I will now hand it over to Mr. Matthew
6 Henderson with the Division of Climate, Coastal & Energy
7 to provide the Department's presentation.

8 MR. HENDERSON: Good morning.

9 Thank you, Officer Smith.

10 My name is Matthew Henderson, and I'm
11 speaking here on behalf of my supervisor, Heather
12 Hubbard. We are planners for the state energy office
13 working in the Weatherization Assistance Program. This
14 hearing is being held pursuant to 10 CFR Section 440.14,
15 which requires a public hearing to be held on
16 weatherization grant applications prior to submission to
17 the US DOE. We have one grant application before us
18 today for the federal fiscal year 2024 for the
19 Weatherization Assistance Program. The application was
20 posted on the state calendar and was the subject of
21 legal notices in a newspaper of statewide circulation
22 published on February 21st in the Delaware State News
23 and on the 22nd in the News Journal.

24 This application is a continuation of the

1 2023 Weatherization Grant representing the third year of
2 a three-year term. Currently the WAP is operating under
3 a short-term continuing resolution for fiscal year 2024,
4 which expires March 1st, 2024. The US DOE's primary aim
5 is to ensure there are no gaps in services for the
6 weatherization network.

7 For planning purposes, until a full final
8 year for fiscal year 2024 budget is passed and signed by
9 the president, states are instructed to develop plans
10 based on the same funding level as the year prior.
11 However, it is anticipated that all state WAP
12 allocations will be impacted. To that end, DNREC is
13 proposing to use the same rules and procedures currently
14 in place in the Weatherization Assistance Program for
15 clients between now and March 31st, 2025.

16 Upon further notice of a change in
17 funding, the WAP will continue to do business as usual.

18 That concludes my prepared testimony here
19 today. I do, however, wish to enter four exhibits as
20 follows: The News Journal print confirmation of the
21 Weatherization Assistance Program's public notice that
22 was advertised on February 21st, 2023; the Delaware
23 State News print confirmation of the Weatherization
24 Assistance Program Public Notice that was advertised on

1 February 22nd, 2023; a copy of the 2023 Weatherization
2 Assistance Grant Application; and the public meeting
3 calendar posting.

4 Now, I'll turn it back over to the hearing
5 officer.

6 MS. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Henderson.

7 I have received the electronic versions of
8 the proposed exhibits by the Department, and I hereby
9 mark those exhibits as Department Exhibits 1 through 4.

10 This now concludes the weatherization
11 application hearing. As the Department has concluded
12 the presentation, please note the hearing record will
13 remain open through March 1st, 2024.

14 I want to thank you all for attending the
15 virtual public hearing. The hearing is now concluded at
16 10:08 a.m.

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1 CERTIFICATION OF COURT REPORTER AND NOTARY PUBLIC

2

3 I, Jo Ann Betler, Registered Diplomate
4 Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of
5 West Virginia, duly commissioned and qualified, do
6 hereby certify that the foregoing virtual public hearing
7 was duly taken by me and before me at the time and place
8 and for the purpose specified in the caption hereof.

9

10 I do further specify that the said hearing
11 was correctly taken by me in Stenotype and that the same
12 was reduced to computer print by me or under my direct
13 supervision.

14

15 I further certify that I am neither attorney
16 or counsel for, nor related to or employed by, any of
17 the parties to the action, and further that I am not a
18 relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed
19 by the parties hereto, or financially interested in the
20 action.

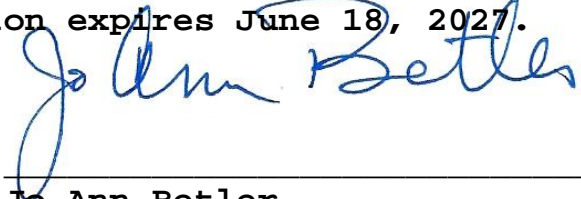
21

22 Given under my hand this 15th day of
23 February, 2024.

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My Commission expires June 18, 2027.



Jo Ann Betler

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