

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.	10:00:28
3	I believe everyone is now connected and	10:00:28
4	ready, so we will begin the virtual public hearing.	10:00:30
5	Before we begin, I will hand it over to	10:00:32
6	Janella Sapp with the Office of the Secretary to go over	10:00:35
7	the closed captioned feature available in multiple	10:00:37
8	different languages.	10:00:40
9	MS. SAPP: Good morning. My name is	10:00:41
10	Janella Sapp. As the hearing officer said, I'm the	10:00:44
11	administrative specialist with the Office of the	10:00:48
12	Secretary, and I'm here to assist her today.	10:00:48
13	I would like to make sure everyone is	10:00:50
14	aware that the Zoom platform we're using has the ability	10:00:53
15	for closed captioning in multiple languages.	10:00:58
16	To start closed captioning, if you're	10:00:59
17	using a computer, at the bottom of your screen you	10:01:00
18	should see a "Show Captions" button. If you don't see a	10:01:03
19	"Show Captions" button, you may have to select the three	10:01:08
20	dots that say "More."	10:01:10
21	Once you find your "Show Captions" button,	10:01:11
22	you should click the caret pointing up, which will bring	10:01:15
23	you your translation options. You can select your	10:01:17
24	preferred language from there.	10:01:19

1 If your preferred language isn't listed, 10:01:20
2 you can select "More" and all of the languages available 10:01:23
3 will be listed. 10:01:26

4 If you're on a smartphone, at the bottom 10:01:27
5 of your screen select the "Captions" button indicated by 10:01:29
6 CC. If your preferred language is not listed at the 10:01:32
7 bottom, you may have to select the three dots that say 10:01:35
8 "More." 10:01:38

9 You should then select "Meeting settings," 10:01:38
10 with the gear icon next to it. Once the setting page 10:01:41
11 comes up, located at the bottom, select "Translation 10:01:45
12 language." 10:01:48

13 From there you will be able to select your 10:01:48
14 preferred language. Then select "Done" at the top right 10:01:50
15 corner, and then "Done" again. 10:01:53

16 If the captions are not automatically 10:01:55
17 popping up, you may need to select "Captions" again and 10:01:55
18 select "Show captions." 10:02:02

19 Now I'll turn it back to the hearing 10:02:03
20 officer. 10:02:04

21 MS. SMITH: Thank you, Ms. Sapp. 10:02:06

22 I want to thank you all for taking the 10:02:07
23 time out of your schedule to connect with us today. 10:02:11

24 Today is Thursday, February 15th, 2024, and the time is 10:02:11

1 now 10:02 a.m. 10:02:15

2 We are here this morning to provide a 10:02:17

3 virtual platform for the State of Delaware's Department 10:02:19

4 of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to 10:02:23

5 conduct a virtual public hearing on the proposed 2024 10:02:24

6 Weatherization Assistance Program Grant Application. 10:02:30

7 My name is Theresa Smith, and Secretary 10:02:31

8 Garvin has appointed me to serve as the hearing officer 10:02:34

9 for today's formal procedure. 10:02:36

10 First and foremost, this hearing is being 10:02:38

11 conducted virtually. Everyone is participating 10:02:39

12 independently at their own respective locations. While 10:02:44

13 we are not physically gathered, Webex -- I'm sorry, Zoom 10:02:46

14 does generate a list of those that are virtually present 10:02:50

15 for this proceeding so that the Department will have a 10:02:52

16 record of those who have electronically joined this 10:02:54

17 event. 10:02:59

18 At the conclusion of the introductory 10:02:59

19 remarks, I will be turning the hearing over to the 10:03:01

20 Department staff to provide their presentation for the 10:03:04

21 record being generated in this matter. Whereas we would 10:03:06

22 then allow public -- the public to provide verbal 10:03:09

23 comments of -- the Department did not receive any public 10:03:11

24 comment registration prior to the hearing, therefore, 10:03:16

1 there will be no verbal comments provided during this 10:03:17
2 virtual hearing. 10:03:20

3 There is a court reporter virtually 10:03:20
4 present, who will prepare a verbatim transcript of the 10:03:23
5 hearing pursuant to the statutory requirement of DNREC 10:03:23
6 to have the same prepared. And as always, that 10:03:28
7 transcript will be posted on the hearing webpage 10:03:30
8 dedicated to this matter as soon as it is received. 10:03:33

9 In addition, I would encourage those who 10:03:36
10 are attending today's hearing to also visit the hearing 10:03:39
11 webpage dedicated to this matter for additional details 10:03:41
12 concerning the proposed application. The hearing 10:03:44
13 webpage can be found under the administrative law 10:03:47
14 section of DNREC's website that will be listed at the 10:03:50
15 conclusion of today's hearing. 10:03:51

16 Before we begin the presentation, please 10:03:54
17 be advised that the following protocol will remain in 10:03:54
18 place for all DNREC public hearings. All comments 10:03:54
19 received must be limited solely to the subject matter of 10:04:02
20 tonight's hearing -- today's hearing. All comments 10:04:05
21 pertinent to the subject matter of the virtual hearing 10:04:09
22 will be incorporated into the record being generated in 10:04:10
23 this matter. In order to ensure that everyone who 10:04:13
24 wishes to offer comment for the Department's 10:04:15

1 consideration is accommodated, the record in this matter 10:04:19
2 will be open through March 1st, 2024. 10:04:20

3 There is only one authentic record of the 10:04:25
4 formal proceeding, and it is the official court 10:04:29
5 reporter's verbatim transcript. 10:04:31

6 Lastly, DNREC standard hearing protocols. 10:04:33
7 There will be no Q and A or chat session permitted 10:04:39
8 during the hearing. 10:04:39

9 As previously stated, DNREC wishes to 10:04:40
10 ensure that everyone is enabled to offer their comments 10:04:44
11 for inclusion into the record being generated in this 10:04:48
12 matter. Therefore, the record will be remain open 10:04:48
13 through March 1st, 2024, so that the public may offer 10:04:52
14 written comments should they wish to do so. 10:04:55

15 Comments may be submitted through the 10:04:58
16 comment form link on the hearing web page, via email to 10:05:01
17 DNREChearingcomments@Delaware.gov or via the U.S. Postal 10:05:04
18 Service at the physical address for DNREC indicated on 10:05:04
19 the hearing webpage and/or the public notices previously 10:05:11
20 issued in this matter. 10:05:12

21 Written comments to DNREC may not be 10:05:13
22 submitted using social media platforms such as Twitter, 10:05:16
23 Facebook, YouTube, or text messaging. Please remember 10:05:19
24 that all comments received through USPS or via the 10:05:23

1 electronic mechanisms noted just now as long as it is 10:05:27
2 received by the Department on or before March 1st, 2024, 10:05:29
3 will bear the exact same weight and will be considered 10:05:32
4 equally. 10:05:35

5 I will now hand it over to Mr. Matthew 10:05:36
6 Henderson with the Division of Climate, Coastal & Energy 10:05:41
7 to provide the Department's presentation. 10:05:43

8 MR. HENDERSON: Good morning. 10:05:46

9 Thank you, Officer Smith. 10:05:47

10 My name is Matthew Henderson, and I'm 10:05:48
11 speaking here on behalf of my supervisor, Heather 10:05:51
12 Hubbard. We are planners for the state energy office 10:05:54
13 working in the Weatherization Assistance Program. This 10:05:58
14 hearing is being held pursuant to 10 CFR Section 440.14, 10:06:00
15 which requires a public hearing to be held on 10:06:05
16 weatherization grant applications prior to submission to 10:06:08
17 the US DOE. We have one grant application before us 10:06:10
18 today for the federal fiscal year 2024 for the 10:06:13
19 Weatherization Assistance Program. The application was 10:06:16
20 posted on the state calendar and was the subject of 10:06:19
21 legal notices in a newspaper of statewide circulation 10:06:23
22 published on February 21st in the Delaware State News 10:06:24
23 and on the 22nd in the News Journal. 10:06:27

24 This application is a continuation of the 10:06:30

1 2023 Weatherization Grant representing the third year of 10:06:32
2 a three-year term. Currently the lab is operating under 10:06:35
3 a short-term continuing resolution for fiscal year 2024, 10:06:39
4 which expires March 1st, 2024. The US DOE's primary aim 10:06:42
5 is to ensure there are no gaps in services for the 10:06:47
6 weatherization network. 10:06:50

7 For planning purposes, until a full final 10:06:51
8 year for fiscal year 2024 budget is passed and signed by 10:06:55
9 the president, states are instructed to develop plans 10:06:56
10 based on the same funding level as the year prior. 10:06:59
11 However, it is anticipated that all state lab 10:07:02
12 allocations will be impacted. To that end, DNREC is 10:07:04
13 proposing to use the same rules and procedures currently 10:07:09
14 in place in the Weatherization Assistance Program for 10:07:12
15 clients for 2025. 10:07:16

16 Upon further notice of a change in 10:07:19
17 funding, the lab will continue to do business as usual. 10:07:21

18 That concludes my prepared testimony here 10:07:24
19 today. I do, however, wish to enter four exhibits as 10:07:27
20 follows: The News Journal print confirmation of the 10:07:30
21 Weatherization Assistance Program's public notice that 10:07:34
22 was advertised on February 21st, 2023; the Delaware 10:07:38
23 State News print confirmation of the Weatherization 10:07:41
24 Assistance Program Public Notice that was advertised on 10:07:44

1 February 22nd, 2023; a copy of the 2023 Weatherization 10:07:47
2 Assistance Grant Application; and the public meeting 10:07:51
3 calendar posting. 10:07:54

4 Now, I'll turn it back over to the hearing 10:07:56
5 officer. 10:07:59

6 MS. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Henderson. 10:08:01

7 I have received the electronic versions of 10:08:02
8 the proposed exhibits by the Department, and I hereby 10:08:04
9 mark those exhibits as Department Exhibits 1 through 4. 10:08:07

10 This now concludes the weatherization 10:08:08
11 application hearing. As the Department has concluded 10:08:12
12 the presentation, please note the hearing record will 10:08:17
13 remain open through March 1st, 2024. 10:08:20

14 I want to thank you all for attending the 10:08:22
15 virtual public hearing. The hearing is now concluded at 10:08:23
16 10:08 a.m.

17 * * * * *

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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.

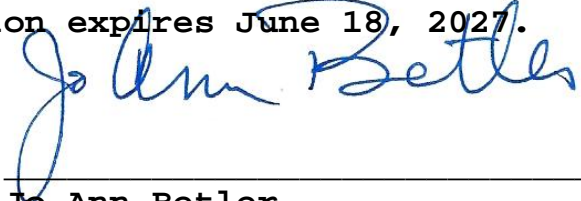
21

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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