



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Held Virtually

January 24, 2024

1:00pm – 3:00pm

EEAC Members in Attendance

EEAC Member	Organization/Sector	Attendance	Proxy	Proxy Name
Rob Underwood	(Chairperson) DNREC	Absent	Yes	Tom Noyes
Scott Lynch	Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation	Present	n/a	
Vacant	Low-Income Sector	n/a	n/a	
Cassandra T. Marshall	Residential Sector	Present	n/a	
Harris B. McDowell, III	Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility	Absent	Yes	Drew Slater
Kelly McKeown	Commercial Sector	Absent	n/a	
Vacant	Delmarva Power & Light	Absent	Yes	Imran Bell
Kevin Yingling	Delaware Electric Cooperative	Absent	Yes	Josh Duckwall
Derrick Craig	Chesapeake Utilities	Present	n/a	
Christian Fuess	Manufacturing Sector	Absent	n/a	
Ric Moore	Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility	Absent	No	
Clem Dinsmore	Environmental Sector	Present	n/a	
Vacant	Agricultural Sector	n/a	n/a	

EEAC Consultants in Attendance

Gretchen Calcagni; NV5

Collin Smith; NV5

Annalise Stein; NV5

DNREC Staff in Attendance

Maya Krasker; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Tom Noyes; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Call to Order

Tom Noyes called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Council Business, Planning, and General Discussion
3. Committee Updates
4. Regulated Utility Program Plan Updates
5. Update on Governor's Energy Advisory Council
6. Public Comment
7. Next Steps/Adjournment

Welcome and Introductions

Gretchen Calcagni called roll for the meeting.

Noyes commented that this meeting will provide an update on the Governors Energy Advisory Council (GEAC) and how it will affect the EEAC. Generally, they will discuss the next steps of including the recommendations from the GEAC into an updated State Energy Plan. Noyes added that the GEAC held 28 public meetings from June through December, including three public engagement sessions.

Council Business, Planning, and General Discussion

Vote on minutes – October

Noyes asked for a motion to approve the October EEAC minutes.

Derrick Craig made a motion to approve the minutes.

Drew Slater seconded.

All Councilors voted in favor.

Motion was approved.

Committee Updates

EM&V Committee

Gretchen Calcagni provided an update on the Evaluation, Measurement and Verification (EM&V) Committee meeting that took place on October 10, 2023. At the meeting, the group discussed a savings allocation and reporting framework for reporting energy savings through programs at a statewide level. They also discussed a revised timeline and program template to complete as a first step to resolve outstanding questions. Calcagni noted that they also discussed reconciliation reporting, which is part of the EM&V regulations. The group discussed formalizing reconciliation reporting process going forward. Lastly, the group reviewed the meeting schedule for 2024 and potential topics to discuss at future meetings.

Energy Access and Equity Collaborative

Noyes provided an update on the Energy Access and Equity Collaborative (EAEC). Noyes noted that they have had valuable discussions pointing to interest in doing more than advising the EEAC on energy efficiency programs. The EAEC was paused last year as the GEAC started. An Environmental Justice and Energy Equity Workgroup was included as one of the Workgroups within the GEAC. Noyes added that the recommendations from the Environmental Justice and Energy Equity Workgroup point to a wider field of discussion, endeavor, work, and policy than can effectively fit in the EAEC. DNREC will be working on how to further expand this conversation to have one place where all of these concerns are discussed and worked on. Those involved in the EAEC will be included in future meetings.

Mark Stutman asked if observers will be invited to the Environmental Justice and Energy Equity meetings in the future.

Noyes replied that, while they are unsure what form these meetings will take, the short answer is yes.

Regulated Utility Program Plan Updates

Chesapeake Utilities

Derrick Craig provided an update on Chesapeake Utilities' energy efficiency program plan. Chesapeake is proposing Delaware's first natural gas energy efficiency program portfolio to be offered by a regulated utility. Craig highlighted that Chesapeake is currently partnering with the SEU on three of their programs, including Home Energy Counseling and Checkup, Home Performance with Energy Star, Assisted Home performance with Energy Star, and the Standard Offer Program. Craig indicated that Chesapeake filed its program plan on September 1st with the Public Utility Commission. The Commission ordered the issuance of a docket number, deadlines for intervention, identification of hearing examiner, and deadlines for filing written comments on October 25th. The Public Service Commission and the Delaware Public Advocate forwarded data requests to Chesapeake Utilities and filed direct testimony identifying their concerns about the energy efficiency program on January 10th.

Clem Dinsmore asked if Craig can briefly state the concerns of the Public Service Commission or the Public Advocate.

Craig replied that the concerns include cost allocations to customers and requests for more detailed information.

Delmarva Power

Imran Bell provided an update on Delmarva Power's (DPL) Residential Energy Efficiency Portfolio. Delmarva Power is entering Cycle 2 for 2024-2026. This includes Energy Star for new homes, quick home energy check-up, implemented by DE SEU under HEC² name, behavioral programs, and a 75,000 MWh goal. Bell highlighted that DPL presented their portfolio to the EEAC and later submitted to the Public Service Commission (PSC) in June of 2023. A settlement agreement was reached with the PSC in December of 2023. Bell also noted that DPL is targeting program launch in Q1 2024.

Ruth Price, from the Delaware Public Advocate (DPA) Office, asked Bell to share the information given to the Public Service Commission (PSC) with the DPA.

Bell replied that filed quarterly progress reports should be public. Bell noted that he will clarify internally with DPL as well.

Andrea Maucher, from the Delaware Public Advocate (DPA) Office, commented that reporting was part of the settlement agreement.

Price asked if this information will be provided to the DPA as well as the PSC.

Bell replied that he will check.

Noyes commented that they are pleased to see a settlement among the parties in the docket.

Governor's Energy Advisory Council Updates

Maya Krasker and Calcagni provided updates on the Energy Efficiency and Electrification Recommendations from the Governor's Energy Advisory Council (GEAC). Krasker provided background context for the GEAC and highlighted the four Working Groups, including Renewable Energy and Clean Technologies, Energy Efficiency (EE) and Electrification, Grid Modernization, and Environmental Justice and Energy Equity. The strategic areas for the Energy Efficiency and Electrification include Building Energy Efficiency and Electrification (EE and E) Programs; Codes and Standards; Vehicle Electrification; Training Education, and Community Engagement; Data, Metrics, and Target-setting; and Funding. Calcagni added that the next steps are to develop a comprehensive State Energy Plan.

Craig participated in the Workgroup and expressed disappointment on the amount of focus on electrification rather than energy efficiency.

Price asked for clarification on the intent of recommendation thirteen to develop policies and programs to reduce the impact of demand charges on consumers and fleet owners, including transit operators.

Noyes replied that fast EV chargers or fleets that require fast charging in the middle of the day can rack up significant demand charges. This has been identified as an issue for people who are trying to electrify their fleets. DNREC will update the State Energy Plan and include next steps within it. This process is inclusive of all of the recommendations, as there are 82 recommendations that were adopted by the Council. A draft of the Energy Plan is expected in about three months.

Price commented that DPL and other electric providers should supply an array of demand charges.

Noyes added that they can accomplish this through onsite storage or provide mechanisms for customers to charge EVs during off peak hours.

Noyes also highlighted that all four of the Workgroups had recommendations on workforce development. Noyes asked Slater to provide thoughts on recommendation twenty to establish a tracking, reporting, and accountability system to accurately measure progress from Energy Efficiency and Electrification programs toward state GHG emission reduction, electrification and energy efficiency goals.

Slater replied that this came up at the board meeting and they will collaborate with others to make this happen.

Noyes noted that the SEU is working with the DNREC's Climate Team on how to measure the climate impacts.

Maucher asked when funding may become available.

Noyes replied that there are significant details and programs in this area. DNREC's Programs Team can make an update at the next meeting.

Craig noted that the education component is important for the EEAC to focus on.

Maucher added that the first recommendation to conduct a comprehensive Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction potential study to identify and assess energy efficiency and electrification programs needed for reaching the State's 2050 GHG target is a priority.

Cassandra Marshall commented that the EM&V recommendations, including goal setting and data development may be of interest to the EEAC.

Bell asked if these slides will be shared with attendees.

Calcagni replied that the slides were shared with everyone on the distribution list and that the recommendations were posted on the GEAC website. They will also be posted on the EEAC website. Calcagni noted that she can send the slides to Bell directly as well.

Public Comment

Noyes asked for public comments.

Dustyn Thompson, Director of the Sierra Club Delaware Chapter, appreciated hearing about the next steps for the EEAC and Craig's previous comment that the Workgroup leaned into electrification. Thompson hoped that there would be more details included within the recommendations. Thompson asked Noyes for details about the final report. Thompson

would like to see these recommendations and information on energy efficiency, such as targets and programming, be included within the EEAC.

Noyes replied that a report is due to the Governor's Office and General Assembly at the end of the month. This report will include a summary of activities and a list of recommendations. This is not the same as the full Energy Plan.

Next Steps/Adjournment

Calcagni noted that the next meeting of the EEAC will be in April 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.