



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Held Virtually

April 10, 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 | No | |
| 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 | Lisa Oberdorf |
| Kevin Yingling | Delaware Electric Cooperative | Absent | No | |
| 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

Ed Synoski; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Maya Krasker; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Brett Swan; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Call to Order

Tom Noyes called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Council Business, Planning, and General Discussion
3. Committee Updates
4. Regulated Utility Program Plan Updates
5. Status Update on BIL/IRA
6. Q3-Q4 2023 Biannual Snapshots
7. Study Results
8. Public Comment
9. Next Steps/Adjournment

Welcome and Introductions

Gretchen Calcagni called roll for the meeting and provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

Council Business, Planning, and General Discussion

Vote on minutes – January

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

Cassandra Marshall made a motion to approve the minutes.

Derrick Craig seconded.

All Councilors voted in favor.

Motion was approved.

Committee Updates

EM&V Committee

Gretchen Calcagni provided an update on the EM&V Committee's recent discussions, including reporting and savings allocation frameworks, particularly focusing on fuel switching projects; reconciliation reporting templates, and the annual TRM update process.

Clem Dinsmore raised a question about translating energy savings into carbon emission reductions to inform the Governor's Energy Advisory Committee. Noyes confirmed that this was discussed and is part of the state's energy plan update and highlighted the expansion of the EEAC's scope to address recommendations from the Governor's Energy Advisory Council, indicating a broader focus for the committee beyond reviewing energy efficiency programs.

Regulated Utility Program Plan Updates

Chesapeake Utilities

Derek Craig provided an update on Chesapeake's energy efficiency program, highlighting the procedural schedule, settlement discussions, and the upcoming evidentiary hearing. Chesapeake filed their program plan on September 1. They have responded to data requests in December from the Department of the Public Advocate and filed testimony. Rolling discovered ended on February 23 and rebuttal testimony was filed in March. The evidentiary hearing is supposed to take place next week. Chesapeake initiative settlement discussions with the intervening parties on March 3. Further discussions were held and a settlement in principle has been reached.

Dinsmore asked if information could be provided about the issues that have been subject to negotiation.

Craig responded that at a high level, there were discussions about the standard offer program and whether it was going to be able to provide what was needed for commercial and industrial customers and whether there was a need for it. There were also some discussions related to calculations of the rate recovery.

Delmarva Power

Imran Bell provided an update on Delmarva's Behavioral, Energy Star for New Homes, and QHEC2 programs, noting the recent soft launch of these programs and enhancements to the Behavioral program. They mentioned ongoing efforts in marketing, contractor base expansion, and program enhancements. David Pirtle added details about the behavioral program, highlighting initiatives like digital engagement and usage alerts

Dinsmore asked about the impact of inflation on consumer participation in energy demand reduction programs. Nate Gillespie from Delmarva Power Dinsmore asked about the impact of inflation on consumer participation in energy demand reduction programs. Nate Gillespie from Delmarva Power responded, emphasizing the importance of diverse programs to ensure affordability.

Nathanael Gillespie from Delmarva Power addressed the issue, emphasizing the importance of diverse programs and consumer education to ensure accessibility and mentioned discussions with the Public Service Commission and the Public Advocate regarding affordability.

Status Update on BIL/IRA

Ed Synoski introduced Applied Energy Group (AEG) and their subcontractors, VEIC and EMC Insights, who will assist with BIL and IRA grants. Matt Lillard from AEG provided an overview of the 11 grants being pursued, including homes efficiency, homes electrification rebates, and grid resilience. Lillard discussed the planning and governance activities for the first year, focusing on documenting procedures, regulatory topics, and quality assurance methods. Emphasis was placed on the importance of stakeholder engagement, particularly with Justice 40 communities and existing service providers like hospitals, to ensure effective program implementation and community resilience to climate change impacts. There's a focus on holistic service delivery and partnerships with hospitals to leverage federal and state funding opportunities.

Dinsmore asked about hospital involvement, suggesting that federal and state funds could incentivize their participation. Lillard acknowledged the importance of hospital engagement and commits to exploring further collaboration.

Q3-Q4 2023 Bi-Annual Snapshots

Presentation and discussion of Q3-Q4 2023 Bi-Annual Snapshots was tabled until the next EEAC meeting.

Study Results

Delaware New Construction – Initial Findings

Arianna Zrzavy, a consultant with Illume, presented initial findings on Delaware's energy codes and new construction. The goals included understanding challenges and opportunities related to energy code adoption and achieving Delaware's net-zero construction targets. Initial findings from in-depth interviews reveal varying levels of awareness among stakeholders, with code officials being most familiar. Consumer demand and cost are key motivators for exceeding energy codes, while challenges include rising costs and limited local expertise. Recommendations include additional training, incentives, and third-party support. Emma Weaver adds that feedback from stakeholders like EEAC is crucial for refining the research.

Dinsmore asked about the potential impact of insurance costs on construction standards, suggesting a broader consideration of long-term cost factors. Bahareh van Boekhold from Illume emphasized the importance of EEAC input

and plans to finalize the research with recommendations and resources. Noyes acknowledged the significance of energy codes and building standards, hinting at further discussions on these topics.

[Update on the Climate Alliance Pledge Study – Heat Pump Potentials](#)

van Boekhold provided a summary of their analysis on the Climate Alliance pledge's implications for Delaware's heat pump market. They discussed the target to quadruple heat pump installations by 2030, focusing on residential applications. Their analysis included existing and new construction, examining adoption rates, potential incentives, and economic feasibility. They emphasized the need for additional support programs, particularly for older homes. Noyes thanked Bahareh and the team for their work, highlighting the importance of addressing older homes' challenges.

Marshall raised a point about older homes in her area and the need for tailored support.

Noyes and Dinsmore discussed the potential role of healthcare systems in addressing health-related issues associated with older housing stock.

[Public Comment](#)

Noyes asked for public comments.

No public comments were made.

[Next Steps/Adjournment](#)

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.