



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Held Virtually

January 15, 2024

1:00pm – 4:00pm

EEAC Members in Attendance

EEAC Member	Organization/Sector	Attendance	Proxy	Proxy Name
Tom Noyes	(Chairperson) DNREC	Present	n/a	
Maya Krasker	Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation	Present	n/a	
Angie Bivens	Low-Income Sector	Present	n/a	
Cassandra T. Marshall	Residential Sector	Absent	n/a	
Harris B. McDowell, III	Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility	Absent	Yes	Drew Slater
Vacant	Commercial Sector	n/a	No	
Vacant	Delmarva Power & Light	n/a	Yes	Lisa Oberdorf and Imran Bell
Lucas Zlock	Delaware Electric Cooperative	Absent	Yes	Josh Duckwall
Brian Goff	Chesapeake Utilities	Present	n/a	
Christian Fuess	Manufacturing Sector	Absent	No	
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

Tom Noyes; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Anna Keating; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Amatullah Brown; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Call to Order

Tom Noyes called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Council Business, Planning, and General Discussion
3. Committee Updates
4. Regulated Utility Program Plan Updates
5. Building Code Updates
6. Delaware Energy Plan Updates
7. 2025 Meeting Topics
8. Public Comment
9. Next Steps/Adjournment

Welcome and Introductions

Noyes called roll for the meeting.

Noyes shared that Kelly McKeown, who represented the Delaware Manufacturing Extension Partnership, passed away.

Noyes introduced Angie Bivens, who is filling the low-income sector EEAC member position. Bivens thanked Noyes for the opportunity. Bivens is passionate about working with disadvantaged communities and those with fixed incomes.

Council Business, Planning, and General Discussion

Vote on minutes – October 2024

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

Maya Krasker made a motion to approve the minutes.

Josh Duckwall 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 the Delaware Technical Reference Manual updates for the next three-year planning cycle and 2025 meeting topics.

Regulated Utility Program Plan Updates

Chesapeake Utilities

Brian Goff, the Manager of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs for Chesapeake Utilities, provided an update on Chesapeake Utilities' energy efficiency programs. Goff provided updates on cobranding with the SEU and fieldwork for the implementation of the home energy checkup and home performance program. Goff noted that the next meeting will have additional updates on the next energy efficiency cycle, which will be for 2026-2028. The next energy efficiency plan will go through staff at the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Public Advocate. Chesapeake's plan will be brought before the Council and will subsequently be filed with the Commission.

Delaware Energy Plan Updates

Noyes provided an update on the 2024-2028 Delaware State Energy Plan. Noyes reviewed strategies for Energy Justice.

Dustyn Thompson asked for clarification on the committee that is being dissolved.

Noyes replied that the low-income committee, more recently known as the Energy Access and Equity Collaborative, used to be a subcommittee of the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council.

Stephanie Bauer asked if DNREC has thought about creating partnerships with trade allies and creating jobs within communities to create equity and trust. She indicated her organization is minority owned and works within Delaware and New Jersey markets, specifically with low- and moderate-income communities to build partnerships, create jobs, and enhance equity. .

Noyes noted that before customers enter the weatherization assistance program, there is a pre-weatherization program that addresses issues that homes need before weatherization projects begin. There is also a low- and moderate-income solar program that supports solar implementation for low- and moderate-income communities.

Suzanne Sebastian noted that Energize Delaware has the home energy counseling and checkup program, which is the entry point into a home. This program provides low install or direct install measures. The program also allows customers to enter the Delaware platform, which is a software platform that sends out referrals across the state.

Noyes reviewed the Renewable Energy and Clean Technologies, Energy Efficiency and Beneficial Electrification, and Grid Modernization strategies included in the Energy Plan. Noyes provided updates to the strategies for. Noyes highlighted the Climate Action Plan, meeting statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, and interactions with the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council. He also indicated that the workforce assessment will be released next month.

Bauer commented that workforce development can also impact trade allies or contractors. Bauer recommended creating training and development for them in the form of a mentorship could increase participation in the program but also make trade allies and small businesses more profitable and creating jobs within communities.

Sebastian noted that Energize Delaware has a mentoring program when they are onboarding new contractors and teach them the software for rebates.

Building Code Updates

Anna Keating from DNREC provided updates on the building codes, specifically on the regulatory process for adopting the latest building codes.

Noyes highlighted an informal process of checking in with stakeholders prior to starting the formal regulatory adoption process.

Sebastian commented that the most important part of building code updates is training contractors, those who install equipment, and permitting offices reviewing the building codes.

Thompson asked why Delaware did not finish the 2021 adoption prior to restarting the process with the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Thompson asked if the state missed out on federal funding due to the delays.

Amatullah Brown from DNREC provided stakeholder engagement updates on building codes. Brown noted that the state was awarded \$6.9 million from federal funding and that the Department of Energy determined that the 2024 IECC is more efficient.

Thompson commented that the Sierra Club has expressed interest on stretch codes, building codes, and energy codes. Thompson requested that DNREC provide environmental stakeholder engagement during these conversations.

Noyes agreed and replied that DNREC will be in touch with Thompson.

Brown stated that these processes will start on February 20th with a code collaborative, which is on the public meeting calendar. Brown encouraged interested parties to attend the meeting.

Thompson commented that it would be beneficial to have energy office support at local level when counties and municipalities are trying to adopt stretch codes. For example, they had success with passing a stretch code at New Castle County but was vetoed by county executive. Having information to give to local governments on the impacts, cost, benefits, and implications is necessary.

Noyes replied that building codes will be a significant part of the year. After the code is adopted, there will be additional conversations with local governments, builders, and architects.

Benjamin, an Energy Efficient Consultant for PSD, commented that they are starting the study for the residential energy code field study through Delaware. This will provide a baseline of where the state is at.

2025 Meeting Topics

Calcagni reviewed the 2025 meeting topics, including three-year planning, codes and standards, year-end results and biannual snapshots, net to gross updates, and avoided cost updates.

Slater commented that the timeline for the year is ambitious.

Calcagni agreed with Slater and noted that there may need to be meetings in between the regular quarterly meetings.

Thompson recommended allowing Delmarva Power to look at energy efficiency on a portfolio basis. Without this change, the state will not be able to leverage energy efficiency on the utility side to reach the climate goals.

Noyes clarified that Thompson means looking at cost-effectiveness at the portfolio level.

Public Comment

Noyes asked for public comments.

No public comments were made.

Next Steps/Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.