



# Meeting Minutes

Meeting Held Virtually

May 13, 2020

1:00pm – 3:00pm

## EEAC Members in Attendance

EEAC Member	Organization/Sector	Attendance	Proxy	Proxy Name
Robert Underwood	(Chairperson) DNREC	Present	n/a	
Emily Greene	Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation	Present	n/a	
Charles Kistler	Low-Income Sector	Present	n/a	
Cassandra T. Marshall	Residential Sector	Present	n/a	
Harris B. McDowell, III	Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility	Absent	No	
Kelly McKeown	Commercial Sector	Absent	n/a	
Glenn A. Moore	Delmarva Power & Light	Present	n/a	
Mark Nielson	Delaware Electric Cooperative	Present	n/a	
Steve Baccino	Chesapeake Utilities	Present	n/a	
Alan Rogers	Manufacturing Sector	Present	n/a	
Joseph Schorah	Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility	Present	Yes	Athena Bi
Clem Dinsmore	Environmental Sector	Present	n/a	
Vacant	Agricultural Sector	n/a	n/a	

## EEAC Consultants in Attendance

Eric Belliveau; Optimal Energy, Inc.

Gretchen Calcagni; Optimal Energy, Inc.

Mark Kravatz; Optimal Energy, Inc.

## DNREC Staff in Attendance

Edward Synoski; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

Mark Dworkin; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

## Call to Order

Chairperson Rob Underwood, called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

## Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Council Business, Planning, and General Discussion
  - a. Welcome Clem Dinsmore
  - b. Vote on minutes – January
  - c. Update on 2019 Annual Report
3. COVID-19 Status Reports – Program Administrators
4. EM&V Committee Update
5. Low-Income Committee Update
6. 2020-2022 Goals
  - a. Vote
7. Snapshot Reports
8. Public Comment
9. Next Steps/Adjournment

## Welcome and Introductions

- Attendance was taken.
- Underwood introduced Clem Dinsmore as the new EEAC Member representing the Environmental Sector.

## Council Business, Planning, and General Discussion

### Vote on Minutes

- Alan Rogers made a motion to approve the meeting minutes.
- Glenn Moore seconded.
- Dinsmore abstained and all other Councilors voted in favor.
- Motion was approved.

### Update on 2019 EEAC Annual Report

- Underwood stated that a draft of the 2019 EEAC annual report is nearly complete and that Councilors would have a chance to review and provide edits before the report is finalized and printed.

### COVID-19 Status Report

- Each Program Administrator provided an update on changes they have made to programs and/or operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - **DNREC**—Underwood stated that DNREC has been able to keep the EEIF and E2I programs open and is taking applications. The WAP program has been suspended through the end of May and DNREC is working with federal partners on a reentry plan.
  - **DPL**—Moore stated that DPL is fully operational and customers with outstanding balances will not be disconnected. Walk-in centers are closed, and customer site visits must follow very clear guidelines. Safety is paramount to keep the community safe. DJ Sneeringer stated that the lighting program is fully active and DPL has nearly 30 stores participating and offering discounts. Program Managers are not engaging with stores in-person. There have been some challenges with the foodbank distribution plan. The foodbanks reached out to DPL and said could not facilitate LED distribution since they are exclusively focused on food right now. The appliance recycling program is currently taking applications. When the state of emergency is lifted the program will resume. The behavior program is fully implemented and running. Usage alerts going out to customers include language about the pandemic and safety.
  - **Chesapeake**—Steve Baccino stated that Chesapeake utilities is also fully operational and are taking precautionary safety measures. No Chesapeake employees have been diagnosed with COVID-19 to date.

- **DEMEC**—Greene indicated that programs are still serving customers and running at full capacity except for in-person services.
- **DEC**—Mark Neilson indicated that from a corporate perspective, they are doing the same as other utilities. From a program perspective, all programs are operational.
- **SEU**—Athena Bi stated that programs are active, but in-person services have been suspended. They are offering a three-month deferment for load borrowers. They have also created a utility assistance fund for families who do not qualify for LIHEAP.

### Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification (EM&V) Committee Update

- EEAC Consultant Gretchen Calcagni indicated that the EM&V Committee covered several topics at their recent meeting. These included a presentation and discussion on a statewide reporting framework, suggested updates to net-to-gross ratios, and next steps for updating avoided cost values.

### Low-Income Committee Update

- Jim Purcell provided a high-level update on the Empowerment Grant Program. He stated that they had received 8 applicants for the large program totally over \$10 million in requests. Many have leveraged funding. The review committee will be reviewing the applications soon and the grant period for the awarded grants will start in late summer or early fall. For the small grant program there will be an online community forum to stand up smaller programs.

### 2020-2020 Goals

- Calcagni presented slides on the recommended three-year savings targets for 2020-2022 (three-year average of 0.7% of electric sales and 0.2% of gas sales). These are based on savings included in their PA three-year plans presented at the January EEAC meeting.
- Clem Dinsmore asked whether the fact that economic activity will be depressed during the pandemic could impact the goals. He also wondered whether the dynamic of COVID-19 created an opportunity to be more ambitious with savings goals.
- Calcagni clarified that savings as a percent of sales are calculated using 2018 sales as a reference, so reduced sales in 2020 would not impact the denominator in the calculation.
- Synoski stated that Dinsmore raised some good points but he is not sure we can know now whether COVID will impact savings positivity or negatively.
- Rogers indicated that he had the same questions as Dinsmore.
- Moore pointed out that these targets are set based on the PA plans that have been approved and wonders what would happen if the SEU and Chesapeake get together to create programs. That would likely increase savings above 0.2%. We need to be clear about what the goal means.
- Synoski noted that this gets to his point that there are things that may happen, with COVID or new programs, etc., that might require adjustments to the targets.
- Moore said he is fine with the targets that have been presented, but we need to be clear on what the goal means and what it doesn't. Goals should be built on the plans presented by the PAs and be able to be adjusted if necessary.
- Dinsmore stated that as goals are implemented, it would be good to understand the economic attitude of customers and their thinking.
- Green noticed that some participants, such as school districts are very interested and engaged. On the other hand, small businesses are dropping off participating in the programs.
- Neilson indicated that he agreed with everyone else. He asked whether the 2018 sales number used to calculate savings as a percent of sales were normalized.

- Calcagni said her understanding was that they were actual sales reported by utilities to the Energy Information Administration.
- Greene asked whether the sales reported to EIA were wholesale or actual retail sales.
- Neilson stated he is pretty sure they are retail sales.
- Moore asked if the public advocate or commission staff wanted to provide comments.
- Pam Knotts from the commission staff stated she was not sure anyone from the DPA was on the call because they are likely at a commission meeting. She has some of the same concerns about using 2018 sales and then having a depressed market in 2020 that could be that way for several years. She appreciated that the goals could be adjusted.
- Underwood said he knows there are a lot of unknowns but recommended moving forward with a vote.
- Knotts asked whether it would be possible to include in the goals when they should be reviewed again.
- Cassandra Marshall stated that scheduling checkpoints along the way would be good.
- Moore made a motion to approve the savings targets of 0.7% three-year average electric savings as a percent of sales and 0.2% three-year average gas savings as a percent of sales with periodic checks.
- Greene seconded.
- Vote: All yes.

### Snapshot Reports

- Snapshots for each of the Program Administrators who implemented programs in 2019 were presented for Q3-Q4 of 2019. Bi presented for the SEU, Greene for DEMEC, Neilson for DEC, and Calcagni for DNREC.

### Public Comment

- Pam Knotts stated that the Public Service Commission had a meeting scheduled for the same time as the EEAC meeting and would like to see that avoided in the future.

### Next Steps/Adjournment

- The next scheduled meeting of the EEAC is set for July 8, 2020; 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The meeting will take place virtually.
- Copies of all EEAC meeting materials may be found on DNREC's website located at the following URL: <https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/efficiency/advisory-council-meetings/>

### Adjournment

- Synoski requested a motion to adjourn.
- Moore made a motion to adjourn.
- Greene seconded.
- The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.