



Energy Efficiency Board Residential Committee Meeting

**Thursday, October 10, 2019, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Eversource, 107 Selden Street, Berlin, CT (Conference Dining Room)**

MINUTES¹

In Attendance

Voting Committee Members: Adrienne Houel (Committee Chair), Taren O'Connor, Linda Foreman

Utility Committee Members: Larry Rush, Diane Del Rosso, Ron Araujo, Steve Bruno, Will Riddle, Miles Ingram, Jerry Graham, Craig Clark, Ghani Ramdani, Tammy Wilson (phone)

Board Consultants: Glenn Reed, Richard Faesy, Craig Diamond

Others: Patrice Gillespie, Anne Hulick, John Greeno, Michael Harris

Public Input/Comments

Michael Harris, Energy Coordinator, City of Middletown, CT - Mr. Harris said he was not providing comments on behalf of the City of Middletown. He said that the City was going to ask that the funds that it had paid into the C&LM programs be refunded to the City. Mr. Harris said the City did not believe that their C&LM funds were reaching enough hard-to-reach constituents in the City. He said the City did not believe the EEB should have rejected the Clean Water fund proposal to conduct outreach to hard-to-reach communities. He said the CHEER program in Middletown was very important. Mr. Harris urged the Board and the Companies to reverse their decision on the Clean Water Fund proposal. Anne Hulick, Clean Water Fund - Ms. Hulick said she was disappointed in the Board's decision, but she said Clean Water Fund was looking forward to future opportunities to collaborate/partner with the C&LM programs.

Introduction to Richard Faesy, EEB Residential Consultant

Mr. Reed introduced Mr. Faesy, noting that Mr. Faesy would replace him as the lead Board consultant to the Residential Committee.

HES Co-Pay Reduction

Mr. Araujo said that the Companies were notified on September 20 by DEEP that DEEP had decided to place the available \$400,000 of DOE funds into a temporary HES co-pay reduction, down to \$75, regardless of heating fuel. Mr. Araujo said the reduction would begin on October 1, and continue until the funding is depleted. He estimated that about 4,000 or 5,000 customers could be affected by the reduction. Mr. Araujo suggested that at the November Residential meeting, the HES co-pay should be an item on the agenda. Ms. Houel noted that DEEP had previously advocated for increasing the co-pay. Ms. Foreman said that DEEP still supported

¹ Meeting materials available in Box.com: <https://app.box.com/s/j3h152z5ikppyp60ovhhanc8763nxxnm8>

moving toward market rates, but wanted to give a boost to the HES program on a temporary basis. She said it would be clarified with customers that the co-pay reduction was only a temporary promotion.

2020 Plan Update

- *Savings overview.* Mr. Bruno provided a presentation, focusing on the Residential part of the Plan Update. There was no discussion following the presentation.
- *HES/HES-IE realization rates.* Mr. Reed provided a presentation. Ms. O'Connor said that she would like to move ahead with a vote on the Plan Update, and then have discussions on realization rates as a condition of approval. It was noted that the process would need to be completed in a timely fashion, well in advance of the March 1, 2019 filing.

Next Steps on Low-Moderate Income Issues

Mr. Reed provided a presentation on three main issues, and there was discussion on the three issues:

- *Income verification procedures.* Ms. Foreman noted that there had been discussion at CTAC in regard to using census track data rather than providing income verification. She said the HES vendors asked the Companies if they could use a certain database that the CT Green Bank had been using regarding census track data. It was suggested that the Green Bank should discuss this database when they present at Residential Committee meeting in November.
- *Outreach to hard-to-reach/underserved populations, targeting rural communities.* Ms. Houel noted that if the Residential programs budget were to be increased for certain population segments, other segments would need to be reduced, since there is a fixed budget. She noted that parity could be impacted under such a scenario. Ms. O'Connor said that customers were not being turned away, so she asked what the concern was regarding hard-to-reach populations. Mr. Reed suggested that the Consultants should work with the Companies to discuss this issue, and then report back to the Residential Committee in a couple of months. Ms. Del Rosso noted that Eversource had been above parity with HES-IE populations, according to prior analyses.
- *Barriered homes.* Ms. Houel asked whether RGGI funds could potentially be a source of funding for addressing health and safety barriers. Mr. Reed said he would look into Rhode Island's process for addressing health and safety issues. It was agreed that the Committee would do an inventory of potential funding sources, but it was acknowledged that the Committee might not find any new sources that have not been considered or researched previously.

Company Compliance Filing: NEEP Cold Climate Heat Pump Specification

This topic was not covered at this meeting due to time constraints. It was agreed that the topic would be covered at the November Residential Committee meeting.

DOE Rulemaking on EISA, and Program Implications

Mr. Reed provided presentation. There was no discussion following the presentation.

CTAC Update

Ms. Foreman provided an update. She said the last CTAC meeting focused on workforce development and the use of census track data with low-moderate income customers.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.