



**EEB Evaluation Committee
Monthly Meeting**

Monday January 13, 2014 – 10:00-11:30 am

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection – Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
Office of Consumer Counsel Conference Room / 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut

MINUTES¹

Present: Amy Thompson (Chair), Eric Brown (phone), Diane Duva, Jamie Howland (phone), Taren O'Connor [EEB], Geoff Embree, Paul Gray, Joe Swift (phone), Donna Wells [Utilities], Lori Lewis, Lisa Skumatz [Consultants], Julian Freund [Operation Fuel – Guest], Tim Cole [Scribe]

Start – 10:05 – LS facilitating

1. Public Comment – There were no public comments.
2. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the December 9, 2013 Evaluation Committee meeting were approved on a motion by Taren O'Connor seconded by Diane Duva. All voted in favor, except Eric Brown, who abstained.²
3. Update on Status of Projects – Lisa Skumatz led off a discussion of projects currently in process.³
 - Projects with Draft Reports currently out for review and comment –
 - [C14] Energy Opportunities – The comments deadline has been extended until February 14, 2014.
 - [R5] Weatherization Baseline – Ms. Thompson reported that residential consultant Glenn Reed had requested a deadline extension. An extension until January 31, 2014 was approved on a motion by Ms. Duva seconded by Ms. O'Connor, with all voting in favor.
 - [R7] Ground Source Heat Pump study – Joe Swift reported that CL&P will send its comments by January 15. He noted that in the company's view the draft report lacked important detail and critical results were not presented. There was insufficient data to back conclusions. These points will be included in CL&P's comments, along with a recommendation that there be a second review draft before the final report is filed. Ms. Skumatz agreed to pass Mr. Swift's views on to consultant Scott Dimetrosky, who is coordinating the project for the EEB.
 - Lori Lewis reported that two review drafts are expected to be released during January, including the SBEA Impact Evaluation [C12] and the SBEA Low Income and Limited English Barriers study [C12].
 - Data Discussion – Ms. Skumatz reviewed the contents of a memo she provided on the topic of issues arising from difficulties obtaining accurate and comprehensive data for a number of projects.⁴
 - Data issues impacting the HES/HES-IE Impact Evaluation [R16]: CL&P's data has largely been provided, however UIL is having problems providing good data. The problem is likely to cause more than a month's delay. Given the importance and time-sensitivity of this study

¹ Meeting Materials Available at Box.net folder <https://app.box.com/s/I92shbhm09y77ikidwdz>

² 131209 EEB Evaluation Committee Meeting Minutes F.pdf

³ CT_EvalProjSumm_Jan2014.pdf

⁴ CTMemoOnDataProblems_HES011314NoApdx.pdf

due to a tight timetable driven by DEEP's review of HES program and policy, there is a clear need to figure out a solution. She noted that the difficulties seem to be arising from the fact that more complicated data requests are being made of the companies than in the past, including requests for data for multiple projects on both the C&I and Residential sides. The consultants fully recognize that UIL has been striving to respond. For UIL, Donna Well agreed that the company did not expect such extensive data pulls, but affirmed that the company appreciates the concerns outlined by Ms. Skumatz and is willing to work on the process internally to make solving the problems a high priority. Paul Gray from UIL noted that he is working closely with Cadmus, the contractor, on the data merge issues they are wrestling with as they try to ensure that measures data align correctly among databases. Ms. Skumatz responded that in her view all the pieces of the problem are solvable, but the number of concurrent problems itself is a major challenge. Ms. Wells proposed that rather than trying to resolve the issues by email exchanges, conference calls should be scheduled including the company, the contractor, and the consultants. She indicated she would make sure the right company people were in the room for the calls. For the committee Ms. Thompson asked that conference calls between the team and the company be held weekly until the issues are resolved and that weekly status reports be provided. It was agreed that the calls would continue until Ms. Lewis is satisfied they have all the data needed.

- Walk-through of Projects / Monthly Status Report –
 - C&I Projects – Ms. Lewis reported that work on the C9 and C12 projects will be lighter this month because the draft reports are as indicated already about to come out. The [C10] SBEA Data Mining, [C11] SBEA Participation Barriers, and [C17] C&I Market Assessment projects are delayed pending the delivery of data. The other projects on the C&I list are moving forward. Ms. Thompson pointed out that extensions will likely be needed on the C9 and C12 reports because comments on the C14 draft will take precedence. She moved that the committee agree to extensions now. Ms. Duva seconded her motion. The motion was approved with all in favor.

4. SERA Budget / Invoice & tracking update –

- Discussion of proposed 2014 SERA Budget – Ms. Skumatz reviewed a spreadsheet showing a comparison with the 2013 workplan.⁵ Ms. Thompson expressed her curiosity about how the 31 project budgets shown in the spreadsheet compare to past years, noting that in previous years less than 60-70% of projects planned were completed. Ms. Skumatz responded that in previous years the volume ranged between six and ten projects completed per year. Ms. Thompson pointed out that if the plan is now to do between 23 and 31 projects in 2014, the consultants and companies need to be able to handle the demand. She proposed that once the members had a chance to review the numbers in the spreadsheet, the committee should conduct a vote in time to bring a report with recommendations to the board at its January 29 meeting, so as to ensure the numbers approved can be included in the budget tables to be submitted by March 1 in the C&LM Plan Update. Noting that this was the first presentation, she encouraged members to take a close look at the line items and ask “what do we really want to do this this year?” – taking into consideration state policy directives and the C&LM plan. She suggested a conference call be held early the following week. She invited the companies to take part in the call in order to be able to provide their input.

5. Adjourn – With no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 11:35.

⁵ CTSERATeamBudget2014_v5.xlsx

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Cole, Scribe