

## Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC)

### MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 30, 2025, 1:00 p.m.– 3:00 p.m.

Hybrid meeting

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**Councilors Present:** Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy (Chair), Sarah Bresolin Silver, Larry Chretien (virtual), Julie Curti (virtual), Chris Modlish (virtual), Kyle Murray (virtual), Levi Reilly, Jonathan Stout (virtual), Kate Tohme, Alex Worsley (virtual), Marybeth Campbell (virtual), Jim Stanislaski, Kathryn Wright (virtual, joined 1:26 PM), Amy McGuire (virtual)

**Councilors Absent:** Andy Sun

**Non-voting Councilors:** Digaunto Chatterjee (Eversource), Dan Marceau in place of Andrew Schneller (National Grid), Kevin Sprague (Unitil; virtual)

**DOER Staff Present:** Colin Carroll (arrived 1:24PM), Marian Harkavy, Julia Fox

**Consultants Present:** Tim Woolf, Kyle Schultz

**Others Present:** Nancy Israel, National Grid Counsel

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#### 1. Call to Order

*Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER), GMAC Chairperson* called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

#### 2. Welcome, Roll Call, Agenda

*Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy* welcomed all participants to the GMAC meeting and took roll call for voting and non-voting members.

### **3. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### **4. Meeting Minutes Review and Approval**

*Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy* asked if there were any proposed changes to the September 18, 2025, GMAC meeting minutes. None were offered. Deputy Commissioner Troy approved the minutes on behalf of the council.

### **5. Update on December GMAC Stakeholder Session**

*Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy* provided an update on the December 12<sup>th</sup> western MA stakeholder event.

*Sarah Bresolin Silver, ENGIE North America, Representing the energy storage industry:* What are the expectations for GMAC council member attendance?

*Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy:* We will be planning to notice the meeting as a public meeting and assuming there is quorum, attendance is not mandatory.

### **6. Update on GMAC MassCEC Representative**

*Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy* updated the group on the new MassCEC representative, Jim Stanislaski.

### **7. ESMP Activities Updates**

#### *ESMP Phase II*

*Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy* gave an update on biannual reports.

*Councilor Chris Modlish, Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General, Representing the Attorney General:* Several intervenors filed comments October 29.

#### *Integrated Energy Planning (IEP)*

*Councilor Kyle Murray, Acadia Center, Representing the environmental advocacy community:* No updates. The IEP meeting is today at 3:30pm. Subject matter is working on the workplan for 2026.

#### *Long-Term System Planning Process (LTSP)*

**Councilor Kate Tohme, New Leaf Energy, Representing the distributed generation renewable energy industry:** No updates.

**Other**

**Councilor Kyle Murray** noted that the heat pump rates are live.

**8. 2026 GMAC Workplan Discussion and Vote**

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy** thanked the GMAC for the discussion to date and gave an update on the revisions that DOER made to the strategic plan based on feedback from GMAC members. These included reframing the load forecasting section to be about load growth generally, increased clarity in how Objective 2 is shared between the EWG and GMAC, and changes to the biannual report objective to incorporate how to address real world challenges of ESMP implementation.

DOER screenshared the V3 2026 Workplan. **Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy** went over the plan purpose, background, and GMAC role section, and noted that there were few if any changes.

**Councilor Julie Curti, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Representing municipal or regional interests:** I had two comments about areas that seem contradictory in the workplan.

**Julia Fox, DOER:** I made some redlines to address Julie's comments.

**Councilor Julie Curti:** Thank you, looks like these were addressed.

**Objective 1. Identifying and addressing electric load growth and impacts on forecasting.**

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy** gave an overview of Objective 1.

**Councilor Jonathan Stout, Power Options representing large commercial and industrial end-use customers:** Building electrification/ load customers – want to make sure we're being inclusive of commercial customers. We often get stuck on heat pump adoption, which doesn't reflect the whole story.

**Objective 2. Identifying and Addressing the Cost Challenges of Grid Modernization**

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy** gave an overview of Objective 2.

**Councilor Kathryn Wright, Barr Foundation, Representing the environmental justice community:** The EWG largely concurred with the conversation we started having last GMAC meeting around this being something the EWG holds with the GMAC and making this a shared task.

**Councilor Jonathan Stout:** Appreciates the call-out of commercial and wants to break down commercial types of customers. Wants to make sure we're not just capturing the BAU case, but also in the case of large loads who are looking to electrify and informing customers what that cost could look like.

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy:** There will be cross-over between tasks.

**Councilor Levi Reilly, Marcus Partners, Representing the building electrification industry:** To go back to Objective 1 – what are the load types we want to organize around?

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy:** Right now we have 1) base loads and large loads, 2) buildings, 3) demand response and load reducers, 4) transportation and electrification, and 5) DERs (but put in at the end because we already do quite a lot on DERs).

**Councilor Levi Reilly:** When we get to buildings, I am happy to help.

**Julia DOER:** On Objective 2, I noted that the back and forth between EWG and GMAC is not well defined in the plan and hoping that Quarter 1 will help define the responsibilities.

### ***Objective 3: Understanding Challenges of ESMP Implementation through Biannual Reports***

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy:** Objective 3 can be a chance for EDCs to talk about the challenges they're having with getting things built.

**Councilor Digaunto Chatterjee, Representing Eversource:** Thank you for incorporating.

**Councilor Sarah Bresolin Silver:** Supports this, is one of the most important things we can do as a GMAC is understand the pain points and issues with implementing

**Councilor Kate Tohme:** We aren't specific about where/ how LTSP will be incorporated, except into one of the sections on load forecasting. Probably will be mostly in 2027. Falls in Objective 3 or 4. Not sure it needs to be included explicitly. In 2026 probably just want to follow the docket, and 2027 would consider more specific action. Could just add the term LTSP into one of the objective names. Objective 3 could be understanding challenge of ESMP implementation generally, not just through biannual reports.

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy:** Would fit in Objective. 3. Objective 4 is a DOER thing, more of a report out.

### ***Objective 4. Tracking Grid Modernization Efforts in Massachusetts***

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy** discussed the activities in Objective 4.

**Julia Fox, DOER:** Only comment was a comment from Kathryn Wright about where we will post these. There will be new website to be launched by the end of the year.

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy:** We have some 2027 things. Let's add LTSP.

### ***Voting***

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy:** We received some feedback today and included some notes. DOER will go in and adjust. Do we have a vote to finalize and approve?

Councilor Sarah Bresolin moved, Councilor Kate Tohme seconded.

The GMAC voted to approve the 2026 GMAC Workplan.

## **9. CY2026 Budget Request**

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy:** The current contract with Synapse ends at the end of 2025; we did that to align with the submission of the 2026 DPU budget request. The 2025 budget request was \$549k and operating budget of \$50k. We are coming in lower than that for 2025 and are proposing a 2026 consultant budget of \$340k and an operating budget of \$10k. Any comments? We are also going through a competitive RFQ.

**Councilor Larry Chretien, Green Energy Consumers Alliance, Representing low- and middle-income residential consumers:** I don't have much to say other than the money on Objective 4 seems a little bit light.

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy:** It's light because it will come out of DOER's time. We are proposing that DOER provide the educational materials. Also, when the budget gets approved by DPU, they don't approve a budget by task; they approve a total budget cap.

## **10. Proposed 2026 Meeting Calendar**

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy:** We are suggesting GMAC meetings continue to be the last Thursday of the month, ExCom meetings become quarterly, and EWG meetings are held quarterly on Fridays.

**Councilor Julie Curti:** Noting that the last week in August typically has limited childcare.

**Julia Fox, DOER:** We are going to cancel the early January meeting that we preemptively scheduled and will reschedule to the end of January.

## **11. September ESMP Biannual Reports**

### ***EDC Presentation***

**Dan Marceu (National Grid):** Gave an overview of EDCs' joint presentation on ESMP Biannual reports. He gave an overview of the report contents, and highlighted areas where the reports differ.

**Jennifer Schilling (Eversource):** Discussed Eversource's 2026 activities, including planned foundational work and new ESMP activities from the customer and platform perspectives. Updates include work related to the Grid Compensation Study, DERMS expansion, DER dispatch, and IEP modeling.

**Dan Marceu (National Grid):** Discussed National Grid's 2026 activities, including early-stage work and investment deployment from the customer, platform, and network perspectives.

**Councilor Kevin Sprague, representing Until:** Discussed Until's 2026 activities, including continuing grid modernization plan activities and new ESMP investment deployment activities. The grid mod activities include continuing deployment of VVO, DERMS, and ADMS. New ESMP investment activities include implementation of investments related to enablement of grid services, FERC order 2222, cyber security enhancements, automation (SCADA), and targeted resiliency.

### ***Questions and Discussion***

**Councilor Kate Tohme:** Could you speak to grid services, and if it's tied to roll-out of DERMS. Could you also speak to customer notification?

**Councilor Kevin Sprague:** Sound like good ideas, we're not there yet. Assume this will be run through our DERMS platform. It hasn't been fully decided.

**Jen Schilling (Eversource):** For summer 2026, primarily we are going to leverage the Connected Solutions structure we use for ISO dispatch. That's in the interim. The vision is to have them integrated so that control room dispatchers can see front of meter and behind the meter. We want to leverage connected solutions learnings.

**Dan Marceu (National Grid):** In summer of 2025, we did two offerings to test to see how targeted communities would react to grid needs with a higher incentive. We're doing a longer RFP offering starting in 2026. As far as DERMS, I can say from our biannual report that we say we plan to leverage DERMS in the bridge to wires section.

**Councilor Kate Tohme:** Could each of the utilities add a DERMS implementation update? Curious about updated timeline for DERMS to be rolled out. Sounds like you've had some test processes. DG community doesn't have a lot of information about what your plan is but would be interested in being involved and providing feedback.

**Dan Marceu (National Grid):** In the September biannual report we do provide a table of what we're planning to do in 2025 and 2026. That would be the best place to see our timeline.

**Councilor Kate Tohme:** When are you thinking the actual implementation of DERMs would occur?

**Jen Schilling (Eversource):** Biannual reports focus on 2026 (by design). End game architecture is they want to integrate aggregator/ edge DERMs with grid DERMS in 2027. Folks working on marketing and rolling out the program are always looking for feedback.

**Councilor Kevin Sprague:** We have in September report DERMS procurement and initial integration in 2026 and testing them in 2027. Plan is to have DERMS available for customer interaction in 2028.

**Councilor Larry Chretien:** Was looking at projected spend from 2025-2029 for all three EDCs, and saw National Grid has significantly higher projected spend, particularly in platform spending. Can you describe reason in difference between Eversource and National Grid?

**Jen Schilling (Eversource):** Original proposed included substantial investments in resiliency, which was curved down significantly. For platform investments, National Grid maybe took a different definition for enabling. May be somewhat in the result of what you would consider “enabling” in the view of the ESMP, focused on DERMS.

**Dan Marceu (National Grid):** National Grid also had a lot of network investments that were pared down. Can’t speak to the differences between National Grid and Eversource. These are the things that National Grid put forth that they considered enabling under network.

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy:** Need to take into account the other cost recovery forums of the utilities.

**Councilor Larry Chretien:** It’s really hard to review investments when they’re recovered in so many places.

**Councilor Alex Worsely, Stack Energy Consulting, Representing the transmission-scale renewable energy industry:** Echoing Kate’s point. Folks in the industry will probably have comments and feedback on participating in initial programs and moving forwards. Don’t think there exists a forum right now to provide feedback to EDCs.

**Jen Schilling (Eversource):** Interested in whatever forum works to get feedback.

**Dan Marceu (National Grid):** Would echo Jen’s point, would need to take back to his colleague who works on the grid compensation fund.

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy:** Of these projects, is there anything that would be of particular interest to the EDCs getting feedback from the GMAC? *E.g.*, Income eligible VPP offering from National Grid, the work with MassDOT and how it relates to EV load growth.

**Dan Marceu (National Grid):** Would be happy to talk about any of these and get input. Would flip the question, which would be the most interesting for GMAC.

**Councilor Kevin Sprague:** Agrees, we're willing to share information on any investments, want to make sure they're sharing information GMAC finds useful and interesting.

**Jen Schilling (Eversource):** Our plan is heavily focused on the use of DERs as grid assets, so that's the grid compensation fund. That's where we have the most content but are happy to share and get in a bit deeper.

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy:** We're interested as a GMAC body where we can be helpful. If there's places where we could carve out time and it would help you.

**Councilor Sarah Bresolin Silver:** Eversource slide specifically said DERMS for behind the meter, is there a consideration for front of the meter?

**Jen Schilling (Eversource):** Yes, our vision is that the control room should be able to interact with behind the meter and front of the meter. I want to be able to pull together all the enabled resources to address a real time system constraint. There's a lot to the integration of aggregator/edge DERMS and integration with SCADA.

**Councilor Sarah Bresolin Silver:** Why isn't integration of front of the meter DERMS on the slide?

**Jen Schilling (Eversource):** The biannual reports are focused on 2026. There are some facilities that are more limited. Summer of 2027 should be doing that [Front of the meter DERMS].

**Councilor Sarah Bresolin Silver:** To Kate's point, clarity for folks developing the projects on timeline is really helpful. This is the best understanding I've heard for timeline on bringing on front of the meter DERMS. For other EDCs, it would be helpful for reports to include updates on the timeline.

**Councilor Kate Tohme:** Was there anything in reports around flexible interconnection? Would like to encourage EDCs to include it if not. Second recommendation re: FERC 2222 – is there any expectation of an order from the DPU, of a filing going to the DPU on implementation, etc.

**Jen Schilling (Eversource):** We don't have a process/plan to be filing with the DPU around 2222. I don't know the level of interest in participation. Trying to understand if they need to change their process. 2026 plan is more focused on intake and having a good process to accommodate the aggregation. The second part is probably more around 2027 – let's say someone is registered, ISO dispatches them, how do we make sure there's no adverse impacts on the grid? Definitely interested in folks' take on the level of interest in participation. Flexible interconnection not included in the biannual report.



**Councilor Kevin Sprague:** Focus of this report is 2026, so don't address flexible interconnections. More focused on getting DERMS set up and testing it. Discussion up to this point on FERC 2222 has been operational in nature – how does it look; how do we implement what ISO decides upon? Haven't taken next steps.

**Dan Marceu (National Grid):** Our biannual report does talk about flexible interconnections in the context of the grid services compensation fund. Pilot for VPP is another space with some flexibility.

**Councilor Kate Tohme:** Thinks flexible grid is a key aspect of ESMP implementation. Recommends that future EMSP reports include a section on it. The interconnection review group (IRG) has a subgroup on flexible interconnection – it would be valuable to have coordination between the IRG and GMAC. Could use the IRG as an opportunity to engage with stakeholders.

## 12. Closing and Next Steps

**Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy:** The next GMAC meeting is December 4, 2025. Please let Julia know if you can help with any of the panels for the December 12<sup>th</sup> municipal event.

Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Schultz  
Synapse Energy Economics

### Meeting Attachments

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Slide Deck
- Draft 2026 GMAC Workplan
- Draft September 18, 2025 GMAC Meeting Minutes
- October Activity Tracker
- Draft October 9, 2025 Executive Committee meeting minutes
- Draft 2026 GMAC Workplan V3 (Clean)
- Draft 2026 GMAC Workplan V3 (Redlined)
- Draft 2026 GMAC Workplan V2 (GMAC Member Edits)
- Draft 2026 GMAC Workplan V2 (EDC Edits)