

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

# Grid Modernization Advisory Council Executive Committee

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April 24, 2023

# Agenda & Attendance

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- Welcome, agenda, roll call
- Agendas for upcoming GMAC meetings
- Consultant scope of work and plan forward
- Process for information requests
- External stakeholder requests and public comment
- Close

**Roll call alphabetically by voting and then non-voting members**

# Agendas for Upcoming GMAC Meetings

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The GMAC proposed pulling forward topics like:

- Planning 101 – foundational procedures and processes
- Forecasting
- Integration of DERs, buildings, and transportation with the grid.

Questions for the Executive Committee to deliberate (see slide 5 for a proposal):

- Which topics to schedule for the next two GMAC meetings: 5/11 and 6/15?
- What are appropriate preread materials?
- Who should we invite to speak?
- Are there meeting formats we should consider to optimize GMAC meeting time?

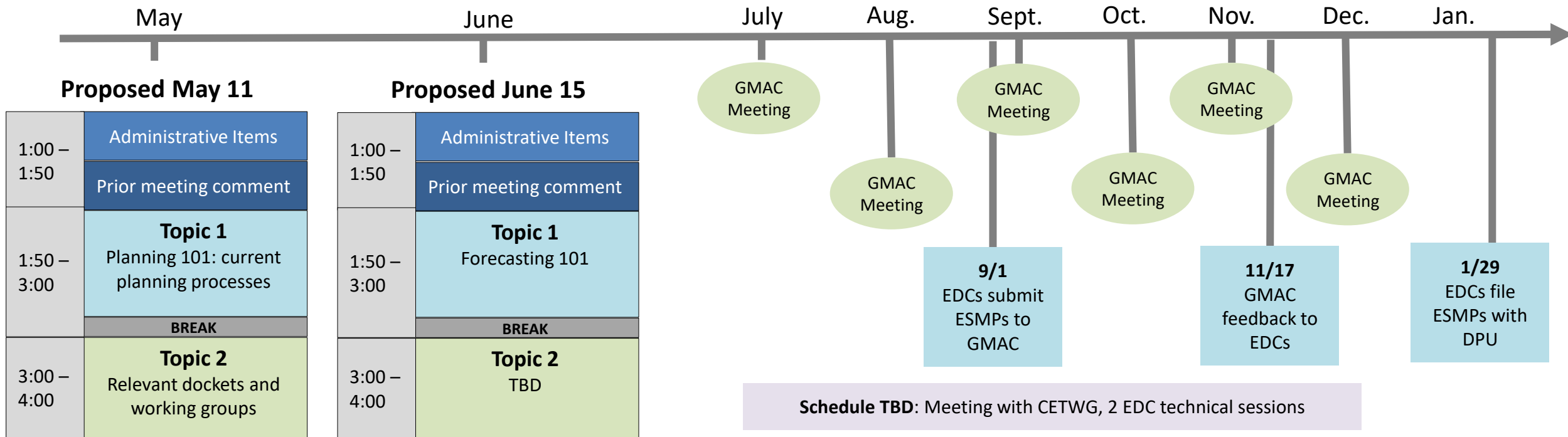
# Agendas for Upcoming GMAC Meetings

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Reminder of topics presented at the GMAC Meeting:

- Overview of existing Orders, relevant dockets to electric system modernization planning, and ongoing working groups
- DER interconnection (process today, key challenges, best practices across the U.S., stakeholder speakers, state policies & goals, etc.)
- Transportation electrification (forecasting best practices and in the Commonwealth today, stakeholder speakers, state policies & goals, etc.)
- Building electrification (forecasting, joint energy system planning, state policies & goals, etc.)
- Cost allocation and investment alternatives (Discussion of CIPs, NWAs, DERMS capabilities, best practices, etc.)
- Community, equity, and environmental justice community integration and collaboration
- Reporting requirements and metrics

# Agendas for Upcoming GMAC Meetings



**Preread materials**

- EDC Planning Documents (Planning process/criteria, NWA)
- DPU Annual Report – 2022 (Electric Power Division Chapter)
- Others?

**Speakers**

- Topic 1: EDC representatives (30 minutes total)
- Topic 2: DOER lead summary presentation followed by member question and comment

**Preread materials**

- EDC Forecasting Documents
- Others?

**Speakers**

- Topic 1: Fred Schaefer, Cadeo Group
- Topic 2:

- Are these the right topics for the next GMAC meetings?
- What preread materials do you suggest?
- Who should we invite to speak?
- Are there meeting formats we should consider to optimize GMAC meeting time?
- What other comments do you have about GMAC meeting scheduling?

# Consultant scope of work – process & draft timeline

		May					June					July				August				September			
Date	4/24	5/1	5/8	5/15	5/22	5/29	6/5	6/12	6/19	6/26	7/3	7/10	7/17	7/24	7/31	8/7	8/14	8/21	8/28	9/4	9/11	9/18	
ExComm Meeting #1: Discuss draft scope	█																						
Updates to scope		█	█																				
ExComm Meeting #2 (5/16): Finalize scope				█																			
Post Request for Proposals (Due 6/16)					█	█	█	█															
Review proposals									█														
Interviews										█	█												
Select winning proposal												█											
Contracting													█	█	█								
Kickoff with consultant																█							
GMAC Receives ESMPs																					█		

- Required by 2022 Climate Law to submit to the DPU a proposal on funding required for the retention of expert consultants and reasonable administrative costs. The proposal shall be approved by the department either as submitted or as modified by the department.

## Consultant scope of work – Scope questions

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- How long should the contract be for the consultant?
  - Given the timeline, a consultant is likely to begin work just as the GMAC receives the EDC ESMPs for review. Primarily conduct a technical review of ESMPs over a two month period.
  - What role will consultant play after GMAC provides recommendations to EDCs?
- What priorities would you want to include for the GMAC in the Scope of Work?
  - [*From 2022 Climate Law*] Encourage least-cost investments in the electric distribution systems.
  - [*From 2022 Climate Law*] Encourage alternatives to the investments or alternative approaches to financing investments that will facilitate the achievement of the statewide greenhouse gas emission limits and sublimits under chapter 21N.
  - [*From 2022 Climate Law*] Increase transparency and stakeholder engagement in the grid planning process.
  - Monitor and ensure the EDCs' progress toward the ESMP timelines and strategies.

# Consultant scope of work – Scope questions

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What components should be included in the consultant services? Potential services include:

## 1. Technical support

- Review and analyze the EDC ESMPs
- Provide recommendations for GMAC review & discussion.
- Coordinate and manage GMAC recommendations.
- Present to GMAC on technical grid topics

## 2. ESMP evaluation and monitoring

- Track and analyze EDC ESMP progress based on bi-annual reports and metrics
- Review goals, plans, program designs, associated budgets, and performance incentives or penalties.
- Present updates to the GMAC throughout the ESMP 5-year period

## 3. Administration and coordination

- Maintain and host GMAC website
- Take meeting minutes
- Manage materials and agenda updates
- Engage in regular communication with each GMAC member, including recognizing, distilling, and sharing common issues and concerns.
- If there is a consultant team, the prime consultant will manage the subcontractor work and budget spend.

## 4. Strategic planning

- Suggest best practices for grid planning
- Recommend approaches to coordinate stakeholder engagement
- Manage public comments
- Create and maintain a feedback loop that includes the DOER, GMAC members, and other stakeholders.



# Information and Document Request Process

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- Based on EEAC experience, it is important to determine a process and expectations around how information and document requests will be processed for the GMAC.
- DOER proposes for the Executive Committees' consideration:
  - At the end of every GMAC meeting, the Chair will acknowledge any unanswered information or document requests made during the meeting (list provided by GMAC notetakers)
  - After each meeting, the Chair will review the requests and determine which should be submitted to the EDCs, based on their value in reviewing the ESMPs
  - The Chair will send the information requests directly to the EDC GMAC representatives after the meeting has completed.
  - The EDCs have 10 business days to provide their response to the request, though the EDCs can request an extension as necessary.
  - Until a consultant is on contract, DOER will post the information request documents on the DOER GMAC website under an "Information Request" subtitle. DOER will remain the point of contact and will keep a tracking list of active and completed requests.

**Feedback on this proposed process?**

# External Stakeholder Engagement and Public Comments

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- During GMAC meetings, council members have expressed interest in establishing a process for incorporating external stakeholder engagement, whether by public comment or other means.

What ideas does the Executive Committee have to encourage/incorporate this?

## Close and Next Steps

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- Next Executive Committee Meeting: May 16<sup>th</sup> 2023 from 10-11 AM.
- Tentative topics for next meeting
  - Review near final consultant scope of work
  - Discuss upcoming GMAC agendas and speakers