

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

Grid Modernization Advisory Council Executive Committee

August 25, 2023

Agenda & Attendance

- Welcome, agenda, roll call
- Consultant update
- Plan for reviewing ESMP drafts (September-November)
 - Scheduling Listening Sessions
 - Coordinating with CETWG
 - Recommendations Template
 - Updating Guiding Questions
- Equity Working Group proposal
- Other discussion areas
- Close

Roll call alphabetically by voting and then non-voting members

Consultant Update

- In final contracting steps of hiring a consultant

Key Updates on ESMP Review Period

- **Listening Sessions**

- Propose two sessions with language interpretation services.
 - Monday 10/30 at 6:00 - 7:30 PM
 - Tuesday 10/31 at 12:00 – 1:30 PM
- Invite GMAC members to listen. Consultant to take minutes from session and circulate to GMAC.

- **Coordination with CETWG**

- 9/22 or 10/13 CETWG meeting topic to tentatively focus on distribution system
- GMAC members to be invited to listen to the CETWG meeting
 - Listening only because we do not want to invite Open Meeting Law issues

- **Next slide has the updated GMAC ESMP review schedule**

ESMP Review Timeline

September

M	T	W	Th	F
				1 Receive ESMPs
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29 X

October

M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27 X

November

M	T	W	Th	F
30	31	1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17 X
20	21	22	23	24

- Scheduled GMAC Meetings
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- ExCom Meeting
- Oct. 30 & 31st Listening Sessions
- Tentative: CETWG coordination meeting options

GMAC Meeting Discussion Plan

- **9/14:** Stakeholder Engagement, Current State, 5–10-year forecast (Chapters 3, 4, 5)
- **9/28:** 5–10-year solutions, Reliable & Resilient, Workforce, Economic, & Health Benefits (Chapters 6, 10, 12)
- **10/12:** 2035-2050 Drivers and Solution, Gas-Electric Planning (Chapters 8, 9, 11)
- **10/26:** Executive Summary, Climate Act Compliance, 5-year ESMP, Conclusion (Chapters 1, 2, 7, 13)
- **11/9:** Discuss draft recommendations
- **11/16:** Finalize recommendations

Proposed Recommendations Template

- See Draft template in meeting materials
- Some cells (A, B, C, H) have a drop-down menus to select from.
- First row response included as an example.

- Any feedback on this template?
- See next slide for when GMAC members should submit their recommendations templates.

Grid Modernization Advisory Council ESMP Review										
<i>Instructions:</i>										
Please add feedback and/or recommendations pertaining to individual sections in each row. Use the dropdown arrows within the column to select specific EDCs, sections, subsections, etc. Dropdown selections can be made in Columns A, B, C, F, G, I, and K. Row 7 serves as an example entry. Optionally, if there are additional written comments, feedback, or documents that supplement a row entry, please indicate in Column K that additional document(s) will be emailed to MA-GMAC@mass.gov along with completed Excel sheets. Please send completed Excel sheets with recommendations on the sections corresponding to the GMAC ESMP review schedule. See the "Schedule" sheet for more information on feedback deadlines.										
EDC ESMP	Section	Subsection	Page Number	Area of Concern	Guiding Question	Recommendation or Question	Additional Comment	GMAC Member	Date Added	Additional Information Attachments
National Grid	3 - Stakeholder Engagement	3.3	25	EJ Population Engagement	1. Does the ESMP section demonstrate equity, including increased transparency and stakeholder engagement in the grid planning process and an equitable distribution of impacts and benefits?	To ensure EJ population engagement is meaningful, Ngrid should provide education opportunities on electric grid planning in advance of the stakeholder session .	EEA's EJ Policy defines meaningful involvement as "all neighborhoods have the right and opportunity to participate in energy, climate change, and environmental decision-making including needs assessment, planning, implementation, compliance and enforcement, and evaluation, and neighborhoods are enabled and administratively assisted to participate fully through education and training, and are given transparency/ accountability by government with regard to community input, and encouraged to develop environmental, energy, and climate change stewardship."	Elizabeth Mahony	8/18/2023	Yes, attachment(s) emailed with Excel sheet.
Eversource										
National Grid										
Unitil										

Process for Review – Using 9/14 Meeting as Example

Meeting on 9/14 to discuss Chapters 3, 4, and 5 (Stakeholder Engagement, Current State, 5 to 10-year forecast)

- A. **Tuesday before GMAC meeting, 9/12:** **Consultant team** provides summary slides of selected chapters which are posted on GMAC website
- B. **GMAC meeting, 9/14:** **Consultant presentation** to summarize Chapters and GMAC discussion
- C. **Tuesday after GMAC meeting, 9/19:** **Consultant team** posts updated Chapter take-aways for GMAC member review, inclusive of key discussion points from meeting
- D. **Friday (8 days) after GMAC meeting, 9/22:** GMAC members submit their Recommendations sheet for Chapters discussed at 9/14 meeting.
- E. **Tuesday before next GMAC meeting, 9/26:** **Consultant team** updates Chapter take-aways and groups GMAC member recommendations for “Vibe Check” at next GMAC meeting. Post updates on GMAC website.
- F. **Next GMAC meeting, 9/28:** GMAC discusses updated chapter take-aways and grouped recommendations from last meeting Chapters

September

M	T	W	Th	F
				1 Receive ESMPs
4	5	6	7	8
11	12 A	13	14 B	15
18	19 C	20	21	22 D
25	26 E	27	28 F	29

Repeat process for meetings (and Chapter content) on 9/28, 10/12, and 10/25 GMAC meetings

Updated Agendas for ESMP Review

September 14th

1:00 – 1:15	Administrative Items: EWG Vote
1:15 – 1:55	Consultant Overview
1:55 – 2:30	Section 3: Stakeholder Engagement
2:30 – 2:40	BREAK
2:40 – 3:20	Section 4: Current State of the DS
3:20 – 3:57	Section 5: 5- and 10-Year Demand Forecast
3:57 – 4:00	Close

~40 minutes for each Section

- 10 mins consultant
- 30 mins discussion

September 28th

1:00 – 1:15	Administrative Items
1:15 – 1:55	Continued Day 1 Discussion
1:55 – 2:30	Section 6: 5- and 10-Year Solutions
2:30 – 2:40	BREAK
2:40 – 3:20	Section 10: Reliable & Resilient DS
3:20 – 3:57	Section 12: Workforce, Economic, & Health Benefits
3:57 – 4:00	Close

~40 minutes for each Section

- 10 mins consultant
- 30 mins discussion
- Continued Day 1 discussion to include
“vibe check”

October 12th

1:00 – 1:15	Administrative Items
1:15 – 1:55	Continued Day 2 Discussion
1:55 – 2:30	Section 8: 2035 - 2050 Policy Drivers
2:30 – 2:40	BREAK
2:40 – 3:20	Section 9: 2035 - 2050 Solution Set
3:20 – 3:57	Section 11: Gas-Electric Planning
3:57 – 4:00	Close

~40 minutes for each Section

- 10 mins consultant
- 30 mins discussion
- Continued Day 2 discussion to include
“vibe check”

Updated Agendas for ESMP Review

October 26th

1:00 – 1:15	Administrative Items
1:15 – 1:55	Continued Day 3 Discussion & Overall Thoughts
1:55 – 2:30	Section 7: 5-Year ESMP
2:30 – 2:40	BREAK
2:40 – 3:20	Section 13: Conclusion
3:20 – 3:57	Section 1 & 2: Executive Summary & Climate Act Compliance
3:57 – 4:00	Close

~40 minutes for each Section

- 10 mins consultant
- 30 mins discussion
- Continued Day 3 discussion to include “vibe check” and overall thoughts of ESMPs

November 9th

1:00 – 1:20	Administrative Items
1:20 – 2:20	Consultant Update
1:20 – 2:20	Draft Recommendations: Sec. 1 - 7
2:20 – 2:30	BREAK
2:30 – 3:30	Draft Recommendations: Sec. 8 - 13
3:30 – 3:50	Draft Revisions
3:50 – 4:00	Close

- Draft Recommendations Review
- Include discussion time for Equity Working Group recommendations

November 16th

1:00 – 1:20	Administrative Items
1:20 – 2:20	Consultant Update
1:20 – 2:20	Final Recommendations: Sec. 1 - 7
2:20 – 2:30	BREAK
2:30 – 3:30	Final Recommendations: Sec. 8 - 13
3:30 – 3:50	Final Revisions
3:50 – 4:00	Close

Final Recommendations Vote

Updated Guiding Questions For ESMP Review

To ensure certain overarching priorities are embodied throughout review, proposed are a set of questions the GMAC could consider as it reviews the sections of the ESMP drafts:

1. Does the ESMP section demonstrate **equity**, including increased transparency and stakeholder engagement in the grid planning process and an equitable distribution of impacts and benefits?
2. Does the ESMP section encourage **least-cost investments** in the electric distribution systems or alternative investments, such as virtual power plants (VPP) and non-wire alternatives (NWA)?
3. Does the ESMP section facilitate the achievement of the **statewide greenhouse gas emission limits and sublimits** under chapter 21N?
4. Does the ESMP section effectively **optimize net customer benefits and cost-effective investments** in the distribution grid? This includes investments to enable the interconnection of and communication with distributed energy resources and transmission-scale renewable energy resources, facilitation of electrification of buildings and transportation, **and increased reliability and resiliency**.
5. Does the ESMP section **minimize or mitigate impacts on ratepayers** and reduce impacts on and provide benefits to low-income ratepayers?

GMAC Equity Working Group Proposal (1/2)

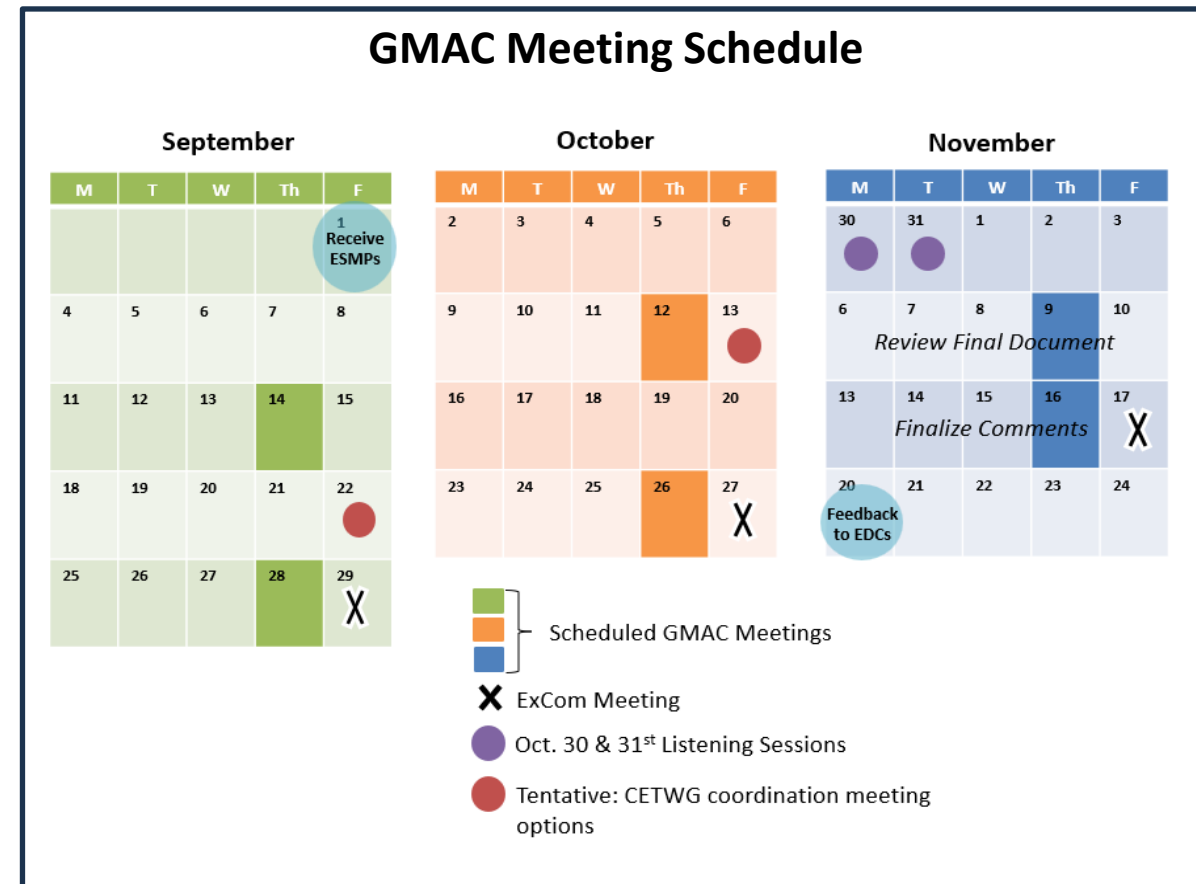
Goal: Provide recommendations on the draft ESMPs for consideration by the GMAC specifically related to equity, with focus on low-income ratepayers and Environmental Justice populations.

Logistics:

- **Leadership:** May be chaired by a GMAC member other than the current GMAC chair.
 - Chair to be voted on during the 9/14 GMAC meeting.
- **Membership:** Suggestion of at least 5 GMAC members for a 4-month term (Sept. – Dec.)
 - Voting members to include DOER, AGO, 2 councilors from GMAC. One non-voting rep. from EDCs
 - Three members representing organizations that are not represented on the GMAC, selected by the GMAC
 - Request nominations (and self-nominations) over email by the 9/14 GMAC meeting
 - GMAC to vote on EWG charter, membership, and leadership during reserved administrative time of 9/14 meeting
- **Meetings:** EWG meetings to be managed by the EWG chair
 - Agendas and any meeting materials should be communicated to MA-GMAC@Mass.gov at least 72 hours in advance of any meeting for meeting Open Meeting Law requirements.
 - EWG chair to run meetings and manage discussion/materials/recommendation development.

Equity Working Group Timeline (2/2)

Date	Details
Thursday, September 14	During GMAC meeting, vote on EWG charter, membership, and leadership.
<i>Sept 15 – Oct 27</i>	EWG determines schedule and meets. Likely ~2 meetings of EWG, up to EWG.
Friday, October 27	EWG provides draft recommendations to GMAC in advance of the listening sessions
Thursday, November 9	EWG presents recommendations for full GMAC discussion



Other Discussion Areas

- Any other issues or items the Executive Committee would like to discuss?

Close and Next Steps

- Next Executive Committee Meeting: September 29th, 2023 from 2-3:30 PM.
- Tentative topics for next meeting
 - Discussion of ongoing GMAC ESMP review schedule and process
 - Equity Working Group
 - Check-in on consultant work to date

Appendix: Reminder: ESMP Review Plan

- **Expectations of members:**
 - Be prepared to discuss sections based on review calendar.
 - Submit recommendations and information requests in a predefined template format for discussion.
 - Be familiar with legislative directive of the GMAC and other council priorities such as integrating equity considerations and ratepayer impacts through ESMP plan review.
- **Meeting cadence:** Biweekly (every other week) GMAC council meetings. See detailed schedule on next slide.
- **Final product:** Cover letter type resolution with high level comments + Excel sheet with specific recommendations and member votes
 - Should the feedback be collected through an Excel template or through a form?
- **Public Engagement during review period**
 1. 10/30 & 10/31: GMAC Listening Sessions
 2. EDC Technical Sessions (~Late October/Early November)
 3. Written Public Comment to MA-GMAC@mass.gov
 4. Stakeholder outreach to GMAC members

Appendix: Reminder: ESMP Review Plan

ESMP Review Coordination & Consultant Role

- We will need to review all 3 EDC plans at the same time.
 - Asking the consultant to summarize, compare, and contrast the plans submitted by the EDCs. They will deliver a brief presentation to the GMAC at each meeting before opening discussion.
- The consultant will support with administrative tasks, coordinating review, summarizing ESMP drafts, summarizing comments, and tracking progress.

Gaining Consensus

- Plan to develop GMAC recommendations as sections are discussed.
- Recommend striving for consensus but not requiring 100% consensus on all recommendations