



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

Grid Modernization Advisory Council Executive Committee

July 28, 2023

Agenda & Attendance

- Welcome, agenda, roll call
- Update on consultant procurement
- Agenda for August GMAC meeting
- Plan for reviewing ESMP draft September-November
- Other discussion areas
- Close

Roll call alphabetically by voting and then non-voting members

Consultant scope of work – process & timeline

- DOER team reviewing responses
- Timeline

DOER Issues RFQ	June 30, 2023
Deadline for Submitting Questions	July 10, 2023
DOER Answers Questions	July 14, 2023
RFQ Response Due Date	July 21, 2023
Selection of Winning Response	August 4, 2023
Execution of Contract with DOER	August 11, 2023
Project Kick-off Meeting	August 14, 2023

Agenda for August GMAC Meeting

August 10

12:00 – 12:30	Public Comment
12:30 – 1:20	Administrative Items
	GMAC ESMP Review Plan
1:20 – 2:20	Topic 1 DER Integration
	BREAK
2:30 – 3:30	Topic 2 Cost Allocation
3:30 – 4:00	Public Comment

Topic 1: DER Integration

Scope: What considerations are there for enabling increased, timely adoption of renewable energy and DERs, including solar, storage, transportation and building electrification technologies

Speakers

- EDCs: Approved and planned investments, technologies, and plans to support DER integration
- Lisa Schwartz, LBNL
- *Tentative: Baringa, Value of DER Study Findings*

Preread materials

- EDC NWA/NWS planning documents
- [Facilitating Power Grid Decarbonization with Distributed Energy Resources: Lessons from the United States](#), Annual Review of Environment and Resources (2021)
- [Distribution Systems in a High Distributed Energy Resources Future: Planning, Market Design, Operation and Oversight](#), CalTech, CAISO, LBNL, 2016
- [Distribution and Grid Modernization Planning to Accelerate Deployment of Distributed Energy Resources](#), [Lisa Schwartz](#) (LBNL) presentation to NASEO-NARUC DER Integration and Compensation Initiative (2023)
- *Tentative: MassCEC “Value of Distributed Energy Resources for Distribution System Grid Services” – Baringa Study*

Topic 2: Cost Allocation

Scope: Request presentations take perspective of an introductory 101 on the issue.

Speakers

- EDCs: Cost allocation today and in Group Study Areas
- Ron Nelson/Eli Asher, Strategen
- *Tentative: DPU*

Preread materials

- [Principles of Access for Flexible Interconnection: Cost Allocation Mechanisms and Financial Risk Management](#) (EPRI 2020)

Planning the ESMP Review Period (1 of 4)

- **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 proposal on next slide.
- **Final product:** Cover letter type resolution with high level comments + excel sheet with specific recommendations and member votes
- **Legislative directive:**
 - “The council shall review and provide recommendations on electric-sector modernization plans ... that maximize net customer benefits and demonstrate cost-effective investments in the distribution grid, including investments to enable interconnection of, and communication with, distributed energy resources and transmission-scale renewable energy resources, facilitate electrification of buildings, transportation and other sectors, improve grid reliability and resiliency, minimize or mitigate impacts on ratepayers throughout the commonwealth and reduce impacts on and provide benefits to low-income ratepayers throughout the commonwealth.”

Planning the ESMP Review Period (2 of 4)

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

GMAC Meeting Discussion Plan

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

Preread material proposal

- EEAC Final Resolution

- Sept. 14th Scheduled GMAC Meeting
- Sept. 28th Proposed New GMAC Meeting
- Oct. 12th Scheduled GMAC Meeting
- Oct. 26th Proposed New GMAC Meeting
- Nov. 9th Scheduled GMAC Meeting
- Nov. 16th Proposed New GMAC Meeting
- ✕ ExCom Meeting

What do you think about the proposed meeting schedule?
How will the EDC technical sessions fit in?

Planning the ESMP Review Period (3 of 4)

ESMP Review Coordination & Consultant Role

- We will need to review all 3 EDC plans at the same time.
 - Anticipate 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 recommend not requiring 100% consensus on all recommendations

Planning the ESMP Review Period (4 of 4)

Open questions

- How do we ensure certain priorities are embodied throughout review? (Equity, ratepayer savings, etc.)
- How should we balance a tight timeline and the need for thorough conversation? Some topics may warrant debate among GMAC members, but we need to get through a great deal of material.
 - Should we extend the GMAC meetings beyond three hours (currently planned for 1-4)?
- How do we organize a vote on GMAC recommendations? (In sections, full draft, each meeting, etc.)
 - We have the November meeting times to finalize recommendations, but can we advance this earlier?
- Can we use polls to gauge the thoughts or priorities of GMAC members?
 - In what ways? How do we keep within the requirements of the Open Meeting Law?
- What other questions or comments do ExCom members have?

Other Discussion Areas

- Council outreach to stakeholders for public comment periods during upcoming August GMAC meeting
 - DOER has messaged the public GMAC list serve (~200 contacts) to notify of public comment opportunity.
 - How can we leverage the Council to maximize participation?
- Any other issues or items the Executive Committee would like to discuss?

Close and Next Steps

- Next Executive Committee Meeting: August 25th, 2023 from 2-3:30 PM.
- Tentative topics for next meeting
 - Update on consultant
 - Final discussion of GMAC review schedule and process