



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

# Grid Modernization Advisory Council

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November 9, 2023

# Agenda

Item	Time
Welcome, Agenda, Roll call	1:00 – 1:05
Meeting minutes review and voting	1:05 – 1:10
ESMP Review Period Reminders & November Process	1:10 – 1:15
Equity Working Group Recommendations Presentation	1:15 – 1:45
Review of Draft GMAC Report: Outline and Observations	1:45 – 2:20
<i>10-minute Break</i>	<i>2:20 – 2:30</i>
Review of Draft GMAC Recommendations and Next Steps	2:30 – 3:20
New GMAC Observations and Recommendations	3:20 – 3:57
Close	3:57 – 4:00

## Meeting Minutes

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- Calling for vote to finalize:
  - October 26<sup>th</sup> GMAC minutes
  - October 27<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee minutes
  - November 3<sup>rd</sup> Equity Working Group minutes
- *Motion to approve the October 26<sup>th</sup> minutes [as distributed/as corrected]?*
- *Motion to approve the October 27<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee minutes [as distributed/as corrected]?*
- *Motion to approve the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Equity Working Group minutes [as distributed/as corrected]?*

# ESMP Review Period Reminders

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- **EDC Technical Sessions**

- **Wednesday, November 15, 2023, from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.**
  - Registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88383523207>
- **Tuesday, November 28, 2023, from 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM.**
  - Registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85094834566>

# Reminder of 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 WE ARE HERE	3 ●
6	7	8	9	10 □
13	14	15 ●	16	17 X
20 Feedback to EDCs	21	22	23 □	24
27	28 ●	29	30	

- } Scheduled GMAC Meetings
- } Scheduled GMAC Meetings
- } Scheduled GMAC Meetings
- X** ExCom Meeting
- Public Listening Sessions
- CETWG coordination meeting

- Holiday
- EDC Technical Sessions
- Equity Working Group meetings

## 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

## November Process To Date

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### **Friday 11/3:** GMAC Members received:

1. Draft GMAC report
2. Scale of agreement sheet
3. Memorandum of the GMAC Equity Working Group

### **Tuesday 11/7, 10 AM:** GMAC members provided to MA-GMAC:

1. New observations and/or recommendations you think are missing and would like to include in the GMAC report. Indicate if they are observations or recommendations and explicitly where you would like them to be added to the report.
2. Any topic/issue areas you would like explicitly discussed during the GMAC meeting today.

## November Process: Next Steps

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**Thursday 11/9, End of day:** GMAC members receive from MA-GMAC:

- A. Word document of **NEW** observations and recommendations proposed by GMAC members, reflecting any relevant updates from the GMAC meeting.
- B. Scale of agreement sheet for the **NEW** observations and recommendations proposed by GMAC members.

**Tuesday 11/14, 10 AM:** GMAC members provide to MA-GMAC five documents:

1. Constructive and specific track changes on the draft GMAC report received **11/3**. (Please do not make formatting changes)
2. Filled out scale of agreement sheet from **11/3** on draft GMAC report
3. Constructive and specific track changes on the Memorandum of the GMAC Equity Working Group
4. Constructive and specific track changes on the word document of **new** observations and recommendations proposed by GMAC members received 11/9
5. Filled out scale of agreement sheet from 11/7 on **new** observations and recommendations proposed by GMAC members received 11/9

**Wednesday 11/15 End of Day:** GMAC members receive

- Clean version of GMAC report with green, yellow, and red highlighting that reflects the outcomes from the scale of agreement sheets.
- Track changes GMAC report document showing all GMAC member changes
- Clean and track changes EWG Memo

**Thursday 11/16:** Final GMAC meeting to make final line edits and vote.

- If GMAC members wish to indicate abstention or disagreement with specific observations or recommendations, they must verbally list those abstentions and disagreement during this meeting.

# Equity Working Group Process

- ▶ Met four times since the Working Group was approved by GMAC on September 14th
- ▶ Discussed how equity and affordability are addressed in the ESMPs and reacted to the proposed EDC metrics and Technical Sessions
- ▶ Accepted public comment; Received 1 set of written comments
- ▶ Developed unanimously approved memo for the GMAC



# Memo Structure

- ▶ Background
- ▶ Definitions
- ▶ Observations
- ▶ Recommendations
- ▶ Appendix

# Document Walkthrough

Walkthrough key points from the Equity Working Group's memo

# Working Group Next Steps

- ▶ The document was based on the information available in the ESMPs
- ▶ Members may have additional comments after plans are filed – could reconvene if desired
- ▶ The GMAC recommendations also contemplate using the Equity Working Group or GMAC to host the CESAG
- ▶ Next steps to be determined in December?

# Discussion

Thoughts from other Equity working group members or questions from the GMAC?

# Draft GMAC Report: Outline and Observations

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## Outline

- **Acknowledgements**
- **Introduction (Background & Process)**
- **Observations (Organized by general topic areas)**
- Recommendations (Organized by ESMP Section)
- Process for the next ESMPs

## Break

*Please be ready to start again in ~10 minutes*

## Outline

- Acknowledgements
- Introduction (Background & Process)
- Observations (Organized by general topic areas)
- **Recommendations (Organized by ESMP Section)**
- **Process for the next ESMPs**

## Draft GMAC Report: New Additions & Modifications

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- Observations Section (indicated in report scroll through)
  - 1 addition to an existing observation
  - 1 new observation
- Recommendations (indicated in report scroll through)
  - 10 new recommendations
  - 6 additions to existing recommendations
  - 8 reconfigurations of recommendations



# Draft GMAC Report: Topics Areas to Discuss

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## Included in the Draft Report scroll-through:

- **Observation #5 – Don't Think Cost Recovery is a Concern of the GMAC:** (Sarah Cullinan, MassCEC)
  - I think the DPU context issue is more in terms of what exactly the DPU will be reviewing and approving, which I think can be a specific recommendation of the GMAC. For instance, the DPU should seek to approve the 5-year investments, and then they should have findings related to the general reasonableness of the assumptions and approaches, and then findings about further process for determining how to dial in the ESMP structure and prescribed planning process going forward.
- **Recommendations to EDC on their Proposed Metrics Should be Addressed in a Single Section.** (Kathryn Wright, Barr Foundation)
  - In terms of structure, I wonder if we should respond directly to the proposed utility-metrics in its own section. The feedback is scattered throughout the report right now.
- **The Appendix Table, Particularly the Noncompliant Portions** (Kathryn Wright, Barr Foundation)
- **Adding Future ESMP Process Recommendations** (Kathryn Wright, Barr Foundation and Sarah Cullinan, MassCEC)

# Draft GMAC Report: Topics Areas to Discuss

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## Not Included in the Draft Report scroll-through:

- **The Scope of 1st GMAC Process and the Scope of the ESMPs (Kelly Caiazzo, AGO)**
  - Discussion on what the GMAC did not do in this first ESMP cycle.
  - Considering base and incremental investments and the scope of the ESMPs with respect to benefit cost analysis, rate/bill impacts, metrics, etc.
- **Information Requests to EDCs from spreadsheets (Kate Tohme, New Leaf Energy)**
  - Through the GMAC recommendations spreadsheets, Council members posed many questions akin to information requests in an adjudicatory proceeding. To inform the impending adjudicatory proceedings it would be beneficial for the EDCs to consider responding to these information requests and including responses with their initial filings to the DPU. We suggest discussing whether a spreadsheet of information requests should be included as an appendix to the GMAC recommendations.

# Draft GMAC Report: Topics Areas to Discuss

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## EDC Update and Reactions to the Draft GMAC Report.

- Ask EDCs to speak to the letter they provided to the GMAC on 11/7/23
- Ask for EDC response to Draft GMAC report
  - Focused on any significant misinterpretations or misunderstandings the EDCs believe the GMAC may have that will hinder the value of the recommendations process. *Kate Tohme, New Leaf Energy*
  - React generally (e.g., to the format and level of detail) provided in the draft, to assess whether they need more direction to implement, or rather if they are clear and actionable for them. I think it may also be important for them to provide input on what is feasible to do/change before Jan. 31, and it may lead to a conversation about what to prioritize before that submission. Also, would it be helpful to them (and feasible for our process) to provide an opportunity for a feedback session after they take the final recommendations back? *Sarah Cullinan, MassCEC.*

## Close and Next Steps

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Next GMAC Meeting: November 16, 2023, from 1-4 PM

- GMAC members discuss, live edit, and vote on final recommendations during the meeting.
- Please come to the meeting prepared to voice any dissent or abstention from specific recommendations within the Report.
- **Should we extend this meeting by an hour?**

### **Due Next Week, Tuesday 11/14 10 AM:**

1. Constructive and specific **track changes** on the draft GMAC Report received 11/3. (Please do not make formatting changes.)
2. Filled out **scale of agreement sheet** from 11/3 on draft GMAC Report
3. Constructive and specific **track changes** on the Memorandum of the GMAC Equity Working Group received 11/3. (Please do not make formatting changes.)
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