

Remote Participation Policy

Grid Modernization Advisory Council

Adopted _____, 2023

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Section 1: Purpose and Scope

- (1) Purpose. This document sets forth the remote participation policy for the Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC), in accordance with the Open Meeting Law; G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25, to ensure transparency with regard to deliberations on which public policy is based.
- (2) Scope. The remote participation policy applies to all members of the GMAC.

Section 2: Definitions

- (1) “Chair of the GMAC” refers to the commissioner of the Department of Energy Resources or an authorized designee.
- (2) “GMAC” refers to the Grid Modernization Advisory Council, established pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92C.
- (3) “GMAC Meeting” refers to any GMAC meetings or subcommittee meetings that have been properly noticed pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25.
- (4) “Non-Voting Members” refers to the GMAC members listed in G.L. c. 164, § 92C(a): “1 member from each electric company operating in the commonwealth who shall serve as non-voting members.”
- (5) “Voting Members” refers to the 15 GMAC members listed in G.L. c. 164, § 92C(a) representing each of the following: (1) the commissioner of energy resources, (2) the attorney general, (3) the executive director of the Massachusetts clean energy technology center, (4) middle-income and low-income residential consumers, (5) a local agency administering the low-income weatherization assistance program, (6) the environmental advocacy community, (7) an environmental justice community organization, (8) the transmission scale renewable energy industry with expertise in projects of greater than 20 megawatts, (9) the distributed generation scale renewable energy industry with expertise in projects of less than 5 megawatts, (10) the energy

storage industry, (11) the electric vehicle industry, (12) the building electrification industry, (13) municipal or regional interests, (14) technical and engineering expert in interconnecting clean energy, and (15) businesses, including large commercial and industrial end-use customers.

Section 3: Adoption and Revocation

(1) Adoption of Remote Participation. Voting Members may, by a simple majority, vote to approve or amend this remote participation policy, in accordance with the requirements of 940 CMR 29.10, with that vote applying to all subsequent GMAC meetings.

(2) Restrictions. Voting Members may, by a simple majority, adopt policies that prohibit or restrict the use of remote participation provided those policies do not violate 940 CMR 29.10, or any state or federal law.

(3) Revocation of Remote Participation. Voting Members may revoke the adoption of remote participation, by a simple majority, in accordance with the requirements of 940 CMR 29.10.

Section 4: Requirements

(1) Minimum Requirements for Remote Participation.

(a) A quorum of the Voting Members, including the Chair of the GMAC shall be physically present at the physical meeting location;

(b) Members who participate remotely in GMAC meetings shall be clearly audible to each other and the public at all times; and

(c) Members who participate remotely in GMAC meetings shall be permitted to speak at the meeting, participate in all votes, and shall not be deemed absent.

(2) Permissible Reasons for Remote Participation. Members shall be permitted to participate remotely in a GMAC meeting, in accordance with the procedures described in Section 6 below, if physical attendance would be unreasonably difficult.

Section 5: Technology

(1) The GMAC will provide telephone and internet options for audio and/or video conferencing for remote participation.

(2) The GMAC will provide reasonable accommodations for any Member who requires language interpretation, TTY service, video relay service, or other form of adaptive telecommunications.

(3) Upon advance notice, the GMAC will provide reasonable accommodation for any other participant who requires language interpretation, TTY service, video relay service, or other form of adaptive telecommunications.

(4) The Chair of the GMAC shall decide how to resolve any technical difficulties that may arise from remote participation, but is encouraged to suspend GMAC discussions while reasonable

efforts are made to resolve the technical difficulties. If a remote participant is disconnected from the GMAC meeting, then that fact and the time the disconnection occurred shall be recorded in the GMAC meeting minutes.

Section 6: Procedures

(1) Procedures for Remote Participation.

(a) Any Member who wishes to participate remotely shall, as soon as reasonably possible prior to the GMAC meeting, notify the chair of the GMAC, of their desire to do so, and the reason for their request to participate remotely.

(b) At the start of the meeting, the chair of the GMAC shall announce the names of all Members who will be participating remotely. This information shall also be recorded in the minutes.

(c) All votes taken during any GMAC meeting, in which a Member is participating remotely, shall be by roll call vote.

(d) A Member who participates remotely may attend an executive session, but shall state at the start of any such session that no other person is present or able to hear the discussion at the remote location, unless that presence of that person is approved by a majority vote of the public body.