



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

Grid Modernization Advisory Council Executive Committee

February 15, 2024

Agenda & Attendance

- Welcome, Agenda, Roll Call
- GMAC Budget Review
- 2024 GMAC Meeting Schedule
- Consultant Role
- Equity Working Group
- Other Discussion Areas
- Close

Roll call alphabetically by voting and then non-voting members

GMAC Budget

- On December 11, 2023, the DPU approved the GMAC’s budgets for 2023 and 2024 (D.P.U. Order [23-98](#)). The budget is allocated between the GMAC consultant services and an operating budget (See table below).
- In 2023, the GMAC consultant spent \$308,563.13.
- For 2024, the consultant’s work will support the GMAC in the following ways:
 - Reviewing the filed ESMPs,
 - Providing updates on the ESMPs for the GMAC,
 - Evaluating the final ESMP Order issued by the DPU in August,
 - Supporting the Equity Working Group on equity specific analysis related to the ESMPs.

Year	Consultant Budget	Operating Budget	Total
2023	\$ 356,653.00	-	\$ 356,653.00
2024	\$ 387,978.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 437,978.00

GMAC Operating Budget

- The DPU approved **\$50,000** for the GMAC for operational expenses in 2024. This can be used for unanticipated activities that arise in the first iteration of the GMAC's review of the ESMPs.
- **Potential spend options include:**
 - Additional distribution system planning related studies
 - Technical support
 - Stakeholder engagement opportunities
- To make use this money in 2024, the use for these funds must be determined by **May** at the latest.

Proposal for funds:

- We propose that the GMAC holds a facilitated in-person stakeholder workshop in the fall of 2024 (post DPU Order) that may include review of the Order, discussion of distribution system planning in Massachusetts, and strategic planning for future ESMP processes. The funds may support pre-event planning, meeting space rentals, facilitation services, event organizing, and post-event materials.

What do ExCom members think? Feedback and ideas are welcome.

2024 GMAC Meeting Schedule

GMAC Meeting Schedule

- **February 28, 2024**
 - Consultant presentation on ESMP filings
 - DPU procedural recommendations discussion
 - **July 2024**
 - Consultant updates on the ESMP docket
 - **Late September 2024**
 - Consultant review of the DPU ESMP Order
 - Discuss next steps for GMAC
- The Executive Committee will plan to meet about three weeks ahead of each GMAC meeting.
 - The Equity Working Group is planning to meet on March 5th, and then will discuss a future meeting cadence.
 - DOER plans to send out polls for scheduling the July and late September GMAC meetings in early March.

Procedural Schedule for D.P.U. 24-10, 24-11, and 24-12	
Date	Action
1/29/2024	ESMP filings submitted to DPU
1/30/2024	Discovery (General Track) begins
2/20/2024	Pre-hearing statements (General Track) due
3/1/2024	EDCs' first discovery logs due
3/5/2024	Intervenor testimony due
3/5/2024 at 2:00 p.m.	Public Information Session on ESMPs
3/7/2024, at 7:00 p.m.	
3/12/2024, at 2:00 p.m.	
3/8/2024	Reserved for technical sessions
3/11/2024	
3/13/2024	
3/25/2024	Deadline to issue discovery
4/1/2024	EDC's updated discovery logs due
4/8/2024 – 4/26/2024	Evidentiary hearings
TBD	Briefing
8/29/2024	DPU Order deadline

Any questions or comments on the 2024 meeting schedule?

Consultant Activities

- The GMAC consultants are reviewing the filed ESMPs in areas including:
 - How GMAC recommendations were integrated into the final ESMPs,
 - Summarizing investment proposals and associated cost-recovery mechanisms,
 - Reviewing cost benefit analysis,
 - Reviewing ratepayer impacts analysis, and
 - Other areas that are statutorily relevant to the GMAC.
- The consultants are also providing equity-specific analysis of the ESMPs for the Equity Working Group.
- Findings will be shared with GMAC members and made available on the GMAC website as soon as possible.

Outline of GMAC Consultant Comments

1. Introduction and Highlights
2. Compliance With GMAC Recommendations
3. Distribution System Planning Considerations
4. Load Forecasts and Load Drivers
5. Proposed ESMP and Non-ESMP Investments
6. Proposed ESMP Investments
7. Benefit-Cost Analysis
8. Rate Impacts Analysis
9. Integrated Gas-Electric Plans
10. Consistency with CECs
11. Metrics
12. Appendices
 - A) DPU Order 20-80 on Gas Planning
 - B) Massachusetts Climate Requirements
 - C) Responses to GMAC Recommendations

Equity Working Group

- The EWG charter was amended to extend the EWG term during the December 14, 2023 GMAC meeting.
- **Tentative EWG Meeting Schedule and Topics:**
 - **March 2024:**
 - GMAC consultant presentation on equity considerations of ratepayer impacts and benefit cost analysis.
 - Discussion on the EDCs' responses to the Memorandum of the Equity Working Group.
 - **July 2024:**
 - Continued discussion on equity considerations in the ESMPs.
 - Discuss related DPU investigation on energy affordability and energy burden ([D.P.U. 24-15](#)).
 - **Fall 2024:**
 - Review the final DPU Order and discuss its implications
 - Next steps for the group.

Other Discussion Areas

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

Close and Next Steps

- Next Executive Committee Meeting: June/July 2024
 - **Please stay tuned for calendar holds.**