

Massachusetts Grid Modernization Advisory Council

Meeting Presentation

September 18, 2025



Agenda & Roll Call



Item	Time
Administrative Items <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome, Roll Call, Agenda• Public Comment Period• Meeting Minutes Review and Approval• EWG Membership Appointments• Update on GMAC Consultant Contract	1:00 – 1:20
Updates on ESMP Activities	1:20 – 1:30
2026 GMAC Workplan Discussion	1:30 – 2:00
<i>Break</i>	<i>2:00 – 2:05</i>
2026 GMAC Workplan Discussion	2:05 – 2:55
Close	2:55 – 3:00

Public Comment



- 15-minute period for public comment
- Speakers will have up to **3 minutes** to speak on any topics of interest related to the GMAC. Once everyone who has pre-registered has provided comment, others may speak, as time allows.
- Please state your name and affiliation before delivering your comment.

GMAC Minutes Review and Voting



Meeting Minutes

- Calling for vote to finalize:
 - August 28, 2025 GMAC meeting minutes

Are there any requests for edits to the minutes?

On behalf of the Council, the Chair may approve the minutes as distributed/as amended.

Equity Working Group Membership

- The following EWG members listed in the table are up for reappointment for a 2-year term.
- EWG members were asked to notify the EWG Chair if they plan to step down.
 - ***The EDCs provided notice that they are nominating a candidate for the EDC seat.***
- EWG members were asked to indicate their interest in serving as the Chair.
 - ***No indication was made.***
- GMAC and EWG members were asked to nominate a candidates for appointment.
 - ***Marc Lucas, National Grid's Director of Project Engagement has been nominated to serve as the EDC representative.***

1. Are there any nominations for additional candidates?
2. Is there a motion to reappoint/appointment candidates to the EWG?
3. Is there a motion to appoint Kathryn Wright as Chair of the EWG?

Current Member	Representation
Kathryn Wright*	Barr Foundation, GMAC representative, *Chairperson
Kyle Murray	Acadia Center, GMAC representative
Larry Chretien	Green Energy Consumers Alliance, GMAC representative
Mary Wambui	Planning Office for Urban Affairs, external organization representative
Jolette Westbrook	Environmental Defense Fund
Erin Engstrom	Eversource, EDC representative

Per the EWG Charter, The Equity Working Group is comprised of at least 7 members. DOER and the AGO shall be permanent members.

Update on GMAC Consultant Contract

- The current GMAC consulting contract with Synapse expires on December 31, 2025.
- DOER posted a [notice for a competitive solicitation](#) for the GMAC consultant on Tuesday 9/16. This notice will be updated with a full RFQ this fall.
 - The notice points to the draft 2026 Workplan for consultant work.
 - The full RFQ will be as aligned with the workplan, inclusive of GMAC discussion today, as possible.
 - This new contract will be executed before the end of the year.
- The ExCom will discuss the consultant contract and budget further at the October 9th meeting.

Any questions?

ESMP Activities Updates



1. ESMP Phase II

1. Metrics/biannual reports (*see next slide*)
2. Long-term cost recovery

2. IEP Working Group

3. LTSP (DPU 25-20)

4. Other

Key Upcoming Dates	
IEP Stakeholder Working Group meeting	9/18
Resilience Metrics (DPU 24-53) Technical Session	9/22
1 st ESMP biannual report filed	9/30
EDC comments on ESMP long-term cost recovery	10/1
Intervenor comments on ESMP long-term cost recovery	10/29
ESMP biannual report compliance filing	10/30
IEP Stakeholder Working Group meeting	11/13
Reply comments on ESMP long-term cost recovery	11/26
IEP Stakeholder Working Group listening sessions	12/9 + 12/11

**Stay up to date on ESMP activities via the Activity Tracker!*

Are there any updates on these items?

Summary of DPU ESMP Biannual Report Memo



Prospective September Report

Filed by Sep. 30th, 2025 in D.P.U. 25-ESMP

- Information will be through June 30th, 2025

Report contents:

- Narrative section with updates to:
 - CESAG stakeholder framework; investments and reprioritization; IEP Joint Utility Working Group; forecast improvements; outside funding
- Appendix A: Summary of ESMP Investment Costs
 - Projected and actual costs for each calendar year of ESMP term
 - Forecast of upcoming year with corrections to actuals in preceding year

D.P.U. directed modifications:

- Update Grid Services Study and compensation framework

Retrospective March Report

Filed by March 31, 2026 in D.P.U. 26-ESMP-01

- Information will be through December 31st, 2025
- Updated template and appendices must be filed by October 30th, 2025

Report contents:

- Similar narrative structure to September report
- Appendix A: Summary of ESMP Investments - Actuals
- Appendix B: ESMP Metrics on outreach, resiliency, GHGs, DERMS, and VVO
- Appendix C: List of Non-ESMP docketed and non-docketed proceedings
- Appendix D: Summary of non-ESMP metrics and reports

D.P.U. directed modifications:

- Additional geographic data for EJ population investment analysis; updates on Grid Services Study and Compensation Fund; CBA information; new step/spot loads; report on comprehensive peak demand reduction;

2026 GMAC Workplan

Reminder: Strategic Planning Process

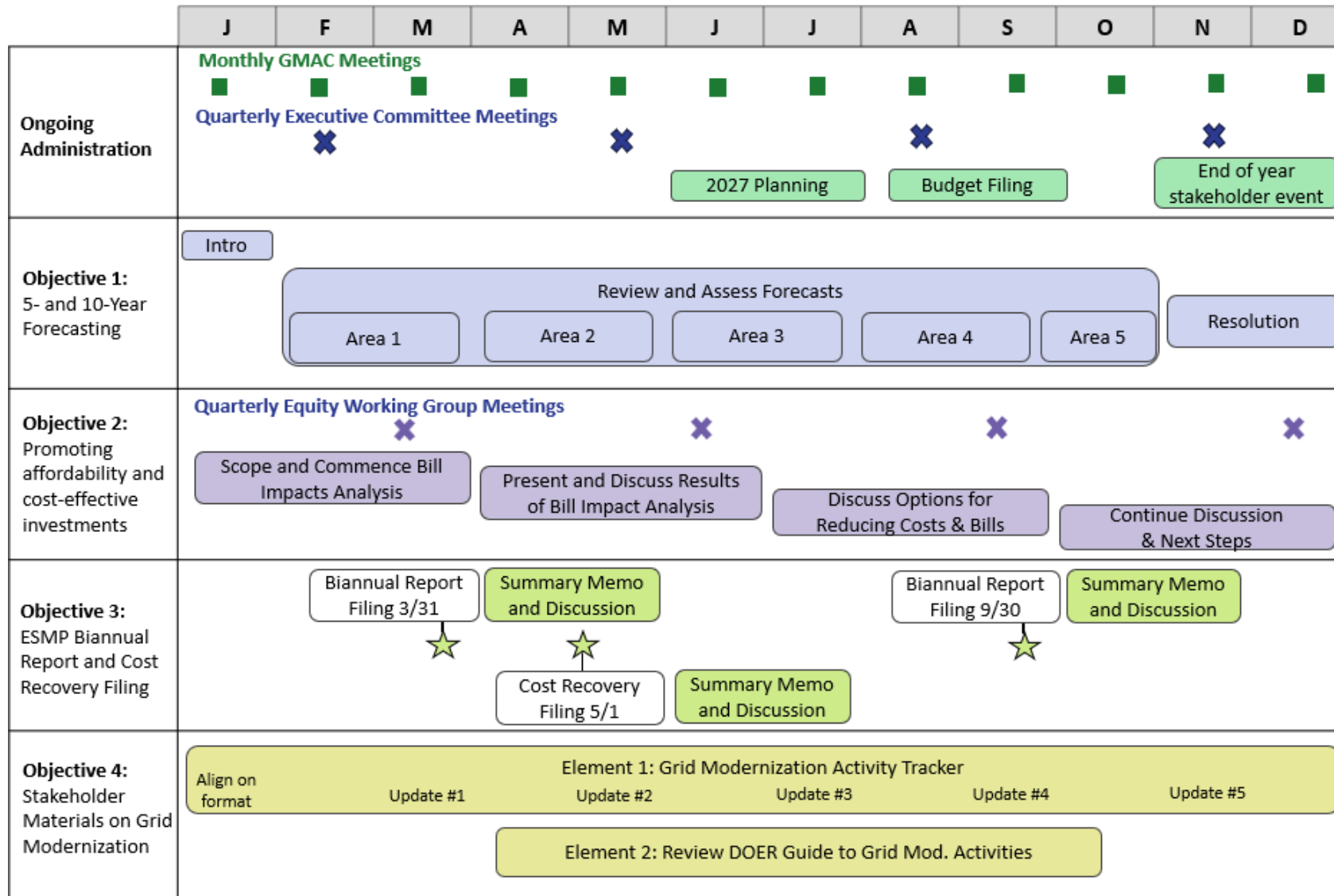


- GMAC members received the draft 2026 GMAC Workplan on September 12th.
- Discussion and feedback from this meeting will inform a final 2026 Workplan and DPU budget request.
- The DPU budget request for consulting services and operating expenses will be submitted on November 7th.
- *As a note, this is Aurora's last GMAC meeting of the year. We are excited for her to welcome her first child in October!*

Small Group Discussion Takeaways

- **GMAC Scope:** includes all the elements in the ESMPs and goes beyond the traditional definition of grid modernization.
- **GMAC Role:** To be an advisor on issues related to ESMPs and its statutory objectives including encouraging least-cost investments and achievement of GHG goals and increasing transparency and stakeholder engagement in grid planning processes.
- **Public Education:** It is useful for the GMAC to compile and present educational materials on ESMP topics, with the goal of informing GMAC members and other “201-level” stakeholders that are engaged in ESMP-related activities (e.g., municipalities, stakeholders in related work groups)
- **GMAC Member Education:** The GMAC should work towards better informing itself in preparation for reviewing and providing recommendations on the draft 2029 ESMPs.
- **ESMP Dockets:** The GMAC should monitor DPU ESMP dockets on biannual reports and cost recovery but should not intervene or otherwise engage in these DPU ESMP dockets.
- **ESMP-Related Activities:** The GMAC should stay up-to-date on ESMP-related activities but should generally not engage in those activities.

Draft 2026 Workplan Overview



2026 GMAC Workplan

Please refer to the draft 2026 GMAC Workplan document.

Break

Please be ready to start again in ~5 minutes

2026 GMAC Workplan Next Steps

**Friday
9/26**

- GMAC members provide final written feedback on the workplan based on today's discussion by **end of day 9/26**. Please email MA-GMAC@mass.gov.

**Thursday
10/9**

- The Executive Committee discusses CY26 GMAC consulting and operating budget.

**Friday
10/10**

- The Equity Working Group reviews and provides feedback on objective 2.

**Week of
10/20**

- DOER sends out/posts near-final workplan to GMAC members and the public.

**Thursday
10/30**

- The GMAC votes on the 2026 GMAC Workplan.

**Friday
11/7**

- CY2026 GMAC budget request is filed with the DPU.

2025 Substation Tours Recap



Thank you Eversource and National Grid for hosting GMAC members & colleagues at four substation tours this year!

Members visited:

- Eversource station 385, station 99, and Kendall Sq. station
- National Grid station 5, station 37, and Hendersonville station

Stay tuned for future site visits and tours next year!

Any suggestions?



Close and Next Steps

- The next GMAC meeting is October 30th from 1 – 3 PM.
- Schedule for remainder of the year:

Date	Time	Meeting	Topic
October 9 th	9:30 – 10:30 AM	ExCom	Discuss 11/7 CY26 DPU Budget Request proposal
October 10 th	10 – 11:30 AM	EWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit distributional equity analysis • Review 2026 Workplan • Community benefits agreements in light of siting reform
October 30 th	1 – 3 PM	GMAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote on 2026 Workplan • Review first ESMP biannual report
December 4 th	1 – 3 PM	GMAC	Integrated Energy Planning
December 12 th	9 – 1:00 PM	Public Event	<i>The Electric Grid Through a Municipal Lens Pt. 2</i>
December 18 th	9:30 – 10:30 AM	ExCom	TBD