

# Illinois EE Stakeholder Advisory Group Large Group SAG: NTG Meeting #4

Monday, September 27, 2021

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

## Attendee List and Notes

### Meeting Materials

- Posted on the [2022 NTG page](#).

### Attendee List

Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator  
Greg Ehrendreich, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) – Meeting Support  
Brian A'Hearn, CLEAResult  
Laura Agapay-Read, Guidehouse  
Scott Allen, Citizens Utility Board  
Jennifer Alvarado, Franklin Energy  
Matt Armstrong, Ameren Illinois  
Andrew Carollo, Cadmus  
Kumar Chittory, Verdant Associates  
Jane Colby, Apex Analytics  
Hannah Collins, Leidos  
Andrew Cottrell, Applied Energy Group  
Erin Daughton, ComEd  
Deb Dynako, Slipstream  
Jeff Erickson, Guidehouse  
Claire Flaherty, Cascade Energy  
Jean Gibson, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas  
Heidi Gorrill, Slipstream  
Kevin Grabner, Guidehouse  
Andrey Gribovich, DNV-GL  
Walid Guerfali, ICF  
Vince Gutierrez, ComEd  
Amir Haghghat, CLEAResult  
Travis Hinck, GDS Associates  
Adam Householder, Franklin Energy  
Martin Jacobson, ComEd  
Jim Jerozal, Nicor Gas  
Kevin Johnston, Green Homes Illinois  
Haley Keegan, Resource Innovations  
Anna Kelly, Power Takeoff  
Larry Kotewa, Elevate  
John Lavalley, Leidos  
John Mascarenhas, CLEAResult  
Marlon McClinton, Utilivate  
Rebecca McNish, ComEd  
Gina Melekh, Franklin Energy

Abigail Miner, IL Attorney General's Office  
Jennifer Morris, ICC Staff  
Phil Mosenthal, Optimal Energy, on behalf of IL Attorney General's Office and NCLC  
Sharon Mullen, Guidehouse  
Rob Neumann, Guidehouse  
Dantawn Nicholson, ComEd  
Victoria Nielsen, Applied Energy Group  
Gregory Norris, Aces 4 Youth  
Lorelei Obermeyer, CLEARResult  
Randy Opdyke, Nicor Gas  
Emily Pauli, ComEd  
Michael Pittman, Ameren Illinois  
Patricia Plympton, Guidehouse  
Keerthana Ramasamy Thirugnana Sambantham, SEEL  
Zach Ross, Opinion Dynamics  
Clayton Schroeder, Resource Innovations  
Tyler Sellner, Opinion Dynamics  
Cher Seruto, Guidehouse  
Arvind Singh, DNV-GL  
Ramandeep Singh, ICF  
Melanie Steen, Ameren Illinois  
Mark Szczygiel, Nicor Gas  
Stephen Taylor, The Will Group  
Lisabeth Tremblay, Guidehouse  
Eric Van Orden, Copper Labs  
Marques Vaughn, Ameren Illinois  
Andy Vaughn, Ameren Illinois  
Carla Walker-Miller, Walker-Miller Energy Services  
Ted Weaver, First Tracks Consulting, on behalf of Nicor Gas  
Peter Widmer, Power Takeoff  
Jayden Wilson, Opinion Dynamics  
Ken Woolcutt, Ameren Illinois  
Hameed Yusuf, Resource Innovations  
Qianmin Zhang, ComEd  
Jason Fegley, Ameren Illinois  
Katie Parkinson, Apex Analytics

### **Meeting Notes**

Follow-up items marked **in red**.

**Purpose of Meeting:** To discuss follow-up and finalize consensus on Net-to-Gross (NTG) recommendations for the 2022 program year.

### **Ameren Illinois NTG Values**

*Zach Ross, Opinion Dynamics*

#### **Efficient Choice Tool (Ameren Illinois):**

- Current recommendation is program-level of 0.65 across both tools, based on evaluator judgment. ICC Staff mentioned concerns and wanted data driven.

- Option 1: Best available Ameren data; statistically strong in aggregate but too small for measure-level estimates. Almost a full calendar year but the first few months are not perfect – pilot, etc.
- Option 2: Suggested by ICC Staff – using ComEd research for three measures – fridges, dishwasher, dryer. Ameren estimates may not be statistically valid. Only about 8% of Ameren gross electric savings for the program. Would apply average to everything except those 3 measures.
- ICC Staff prefers Option 2. There will likely not be a meaningful difference in performance.

*[Zach Ross] Will go with Option 2 if no objections since ICC Staff preference.*

*[Andy Vaughn] Ameren IL is okay with Option 2.*

*[Laura Agapay-Read] Suggests discussing ComEd Efficient Choice too.*

## **ComEd NTG Values**

*Laura Agapay-Read, Guidehouse*

### **Efficient Choice Tool (ComEd):**

- Guidehouse recommendation is a program-level NTG ratio from current research. Very close to ODC's recommendation for Ameren, of 0.62.

*[Jennifer Morris] ComEd should apply something similar to what Ameren is doing.*

*[Jeff Erickson] We have some programs where we do a program-level NTG because not significant at measure level. We do have measure level data, but sample size is low. Actual values found in research are clustering around that 0.6-0.65 range. Maybe trying to exercise some false precision here.*

*[Zach Ross] I agree with Jeff and made our first recommendation of 0.65; don't believe that going to that granularity is worthwhile for this program, but we're okay with this year because we don't think it will change results.*

*[Jennifer Morris] Was enough granularity for those three, but for the rest they didn't all come out around the 0.62 – Ameren has one at 0.67 – I propose we use the 0.67 for all the others in the program. Why would we think F-R for refrigerators would be the same as for EV chargers? Doesn't make sense to apply those specific three to other measures in the program. Not going to object but our recommendation is to do the same as Ameren.*

*[Zach Ross] Note that these values on this slide are from small sample sizes and this range we see is what we would expect from that.*

*[Phil Mosenthal] No big concern one way or the other. Looks like the 0.67 includes the measures that Jennifer proposes separating, right?*

*[Zach Ross] We recomputed without those measures. Margins of a fraction of a percent here.*

*[Jennifer Morris] ComEd research only asked about those three measures, so it should not apply to everything for our best estimate for next year. Ameren has some results for the mixture of other measures in the program. We use what research we have, and it seems like we just have Ameren research for the other measures.*

*[Phil Mosenthal] You would prefer those three measures because they are larger sample sizes?*

*[Zach Ross] Large sample sizes and capture the full year better than the rest.*

*[Patricia Plympton] Three measures represented the majority of the savings, which is why we surveyed those specific measures. Extrapolated from there to the rest of the measures.*

*[Jeff Erickson] We wouldn't raise a general objection to that for the ComEd side, as evaluator. Caution about the sample size. Should we be moving forward with the same numbers across Ameren and ComEd and then we need to talk about the everything else number.*

*[Zach Ross] I think Jennifer is suggesting using Ameren data for the everything else because that is where we have research – and that would be for ComEd and Ameren.*

*[Question] The measures in the ComEd have small sample sizes, but in aggregate it was large enough to get a result? [Yes]*

*[Jennifer Morris] The other measures were a small sample, but ComEd didn't even ask F-R about those other measures. There are no NTG results for other measures in the ComEd research. That's why I recommended we use the Ameren for everything.*

*[Patricia Plympton] Yes, they were the ones we researched because they were the majority of the savings. We are using best available data between the Ameren research and the ComEd research and that is what's represented here? [Yes]*

*No objections to consensus for all these values for Ameren and ComEd for Efficient Choice.*

**Strategic Energy Management (joint ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas):**

*[Laura Agapay-Read] I believe there were a number of proposals. Our final recommendation is that SEM use 1.0 for 2022 and NTG research be conducted on the program.*

*[Erin Daughton] ComEd has no problem with that.*

*[Jennifer Morris] What was proposed at the last meeting?*

*[Laura Agapay-Read] We had three values proposed.*

*[Jeff Erickson] Our recommendation hasn't changed but we were in a conversation about the other values.*

*[Phil Mosenthal] Does Ameren have any study?*

*[Zach Ross] No claimed savings from SEM, so no attribution research.*

*[Phil Mosenthal] I thought ComEd was still not in agreement on virtual commissioning?*

*[Erin Daughton] No, we accepted that value.*

*[Jim Jerozal] This is a gas and electric conversation, and we had a few options on the table. Keep at 1, do an in-between, or at 0.8 default. We were figuring out the boundaries around this particular measure.*

*[Phil Mosenthal] We deemed 1.0 because we believe the savings methodology was already calculating net?*

*[Jennifer Morris] Jeff said it was because we thought it was closer to RCx and that this was a little higher. I thought it had to do with the methodology. But now we realize that it is not a methodology issue – it doesn't result in net savings. The NTG has declined for RCx so maybe this needs to come down some?*

*[Erin Daughton] I thought it was 0.97 – between 1.0 and the 0.94 for RCx.*

*No objections on 0.97 value for SEM.*

**Non-Residential New Construction (joint ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas):**

*[Laura Agapay-Read] Revisited our analysis and we don't have any changes – there had been some questions.*

*[Erin Daughton] Thanks Guidehouse for the additional research at our request and sharing that information. It gave us good insight on what we can do programmatically to get the right people and the right questions. To reiterate, we think this program and the custom merit an additional look by the working group in the coming year. We looked at the response from Guidehouse and we have no problems with the recommendation.*

*[Jim Jerozal] We're in agreement too.*

*[Procedural question about the algorithm]*

*[Phil Mosenthal] If it was a prior participation then they might not have been in the sample for the study but then would be in the spillover estimate.*

*[Jayden Wilson] What we found when we reviewed was that a prior wave of the customer's project was influential, but they weren't sure whether it was a ComEd program or not. We reviewed the tracking data and found they had participated in the prior program, but that project was not in the previous research – if this project had been sampled, we would have preferred to include their actual NTG rate. Because they weren't sampled, we applied the SAG consensus value.*

*[Laura Agapay-Read] Surprised the influence caused you to use the first wave NTG; if there had not been a program then they wouldn't have done it.*

*[Jennifer Morris] I don't think either of those approaches is really how it is laid out in the TRM – that's a program factor in the algorithm otherwise you just use the program results from the respondent.*

*[Jayden Wilson] First wave was so long ago, so they weren't even sure they had participated. They gave high marks to its influence, but we don't think it was properly incorporated into the other questions...some additional attribution applied here but we couldn't estimate how much, so we used the SAG value.*

*[Laura Agapay-Read] We will note this for future NTG Working Group discussion.*

### **Telecom (ComEd):**

*[Erin Daughton] Measures will be under Custom for next year, plan 7. Everything but thermostat has the TRM default, and thermostat has 0.90. We wanted to propose that this be a separate category under custom, like data center. It's not similar to data center projects but is unique enough from other custom. We propose to keep the current values and do research next year as part of custom research.*

*[Laura Agapay-Read] No objection to that proposal from Guidehouse.*

*[Jennifer Morris] This TRM default was used in the past because there was no secondary research?*

*[Laura Agapay-Read] Would have to double check. Most likely we couldn't find any and so the default.*

*[Jennifer Morris] Are these only for legacy projects?*

*[Erin Daughton] No, for all projects as a category under custom – we have had a number of them this year already. Have several customers going through the program. 4 dozen maybe in wave 1 of this year – first half of the year. 60 actually so far this year.*

*[Jennifer Morris] No objection then if it is the TRM default and no secondary. Can we research going forward?*

*[Laura Agapay-Read] The same as we look at data centers within custom separately. Any other objections or comments? [No objections]*

### **Legacy NTG Ratios (ComEd):**

*[Erin Daughton] We talked about legacy ratios for carryover projects – looks like we have some telecom and agriculture – separate telecom under custom. Ag splits between standard and custom. ComEd is okay with forgoing any legacy NTG decision.*

*[Jeff Erickson] You mean strike legacy projects from the final definitions?*

*[Erin Daughton] Yes, we're okay with those two projects – we can live with then using the 2022 NTG recommendations. Carrying over is an admin challenge in our tracking system. We haven't talked to other utilities about that.*

*[Phil Mosenthal] You want to just apply NTG for a year for anything that closes in that year, regardless of when it started?*

*[Erin Daughton] Correct.*

*[Jennifer Morris] There was an issue with DCEO projects at one point.*

*[Jim Jerozal] Would a CHP project that takes a year or two, we would apply the NTG in the year that it closes – or the NTG from when it started?*

*[Erin Daughton] I think the year it finishes is the year NTG is applied.*

*[Jeff Erickson] That sounds right to me. Most programs and measures we apply the deemed NTG from this process to anything ComEd reports in the year.*

*[Zach Ross] I believe that Ameren indicated this would not apply to them either.*

*[Erin Daughton] Sounds like there are no issues with this and CHP is a different issue. [No objections]*

### **Nicor Gas NTG Values; Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas NTG Values** *Kevin Grabner, Guidehouse*

- Consensus was reached on non-res new construction. Does anything change on the SEM with the consensus value for gas – which is 0.98 for RCx in 2022 – what is the value for gas SEM?

*[Jim Jerozal] Not sure that small amount will make a difference.*

*[Victoria Nielson] That makes sense.*

*[Kevin Grabner] No objections to 0.97 for Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas.*

## **Closing & Next Steps**

*Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator*

- Evaluators will provide final NTG spreadsheets by October 1.