

# **SAG Portfolio Planning Process Project Plan: 2020 and Q1 2021 Final (updated April 7, 2020)**

## **I. Background**

This SAG Portfolio Planning Process Project Plan includes an overview of Illinois Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Advisory Group (“SAG”) activities from January 1, 2020 through the first quarter of 2021. The SAG is independently facilitated by Celia Johnson, Celia Johnson Consulting, with facilitation meeting support provided by the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA).<sup>1</sup>

Illinois utilities are required to file Energy Efficiency Plan (“EE Plans”) with the Illinois Commerce Commission (“Commission”) for approval on or before March 1, 2021. The utility EE Plans that will be filed in early 2021 represent the fifth 4-year Plan filings for electric utilities (Ameren Illinois and ComEd) and the fourth 4-year Plan filings for gas utilities (Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas). Since 2008, SAG has provided a venue to educate stakeholders on utility energy efficiency offerings, and for Illinois utilities and stakeholders to work together to discuss a variety of policy and technical topics and reach consensus on issues requiring resolution. Illinois utilities and stakeholders have achieved a number of successes throughout the years, including reaching consensus on a variety of Commission directives, the development of an Illinois Energy Efficiency Policy Manual (Versions 1.0, 1.1 and 2.0), the development of a statewide Technical Reference Manual, among others achievements.

Over the years, SAG participants have expressed interest in reducing litigation in EE Plan dockets. The first SAG Portfolio Planning Process was held in 2015-2016 to address this concern and provide a consensus-seeking process to discuss policies, utility programs, and draft EE Plans in advance of filings with the Commission. A follow-up consensus process was initiated in 2017, following the passage of the Future Energy Jobs Act. The Policy Manual describes this process:

*Program Administrators shall work in a cooperative and iterative manner with SAG participants to develop the next multi-year Plan. Such cooperation includes discussion of foundational issues to Plan development; including budgets, Portfolio objectives, Program ideas, and Program design. Program Administrators and SAG shall seek to develop and communicate such foundational assumptions in a manner that supports efficient and timely modeling of proposals for a comprehensive Plan. A primary purpose of these cooperative and iterative discussions is to reduce the number of non-consensus issues and litigation associated with the applicable Plan dockets.<sup>2</sup>*

The 2020 Portfolio Planning Process (hereafter referred to as “Planning Process”) will follow a similar framework to the 2015-2016 process, concluding with negotiations between utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders. Key elements of the process are described within this Project Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Contact Celia Johnson ([Celia@CeliaJohnsonConsulting.com](mailto:Celia@CeliaJohnsonConsulting.com)) to join the SAG distribution list.

<sup>2</sup> See Policy Manual Version 2.0, Section 3.8 (SAG Review), iii. Draft Portfolio Outlines

## II. Objective

The objective of the SAG Portfolio Planning Process is to reach consensus on Illinois utility EE Plans for 2022-2025 for Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas, prior to utilities filing Plans with the Commission for approval on or before March 1, 2021.

## III. Disclaimer

As described in Section 3.1 of Policy Manual Version 2.0, SAG discussions are intended to be in the nature of settlement discussions. As a matter of general agreement, written and/or oral positions or statements made during SAG meetings shall not be used by any party to contradict or impeach another party's position, or prove a party's position, in a Commission proceeding.

## IV. SAG Website

The SAG website will serve as a resource during the Planning Process, with large group SAG agendas, meeting presentations and notes posted on specific meeting pages. Notes and follow-up from meetings with non-financially interested stakeholders will not be posted on the SAG website.

There is a dedicated Portfolio Planning Process page which will provide information to interested SAG participants on meetings, templates and other resources:

<https://www.ilsag.info/meetings/portfolio-planning-process/>

## V. Participation

Participation in large group SAG meetings during the SAG Portfolio Planning Process is open to all interested parties, unless a topic presents a financial conflict of interest. Topics that present conflicts of interest may be identified in advance by the SAG Facilitator.

SAG participants include Illinois utilities administering energy efficiency programs (Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas, and Peoples Gas – North Shore Gas); stakeholders representing environmental advocacy, consumer advocacy, and ratepayer advocacy; Illinois Commerce Commission Staff; program implementation contractors; independent evaluators; the Illinois-TRM Administrator; community based organizations and other interested companies and organizations.

Portions of Planning Process meetings may need to be closed to financially-interested parties (such as discussion of performance issues, Third Party program planning in advance of a future RFP process, etc.). Negotiations at the conclusion of the Planning Process will be held with utilities and non-financially interested parties.

### **Financial Conflict of Interest Policy**

A financial conflict of interest may be present when a SAG participant, in the judgment of the SAG Facilitator, may have a financial stake in a SAG discussion topic and participation by the financially interested party could have adverse consequences, such as hindering complete and

frank discussions, or the participant may gain undue advantage or benefit by participating. SAG participants that may have a financial conflict of interest in specific meetings topics must recuse themselves from participating in those meetings or portions of those meetings for relevant topics. Notwithstanding this restriction, the designated agent(s) of a participating utility shall not be considered to have a financial conflict of interest for purposes of participating in SAG discussions. Conflicts may change from time to time.

Topics that may present a financial conflict of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Discussion of proprietary and/or confidential information (e.g., current and prospective program implementers, contractors, and product representatives);
2. Current and past program performance (e.g., current program implementers and contractors);
3. Future bids (e.g., current and prospective program implementers, potential bidders, and contractors);
4. Evaluation performance and proposed changes (e.g., current and prospective independent evaluation contractors); and/or
5. Final negotiations on portfolio planning for utility Energy Efficiency Plans.

Prior to the discussion of confidential topic(s), SAG participants may be asked by a utility or utilities to sign a non-disclosure, or confidentiality agreement.

## **VI. SAG Meetings**

This section describes SAG meetings that will take place during the Planning Process, including recurring SAG activities (Section A); large group SAG activities (Section B); and SAG Working Groups (Section C).

### **A. Recurring SAG Activities**

There are a number of topics that require recurring discussion in the SAG, as referenced in the Policy Manual. The SAG Facilitator will organize the following SAG activities related to recurring topics in 2020:

1. Quarterly Reports: Schedule quarterly utility-report-outs to SAG twice per year. Quarterly reports will be posted to the SAG website. For quarters where utilities are not presenting to SAG, utility reports will be circulated to SAG participants by email.
2. Annual Reports: Schedule annual utility report-outs following the end of each program year (combined with a quarterly report-out). Annual reports will be posted to the SAG website.
3. IL-TRM Update Process: Send notice of IL-TRM meetings to the appropriate SAG participants; circulate IL-TRM materials, as requested by the IL-TRM Administrator; update the SAG website with IL-TRM materials; and participate in a discussion of IL-

TRM priorities prior to the launch of the annual IL-TRM process, organized by the IL-TRM Administrator.<sup>3</sup>

4. Evaluation Work Plans: Schedule SAG meeting(s) for evaluators to present an overview of draft EM&V work plans for the upcoming year. Draft EM&V work plans will be posted to the SAG website for review and comment. Notice will be circulated to SAG directing that comments on draft EM&V work plans shall be submitted to utilities, ICC Staff, and evaluators within fifteen (15) business days, or such other timeline mutually agreed to by the Parties. Final EM&V work plans will be posted on the SAG website.
5. Evaluation Reports: Draft and final evaluation reports will be posted on the SAG website, as they are made available by independent evaluators.
6. Net-to-Gross Updates: Organize and facilitate meeting(s) to discuss Net-to-Gross (NTG) values proposed by independent evaluators by September 1, 2020 with evaluators determining final values by October 1, 2020. Draft and final NTG documents will be posted to the SAG website.
7. Adjustable Savings Goals: Organize and facilitate discussions regarding the first updated Adjustable Savings Goal Template for utility programs. One teleconference meeting is planned in early February 2020 for interested stakeholders to review draft gas utility savings goal adjustments. Final Adjustable Savings Goal Templates will be posted on the SAG website on an annual basis.

## **B. Large Group SAG Activities**

The SAG Portfolio Planning Process will kick-off with a two-day meeting in March 2020. Monthly in-person large group SAG meetings will be held through November 2020, excluding August and September. Meetings are anticipated to be closed to negotiating parties (utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders) for final negotiations by mid-November 2020.

See Section IX of this Project Plan for additional information on planned topics for large group SAG meetings.

## **C. SAG Working Groups**

SAG Working Groups are small groups of interested SAG participants that are convened to discuss short-term issues that need resolution. Meetings are convened on an as-needed basis. SAG Working Groups will report-back to the large group SAG following discussions, as needed.

The SAG Facilitator anticipates convening three (3) SAG Working Groups in 2020. A brief summary of each Working Group is below, including planned topics for 2020.

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<sup>3</sup> The IL-TRM is updated on an annual basis. In 2020 IL-TRM meetings are anticipated to be held from March to October, organized by the IL-TRM Administrator. By April 1, high/medium/low priority topics must be finalized by the IL-TRM Administrator.

## **Non-Energy Impacts Working Group**

Website: <https://www.ilsag.info/nei-working-group/>

### ***Purpose:***

The purpose of the Non-Energy Impacts Working Group (“NEI Working Group”) is to discuss draft research results from Illinois NEI studies as well as defensible methodologies to use across the state related to calculating non-energy impacts.<sup>4</sup> The NEI Working Group may make recommendations to the Policy Manual Subcommittee or IL-TRM Technical Advisory Committee regarding how NEI results may be included in utilities’ reporting, cost-effectiveness analyses, and/or the IL-TRM.

### ***Background:***

Non-Energy Impacts (NEIs, also referred to as Non-Energy Benefits or NEBs) include effects from energy efficiency programs or measures, beyond energy savings. Impacts can be either positive or negative. Positive impact examples include increased comfort in participating customer homes and water / wastewater bill savings. An example of a negative impact is increased maintenance requirements to keep equipment operating efficiently.

Navigant, ComEd’s evaluator, and Opinion Dynamics, Ameren Illinois’ evaluator, are in the process of completing 1) an economic impact study on 2018 energy efficiency portfolios and 2) a non-energy impact study of income qualified programs for the 2018 program year.

### ***2018-2019 Activities:***

- A kick-off meeting was held in August 2018 for evaluators to present draft NEI research plans to the Working Group including an opportunity for stakeholder feedback.
- Four meetings were held in 2019, to further discuss NEI study methodologies, economic impact study methodologies, and preliminary results for the economic impact study.

### ***2020 Activities:***

The following topics are anticipated in 2020:

1. A follow-up discussion on 2018 economic impact study methodologies (action item from Nov. 2019 Working Group meeting).
2. Review preliminary results from income qualified NEI studies; discuss if and how results may be included in utilities’ reporting, cost-effectiveness analyses, and/or the IL-TRM.
3. Review 2019 results from economic impact studies; determine how and when economic impact study results will be reported in future years.

## **Market Transformation Savings Working Group**

Website: [https://www.ilsag.info/mt\\_savings\\_working\\_group/](https://www.ilsag.info/mt_savings_working_group/)

### ***Purpose:***

The purpose of the SAG Market Transformation Savings Working Group (MT Savings Working Group) is:

1. To provide a forum to discuss policy issues related to MT savings evaluation and estimation.

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<sup>4</sup> More information about this Working Group can be found on the SAG website: <http://www.ilsag.info/nei-working-group.html>

2. To provide an opportunity to review specific MT initiatives and the data/approach proposed to be used to develop savings, including but not limited to:
  - a. Logic Models;
  - b. Savings/unit;
  - c. Total market unit data collection;
  - d. Natural market baseline data and projections;
  - e. Service territory accounting; and
  - f. The duration of any MT savings credit.
3. To reach consensus on savings protocols for MT initiatives that may be included in the IL-TRM.

***Background:***

Market transformation programs were administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity from 2008 – 2017. Per the Future Energy Jobs Act, the administration of these programs shifted to the utilities on June 1, 2017. Illinois utilities formed a utility collaborative (Midwest Market Transformation Collaborative) to further discuss market transformation and invite utilities throughout the Midwest to participate. The SAG Working Group will address Illinois-specific market transformation topics as described in the purpose section above.

***2019 Activities:***

- The MT Savings Working Group launched in March 2019. Six meetings were held in 2019. Meetings from March to August focused on reaching agreement on the *Framework for Estimating Market Transformation Savings Whitepaper*, which was included as an attachment in IL-TRM Version 8.0.
  - Final Framework: [Attachment C to IL-TRM Version 8.0: Framework for Counting Market Transformation Savings in Illinois \(August 23, 2019\)](#)
- The November 2019 meeting focused on discussing code study results, teeing up open market transformation policy issues, and an update from utilities on the Midwest Market Transformation Collaborative.

***2020 Activities:***

Quarterly meetings are anticipated in 2020 to discuss resolution of policy issues related to market transformation; Illinois-specific market transformation business plans developed by the Midwest Market Transformation Collaborative; and other market transformation topics, as needed.

**Midstream-Upstream Working Group**

Website: <https://www.ilsag.info/midstream-upstream-working-group/>

***Purpose:***

The purpose of the SAG Midstream-Upstream Working Group is to provide a forum to discuss midstream and upstream energy efficiency opportunities in preparation for utilities developing their 2022-2025 EE Plans. The goal of this Working Group is 1) to learn from successful initiatives in other jurisdictions and 2) to identify measure(s) that may provide an opportunity for utilities to claim higher electric and gas savings at lower cost.

***Background:***

In recent EE Plan portfolios Illinois utilities have offered energy efficiency programs to both midstream networks (incentives going to equipment distributors and/or contractors) and upstream networks (incentives going to manufacturers or retailers). There is interest from both stakeholders and utilities in exploring additional opportunities to move programs from a traditional downstream approach (incentives going directly to consumers or businesses) to a midstream or upstream program approach.

***2020 Activities:***

1. Discuss midstream/upstream planning for the next EE Plan portfolio (2022-2025), including:
  - Researching and identifying midstream and/or upstream measure(s) that will allow utilities to claim higher electric savings at lower cost, in considering cumulative persisting savings goals required for Illinois electric utilities;
  - Researching and identifying midstream and/or upstream measure(s) that will allow utilities to claim higher gas savings at lower cost; and
2. Invite other jurisdiction(s) to present midstream and/or upstream program successes to the Working Group.

**VII. Negotiations**

Final planning Process negotiations will be held with utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders. Utilities may require the execution of non-disclosure or confidentiality agreements with negotiating parties. Negotiations are anticipated to conclude with the execution of stipulated agreements, that may be filed in individual utility Energy Efficiency Plan dockets

The SAG Facilitator will organize negotiation meetings, with facilitated mediation as needed. The SAG Facilitator will be responsible for tracking issues and organizing all stipulated agreement documents.

**VIII. Coordination with Income Qualified EE Advisory Committees**

There are two advisory committees focused on income qualified / income eligible energy efficiency programs in Illinois, separate from SAG – one in Ameren Illinois’ service territory (Income Qualified South Advisory Committee) and one in northern Illinois, for ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas (Income Qualified North Advisory Committee).<sup>5</sup> The mission of both Committees is to convene and receive input from Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), implementation contractors, utilities administering income qualified energy efficiency programs in Illinois and other interested stakeholders on pressing energy needs facing income qualified customers and to develop energy efficiency programs that help address these needs.

The SAG Facilitator will work with the IQ Advisory Committee Facilitation Team<sup>6</sup> to ensure there is coordination with community-based organizations and IQ Advisory Committee

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<sup>5</sup> See Income Qualified EE Advisory Committee website: <http://iqadvisorycommittee.com/>

<sup>6</sup> Future Energy Enterprises facilitates the Income Qualified EE Advisory Committees

participants on the SAG Portfolio Planning Process. The purpose of this coordination is to ensure that community-based organizations and other stakeholders that do not traditionally engage within the SAG process have an opportunity to provide feedback on all programs including income qualified / income eligible programs and ideas for the utilities to consider in developing the 2022-2025 EE Plans.

SAG will hold joint meetings with the IQ Advisory Committee during key steps to the SAG process, including:

- **May: Energy Efficiency Ideas**
  - Wed. May 13 (SAG-IQ joint meeting, Chicago, afternoon)
- **June: Utilities Respond to Energy Efficiency Ideas**
  - Wed. June 17 (SAG-IQ joint meeting, Chicago, afternoon)
- **October: Utilities Present Draft EE Portfolio Plans**
  - Wed. Oct. 14 (SAG-IQ North joint meeting, Chicago, afternoon)
- **November: Initial Stakeholder Feedback on Draft EE Portfolio Plans**
  - Thurs. Nov. 5 (SAG-IQ North joint meeting, Chicago, afternoon)

The IQ Facilitation Team will coordinate with IQ South Advisory Committee participants and Ameren Illinois on proposed energy efficiency ideas and feedback from community-based organizations on the Ameren Illinois 2022-2025 EE Plan Portfolio.

## **IX. SAG Planning Process Topics and Schedule**

This section describes the SAG schedule and topics for 2020 and the tentative schedule and topics for 2021.

### **2020 Schedule**

#### **January 2020**

1. **Fri. Jan. 17 (teleconference)** – SAG Facilitator presents overview of 2020 SAG schedule and milestones for Planning Process
2. **Tues. Jan. 28 (Springfield, IL)** – Weatherization Meeting focused on IHWAP

#### **February 2020**

1. **Tues. Feb. 4 (teleconference)** – Gas utilities present draft adjustable savings goals for 2020
2. **Thurs., Feb. 6 (teleconference)** – ComEd baseline study results
3. **Mon., Feb. 10 (teleconference)** - Follow-up on Cumulative Persisting Annual Savings policy questions and cannabis considerations for EE
4. **Thurs. Feb. 13 (teleconference)** – Market Transformation Savings Working Group Q1 Meeting

#### **March 2020**

1. **Thurs. March 5 (teleconference)** – Non-Energy Impacts Working Group
2. **Friday, March 6 (teleconference)** – Midstream-Upstream Working Group
3. **Tues. March 10-Wed. March 11 (Chicago)**

- a. Planning Process Kick-off
- b. Utility Presentations on EE Portfolios
  - i. Utilities present results of 2019 EE Portfolios + overview of current EE Portfolios to inform Portfolio Planning Process
  - ii. Utilities report-out on emerging tech / research & development
  - iii. Ameren IL Market Development Initiative report-out

## April 2020

- 1. **Key Deliverables**
  - a. **Monday, April 27:** Energy Efficiency Ideas Due
- 2. **Tues. April 14 (teleconference)**
  - a. Utilities present on COVID-19 impacts to EE portfolios.
- 3. **Tues. April 28 (teleconference)** – Midstream Working Group

## May 2020

- 1. **Tues., May 5 (teleconference)** – Non-Energy Impacts Working Group
- 2. **Tues. May 12-Wed. May 13 (teleconferences)**
  - a. **Tues. May 12:** Stakeholder presentations to SAG – Energy Efficiency Ideas
  - b. **Wed. May 13:**
    - i. *Morning:* Continued stakeholder presentations to SAG – Energy Efficiency Ideas
    - ii. *Afternoon:* Joint meeting with SAG and IQ North and IQ South Committees, focused on income qualified / income eligible energy efficiency ideas.
- 3. **Tues., May 19 (teleconference)** – Market Transformation Savings Working Group Q2 Meeting

## June 2020

- 1. **Tues. June 2 (teleconference)** – Midstream Working Group
- 2. **Tues. June 16 – Wed. June 17 Meeting (teleconferences)**
  - a. **Tues. June 16:**
    - i. Utilities respond to stakeholder feedback and ideas presented in May
    - ii. Utilities provide an update on 2019 evaluation results, if needed – are there findings from 2019 evaluations that may result in changes to programs?
    - iii. Discuss TRC non-measure level inputs (e.g. carbon adder, benefits adder, etc.)
    - iv. Follow-up on Cumulative Persisting Annual Savings policy questions, from Nov. 20 SAG meeting
    - v. Evaluation topics:
      - 1. Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Data: Understanding current use of data and discussing opportunities for better leveraging data
      - 2. Utilities provide an update on 2019 evaluation results, if needed – are there findings from 2019 evaluations that may result in changes to programs?

- b. **Wed. June 17:**
  - i. *Morning:* Continued SAG discussion on planning process topics
    - 1. Financing Mechanisms
      - a. On-Bill Financing update – presentation from Slipstream on successful approaches in other jurisdictions
      - b. PACE Financing
      - c. Other financing options
  - ii. *Afternoon:* Joint Meeting with SAG, IQ North and IQ South Committees - utilities respond to IQ feedback and ideas
    - 1. Ameren Illinois Workforce Development Research Report-Out (SEDAC)
    - 2. IQ North Advisory Committee Workforce Development Working Group Report-Out
- 3. **Tuesday, June 23 (teleconference)** – ComEd Potential Study results
- 4. **Monday, June 29 (teleconference)** – Ameren Illinois Potential Study results

### July 2020

- 1. **Tues. July 21 (Chicago)**
  - a. Additional CPAS considerations
  - b. Additional evaluation planning considerations
  - c. Follow-up discussion with IL Dept. of Agriculture on cannabis EE
  - d. Diversity and other EE portfolio metrics
- 2. **Wed. July 22** – Market Transformation Savings Working Group Q3 Meeting (Chicago)
- 3. **July 28 (teleconference)** – Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas Potential Study results

### August 2020

- Two SAG teleconference meetings are anticipated in August – meeting dates will be announced soon. Planning process topics are TBD.

### September 2020

- 1. **Tuesday, September 21 (teleconference)** – Market Transformation Savings Working Group Q4 Meeting
- 2. **September Net-to-Gross (NTG) Process** – to review evaluator NTG recommendations and reach consensus on NTG ratios for the program year beginning Jan. 1, 2021. Teleconference meetings will be held on:
  - a. Thursday, Sept. 3
  - b. Friday, Sept. 11
  - c. Friday, Sept. 18
  - d. Friday, Sept. 25

### October 2020

- 1. **Tues. Oct. 13 – Wed. Oct. 14 Meetings (Chicago)**
  - a. Utilities present draft EE Plan Portfolios, including budget allocation and savings goals.
  - b. Brief quarterly updates from utilities
  - c. **Wed. Oct. 14:**

- i. *Morning*: Continued SAG discussion on planning process topics
- ii. *Afternoon*: Joint Meeting with SAG and IQ North Committee - Utilities present draft IQ programs/initiatives

## November 2020

1. **Wed. Nov. 4 – Thurs. Nov. 5 Meetings** (Chicago):
  - a. Stakeholder feedback on draft EE Plan Portfolios
  - b. **Thurs. Nov. 5**:
    - i. *Morning*: Continued SAG discussion on planning process topics
    - ii. *Afternoon*: Joint Meeting with SAG and IQ North Committee - Feedback on northern Illinois utility draft EE Plan Portfolios, for IQ programs/initiatives
2. **Mid-November**: Kick-off final negotiation meetings between utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders, organized by the SAG Facilitator.

## December 2020

1. Final negotiation meetings continue.
2. **Dec. 1-2 (teleconference meetings)** – Evaluators present EM&V Work Plans for 2021 programs
3. **Tues. Dec. 8 (teleconference)** – Non-Energy Impacts Working Group

## 2020 Evaluation Topics

There are a number of evaluation topics that SAG participants are interested in discussing, as referenced in the northern Illinois utility settlement stipulations approved by the Commission in fall 2017, among other places. Evaluation topics will be scheduled within large group SAG meetings. Topics that may present a conflict will be discussed separately with utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders.

Evaluation topics may include:

1. Reviewing how evaluation contractors are hired/selected, how frequently they are or should be changed;
2. Opportunities for more integration of EM&V work across utility service territories;
3. The level of emphasis on different kinds of evaluation (process vs. impact, NTG vs. other, peak vs. energy, value of NEBs, etc.);
4. Opportunities for better leveraging AMI data, including the potential uses of such data;
5. Opportunities for better integration and prioritization of evaluation research w/ the IL-TRM update process;
6. Discuss best practices for when program evaluations shall be controlled trials or quasi-experimental design methods;
7. Concerns and considerations related to cyber security, customer data and data privacy;
8. Savings that can be claimed based on net market effects;
9. Evaluation considerations for income qualified programs; and
10. EM&V approaches for R&D pilots and/or R&D programs.

## **2021 Topics List**

Following the conclusion of the SAG Portfolio Planning Process and utilities filing EE Plans with the Commission for approval, SAG may not hold regular meetings due to open Commission dockets. The schedule and list of topics for 2021 is tentative and is shared within this Project Plan for illustrative purposes. A detailed SAG 2021 Plan will be developed during the fourth quarter of 2020, however specific meeting timing will depend on when EE Plan dockets are closed.

1. **January 2021:** Negotiations finalized for 2022-2025 EE Plans
2. **Jan. 2021 (teleconference):** SAG Facilitator presents final draft 2021 SAG Plan.
3. **Feb. 2021 (teleconference):** Gas utility adjustable savings goal presentation for 2021 adjustments.
4. **May 2021 (in-person):**
  - Utilities report-out on 2020 program year + Q1 2021.
  - Breakthrough Equipment Process overview by utilities (per new Policy Manual definition that goes into effect in 2022).
5. **July 2021 (in-person):** Topics TBD
6. **Sept. 2021 (teleconferences):** Annual NTG update process for 2022 program year.
7. **Oct. 2021 (in-person):** Topics TBD
8. **Dec. 2021 (in-person):** Utility report-out on Q3 2021 progress + overview of 2022 portfolios.
9. **Dec. 2021 (teleconferences):** Evaluators present draft EM&V work plans for 2022 program year.

## **X. Energy Efficiency Ideas Process**

The Planning Process will include an opportunity for stakeholders to share energy efficiency ideas for utilities to consider in developing their 2022-2025 EE Plans.

SAG participants are invited to propose Energy Efficiency Ideas, including:

1. Feedback on current portfolios, focused on suggested changes for the 2022-2025 EE Plans;
2. Stakeholder ideas/approaches for utility consideration, such as program approaches or new measures that have been successfully implemented in other jurisdictions; and
3. Innovative ideas that could be researched during the next EE Plan cycle by utilities, evaluators, SAG, or another advisory group (IL-TRM Technical Advisory Committee; Income Qualified EE Advisory Committee).

Due dates:

- Stakeholders submitting ideas/approaches and/or innovative ideas will be required to complete the “Energy Efficiency Ideas Template”, due by April 27, 2020.

The SAG Facilitator will organize a small group Review Committee to review stakeholder ideas/approaches to determine 1) if additional follow-up is needed on submittals and 2) if

utilities’ have already implemented the idea submitted. The Review Committee will be open to utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders.

Stakeholders are expected to make a good faith effort to fill out as much information as possible in the template by the due date. The SAG Facilitator may follow-up and request additional information after templates are submitted. Templates submitted after the April 1 deadline may not be considered due to time constraints.

Energy Efficiency ideas for consideration during the 2022-2025 EE Plan Portfolios will be presented to SAG in May. Utilities will respond to feedback and ideas in June.

## **XI. SAG Facilitator Deliverables**

SAG Facilitator deliverables are described in Table 1 below. Additional tasks may be identified throughout the Planning Process, as time and resources permit.

<b>Table 1: SAG Facilitator Deliverables</b>			
<b>Task No.</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Review and Approval</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
1	Finalize 2020 SAG Portfolio Planning Process Project Plan and schedule	Present high-level overview of 2020 activities to SAG; circulate final draft Project Plan for review and comment.	Draft circulated by January 17, 2020; final version completed by January 31, 2020
2	Outreach to potential Planning Process participants	N/A	During Q1 2020 – completed by March 2, 2020
3	Outreach to prior EE Plan docket intervenors, to provide notice of SAG Portfolio Planning Process	N/A	During Q1 2020 – completed by March 2, 2020
4	Finalize Planning Process Templates, including 1) Stakeholder feedback template and 2) Stakeholder ideas template. Stakeholder feedback and ideas are due by April 1, 2020, and will be presented during the May SAG meetings.	Develop with feedback from utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders	By February 14, 2020
5	Organize and facilitate regular meetings with utility planners, approximately one (1) month prior to each large group SAG meeting.	N/A	Monthly or as needed, beginning in February 2020
6	Finalize stakeholder questions on current portfolios (to inform the March 2020 SAG meetings)	Develop with feedback from utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders	By February 10, 2020

<b>Table 1: SAG Facilitator Deliverables</b>			
<b>Task No.</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Review and Approval</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
7	Finalize Portfolio Plan templates (to inform the October 2020 SAG meetings where utilities will present draft EE Plan Portfolios)	Develop with feedback from utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders	By June 1, 2020
8	Facilitate the circulation of non-disclosure or confidentiality agreements to non-financially interested stakeholders	N/A	Draft NDAs circulated by March 2; final execution by April 1
9	Facilitate the circulation of confidential 2022-2025 EE Plan Portfolio utility batch files to non-financially interested stakeholders	N/A	By October 7, 2020
10	Develop a final negotiation plan and schedule for Q4 2020 and January 2021	Develop with feedback from utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders	Draft developed in September-October; final by November 10, 2020

## **XII. Planning Process Resources**

The following templates will be developed by the SAG Facilitator, in consultation with utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders:

1. Utility Current EE Portfolios Template/Questions (including information on service territories)
  - To inform the March 2020 SAG meetings
2. Stakeholder Feedback Template
  - Note: Stakeholder feedback on current EE Portfolios will be presented during the May 2020 SAG meetings
3. Stakeholder Ideas Template for 2022-2025 EE Plans
  - Stakeholder program or measure ideas/approaches for utility consideration; and/or
  - Innovative stakeholder ideas that could be researched in the future
  - Note: Ideas will be presented during the May 2020 SAG meetings
4. TRC Non-Measure Level Inputs Template
  - To inform the April 2020 SAG meetings
5. Utility EE Plan Portfolio/Program Template; Utility Portfolio Budget and Savings Template
  - To inform the October 2020 SAG meetings