

# SAG Portfolio Planning Process Feedback

August 30, 2021 SAG Meeting  
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# Agenda

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# Background

- ▶ 2020 focused on the [SAG Portfolio Planning Process](#), with the objective of reaching consensus on Illinois EE Portfolio Plans for 2022-2025 prior to utilities filing Plans for approval with the ICC
  - ▶ IL utilities reached agreement with negotiating stakeholders in Feb. 2021
  - ▶ Utilities filed EE Plans with the ICC on March 1, 2021; stipulated agreements were filed
  - ▶ EE Plans were approved by the ICC in July / August 2021
- ▶ **Process Timing:** Large Group SAG meetings from March to November 2020; final negotiations from November 2020 to February 2021 with non-financially interested stakeholders
- ▶ **Coordination with IQ EE Advisory Committees:** Key steps to the process were held via joint meetings with the IQ North and IQ South Committees
- ▶ **Energy Efficiency Ideas:** SAG and IQ Committee participants were invited to share [Energy Efficiency Ideas](#) for IL utilities to consider in next EE plans

# Background (cont.)

## ▶ **Additional information:**

- ▶ [SAG Portfolio Planning Process website page](#)
- ▶ [Summary of key steps to the 2020 Planning Process](#)
- ▶ [Compiled Stipulated Agreement \(all utility agreements\)](#)
  - ▶ [Ameren Illinois 2022-2025 EE Plan Stipulated Agreement](#)
  - ▶ [ComEd 2022-2025 EE Plan Stipulated Agreement](#)
  - ▶ [Nicor Gas 2022-2025 EE Plan Stipulated Agreement](#)
  - ▶ [Peoples Gas / North Shore Gas 2022-2025 EE Plan Stipulated Agreement](#)

# Request for Feedback

- ▶ SAG Facilitator held 9 individual meetings to discuss feedback on the SAG Planning Process
- ▶ Circulated survey requesting feedback; posted survey on SAG website
- ▶ Today's presentation includes a summary of key feedback and lessons learned that can help inform a future SAG Planning Process
  - ▶ Under current law, the next 4-year EE Plans will be filed March 1, 2025; a future Planning Process would need to take place in 2024
  - ▶ See Appendix to review all feedback received

# Summary of Key Feedback

- ▶ **Schedule and Process**
  - ▶ Additional time is needed - allow more time for the process, and final negotiations
  - ▶ Very time consuming process, but lead to the desired outcome (consensus EE Plan filings)
  - ▶ Despite COVID-19 challenges, virtual meetings were a successful platform
- ▶ **Participation**
  - ▶ Plan and consider up-front how to ensure process includes an opportunity for IQ Committee participants (CBOs/CAAs) to be included and provide meaningful input
- ▶ **Steps to the Planning Process**
  - ▶ Energy Efficiency Ideas should be presented earlier
  - ▶ There should be an opportunity for Energy Efficiency Ideas and feedback to be shared throughout the 4-year EE Plan
  - ▶ If possible, utilities should present draft EE Plans earlier
  - ▶ Include additional time between when draft EE Plans are presented, and when negotiations begin

# Lessons Learned

1. More time is needed for a future SAG Planning Process; consider starting the process earlier
2. More time is needed for negotiations, in order to finalize agreements earlier
3. There should be an opportunity for stakeholders to share EE Portfolio feedback + ideas throughout the 4-year EE Plan, instead of waiting for all ideas to be shared at the end
4. Consider how to thoughtfully engage IQ Committee participants with SAG in a future process

# Questions?

- ▶ If you have additional feedback to share, please reach out
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# Appendix: Feedback Received

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# Schedule Feedback

- ▶ Adjusting the schedule would be helpful, to allow more time for the process and final negotiations
  - ▶ The process should start earlier; holiday breaks were a challenge to work around
  - ▶ Biggest issue was the time crunch at the end (negotiations)
  - ▶ Negotiation process needs to start earlier
- ▶ Draft utility EE Plans should be presented earlier; 1 or 2 months if possible
  - ▶ Also received feedback that earlier draft EE Plan presentations could be a challenge
- ▶ It would be helpful to have more time between when utilities present draft EE Plans & when negotiations begin
- ▶ Utilities should provide ‘batch files’ to negotiating stakeholders at the same time as draft EE plans are presented to SAG
- ▶ If there are EE policy changes / new policies being proposed by a utility, they need to be shared earlier than the draft EE Plan presentations

# Process Feedback

- ▶ The process was very time consuming, but led to the desired outcome (consensus EE Plan filings)
- ▶ Virtual meetings were a successful platform; in the future when meetings are able to be held in-person again, SAG should consider continuing the virtual format for some meetings
- ▶ There is room for improvement on coordinating with IQ EE Advisory Committees and engaging Community-Based Organizations with SAG in a future process
- ▶ Make it clear to participants what the ‘hard’ deadlines are, to set expectations
- ▶ In a future process include a timeline and process for questions and follow-up discussion meetings, following EE Plan presentations to SAG

# Participation Feedback

## ▶ **Coordination with IQ EE Advisory Committees:**

- ▶ It was challenging for IQ Committee Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to participate in SAG Planning Process meetings in a compressed timeframe, with a large number of meetings
- ▶ Carefully consider up-front how to ensure process includes an opportunity for CBOs/CAAs to provide meaningful input. Suggestions for CBO/CAA inclusion:
  - ▶ Separate training to explain planning process, how to participate, how to contribute
  - ▶ Streamlined template for EE ideas to be shared, with same timeframe as SAG stakeholders
  - ▶ Provide technical or other assistance / support for developing EE ideas
  - ▶ Participation in Plan negotiations
- ▶ Earlier engagement with IQ Committees on EE Portfolio planning would have been useful
- ▶ It would be helpful in a future process for SAG stakeholders to better understand IQ Committee feedback
- ▶ There should be ongoing engagement with IQ Committee CBOs throughout a future process
- ▶ In future joint SAG - IQ Committee meetings, it may be helpful to include dedicated time for comments from IQ Committee participants
- ▶ IQ Committee participants should be invited to participate in SAG, if interested

# Feedback on Steps to the Process

- ▶ **Process Kick-off (March 2020):**
  - ▶ It's a good idea to kick-off the process with a summary of current EE Portfolios / programs
  - ▶ Process needs to start earlier
- ▶ **Energy Efficiency Ideas (April-June 2020):** See slides 14-15
- ▶ **Utility Presentations on Draft EE Plans (Oct. 2020):**
  - ▶ More detail in the initial draft EE Plan presentations would be helpful (such as descriptions of programs, other details about the portfolio)
  - ▶ Negotiating stakeholders need to review batch files in order to provide more specific questions to utilities
- ▶ **Initial Stakeholder Feedback on Draft EE Plans (Nov. 2020):**
  - ▶ Stakeholders sharing feedback with SAG before negotiations was useful; a good opportunity for stakeholders to coordinate
  - ▶ There should be more time in-between draft EE Plan presentations and initial stakeholder feedback (at least one month)

# Feedback on Energy Efficiency Ideas

- ▶ **EE Ideas were submitted in April + presented in May-June 2020.**  
**Suggestions for a future process:**
  - ▶ Ideas should be presented earlier in the process
  - ▶ Clearly define up front what is considered an “Energy Efficiency Idea”
  - ▶ Consider categorizing ideas, such as 1) implementation feedback; 2) research & development (R&D) or emerging technologies; and 3) planning ideas
  - ▶ Focus in a future SAG Planning Process should be on planning ideas; implementation feedback and R&D ideas should be shared throughout the 4-year EE Plan
  - ▶ Consider an ongoing process for ideas to be presented at SAG
    - ▶ Suggestions: One meeting per year at SAG to discuss implementation feedback / ideas; one meeting per year at SAG to discuss R&D ideas

# Feedback on Energy Efficiency Ideas (cont.)

- ▶ Reconsider the format / template for EE idea submittals; there may be a way to further breakdown ideas before a detailed template is submitted
- ▶ Stakeholders interested in more concrete feedback from utilities on ideas submitted
- ▶ Important to finalize utility feedback on ideas before negotiations begin, since not all parties are involved in negotiations
- ▶ In preparation for a future ideas process, utilities could share new EE concepts with stakeholders sharing feedback
- ▶ Positive feedback received on how EE ideas were presented to SAG (via short 'elevator pitch' presentations)
- ▶ If an implementer is presenting an EE idea, they should make it clear what their current role is in EE portfolios
- ▶ For fairness purposes, considering limiting the number of ideas shared by one organization

# Feedback on Negotiation Process

- ▶ Clearly indicate to all SAG participants the negotiation timeframe, including when negotiations begin between utilities and non-financially interested stakeholders
- ▶ Establish the list of negotiating stakeholders earlier in the process; could meet throughout the year instead of waiting until the end
- ▶ Negotiation schedule
  - ▶ Start negotiations earlier; timing was a challenge with holiday breaks
  - ▶ Stakeholders needed extra time to review materials & discuss
  - ▶ Challenging for stakeholders to negotiate all four plans at the same time, in a two-month timeframe - process needs to be spaced out; suggestion to schedule negotiation of each utility plan one at a time
- ▶ It was helpful to have a dedicated point person (stakeholder) for each utility negotiation
- ▶ Create a folder system where all of the negotiation materials could be easily found, sorted by utility; this could include all communications between each utility and stakeholders
- ▶ It would be helpful for stakeholders to share finalized feedback by a date certain; there were last minute additions that presented a challenge to review due to short timeframe for negotiations
- ▶ Divide up categories of topics; goals and budget could be one; other 'asks' could be a second category

# Feedback on Negotiation Process (cont.)

- ▶ Divide up categories of topics; goals and budget could be one; other 'asks' could be a second category
- ▶ It would be helpful for negotiating stakeholders to provide questions to utilities earlier; schedule follow-up 'working' meetings *before* negotiations begin to address questions
- ▶ In a future process, it would be helpful for all utilities to start with a written Term Sheet; this would help save time
- ▶ There was a narrow set of issues where group negotiations may have been useful; consider this in a future process
- ▶ Reach 'conceptual agreement' with stakeholders earlier in the negotiation process