

# Illinois EE Stakeholder Advisory Group

Wednesday, August 7, 2019

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

## Attendees and Meeting Notes

### **Attendees (by webinar)**

Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator  
Nick Hromalik, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) – Meeting Support  
Laura Agapay-Read, Navigant  
Koby Bailey, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas  
David Baker, Energy Resources Center, UIC  
David Bryant  
Madeline Caldwell, CLEARResult  
Ben Campbell, Energy Resources Center, UIC  
Ian Champ, CLEARResult  
Jane Colby, Cadmus Group  
Andrew Cottrell, Applied Energy Group  
Ryan Curry, 360 Energy Group  
Erin Daughton, ComEd  
Leanne DeMar, Nicor Gas  
Christine Del Priore, Agentis Energy  
Shaun Dentice, CLEARResult  
Scott Dimetrosky, Apex Analytics  
Atticus Doman, Resource Innovations  
Wael El-Sharif, 360 Energy Group  
Jim Fay, ComEd  
Julia Friedman, Oracle  
Omayra Garcia, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas  
LaJuana Garrett, Nicor Gas  
Jean Gibson, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas  
Kevin Grabner, Navigant  
Andrey Gribovich, DNV-GL  
Mary Ellen Guest, Chicago Bungalow Association  
Randy Gunn, Navigant  
Vince Gutierrez, ComEd  
Amir Haghghat, CLEARResult  
Travis Hinck, GDS Associates  
Cheryl Jenkins, VEIC  
Mary Johnson, Resource Innovations  
Larry Kotewa, Elevate Energy  
Chelsea Lamar, Navigant  
Bruce Liu, Nicor Gas  
Molly Lunn, ComEd  
Karen Lusson, National Consumer Law Center  
Thomas Manjarres, Franklin Energy  
Tim Melloch, Future Energy Enterprises  
Abby Miner, Illinois Attorney General's Office  
Zenía Montero, ICF

Oscar Mora-Diaz, Energy Resources Center, UIC  
Fernando Morales, Ameren Illinois  
Wade Morehead, Leidos  
Jennifer Morris, ICC Staff  
Chris Neme, Energy Futures Group, representing NRDC  
Randy Opdyke, Nicor Gas  
Antonia Ornelas, Elevate Energy  
Christina Pagnusat, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas  
Briana Parker, Elevate Energy  
Deb Perry, Ameren Illinois  
Hanh Pham, Willdan Energy Solutions  
Michelle Pulce-Flynn, IL Association of Community Action Agencies  
Noah Purcell, SEEL  
Zach Ross, Opinion Dynamics  
Julia Sander, Leidos  
Hardik Shah, GTI  
David South, West Monroe Partners  
Mark Szczygiel, Nicor Gas  
Bryan Tillman, 360 Energy Group  
Ted Weaver, First Tracks Consulting, on behalf of Nicor Gas  
Dan Westin, Franklin Energy  
Taylor Weyenberg, Franklin Energy  
Caitlin York, Citizens Utility Board (CUB)  
Angie Ziech-Malek, CLEAResult  
Amy Buege, Itron  
Jenny George, Leidos  
Michael Marks, Applied Energy Group  
Anthony Santarelli, Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC)  
Arvind Singh, DNV-GL  
Chris Vaughn, Nicor Gas  
James Carlton, People for Community Recovery  
Courtney Hanson, People for Community Recovery  
Cheryl Miller, Ameren Illinois  
Patricia Plympton, Navigant  
Karen Weigert, Slipstream

### **Opening and Introductions**

*Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator*

The purpose of today's meeting is to discuss:

1. An open question raised in the NTG Working Group regarding net-to-gross (NTG) for low income programs; and
2. A timing question on counting savings for a behavioral program that spans one heating season, but two program years.

### **Net-to-Gross (NTG) for Low Income EE Programs**

*Jennifer Morris, ICC Staff; Molly Lunn, ComEd*

#### **ICC Staff Presentation:**

- Background on Income Eligible NTG and the IL NTG Methods

- IL NTG Methods: The IL-NTG Working Group develops the IL-NTG Methods as part of the annual IL-TRM update process. Creation of the IL-NTG Methods was a directive from the Commission. Issues occurred in the past where utilities and evaluators used different methods.
- NTG Policy: Within Section 7.2 of the IL EE Policy Manual.
  - SAG process: Deemed NTG values reviewed by SAG in September each year, based on recommendations with evaluators.
  - Deemed NTG ratios are supposed to be determined through the annual SAG process, not in the methodologies section of the IL-TRM.
- Ted Weaver: Concerned about a potential change to NTG for low income mid-cycle, since we assumed NTG would be 1.0 for low income programs during the current EE Plan. The language in the IL-TRM V7 NTG Methods attachment was a compromise.
- Chris Neme: The TRM is only for the year it is in effect, not the entire plan cycle.
- Jennifer Morris: For the next EE Plan, the gas adjustable goals policy allows for a NTG collar and adjustment, and the collar is set to zero for low income programs.
- Jennifer Morris: This is no evidence that NTG=1 for income eligible upstream lighting programs. There is IL evidence that NTG is much lower than 1. The merits of these results should be a part of the NTG discussions at SAG in September.

#### **ComEd Presentation:**

- Molly Lunn: Agrees with waiting until the September NTG SAG process to discuss income eligible lighting results/the proposed NTG value.

#### **Proposed Next Steps Discussed During Meeting:**

##### **1) Move the “deeming” portion of the NTG for low income policy language from the IL-NTG Methods attachment into the Policy Manual, with language edits:**

- *There has been general consensus among Illinois stakeholders that the NTG Ratio for low income Programs is not likely to be significantly different than 1.0, particularly where the person making the participation decision is the Low Income Customer. The NTG Ratio for low income Programs will be deemed at 1.0, unless NTG research suggests otherwise. Discussions will be held with SAG participants on the value in and methods for performing such research and the timing of the application of such research.*
  - Proposed effective date of January 1, 2020.

##### **2) Update policy language in the IL-NTG Methods attachment to reference SAG guidance on NTG research for low income programs:**

- *The evaluation teams should determine which protocol should be used to research NTG for low income programs if the SAG concludes that there is value in performing the research. Discussions will be held with SAG participants on the value in and methods for performing such research and the timing of the application of such research.*

#### **Follow-up:**

1. SAG Facilitator will send NTG policy language to the Policy Manual Version 2.0 negotiating parties for review. If any objections are received to including in Version 2.0, a policy meeting will be scheduled this fall with the goal of reaching interim agreement, documenting on the SAG website, and adding this policy topic to the list for a future Policy Manual update.
2. Navigant will incorporate updated draft policy language in the IL-NTG Methods attachment, which will be circulated to SAG for review (anticipated within the next week).

## **Counting Behavior Savings for Gas Programs**

*Ted Weaver, First Tracks Consulting, on behalf of Nicor Gas*

- Ted Weaver: Nicor Gas is implementing a new behavior program, launching summer 2019. The program will run through end of current plan in 2021 and hopefully beyond.
  - Savings are dominated by heating usage and savings opportunities. Since this will mostly occur in the winter, the question is when to start counting and tracking savings from this program.
  - Nicor is concerned about losing the 2022 second half of the heating season.
  - Nicor would like to resolve this question soon in order to provide guidance on counting savings to the implementation contractor.
- Nicor Gas Proposal: Count savings for a full heating season for the new behavioral program. Track savings in the calendar year the heating season starts.
  - Example: credit the 2019-2020 heating season savings all to 2019.
- Chris Neme: This seems to make sense with a furnace replacement, but behavior programs are more continuous and can stop at any time. Needs to further consider this.
- Jennifer Morris: I am concerned that 1) the evaluation for this program would lag significantly behind the rest of the evaluations for having data to the evaluators (May vs January); and 2) other utilities take a different approach to counting savings.
  - Note: It was discussed on the call that ComEd, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas, and Ameren Illinois take a different approach to counting savings. The proposed approach discussed on August 7<sup>th</sup> is specific to the Nicor Gas behavioral program.

### **Follow-up:**

- If there are any questions or concerns about the approach Nicor Gas described to counting savings for the new Nicor Gas behavioral program, please reach out to Ted Weaver ([weaver\\_t@mindspring.com](mailto:weaver_t@mindspring.com)) and CC [Celia@CeliaJohnsonConsulting.com](mailto:Celia@CeliaJohnsonConsulting.com) by COB on **Wednesday, August 21**. If needed, a follow-up discussion will be scheduled during the **Wednesday, August 28** SAG teleconference meeting.

## **Closing and Next Steps**

*Celia Johnson, SAG Facilitator*

- See follow-up items **in red** above.