

**Energy Efficiency Advisory Group (EEAG)  
Webinar Notes  
October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Present:**

Haley Falconer-City of Boise	
Wil Gehl-Community Action Partnership Assoc of Idaho	Ben Otto-Idaho Conservation League
Diego Rivas-Northwest Energy Coalition	Katie Pegan-Office of Energy & Mineral Resources
Connie Aschenbrenner-Idaho Power	Donn English-Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Anna Kim-Public Utility Commission of Oregon	Quentin Nesbitt*-Idaho Power
Lynn Tominaga-Idaho Irrigation Pumpers Association - sitting in for Sid Erwin	Tina Jayaweera-Northwest Power & Conservation Council

**Not Present:**

Selena O'Neal-Ada County  
Don Strickler-Simplot  
Jim Hall-Wafd

**Guests and Presenters\*:**

Shawna Potter-Idaho Power	Paul Goralski-Idaho Power
Cheryl Paoli-Idaho Power	Theresa Drake-Idaho Power
Becky Arte-Howell-Idaho Power	Brad Iverson-Long-Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Juliet Petersen*-Idaho Power	Rachelle Farnsworth-Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Kevin Keyt-Idaho Public Utilities Commission	Tyler Lehman*-Nexant
George Jiang*-Nexant	
Becky Arte-Howell-Idaho Power	

**Note Takers:**

Shawn Lovewell (Idaho Power) with Kathy Yi (Idaho Power)

**Meeting Facilitator: Rosemary Curtin**

**Meeting Convened at 9:32am**

Rosemary started the meeting with introductions of EEAG members.

**9:38 am- Evaluation of WAQC & Weatherization Solutions—Ty Lehman & George Jiang-Nexant**

Tyler and George presented the WAQC & Weatherization Solutions evaluation results. They provided a brief overview of the programs, the 2018 program summary statistics, the ex-post methodology, and the savings results.

There were questions and comments regarding types of homes weatherized, types of heat pumps used, and if weatherized homes had air conditioning. Weatherization was completed on apartments and multi-family homes that were multi-level. The type of heat pump installed depended on the type most suitable to the building and the space. They were sized using Manual J heat load calculator. Most of these properties typically have air conditioning window units. Once a heat pump is installed and if they have a window unit, it would be removed and the old window would be replaced by a new, more efficient one. One member asked how these evaluation results compare to other utility weatherization programs. Nexant answered that they are seeing similar results, although it depends on the size of the weatherization program. Across the U.S it is around 20% of savings and Idaho Power is 15%, so it is close. One member asked about the requirement that a home must be electrically heated to participate. The program specialist answered that in order to participate in this program, a home must be electrically heated. Customers that have gas heated homes would qualify and be processed through the state program. One member added that weatherization opportunities for gas heated homes is typically lower due to the lower cost of that fuel.

Theresa thanked the group for the great discussion and asked Quentin to recap. Quentin stated that the weatherization evaluation was a billing analysis, which is completed to verify the energy savings being claimed or to know what the savings values are. They also help identify any potential processes improvements.

#### **10:24 am-WAQC & Weatherization Solutions Discussion—Quentin Nesbitt**

Quentin opened up the discussion saying Idaho Power would like to explore ways to improve program cost-effectiveness and proposed three potential ideas: Move WAQC to acceptable measures list with prescriptive savings & incentives, give weatherization managers guidance on payment amounts per measure based on cost effectiveness, and adjust installation criteria to align better with cost effectiveness. Wil Gehl spoke to the group about the State Energy Audit Tool (EA5) and the function of the tool. At the end of October 2021, EA5 will no longer be used. The State of Idaho doesn't have the funding or bandwidth to maintain its own tool so it will be using an "off the shelf" product. Other utilities in the state use a deemed measure list. If Idaho power is unable to pay 100% of a measure, this approach of having an acceptable measure list with prescriptive savings and incentives is an effective way to move the program closer to cost-effective.

There were questions and comments on types of measures being installed in the home, funding sources and how those are leveraged, and how weatherization managers determine which measures should be installed in a home. An EEAG member commended Idaho Power for exploring ways to improve program cost-effectiveness. Making changes makes it easier to approve funding and to defend that increase. Theresa suggested a future presentation to provide a more in-depth review of these two programs.

#### **11:05 am-DSM Program Evaluation Schedule—Quentin Nesbitt**

Quentin highlighted the evaluation schedule that was posted in the 2019 annual report. He explained the different types of evaluations and the status of evaluations taking place so far in 2020. He presented the planned 2022 evaluation schedule and informed EEAG the company intends to move the evaluations for the New Construction and Retrofit programs to 2022. These evaluations were originally planned for 2021. One member asked about the Direct Install program being delayed due to COVID-19 and when an evaluation could be done on that program. Quentin answered that by March of 2021 enough time will have passed to get the processes streamlined for an evaluation.

### **11:17 am-Program Status Update—Juliet Petersen**

Juliet provided an update of the programs that have been impacted by COVID-19. As it has been discussed during previous EEAG meetings, many of the programs were not impacted. In response to the pandemic, the company did suspend in-person customer work early in the year. On location work for impacted programs has resumed. A plan was developed to safely resume on location work this week for the commercial, industrial, and irrigation programs. The guidelines for resuming this work include:

- Wearing face masks always
- Social distancing when possible
- Completing a self-assessment check list prior to each engagement
- Hand sanitizing immediately prior to entering and exiting a location
- Educating employees and contractors on the symptoms of COVID-19

At the EEAG meeting in August, the company discussed implementing an increase to the New Construction programs professional assistance incentive (PAI). The goal is to incent engineering and architecture firms to help more customers with filling out the paperwork to participate in the program. Based on EEAG recommendations and approval from the Public Utility Commission of Oregon, Idaho Power has implemented an increase to the PAI across its service area.

One member complimented the company on the quick turnaround of this proposal.

Before the meeting adjourned, one member suggested that it would be helpful for the company to share its thoughts on the prescriptive changes to the weatherization programs. Quentin stated that the company will provide that at a future meeting. The company is researching ways to improve the program despite the lowered cost-effectiveness.