



September 24, 2025

Max Righter  
Administrator of Purchasing Systems  
Department of Administration  
Division of Purchases

**RE: Response of the Technical Review Committee to the EEC Advisory Member  
Perspectives memo in RFQ # 25005145 – OER Phase 3 Energy Efficiency Administrator**

Dear Mr. Righter,

The Technical Review Committee (TRC) for RFQ # 25005145, comprised of Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) staff, offers the following response to the memo submitted to the Division of Purchases by the Advisory Members from the Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council (known also as the EEC). Per the statute authorizing OER's solicitation of this RFP, two members of the EEC were selected to serve in an advisory capacity to the TRC. The TRC appreciates the assistance provided by the advisory members.

The current utility-led energy efficiency annual process is already a complex and intricate process. As the TRC's memo points out, the transition to a third-party administrator would add to the annual process several additional steps, including a contracting function between OER and a potential new administrator, a rate-based funding and payment cycle between the utility, the state and the administrator; and a regulatory process which likely would need to test the jurisdictional thresholds between the state's regulatory bodies and the provisions of state purchasing procurement. All of those steps would add complexity to an already time constrained process, and as addressed in its final recommendation all of those steps in the TRC's view raise the potential for disruption in delivering the benefits of the energy efficiency program.

The memo contemplates an assumption that the TRC not evaluate the RFP responses on the proposed costs given the existing authority granted to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to adjust investor-owned utility proposals and ratemaking. The TRC's assessment was that the cost proposals as submitted via the state procurement process form the basis for consideration, not an untested assumption, against which the TRC made its evaluation of the proposals and final determination.



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The TRC memo also notes that submitting a 2027 state energy efficiency program budget to the PUC would significantly increase the budget and associated cost to ratepayers from \$117 million (2025 approved budget) to \$130 million, which is inconsistent with recent state energy efficiency program budgets that have been approved by the PUC over the past three years. This would also be a significant year-over-year ratepayer increase when the PUC evaluates approximately \$95 million dollar budget for the 2026 state energy efficiency program year. Finally, as referenced in a footnote in the TRC memo that Karen Bradbury, who was previously employed by OER and on the TRC, is now a Commissioner of the PUC and thus reducing the PUC of a full quorum (3 Commissioners) in evaluating such a docket proceeding if one were to be filed. Having a full quorum PUC is an important factor by OER in filing any evidentiary record positions and/or energy program recommendations in docket proceedings.

As noted boldly in the RFQ solicitation and the state energy efficiency law, the final decision on this procurement rests entirely with OER, if a filing is not made to the PUC on changing the state energy efficiency program administrator. The perspectives shared by the advisory members in their memo are respectfully acknowledged and will be taken under consideration if OER issues a new state energy efficiency program administrator RFP in the future.

Sincerely,  
William Owen  
Energy Policy and Regulatory Manager