



Executive Director's Report November and December 2022

Executive Director Search Committee – Search Committee meetings and working with Scion are taking more of my time than planned. Eleven potential candidates were presented to the committee. Five were selected for online interviews. The effort was moving forward but due to the holiday season first-round interviews were moved to early January. Frank Murphy will provide an update at our January meeting.

Strategic Plan – Our staff did not find the time to work further on the Strategic Plan. As I have previously reported I feel like all the pieces are there but finding time to sew them together has been difficult for us. At this point it probably makes sense to wait until the new Executive Director is on board and can be a part of the process and determine how best to complete it.

Grid Modernization Study – I previously reported that we were funding a study of Delaware Electric Utilities to assess their capacity and capability for conducting Distribution Planning. Distribution Planning is critical to ensuring the electric grid can meet Delaware's solar energy production goals. I am happy to report that we received the cooperation of the Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation (DEMEC). DEMEC made the decision to participate after Senator Hansen, Dr. Steve Hegedus, and I met with their Board. Dr. Hegedus is now working on the final report.

New Insurance Plans – As approved by the Board, I have signed contracts with insurance companies to provide employees with Life, Short- and Long-Term Disability, Dental and Vision Insurances. I formed an employee committee to help review plans. We selected the Lincoln Financial Group for Life and Disability Insurance, and Dominion Insurance for Vision and Dental.

Electric School Buses – In my last report I mentioned that I was invited to a meeting with school district and state officials to discuss funding battery powered school buses. At the meeting, I learned that there is significant federal funding going to be made available but what those funds will cover is still unclear. Some funds may be available for infrastructure. I advised the group that we are interested in participating in some way, and once the funding is made clear we can discuss possibly filling the funding gaps.

RGGI Proceeds and Challenge Grant Progress – Our December RGGI auction proceeds were \$5.78 Million; the last four quarters has yielded \$23.9 Million. Thus, the challenge continues. Regarding our Challenge Grant Programs, the EV grants for Local Governments were launched in November and we have received applications. The Solar Grants for School Districts was launched in December, no applications yet, but a lot of interest. Attention is now focusing on Solar Grants for Libraries. More detail is provided in the Program Activity Report.

Program Evaluation of ESPC Projects – We launched our evaluation of Energy Service Performance Contracts (ESPC) by hiring NV5 to assist us in developing an RFP for Evaluation Savings, assisting us in updating our ESPC guidelines, and studying actual utility inflation rates versus the NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) rates required in our guidelines. The evaluation will look at the state agency and school district projects that have been funded through our bond or master lease financing programs. NV5 is one of the most experienced engineering firms in the country when it comes to managing ESPC projects. Athena Bi is overseeing this initiative.