



Subcommittee on COVID-19 Kick-off Meeting Minutes October 23, 2020

Chair Ann Rendahl and Vice-Chair Dan Lauf convened the first meeting of the Subcommittee on COVID-19, followed by introductions from the membership of the Subcommittee. The meeting agenda and presentation materials are attached for reference.

During the meeting, members responded to an introductory question about success factors for the Subcommittee on COVID-19 as it works to develop a final report on state commission and public utility sector response to the COVID-19 public health crisis. Key themes arose:

- Develop a final product that clearly delineates roles and responsibilities for state utility regulators to prepare for future crises.
- Emphasize the importance of a collaborative approach to emergency planning.
- Include the perspectives of diverse viewpoints, including but not limited to, non-English speakers, low-income consumers, and tribal groups.
- Develop a meaningful resource that balances thoroughness with immediate applicability.
- Ensure that lessons learned are practical for regulators, utilities, and consumers.
- Recognize the ongoing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and consider interim opportunities to share lessons learned.

NARUC staff outlined Subcommittee member expectations for contributing to work products. Subcommittee on COVID-19 members will review and critique draft work products and support Subcommittee-sponsored events such as webinars and virtual learning engagements.

The group engaged in a discussion about the intended audience of the Subcommittee's final report and clarifications around the scope of perspectives the Subcommittee will consider. The original charter of the Emergency Preparedness, Recovery, and Resiliency Task Force suggested this special subcommittee would focus on energy-sector issues. The group decided to broaden that perspective to include all public utility perspectives with which state regulators may interact.

The group discussed what a 'useful' end product would look like for state public utility commissions and their key stakeholders. The group noted the importance of a collaborative approach to the work of the subcommittee and ensuring that the final report reflects the need for ongoing extraordinary levels of collaboration to respond to future challenges. The group suggested making other resources from key stakeholder organizations a priority and to align efforts of this subcommittee with efforts at partner organizations.



Members also discussed expanding the Subcommittee roster to promote a holistic, collaborative approach. Suggestions included tribal communities, low-income advocacy groups, the financial sector, university and research entities, representatives from the electricity and gas sectors, representatives from a regional transmission organization or independent system operator, and research and development groups. The group emphasized the need for greater diversity in the subcommittee. Members should submit additional suggestions to NARUC's Will McCurry (wmccurry@naruc.org) and specify whether they recommend those individuals for consultations or full subcommittee membership.

Finally, NARUC staff requested that members visit the Subcommittee's website (<https://www.naruc.org/emergency-preparedness-recovery-and-resiliency-task-force/>) Members should submit missing or updated biographies and/or photos to Will McCurry as soon as possible.

The group was reminded that the full Emergency Preparedness, Recovery, and Resiliency Task Force (EPRR Task Force) will be meeting at the NARUC Annual meeting on **November 6, 2020 at 11:00 AM ET**.

NARUC staff will work to pick an appropriate date for future meetings of the Subcommittee on COVID-19 starting on a monthly basis as appropriate. NARUC staff will attempt to choose a date that does not conflict with any other standing NARUC Committee meetings or open meetings at the state commissions.