



Subcommittee on COVID-19 January Meeting Minutes January 25, 2021

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

Professor Steve Cicala of Tufts University presented his research on the pandemic's impact on demand for electricity, the shift in usage between residential customers from industrial and commercial customers, and the ongoing financial impacts to ratepayers and utilities. The group discussed in detail the increase in disconnection rates as disconnection moratoria continue to expire.

The group reviewed the first draft of the Subcommittee's literature review. The group discussed additional thematic topics to cover as well as new resources to incorporate into the literature review. Additional topics of consideration included but were not limited to:

- Financial impacts on customers;
- Additional information on regulator response;
- Enhanced communication strategies between regulators, utilities, state government entities, and other key stakeholders;
- How to handle bad debt proportionately in cost-recovery;
- How PUCs will assess new generation and grid reliability measures in the midst of the pandemic;
- How PUCs and utilities alike altered emergency response plans to adapt to new COVID-19 precautions;
- The impact of demand shifts on policies like time of use rates

NARUC staff detailed the process by which the literature review would continue to expand. Subcommittee members are encouraged to share resources with Will McCurry (wmccurry@naruc.org) on an ongoing basis. NARUC staff will report on new versions of the literature review at subsequent meetings of the Subcommittee.

The group was reminded that the full Emergency Preparedness, Recovery, and Resiliency Task Force (EPRR Task Force) will be meeting during the NARUC Winter Policy Summit on **February 5, 2021 at 11:00 AM ET.**