

June 11, 2020

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DETERMINATION: DEEP'S COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR CONNECTICUT C&LM AND WEATHERIZATION PROGRAMS

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“DEEP”) hereby issues the attached Health and Safety Protocols for the safe return to the important work of Connecticut’s Conservation and Load Management (“C&LM”) Plan’s programs. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected many businesses as they were required to halt activity to slow the spread of the virus. The contractors who perform the work of increasing energy efficiency of our homes and businesses and reducing our energy demand within the programs offered by the C&LM Plan have also experienced these impacts. On March 17, 2020, Eversource Energy, The United Illuminating Company, The Connecticut Natural Gas Corporation, and the Southern Connecticut Gas Company (collectively the “Utilities”) issued a letter calling for a suspension of all on-site activity for those energy efficiency businesses that contract directly with the Utilities.

On May 20th, Governor Ned Lamont issued guidance laying out Phase 1 of Connecticut’s strategy for reopening the economy. As Connecticut takes a staged approach to reopening, DEEP understands that many employees of our energy efficiency contractors are eager to return work, but that they are also concerned for their safety. The Utilities have hired a third-party consultant to develop and refine Health and Safety Guidelines (“Utility Guidelines”) for returning to on-site work for energy efficiency programs in Connecticut and other neighboring states. Governor Lamont has also issued guidance for returning to work for various industries. DEEP reviewed the guidance issued for other industries for practices relevant to energy efficiency contractors to inform the development of the Health and Safety Protocols for C&LM Program contractors and customers. DEEP’s Health and Safety Protocols incorporate the Utility Guidelines. There may be areas of overlap. In that situation, contractors should defer to the higher standard. Contractors are expected to ensure they are following all requirements, including any additional local requirements, to provide for the safety of their workers and the customers they serve.

The Health and Safety Protocols, including the Utility Guidelines, are living documents, subject to change as lessons are learned in the field and as the health impacts of reopening the economy are tracked. In the near future, DEEP will require the Utilities to consolidate the Health and Safety Protocols and the Utility Guidelines into one document. DEEP and the Utilities will be engaging in an ongoing basis with program contractors to gather feedback and make adjustments. A process for gathering feedback will be established through the ongoing Contractor Technical Advisory Committee (“CTAC”) meetings.

DEEP recognizes that contractors who perform work under the Weatherization Assistance Program (“WAP”) are awaiting additional guidance from the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) regarding COVID-19 safety. These WAP contractors should follow the attached Health and Safety Protocols, in addition to any forthcoming guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”). WAP contractors shall apply the more stringent standard to the extent the Health and Safety Protocols and DOE guidance

overlap. The Utilities are not responsible for enforcement of compliance with the Health and Safety Protocols by WAP contractors.

DEEP thanks the contractor community for its active engagement in the process of drafting these Health and Safety Protocols. DEEP also appreciates the partnership of the Utilities throughout this process. These Health and Safety Protocols shall apply to all contractors that perform work covered under the C&LM Plan pursuant to a contract with the Utilities. Any energy efficiency contractors who do not directly contract with the Utilities are strongly encouraged to implement the Health and Safety Protocols, and are still bound by other applicable state and federal safety guidelines.

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