

**DC Public Service Commission
Advisory Council on Utility Supplier and Workforce Diversity
Supplier Diversity Working Group**

March 12, 2020

1:00 PM

Best Practices

Diverse Supplier Engagement – DC Water/Vendor Days/Contractor’s College

Monitoring and Reporting – PSC – ensure Utilities’ comply with reporting and benchmark requirements

Measurements and Accountability - Established aspirational goals that are tied to the utility’s annual spend

DC Water – Review of goal achievement based on existing firms versus new firms.

Pepco- Diversity Council that the monitors company’s recruitment and accountability

Topics to Consider

Debriefing Processes – Should be transparent. How many of the utilities have a debriefing process for unsuccessful bidders.

Capacity Building Programs – What are the best practices.

Define the term “certified” and clarify which certifications vendors need.

The term “small” often poses a barrier for diverse suppliers during the procurement process. Diverse suppliers are evaluated unfairly due to size of company.

Effective Diverse Supplier Outreach – What outreach methods do utility companies use to attract new diverse suppliers to expand their pool of bidders?

Long-term commitments (i.e., multi-year or mega projects) are effective incentives for contractors.

Utilities must conduct due diligence to ensure that contractors are compliant with safety requirements across all projects, not just with specific utilities.

Next Steps:

Provide Working Group members with a copy of Pepco’s Memorandum of Understanding for review exercise.

Homework for April meeting is to review the current Pepco MOU draft to identify areas of improvement/change. The working group will conduct a holistic review to identify specific areas that may need updating or revisions.

Schedule an additional meeting before the scheduled April meeting to provide an additional opportunity for those who missed the first call.

