

## Governor's Energy Office

### Maine Grid Resilience Formula Grant Program

Public Hearing

**Thursday, February 9, 2023**

**12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Virtual meeting via Zoom**

The Grid Resilience Formula Fund allocation to states and tribal nations was established by Section 40101(d) of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). For clarity going forward, the program will be referred to by the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) as the Maine Grid Resilience Formula Fund Program.

The GEO is the eligible applicant for the state and anticipates initiating a competitive solicitation for projects upon receiving the formula allocation following DOE's approval of the application.

The purpose of this public meeting was to share the anticipated program objectives, metrics and criteria that will guide future investments through this program in order to inform eligible entities interested in applying for funding through this program, and members of the general public.

**The GEO is accepting public comments on its proposed [draft program narrative](#) until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 17, 2023.** Verbal comments received during this public hearing and written comments received through the 17<sup>th</sup> will be reviewed and considered in developing a final application for submission to the DOE by March 31, 2023.

### Public Comment

Verbal comments received during the public hearing:

- AARP advocated for targeting federal funds received through this program in a way that prevents the use of rate increases for transmission upgrades.
- Commenter sought to confirm that the funding set aside for small utilities is a minimum, rather than a cap.
- Commenter encouraged the GEO to exceed the minimum amount set aside for small utilities in its implementation, with an emphasis on investments in publicly owned or not-for-profit utilities.
- Commenter encouraged the GEO to emphasize in its application to DOE existing examples of Maine communities and utilities working collaboratively on initial feasibility work for energy infrastructure projects to highlight that the state is well positioned for the successful use of future federal dollars.