

## Background on Evaluation Questions Discussed by SAG in 2020

This document includes brief background on three evaluation topics discussed in 2020 by SAG.

### **Evaluation Treatment of Business Closures (Five Approaches for Review)**

- **June 11, 2020 Small Group SAG Meeting**: The evaluators (Guidehouse and Opinion Dynamics) presented on evaluation impacts due to COVID-19.
  - To follow-up, the evaluators prepared a memo summarizing potential scenarios on handling business closures from an evaluation perspective: [Guidehouse and Opinion Dynamics Memo: Treatment of Business Closure in Estimating Lifetime Savings \(Sept. 10, 2020\)](#)
- **Nov. 13, 2020 Small Group SAG Meeting**: The evaluator memo and potential approaches were discussed.
  - The evaluators prepared options for review: [Business Closure \(Five Approaches for Review\)](#). Participants were requested to indicate which approach is preferred, for both 1) policy treatment in evaluation of business closures on a regular basis and 2) whether a separate treatment should be considered for business closures in the COVID-19 driven economy.

### **Evaluation Treatment of Heating Penalties and Negative Savings (Policy Resolution)**

- **Aug. 2020**: Guidehouse prepared a memo describing eight (8) questions related to treatment of negative electric and gas savings that arose while evaluating ComEd's 2019 EE programs: [Guidehouse Memo to ComEd: Treatment of Negative Electric and Gas Savings by Evaluation](#)
- **Nov. 13, 2020 Small Group SAG Meeting**: In the memo, Guidehouse describes how the evaluator has historically treated these questions and requested clarification on treatment in future evaluations. Guidehouse described four questions during this meeting. Due to time constraints in 2020, other questions raised in the memo are anticipated to be discussed in 2021.
  - To follow-up, the evaluators prepared a draft Policy Resolution document for review: [Heating Penalties and Negative Savings \(Policy Resolution\)](#). The evaluators requested final SAG policy resolution, including adding policy issues to the Policy Manual tracking document for future consideration in a Policy Manual update.

### **Normalization in Calendar Year 2020 (Policy Resolution)**

- **June 11, 2020 Small Group SAG Meeting**: Evaluators presented on COVID-19 evaluation impacts.
  - Following the June meeting, three options were circulated for review: [Estimating Savings in CY2020 Due to COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (evaluators recommended Option 1).
  - Following the comment deadline, the SAG Facilitator prepared a summary of comments received: [Estimating Savings in 2020 Due to COVID-19: SAG Comments Received](#)
- **August 24, 2020 Small Group SAG Meeting**: To follow-up on COVID-19 evaluation impacts and discuss resolution of normalization in 2020. Whether Home Energy Reports should be excluded from normalization was raised. Additional feedback was requested from participants.
  - To follow-up, the evaluation teams drafted a joint memo regarding normalization of 2020 savings from the Home Energy Reports (HER) program due to COVID-19: [Memo from Guidehouse and Opinion Dynamics to ComEd, Nicor Gas, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas: Adjusting Home Energy Report Program Savings for the Effects of COVID-19 – Approaches and Considerations \(Oct. 16, 2020\)](#).
  - After further review, the evaluation teams recommended against normalization for HER. This impacts ComEd, Nicor Gas, and PG/NSG; Ameren Illinois is not running HER in 2020.
- **Nov. 2020**: Evaluators requested final SAG policy resolution and prepared a resolution document for review and comment in November 2020: [Normalization in CY2020 \(Policy Resolution\)](#).
- **Dec. 2020**: Evaluators worked with interested stakeholders to decide that HER will be normalized using historic program data. Evaluators will work with each individual utility on the specifics for their program. Final resolution is posted on the [Policy page](#) of the SAG website: [Estimating Savings in Calendar Year 2020 Due to COVID-19 Pandemic](#).