NORTHEAST ENERGY EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIPS

NEEP NET IMPACTS STUDY: BACKGROUND

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NET SAVINGS ESTIMATION

- Portion of savings caused by a program, and not those savings that would have happened anyway
- Estimating net savings necessitates estimating a counterfactual, something that did not happen

STUDY BACKGROUND

- Forum wanted to learn more about three related issues:
  - Pros and Cons of pursuing regional consistency in approaches to net savings
  - Understanding if and how the expanded and diversified audiences for energy savings would use net savings estimates
  - Implications of the increasing challenges in establishing attribution and causation on net savings estimation
- Scoping paper researched and written by NMR Group, Inc. and Research Into Action, Inc.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

- To identify the key audiences that rely on net savings to meet policy and program needs
- To highlight the reasons for measuring net savings and the situations in which such measurement is and is not appropriate
- To document the issues and challenges associated with existing approaches to defining and measuring net savings
- To propose recommendations for next steps needed to make progress toward the goal of increasing the consistency and quality of definitions and methods related to net savings
- *To identify possible future Forum projects on net savings*

METHODS

- Literature review of over 100 sources
  - Energy efficiency paper, presentations, reports
  - Academic papers from other areas of evaluation
- In-depth interviews with 12 experts
  - Energy efficiency and air regulation communities
  - Regulators, program administrators, evaluators
- Subcommittee and Steering Committee feedback to prior draft
- NMR and RIA personal experience

EMV FORUM: PREPARING FOR NEXT STEPS

- NEEP shared draft high level summary findings with the EMV Forum Steering Committee in September
- There are policy dimensions to next steps on net savings
- The EMV Forum will establish a Policy Subcommittee consisting of Steering Committee and other Forum members