

## **DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL CHANGES TO EAHCP STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE RULES TO ADDRESS VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

**Big picture goal of potential rule changes:** The primary goal behind considering rule changes is to formally authorize virtual meetings of the Stakeholder Committee and subsets of the Committee to address special circumstances, such as those experienced under Covid. The rules currently do not address a virtual meeting option for the full Committee. Amendments being considered also would include a procedure for the Stakeholder Committee to ratify actions that were taken in virtual meetings before the proposed rule changes are approved.

**Procedure for rule amendments:** Section 10 of the Stakeholder Committee rules requires that proposed amendments be discussed at one meeting and then voted on at a subsequent meeting. The discussion at the December 16, 2021, Stakeholder Committee meeting represents an initial effort to gather input for specific proposed changes to be discussed at the next in-person Stakeholder Committee meeting and voted on at a subsequent meeting.

### **Specific issues for stakeholder consideration and discussion:**

In addition to authorizing virtual meetings to address special circumstances, should we include an option to allow for individual members of the Stakeholder Committee to participate in Stakeholder Committee meetings virtually on a routine basis?

If so, should we identify a minimum level of in-person participation? (Current rules allow conference call participation by up to 49% of members for some Subcommittee and Work Group meetings—rules were written before Zoom and Microsoft Teams calls were a commonly available option).

What about for meetings of Subcommittees and Work Groups?

Should there be greater latitude for virtual meetings for such groups?

For example, we could allow for all such meetings to be virtual or allow virtual meetings if no member of the subject Subcommittee or Work Group objects.

What about Issue Teams?

(See Section 7.8 of Stakeholder Committee rules) Issue Teams were used successfully several times during the EARIP process when the full Steering Committee could not initially reach consensus on a major issue. Issue Teams, consisting of a subset of the Steering Committee selected to include representatives to advocate for competing perspectives, were created to continue discussions and either bring back a recommendation for agreement on the initial proposal or an alternate proposal for consideration by the full Steering Committee. The EAHCP Stakeholder Committee rules include the option for establishing Issue Teams to address significant issues, which might prove to be useful as discussions of permit rollover proceed.

How do committee members feel about allowing virtual meetings for Issue Teams?

Should we change the rules to allow rule amendments to be discussed and approved in the same meeting? One option would be to allow that if no one objects to the amendment(s).