

# The Role of the Third Party Consultant (Owner's Rep) in ESPC

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### **Evolution of Owner's Rep Role**

#### **Late 1990s**

- Federal and State ESPC programs finding a high level of dissatisfaction and distrust of claimed results with ESPC projects.
- USDOE/NREL and a few states begin utilizing thirdparty ESPC consultants to facilitate their ESPC programs and processes to improve the credibility of, and hence, the confidence in ESPC.
- Work to review/improve overall programs as well as directly with ESPC participating jurisdictions as "Owner's Advocate".
  - Immediate improvement

#### Since and Presently

Because of the growing success of using third-party ESPC consultants, Fed and State ESPC programs expand the use of qualified third-party ESPC consultants.



# What is an ESPC 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Consultant?

Program level

- Some third-party ESPC consultants consult directly with states' ESPC program's administrator office to develop and implement ESPC programs from scratch or to review and provide existing program and process improvements.
  - Review/improve ESPC legislation
  - Review/improve ESPC processes
  - Review/improve ESPC documents



# What is an ESPC 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Consultant?

**Project Level** 

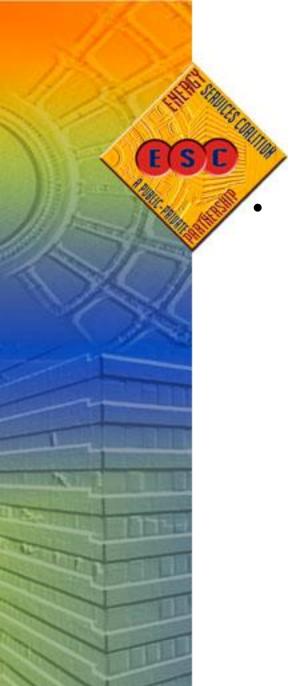
- The ESPC participants' "Independent" advocate in technical, contractual, and financial aspects of ESPC project
- Assist Agencies throughout ESPC process
- Qualifications
  - Should be very experienced in EE/ESPC, preferably a PE and/or CEM not a "dabbler"
  - Should <u>not</u> be doing work for ESCOs
  - MUST possess strong people and negotiating skills.
    - Friendly, fair, firm
    - Have respectful, professional relationships with ESCO community



# What is an ESPC 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Consultant?

Project Level

- Fees paid by customer or program to avoid conflict of interest
- Under some State programs, project financing will reimburse Agency for costs
- In others, third-party consultants are hired under state or ESPC participant's internal budgets.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Consultant's Main Tasks

### Pre-development and Development Phase

- Provide outreach services as requested by program office.
- Help build the Project Team, educate members
- Pre-qualify the deal prior to procurement
- Assist in preparation and issuance of RFP
- Assist in review of ESCO responses & selection
- Assist in execution of Investment Grade Audit agreement (# of bldgs., schedule, etc.)
- Oversee IGA development, review savings, costs, M&V
- Assist "Champion" with Intra-Agency approvals
- Assist in finalizing Energy Services Agreement (ESA) Schedules prior to "Board" approvals



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Consultant's Main Tasks

Construction, Commissioning (Cx), Acceptance Phase

- Review ESCO designs, equipment specifications, installation plans for compliance with IGA/ESA if requested.
- Review commissioning, O&M, M&V, training plans
- Witness M&V and commissioning activities and final reports if requested.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Consultant's Main Tasks

#### **Performance Period Phase**

- Ensure contractual measurement and verification guidelines are met
- Review Post-Installation and annual M&V reports
  - Assist customer in understanding M&V report results
- If requested by customer, ensure energy data is input into eProject Builder

#### Take-aways for a Third-party Consultant:

- Risk Mitigation Specialist
- Helps level the playing field between the ESCO and the owner
- Process must be Win/Win for Agency & ESCO or everyone loses
- Never let speed overrule due diligence



# How are 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Consultant's hired?

Various procurement processes

- Competitive RFP/Q for single Thirdparty Consultant to represent a state administered program
  - TPC company provides all consulting to state program development and all ESPC participants at no cost to participants
- State develops a list of prequalified
   TPCs that agencies may choose from



- According to NRS 333A.086, state agencies "shall retain the professional services of a third-party consultant"
- State Purchasing created a list of four pre-qualified consultants, through an RFP in Fall of 2014.
- The RFP will be conducted again in Fall of 2018.
- Local government "may enter into a contract with the Office of Energy or retain the professional services of a third-party consultant" for the proposal phase.
- Locals "...shall enter into a contract..." when "reviewing the operating cost-savings measures proposed". Audit phase.



### Thank you for your time... QUESTIONS?

#### **Peter Berger**

Guaranteed Energy Savings Program Manager Minnesota Department of Commerce/Division of Energy Resources 651-539-1850

peter.berger@state.mn.us

#### John Canfield

President
Trident Energy Services, Inc.
303-247-0193

jfcanfield@tridentenergy.com

#### Christopher F. Halpin, PE, CEM, CMVP, LEED AP

President
Celtic Energy, Inc.
(860) 328-0535 mobile
chris@celticenergy.com

#### **Kelly Thomas**

Energy Program Manager Nevada Governor's Office of Energy (775) 687-1850 Ext. 7357 kxthomas@energy.nv.gov