

City of Boston BERDO Review Board
Public Meeting Minutes
Zoom Virtual Meeting
June 30, 2025, at 4:30 pm
[View recording here](#)

Board Members in Attendance: Jessica Boatright, Stephen Ellis, Hessann Farooqi, Lori Ferriss, Gail Latimore, and Reginald “Reggie” Stovell Jr.

Board Members not in Attendance: Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata

Staff Present: Diana Vasquez, Zengel “Ziggy” Chin, and Dr. Claudia Diezmartinez.

Others: Approximately eighteen (18) members of the public attended this meeting.

Call Meeting to Order

4:35 pm: A meeting of the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance, hereafter referred to as (BERDO), within the Air Pollution Control Commission, was called to order on June 30 at 4:35 pm. This meeting was held virtually.

Roll Call

4:39 pm: The following BERDO Review Board members were in attendance: Chair Jessica Boatright, Stephen Ellis, Hessann Farooqi, Lori Ferriss, Gail Latimore, and Reginald “Reggie” Stovell Jr.

The following Environment Department staff were in attendance: Diana Vasquez, Zengel “Ziggy” Chin, and Dr. Claudia Diezmartinez.

Others: Approximately eighteen (18) members of the public attended this meeting.

First Agenda Item: District Energy Systems Overview

4:38 pm: Steven Winter Associates presented an overview of district energy systems.

5:04 pm: Board Q&A Session

- The Review Board asked clarifying questions about the district energy systems.

5:23 pm: Board Member Lori Ferriss left the meeting.

Second Agenda Item: Report and Discussion on BERDO Regulations Update

5:33 pm: C. Diezmartinez presented details about the first key BERDO Regulations update.

5:41 pm: Board Q&A Session

- S. Ellis asked for clarification about the language regarding when building owners will have to third-party verify.
 - C. Diezmartinez explained that in 2031, buildings will need to submit third-party verification for the five calendar years prior, meaning buildings with a 2025 emissions compliance start will verify all five years, while those starting in 2030 will only need to verify one year, as it's their first compliance year.

5:42 pm: C. Diezmartinez presented details about the second key BERDO Regulations update.

5:45 pm: Board Q&A Session

- No questions from the Review Board.

5:46 pm: C. Diezmartinez presented details about the third key BERDO Regulations update.

5:47 pm: Board Q&A Session

- H. Farooqi asked if the Review Board will have the authority to extend the deadline for which submitted flexibility measure applications can have a hearing.
 - C. Diezmartinez answered that the current language in the proposed update only allows the applicant to request a delay in scheduling a hearing.

5:59 pm: C. Diezmartinez presented details about the fourth key BERDO Regulations update.

6:02 pm: Board Q&A Session

- J. Boatright asked how the Environment Department will hold building owners responsible for their commitments tied to the flexibility measure approval.
 - C. Diezmartinez explained that all data reported to BERDO, including energy use, water use, and emissions compliance, is made publicly available each year through the annual disclosure process. In addition, at the time of a building sale, the current or new owner can request a letter of compliance from the Environment Department to certify or provide specific information about the building's BERDO status.

- J. Batright asked for clarification on who will be responsible for asking for the letter of compliance in the sale of a BERDO building.
 - C. Diezmartinez answered that the building owner involved in the sale would request the compliance letter, and whether the flexibility measure transfers depends on the situation. For instance, if a building is sold out of a larger portfolio, the letter would confirm compliance but also note that the building is no longer part of that portfolio.
- H. Farooqi asked if City buildings in this instance also include buildings owned by City quasi-agencies.
 - C. Diezmartinez confirmed that those buildings are considered City buildings.

6:10 pm: C. Diezmartinez presented details about the fifth key BERDO Regulations update.

6:12 pm: Board Q&A Session

- J. Boatright asked if the definition of extenuating circumstances is at the discretion of the Review Board.
 - C. Diezmartinez answered that the Review Board will determine if the circumstances meet the definition of extenuating circumstances.

6:13 pm: C. Diezmartinez presented details about the sixth key BERDO Regulations update.

6:15 pm: Board Q&A Session

- No questions from the Review Board.

6:15 pm: C. Diezmartinez presented details about other draft language in the BERDO Regulations updates.

6:24 pm: Board Q&A Session

- No questions from the Review Board.

Third Item: Approval of Meeting Minutes.

6:25 pm: The Review Board voted to approve the [May 27 Meeting Minutes](#). Board Member G. Latimore made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Board Member R. Stovell seconded the motion. All board members in attendance (4) voted in favor. The motion carried at 6:26 pm.

Fifth Agenda Item: Administrative Updates

6:26 pm: Z. Chin shared the number of flexibility measures received by the BERDO Team..

The Equitable Emissions Investment Fund round closed with 22 applications and is now in legal review.

Currently, 57% of BERDO IDs have submitted data, and 13% have requested extensions, meaning 70% have either submitted or engaged with the team.

Eight nominations were received for the vacant seat, which will be sent to the Mayor's office, and a new process will open soon for Rashida Boyd's seat following her departure.

The City proposed to forgo the July 14 and July 28 Review Board meetings due to a lack of agenda items.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2025.

Meeting Adjournment

6:29 pm: Board Member G. Latimore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member S. Ellis seconded. All board members in attendance (4) voted in favor. The motion carried at 6:30 pm.