

CONNECTICUT DISTRIBUTED GENERATION POLICY WORKING GROUP

MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting Summary

The meeting began with Rory Apollonia introducing himself and explaining that Zak has left for a different government position. Following that Rory introduced Michael DiPanfilo. He had a technical question and emailed it to Rory before the meeting. Michael DiPanfilo (Earthlight) stated he is looking for clarification on the NRES metering diagrams and interconnection methods. Buy-All C&I projects are somewhat new to Connecticut with the NRES program and his organization has seen delays in comparison to Netting projects due to field engineering review. The guidance that his organization has received from internal field engineering is that they would like all “Buy All” projects to be interconnected directly into the transformer and not in existing electrical equipment. In many situations, this is the most efficient method but is not always the case. The National Electrical Code gives us provisions for making these types of connections in existing electrical equipment and we have worked with other utilities such as National Grid that permit this. Michael DiPanfilo requested clear guidance be given from the utility companies on this type of connection and ask that connections into existing equipment be considered.

Joseph Debs (Eversource) brought in Brian Rice (Eversource) to answer the question. Eversource has a project meeting about the matter on April 19, 2023, and extended the invitation to Michael DiPanfilo. Brian Rice stated Eversource staff would reach out to Michael DiPanfilo today.

Rory read the PURA defined goals for this working group defined in Docket # 22-08-05 Annual Energy Storage Solutions Program Review Year Two, Order 10. First, is Streamlining the documentation needed for energy storage interconnection. Second, is defining timelines for energy storage interconnection approval. Third, is determining how to model energy storage systems for interconnection. Vora Shirin (BlueWave Solar) asked Rory to share the docket language on the screen. Rory shared the docket and brought up the Department of Energy i2X meetings. Vora Shirin talked about Feeder Load. It is a battery system that charges and discharges during specific times. (Peak vs Non-Peak).

David Ferrante (Eversource) talked about battery storage and its impact to the grid. He stated that large storage developers want to first study everything to take care of a frequency market on ISO. These scenarios cause problems because most of Eversource’s substations are close to capacity at peak. David stated that charging large batteries at peak will cause an upgrade. David voiced his frustration with the solar industry regarding projects that are designed to charge at peak. Non-wires alternatives

do not work when developers have storage trying to charge at peak (24/7). David has multiple developers with 5, 10, 20 MW batteries and all want to study a scenario of charging (24/7). Joe Debs agreed. David stated developers are telling lobbyists and regulators one thing and coming to Eversource with something else. The batteries won't help if they need to charge all the time. It's more load on the system and will cause an upgrade.

Joe Debs talked about the thermal limitation of the feeder of the substation transformer due to storage developments. Schedules are very important for storage given transformer ratings for load.

Vora Shirin agreed and asked about load times. David Ferrante explained load in New England. Joe Debs talked about guidelines being flexible.

Mrinmayee Kale (C_Power) asked about the studies. Joe Debs stated clarification to future guidelines is possible. Peter Falcier (Endurant) talked about clearer guidelines. Mrinmayee Kale brought up the recommendations PURA requested by July 2023. Joe Debs spoke about the upcoming technical meeting and a corresponding presentation about the topic.

John Demay (Bloom Energy) spoke about constraints of charging at peak and assets in the marketplace that could stop frequency of regulation (Electrical). David Ferrante stated that people (parties) would need to go to New England ISO about that. David states it is a transmission problem. There is a big difference when you are operating different KV lines. This is related to batteries. It is not practical. The developers talking points to state regulators about the matter are misguided. Developers need to be working with New England ISO to maximize the developer's revenue. Eversource staff (David and Joe) don't have that expertise to advise. David talked about voltage issues and capacity limitations. David used an example of Walmart and its corresponding load to explain the huge negative impact of large batteries (Interconnection) on the grid. It's like designing 20 Walmart's at one location (Load impact).

Peter Falcier shared his screen to talk about the situation going on in New York. Specifically, National Grid and corresponding hosting capacity maps. Joe Debs talked to Rory about meeting times.

Christopher Arpin (Green Bank – CT) spoke about a Cadenza Battery and issues within Power Clerk about it applying for ESS incentives. David Ferrante stated Chris was incorrect about what Cadenza needs to do to get the ESS incentives. Chris spoke about Cadenza being forced to put in an application in California. The safety certifications are the same in Connecticut and California. David Ferrante and Chris had an extensive conversation about the subject. Rory asked about how long Eversource has been using Power Clerk. David answered since May of 2018. There are 72,000 applications in the Power Clerk queue. There are thousands of inverter models. Bob Ives (Michaud Law) voiced his support of Eversource and using Power Clerk. He stated Power Clerk works well and should not be replaced. There is no need to reinvent the wheel.

Compton Donohue (Three Point Energy) posed specific questions about United Illuminating and a corresponding solar project. He talked about a transmission study. Joseph Marranca (UI) answered Compton's questions. Further communication between the two sides was established. Mrinmayee Kale, David Ferrante, and Peter Falcier engaged in the conversation. Rory thanked the group and ended the meeting.

