

CONNECTICUT DISTRIBUTED GENERATION JOINT TECHNICAL AND POLICY WORKING GROUP MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**9:00 AM – 9:05 AM Introduction and Adoption of Meeting Minutes**

**Long-Term System Planning and Cost Sharing – Eversource Presentation**

* In Massachusetts most interconnection issues arise from PV interconnecting in light load/rural areas
* In CT, there are 6 substations with little/no capacity that would require significant upgrades, which are cost-prohibitive for a single developer
* A solution to this problem is the use of group studies, which would anticipate current and future needs, beyond just what is presently in the queue
* Group study process would determine whether upgrades would also benefit the ratepayer
* Substation level upgrades are cost-prohibitive for single developers
* When evaluating distribution and bulk substation capacity, Eversource uses n-1 contingency to make sure customers have a backup if the largest transformer goes down
* Most single substations are backed up via loop to other substations
* Under the proposal, the group study and future developers will all pay the same per kW cost
* Eversource uses a standard 62.5MVA transformer for new construction and replacements but some smaller transformers are still in service
* Three types of substation upgrades to increase capacity (from simplest to most complicated/costly)
  + Replace existing transformer; may require ancillary upgrades
  + Adding a new transformer
  + Station expansion – may require transmission upgrades
* Three types of distribution system upgrades
  + Service upgrade
  + Feeder upgrade
  + Backbone upgrade
* The allocation of transmission upgrade costs still needs to be determined
* Many upgrades can increase reliability for all distribution customers, which should be accounted for in cost allocation
* The goal is for the EDCs to do studies on a yearly basis
* The group study would also require a transmission study
* The Massachusetts 10-year DSP is still under review in 20-75-C
* A proactive system planning process is necessary
* Noel mentioned that even if substation upgrade costs were subject to cost sharing, the distribution system upgrades, e.g. single- to three-phase, could still be cost prohibitive
* Eversource stated that the CIP fee in MA includes certain distribution upgrades to prevent free riders
* However, it is difficult to know where new feeders will be added in the future as they cannot be built without projects to utilize them
* The long-term planning process for DERs has synergies with the capital planning
* Jon asked whether phase comparison schemes or ROCOF would be feasible alternatives to a direct transfer trip
  + Eversource stated that transfer trips are required for very few projects and phase loss wasn’t a reliable enough alternative
  + UI stated it was open to investigating the use of ROCOF

**Other Matters**

* A participant asked whether a residential system consisting of a 15kW solar system and a 15kW battery storage system would fall under level 1 or level 2 screens
  + If both systems are set up in an export configuration, would be over the 25kW threshold for level 1 screen
* CT Developers are still looking for a public queue with the fields identified in the IREC model procedures
* Residential Developers stated they were having issues getting their interconnection applications approved
  + Many installers facing long delays from submission of application to approval
  + Some issues are the significant differences between the UI and Eversource interconnection forms and processing
  + Difficulty obtaining energy audits, gas meter numbers and job numbers
  + Plan is to discuss at the education seminar scheduled for the end of March