

RFP 2023-05 IX Working Group Facilitator Clarifying Questions

Responses in red

1. What has been the historical and expected frequency of filings to the Authority regarding the efforts of the Interconnection (IX) Working Group?
 - a. What filings have been submitted to the Authority to this point and what subjects do they cover?
 - b. Does the Authority expect each filing to only address individual topics or encompass a broad set of topics (ex: public distribution system interconnection queues, public reporting requirements, etc.)?

IX Working Group filings with the Authority can be found in Docket No. 17-12-03RE06. These filings include, but are not limited to, motions and correspondence on: a recommended dispute resolution process (See Motion No. 14); proposed updates to the interconnection guidelines (See Motion No. 17); and reports and recommendations on socialization of interconnection costs for residential distributed energy resources (DERs) and larger-scale DERs (See Motion No. 15 and Correspondence dated June 15, 2022). The IX Working Group Facilitator is also responsible for quarterly updates (See Correspondence dated December 8, 2022) and an annual report (See IX WG's Governance document filed as Correspondence on January 8, 2021). Regular filings outside of the quarterly updates and annual report are not required. However, the Authority occasionally and at its discretion (roughly twice a year) directs the IX Working Group to look into a specific topic and report back. This direction is provided either through a motion ruling or Decision. Additionally, filings with the Authority by the IX Working Group may also organically evolve in response to a barrier identified by IX Working Group (See, e.g., Motion No. 17).

The Authority expects the full cooperation of the electric distribution companies and the IX Working Group members in developing filings submitted to the Authority. The Facilitator will also be assisted with filings by Authority staff assigned to support the working group.

2. To what extent are recommendations expected to represent consensus amongst the IX Working Group?

Consensus is ideal, but not required. The Facilitator's primary responsibility is to facilitate the working group and to deliver associated work products in line with the objectives and direction of the Authority. If consensus cannot be reached on a topic raised in the working group or on a topic related to work product to be submitted to the Authority, the Facilitator should provide the Authority with one or multiple options most aligned with the Authority's objectives and direction. The Facilitator must also provide a complete and fair characterization of the IX Working Group members' positions when consensus cannot be reached, particularly in relation to the options recommended by the Facilitator.

3. When rereviewing the meeting minutes of the IX Working Group, it was identified that the Technical and Policy Working Group exist within the IX Working Group.
 - a. Can the Authority affirm this understanding?
 - b. Will the Consultant be responsible for convening both the Technical and Policy Working Groups? If so, are these two working groups always convened separately or are they at times co-convened?

The IX Working group comprises both the Technical and Policy Working Group. Both working groups typically co-convene as the IX Working Group. The Facilitator will be responsible for both groups and may choose to convene the groups as they see fit.

4. What subcommittees exist within the IX Working Group (i.e., Residential Interconnection Guidelines Subcommittee)?
 - a. Is the Consultant responsible for convening the subcommittees?
 - b. What is the cadence of subcommittee meetings?
 - c. Can additional subcommittees be formed or recommended by the Consultant?

No subcommittees have been formally approved by the Authority. However, the Authority encourages the Facilitator to form any subcommittees or other groups its sees fit to execute its responsibilities.

5. The Cost Estimate Breakdown table template provided in Section E, Cost Proposal, of the RFP indicates that we should provide hours/per task as outlined in Section II.A of the RFP (see screenshot below). Is this intended to refer to Section II.A, or is it intended to refer to Section II.B, which outlines specific Administrative Tasks and Technical Tasks for which the facilitator will be responsible?

Cost Estimate Breakdown						
Add columns or rows as necessary.						
	Firm Overall	Principal	Staff A	Staff B	Staff C	Staff D
Hourly Rates (\$/hour)						
Tasks (Hours per task in Section II.A of this RFP)						

Section II.B.

6. Prior IX WG meeting minutes indicate that meetings can range from 1-4 hours in length; is there a preferred meeting duration that PURA would like applicants to use for budgeting purposes?

The Authority does not have a preferred meeting duration. 1-4 hours per meeting is reasonable given the complexity of the topics related to interconnection and the diversity of opinions on these topics. While the Authority expect any consultant hired to bring efficiencies to the IX Working Group, the Authority would also expect the Facilitator to lead more complex and in-depth conversations than typically done to date during IX Working Group meetings. Thus, either the average of historical meeting times or some longer duration would be reasonable to assume for future IX Working Group Meetings.

7. The Working Group Government and Framework document states that the facilitator shall prepare an annual meeting report, which will be shared with the Commission Chair before December 1 each year (unless otherwise directed). Will the December 2023 report cover only the October and November meetings (the meetings that are anticipated to occur after facilitator selection), or all meetings since the last report?

The Facilitator would work with the Authority's Office of Education, Outreach, and Enforcement to draft and submit a report summarizing the activity of the IX Working Group in 2023 by December 1.