
Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC)

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, September 14, 2023, 1–4 p.m.

SECTION 3: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

1. The Community Engagement Stakeholder Advisory Council (CESAG) proposed within the three EDCs' ESMPs is potentially replicative of other efforts. The GMAC expressed concerns with “working group fatigue.”
2. As proposed, the GMAC had questions about CESAG’s governance, objectives, staffing, time constraints, accountability, connections to developer customers, measuring success of the group, determining metrics to measure benefits, and reporting. The GMAC members expressed recommendations to change the CESAG to a co-chair structure, where the group is led in part by EDCs and GMAC. There was also a recommendation to have the CESAG within the GMAC structure, possibly within the Equity Working Group.
3. With multiple consumer-facing engagement efforts happening simultaneously among state agencies, there are concerns about communication overload to consumers. Similarly, the technical nature of these plans must be translated not just into multiple non-English languages, but into plain English as well.

SECTION 4: CURRENT STATE

1. The main challenges of this section are providing context for the information given. This chapter sets the stage for all following chapters and should thus indicate clarifying details to offer where the current state may be inadequate to meet anticipated future needs.
2. Along similar lines, the distinction between operating expenses and grid modernization was less clear.
3. More transparency regarding data used for graphics would be helpful to connecting the dots and comparing between plans.
4. The discussion centered around the ESMPs’ need for better and more transparent data when making assumptions and providing sensitivity analyses. The DPU needs to see a better analysis of the ESMPs’ climate impacts per the Clean Energy Climate Plans.

SECTION 5: FIVE- TO TEN-YEAR DEMAND FORECAST

1. This section would benefit from sensitivity analyses to factor in such variables as energy storage, heat pumps, EV adoption, technological advances, and other electrification transitions.
2. Consistent metrics across ESMPs to use for evaluating the forecast and risk-informed decision-making would strengthen this section.

Overall, there was consensus that there is a limit to how much the ESMPs can realistically address before the filing deadline in January. The GMAC will continue to flag topics for future ESMP cycles.