**Group Study Timeline Challenges – Proposed Scope**

**Desired Outcomes**

* More efficient Group Study process enables the Commonwealth to meet its clean energy goals.
* In queue PV projects are able to meet ITC deadlines
* Increased certainty through proactive forecast of group study and upgrade costs, which are critical for financing DG projects.

**Subtopic 1 - Group Study payments**

Avoid restudy and delays

* More flexible study fee payment schedules
* Acceptance of alternative payment methods (bonds and LoC) and rules for eligibility
* Penalties/consequences for withdrawals that impact study results, negative impacts on Group through delays or project modifications/design changes
* Process/structure to ensure only viable projects participate (possible deposit or revised payment schedule)
* Process for revising estimates based on extension or delay duration, reassessment of cost, and true-ups.
* Defining “authorization date” and deadline to commence construction, alignment of estimates and construction schedules

**Subtopic 2 - Eligibility**

Avoiding delays for projects not required to participate in an ASO

* Establish set of criteria initially established by Group Study Exemption that enables projects < 1MW to move in parallel to ASO studies for larger projects (rather than in sequence)
* Address issue of risk assumption by developer if distribution study results change due to ASO results

Group study formation- strategic development of Common Study Areas and formation criteria

* Create more specificity in definition of Common Study Area
* Define grid conditions that trigger Group Study so that developers have more advance notice.
* Enable transition to a world of Proactive Hosting Capacity fees

**Proposed Procedural Schedule**

| **Date** | **Procedural Deadline** | **Context** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 9/30 | Industry Group and EDCs exchange comments on Group Study Timeline substantive issue scope (this document) |  |
| 10/1 | Address open concerns on GS Timeline and vote on subtopic prioritization | IIRG meeting |
| 10/7 - 10/28 | Tariff redlining session 1 |  |
| 10/29 | Provide update to IIRG and substantive discussion | IIRG meeting |
| 10/30-12/2 | Tariff redlining session 2 |  |
| 12/3 | Provide update to IIRG and substantive discussion | IIRG meeting |
| 12/8-12/19 | Tariff redlining session 3 |  |
| 1/5-1/16/2026 | Final tariff redlining/small group discussion |  |
| 1/28/2026 | Vote on tariff redlines (consensus/non-consensus) | IIRG meeting |
| February 2026 | Develop filing, final filing review, electronic vote on filing, submit tariff redline package to DPU |  |