

Massachusetts TSRG Meeting Notes



Date:	September 26, 2024	Meeting held as part of the Massachusetts Technical Standards Review Group (TSRG) for discussion of industry topics and collaboration amongst utilities and the DG community. Meeting minutes are outlined below. If there are any corrections, additions, or omissions please notify the preparer.
Prepared by:	Tony Morreale tmorreale@ligconsultants.com	

Participants:

Michael Porcaro (Member – National Grid)	
Shakir Iqbal (Member – Eversource)	
Tony Morreale (Member – LIG Consultants)	
Greg Hunt (Member – Zero-Point Development)	
Brian Lydic (Member – IREC)	
Brett Jacobson (Alternate – Eversource)	
Gerry Bingham (Alternate – DOER)	
Alice Davey	Jorge Jorge
Brian J Rice	Mark Bentson
Brian Lydic	Melusi Nyoni
Bruce Renz	Mrinmayee Kale
Chris Dube	Nathan Walsh
Christian Bilcheck	Patrick M Fam
Christopher M Kellogg	Paul Krell
Daniel J Mungovan	Prasanth Gopalakrishnan
Devon Marcaurele	Quinn Perry
Douglas Denny-Brown	Rebecca Guilfoyle
Erika MH	Russ Aney
Farzam Nejabatkhah	Ruvini Kankanamalage
Greg Hunt	Shiori Ogi
James George	Tara Reisner
Jeannie M Amber	Travis S Carless
Jeff Long	Valeriia Philipp
Jennifer Chalifoux	William Kern
Jeremy Kites	
Jess Emerson	
John M Kreso III	
John White	

Notes:

1. Administrative Items

- Refer to TSRG Website for all information related to the group.
- For any questions, suggestions, or to get on the mailing list email:
 - Chair, Mike Porcaro - Michael.Porcaro@nationalgrid.com
 - Co-Chair, Tony Morreale - tmorreale@ligconsultants.com
- Chair/Co-Chair elections next meeting (December).
- Confirmation of prior motions
 - Motion from last month revised slightly, new vote required. Motion language below:
Projects meeting all of the following criteria shall not be required to include, in the provided PSCAD model, the underfrequency droop operation:
 - With application date on or before June 1, 2024
 - That are PV-only facilities that are > 1MW and < or equal to 10MW at a single PCC
 - Operating outside of any wholesale markets that would require active ISO/bulk power system based signals for operational activity/dispatch
 - Having already received I.3.9 approval, or not requiring such approval*The functionality must be present in the inverter and have it turned on, however is not required to be reflected in the PSCAD model.*
 - Motion pass unanimously. Four (4) voting members in attendance at time of vote.
 - Gerry Bingham, DOER: Is there an alternate for the solar industry representative?
 - MP: We will work on it before the next meeting.
- IIRG/ESIRG Update
 - ESIRG set up for specific energy storage concerns.
 - IIRG process related group. Tariff based. Non equipment or technical related. Other half of TSRG.
 - ESIRG will become a subgroup to IIRG next month.

2. Sub-Committee Updates

- Inverter Repowering – Michael Porcaro, NGRID (on behalf of John Bonazoli, Unitil)
 - MP: Proposed concept of different levels of replacement requiring different levels of review.
 - True In-Kind Equipment Replacement (same inverter or possibly new model/manufacture): No new application. Update existing application. No restudy required.
 - Near In-Kind Equipment Replacement (One system component changing, same aggregate size): Moderate Change - Restudy required.

- New Equipment/System Replacement (large scale system replacement/redesign with multiple pieces of equipment changing): significant Change - Follows tariff process for new application.
- Brian Lydic, IREC: Suggest a more detailed list of possible changes that would trigger each type. Possible that this was covered in 1955 DPU docket.
- Tony Morreale, LIG Consultants: Big difference between the last two categories. Need to be clear on what triggers a new application. Sometimes when you replace an inverter the output voltage changes, so you need a new transformer. Could it be considered one piece of equipment as a package?
- Flexible Connections Sub-Group – Michael Porcaro, NGRID
 - Review of UL 3141 is still on going. Waiting on comments from subgroup members. Use review to define EDC standards.
 - GB: Subgroup meeting next Monday at 1PM.

3. Group Study Status

- See meeting slides for details and links.
 - <https://www.eversource.com/content/residential/about/doing-business-with-us/interconnections/massachusetts/distribution-group-studies>
 - <https://gridforce.my.site.com/s/article/MA-Distribution-Group-Studies>
- GB: Anything that should be discussed from most recent reports?
- MP: Nothing to highlight for NGRID or Eversource.

4. Technical Standards Update from EDCs

- MP: No updates to standards. Most recent update dates below:
 - Eversource: April 27, 2023
 - Unitil: May 1, 2000
 - National Grid: January, 2024
- MP: National Grid update planned for early 2025. More clean-up than impactful changes.
- National Grid Flexible Interconnection Program.
 - MP: There are pilot programs seeking interest from solar and storage cases for both ARI and Local Power Controllers. Deadline moved to 2/28/2025.
 - MP: Email requests to NationalGridARI@nationalgrid.com.

5. SMART 2 Stakeholder Outreach – Brian Rice, Eversource

- See slides for details.

SMART Program Metering Requirements (DPU 20-145-D)

- Enrollment in MA SMART program requires separate metering of generation output to determine incentive payments
 - SMART tariff also *permits* EDCs to require separate metering of ESS co-located with generation unit greater than 60 kW
- MA EDCs directed to file SMART program metering requirements with MA DPU following stakeholder collaboration
 - Alternative to previous EDC recommendation that further metering requirements be formalized in SMART tariff
- Metering and wiring guidelines have been maintained since launch of SMART program
 - [Eversource](#) [National Grid](#) [Unitil](#)
- EDCs plan to file current guidelines with DPU subject to stakeholder input and recommend no further tariff changes or program documentation

- BR: DPU looking for stakeholder feedback on SMART metering guidelines before they are formalized in SMART tariff.
- BR: Next step is to file guidelines. Formal questions should be submitted to Brian (brian.rice@eversource.com) and Shakir (shakir.iqbal@eversource.com).
- Russ Aney, Parallel Products: Small projects doing SREC now rather than SMART. After 10 years, utility will take meter. Would need to find way to submit data to NEPOOL.
- BR: Removal after 10 years is not the formal policy. Continuing meter reading may be something to consider.
- TM: Are EDCs open to removing “redundant” equipment for AC-coupled solar/storage project such as third meter? Or multiple reclosers for each sub project?
- BR: May not always require a third meter. Suggest formally submitting feedback with alternate metering configurations.
- BR: EDCs would prefer to keep the guidelines separate from the tariff and allow them to be updated as needed without DPU approval.
- MP: We will put this on the agenda for December as well.

6. Open Discussion

- MP: We should look to update the common guidelines soon.
- GB: Anything specific to update on common guidelines?
- MP: Plan to is to just cleanup and make sure everything is accurate to today’s standards.
- GB: Making progress on de-rating of inverters. Should be added to guidelines. Good for EDCs to explain reasoning for guidelines.

7. Close Out & Final Discussion

- Next quarterly meeting scheduled for December 1, 2024.