Massachusetts TSRG Meeting Notes

The Massachusetts Technical Standards Review Group

Date:	September 17, 2026		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:

Shakir Iqbal (Chair, Member – Eversource)	Tony Morreale (Vice-Chair, Member – LIG Consultants)
Justin Ulric (Member – Unitil)	Brian Lydic (Member – IREC)
Michael Porcaro (Member – National Grid)	Brian Ritzinger (Member – DPU)
Greg Hunt (Member – Zero-Point Development)	Jeremy Kites (Alternate – Unitil)
Andrew Hickok	Nathan Walsh
Brandon Natale	Pradipta Tripathy
Carson Bullock	Prasanth Gopalakrishnan
Casey R Frommer	Quinn Perry
Chintan Patel	Rick Abraham
Courtney FeeleyKarp	Russ Aney
Dan Smith	Ruvini Kankanamalage
Daniel McDonough	Sarah Perkins
Doug Pope	Syed Saad Bin Ayaz
Emilio J Cepeda	Vebronia Metrus
Emily Peck	William Kern
Eric Misbach	
Evan Melillo	
Haghnazarian, Naera	
Jeffrey D. Vanacore	
Jill C Duplessis	
Jon Knauer	
Jorge Jorge	
Julia Bucceri	
Kelly Musto	
Manuel Saadallah	
Mark Bentson	
Matthew W Secovich	
Melanie A Khederian	
Melissa Liazos	
Muhammad A Khan	
Nachum Sadan	

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Notes:

1. **Admin**
   - Justin Ulrich will replace John Bonazoli & will be the official TSRG member for Unitil
   - Nathan Walsh will replace Mike Porcaro & will be the official TSRG member for National Grid
   - By next TSRG meeting in Dec 2026, an update will be provided on the Chair & Vice Chair positions for the TSRG Committee

2. **ConnectDER presentation on Meter Socket Adapter – Jon Knauer, ConnectDER**
   - Jon Knauer provided an update on the history and status. See slides.
   - Shakir Iqbal, Eversource: Will there be Reps who install MSAs?
   - JK: Reps at first meeting write the procedures and provide training.
   - SI: Is there a need to also talk to other state entities?
   - JK: IAEI (group for inspectors and code officials) is having a meeting coming up and ConnectDER will have representation there.

3. **RTAC Communications – Emilio Cepeda, Eversource**
   - Emilio Cepeda provided an overview of the Eversource DSCADA Communications Network including the Current State and the Future State.
   - EC provided overview on communications types
   - Russ Aney, Parallel Products: What drives decision to go with public carrier vs leased circuit?
   - EC: Public carrier is preferred.
   - RA: Eversource fiber being run between Eversource equipment and central locations?
   - EC: Only for DTT. Bringing sites online with cellular.
   - RA: Plymouth Phase 2 Group Study has communication upgrade expense of 50-500k per project. What is causing this high upgrade costs?
   - EC: We didn't know what we didn't know then. We knew we needed broadband, but not sure if we had public carrier. Planned to run fiber.
   - RA: LTE is sufficient for RTAC comms?
   - EC: Yes.
   - SI: Recommend working with Brett Jacobson's team on validation of communications methods during construction.

4. Subgroup Updates

- Meter Socket Adapters
  - See previous update from Jon Knauer.
  - JK: Please ping Patrick Fam at Eversource to confirm 10/7 training with Eversource.
- Flexible Connections – Mark Bentson, Eversource
  - No meetings since last year. Working through IIRG.

5. IIRG Group Process Updates

- **IIRG Energy Storage Sub-Group – Muhammad Khan, Eversource**
  - Muhammad Khan and Greg Hunt are new co-chairs of subgroup.
  - A lot of activity in the last few months. See slide for details.
  - SI: When submitting proposal to IIRG chair, how are you looking at updates to IEEE 1547 that may impact?
  - MK: Nothing to do with IEEE 1547, looking at how we limit at feeder level. Adding that limits are based on MVA.
- **IIRG Flexible Connections – Mike Porcaro, National Grid**
  - Finalizing guideline documents. See slide for details.
  - RA: Look at difference between model and actual export. Modeled DG as worst case basis (thermal overload checks). In reality, not everything is operating at nameplate or worse case for most hours. Can we look at real data?
  - MP: Curtailment estimates would be based on ongoing 8760 data, not worst case.
  - RA: Isn't that based on worst case still?
  - MP: Part of the discussion we are having now. Does it make sense to have a standardized profile? Trying to factor that in.
- **IIRG In-Service DER Equipment Replacement Subgroup – Andrew Hickok, Solect Energy**
  - Working to develop a comprehensive procedure to administer the replacement of in-service DER equipment like other states who have adopted similar protocols.
  - Working to define "Like-for-Like" for inverter replacemnt. Current proposal:
    - *"Like-for-Like Inverter" Shall mean an inverter with the same nameplate capacity or smaller, same fault current or smaller, same operating mode, and same grounding characteristics; or an inverter listed in the TSRG Common Technical Manual as acceptable replacement.* (**This would need to be added to the manual).**
  - Greg Hunt, Zero-Point Development: Do we need nameplate capacity in requirement?
  - Andrew Hickok: Important question, but main question today is does TSRG want to maintain a list?

- SI: Raising concern that this would take much more frequent updating.
- Tony Morreale, LIG Consultants: What is the purpose of listing the acceptable inverters if it must already meet all requirements in first half of statement?
- AH: It would be to allow quicker replacements.
- Manuel Saadallah, NGRID: List is going to be a work in progress, live document. Every inverter that comes in for review can go on the list after being approved. Correct?
- AH: That was the intention.
- SI: More discussion needed at December meeting.

- **IIRG Fee Subgroup, Will Kern, National Grid**
  - Simplified Common System Modification (CSM) fee was approved. November 1st is target for implementation. On target now.
  - IIRG may not be the best forum for Application fee review.
  - Look at the entire Pre-Application process. Will kick off discussion in October.
  - DER Equipment Replacement Fee to be reviewed in the future once ready.
  - RA: Can NGRID provide updated guide on hosting capacity portal?
  - WK: Will review request.
- **Data Transparency (Maps & Reporting), Carson Bullock DOER**
  - Meeting consistently bi-weekly since last TSRG meeting.
  - Recent topic on consolidating fields in monthly reporting form (example: connected vs online).
  - AH: Shelved many previous proposals. Down to ~20 fields from 50. Ready to talk about the next steps on implementation.
  - RA: Will be using AI to scan data soon. Are EDCs working on methods to expose data publicly for AI agents?
  - SI: Will need to review closely due to security.

6. Group Study Status

- Eversource Updates: Filled CIPs. Waiting on DPU for their order. No new group studies are being formed for CIPs right now. https://www.eversource.com/residential/about/doing-business-with-us/interconnections/massachusetts/distribution-group-studies
- Melanie Khederian, Eversource: Conducting monthly update calls. All data is available publicly online.
- National Grid Updates: https://gridforce.my.site.com/s/article/MA-Distribution-Group-Study-Documents
- WK: Most data is on that page regarding group study statuses.

- RA: Group study window is certain number of days per tariff. Example, study closed, ISAs sent out. Clock started. Then clock stops up to 40 business days. Group study window opened and closed over a year ago, but study hasn't started because previous group studies are ongoing.
- WK: Looking at how we can take on more applications. We understand projects can get stuck for year. Trying to mitigate that as much as we can. As long as there is no push back from original group study members, no formal policy change should be needed. Consider flexible connections program.
- Doug Pope, Pope Energy: Investors are saying if we do not have visibility for interconnection, we are not going to invest. How can we avoid these delays?
- SI: From Distribution study level, flexible interconnections, BESS operating schedules those are some of the tools we are using to expedite interconnexions.
- DP: Uncertainty whether you are going into ASO study is death to a project. Need to know early on.
- SI: Working with the rules of ISO-NE. If we need to bring in ISO-NE to go over study process again, we can do that.
- DP: Can we cap ASO studies at 6 months?

7. OPESS Tariff Update

- A lot of hard work to put together proposal. It was approved on 8/11/2026 with modifications. New parameters will be effective 10/1/2026. See slide for details.
- Manuel Saadallah, National Grid: New schedule will be implemented November 1st. ESB to be updated around this time with new schedule.

8. Technical Standards Update from EDCs

- Eversource: No updates from Eversource, National Grid or Unitil.
- RA: When establishing thresholds, can we use over rather than equal or over certain amount. Example: rather than 250 kW and greater, can we make it greater than 250 kW?
- SI: We are having those discussions at Eversource.

9. Close Out & Final Discussion

- Next quarterly meeting:
  - December 10, 2026 1PM-4PM
- Send topics for future meetings to:
  - Shakir Iqbal (shakir.iqbal@eversource.com)
  - Tony Morreale (tmorreale@ligconsultants.com)