TSRG Survey Results

August 19, 2021

The Massachusetts Technical Standards Review Group

Participation

Issued to all on TSRG mailing list

Received 30 responses

Unitil	Industria Engineering	Solar Store of Greenfield
Eversource	Zero-Point Development	PathZERO Energy
National Grid	Mass DOER	Sunrun
GridEdge Networks	LIG Consultants	Nexamp
IREC	RLC Engineering	Pope Energy
Distributed Solar Development	Zapotec Energy	Avid Solar

Preferred Meeting Cadence

Answer	%	Count
Current practice – 4 times per year	46.67%	14
Increase to 6 times per year (every other month)	40.00%	12
Increase to 12 times per year (monthly)	13.33%	4
Total	100%	30

Action

Maintain current practice of 4 times per year, with off-cycle topic specific working group meetings

Future Topics

Rank	Topic	Average Score
1	Area Networks	4.95
2	Update of technical requirements of tariff screens	3.1
3	Dynamic modeling (software, standards, real world examples, etc)	2.81
4	Control of dispatchable assets such as ESS	2.71
5	IEEE 1547 implementation	2.71

Other Topics

- DERMS / Active Resource Mgmt
- ESS dispatch & control
- GridMod coordination with Customer DER
- Mitigating saturation with managed load
- PSCAD modeling
- 8760 Feeder Data
- Short Circuit Fault Modeling
- HC Map Priorities
- Modeling grid support benefits in studies
- SMART program updates
- Customer experience for service upgrades
- Simplified Pre-App
- Technical data requirements
- Clean Peak alignment

Action

Establish working groups on each topic according to rank.

Group discussion at quarterly meetings with presentations by the working group

Interconnection Process Improvements

Rank	Topic	Average Score
1	Alignment with incentive programs such as SMART or Clean Peak	4.9
2	Study costs	4.65
3	Construction durations	4.3
4	Clarity and detail in Impact Study Results	4.3
5	Construction costs	4.25
6	Technical / Data Requirements	3.85
7	Study Duration Timeline	3.4

Other Topics

- Ongoing DER O&M responsibilities
- Proposal & study of NWAs
- Existing DER changes
- Cost Allocation

Action

A joint utility group for discussion on policy related items is currently being established, which will capture above issues

Suggestions

Based on other jurisdiction experience

Impact Study

- ***Allow developers to perform pre-impact studies from qualified engineering consultants.***
  - Not replacing EDC impact study; Performed at developer's risk & cost
  - Allows developer to walk away from sites that fail study criteria, and the EDCs receive fewer low-probability applications to process
- ***Increased collaboration during impact studies.***
  - Enablement of independently owned NWA through EDC control of assets.

Technology

- ***Consider new technologies to address technical challenges***
  - Review at least one technology/concept annually
  - Utilize working groups for review and/or invite speakers/companies.
- ***Leveraging energy storage (FTM, BTM, Utility-owned) to mitigate system upgrades, improve DG capacity and improve service quality***
  - How to use advanced inverter functions, remotely dispatched, in lieu of some system upgrades.

Suggestions

Based on other jurisdiction experience

Other

- ***EDC focus with DPU & ISO-NE on long term (20-30 yr) T & D system upgrades to meet 2025 & 2030 CECP targets and legislated 2050 emission reductions requirements.***
- ***Oversight from DPU and technical expertise on each topic***
- ***Use shared online file folders (google drive, drop box) to better understand work underway within subgroups.***

Action

For suggestions based on customer experience in other jurisdictions, please provide references of where the concept has been successfully implemented for use as a baseline of what could be done in MA.

Suggestions - *Common Guidelines*

"reference guide to identify areas of commonality & differences among the Utilities"

- ***Add and/or enhance Common Guideline sections on:***
  - Export limiting
  - Technical data requests
  - Study methodology
  - Ride through settings/parameters
  - Moderate vs Significant change criteria
  - External disconnect requirements for small PV
  - Protective relay requirements for BTM
  - Data communication standards
  - Formatting and presentation of construction schedules
- ***Share combined technology (DG, ESS, heat pump, EV, etc) success stories***
- ***Enhance information sharing on EDC experience with new technologies***

Action

Utilities to draft sections for above and share with group for comment.

Language on certain topics may be dependent on working group outcomes.