

ITWG Notes 6/21/16

General Announcements

- There was an announcement on the upcoming Ombudsman's meeting and the soon to be developed [Interconnection Policy Working Group](#) under the Ombudsman group. Participation interest in the group is needed by 6/27/16. One item that Ombudsman group is presently looking at is study format harmonization. Expect info to be handed over to the ITWG. Mike Worden stated if any party has issues with DG, they need to first bring them to the attention of the NY State DG Ombudsman group.
- There is a DPS DG website on SIR Inventory (<http://www3.dps.ny.gov/W/PSCWeb.nsf/All/286D2C179E9A5A8385257FBF003F1F7E?OpenDocument>) where DG application queue information is posted. Summary data on SIR process is updated and ITWG meeting notes and other information is also posted (<http://www3.dps.ny.gov/W/PSCWeb.nsf/All/DEF2BF0A236B946F85257F71006AC98E?OpenDocument>).
- The DPS hired a consulting firm ([Pterra Consulting](#)) to investigate technical aspects of utility practice in regards to distributed generation.
- The DPS is starting to accept changes to the next revision of the SIR so feel free to provide comments.

ITWG Guidance Document

- Guidance document needs to encompass all DG technologies, including storage
- Guidance document shall identify that solar is initial focus, but eventually may include other DG technologies in the discussions.
- Membership to the ITWG will also evolve and be flexible as other DG technologies are brought into the discussion topics
- Changes to the interconnection policies need to be discussed in this group. Guidance document will need to be updated and evolve with the group into future discussions and topics
- All topics shall be discussed and vetted through the group toward consensus. Only if consensus can't be arrived at will the ITWG CO-Chair's and DPS make final decisions.
- Revised draft of Guidance document will be sent to group for final edits before final version is posted to DPS web site.

Technical Guidance Matrix

Changes to the guidance matrix should be reflected in a change log so you don't have to read through the entire matrix to find them.

- Potentially move from discussion regarding "current practice" to discussing and agreeing upon a "best practice"
- Changes could also be just a note made in the minutes or agenda for the following meeting.
- More details regarding utility policies have been requested by developers
 - i.e.: DTT might be required
 - What is the utilities policy to determine if it is actually required?
 - Even on a case by case basis, there must be some criteria used to determine whether or not protection is required.
- More clarity regarding the guidelines for the amount of allowable backfeed.

- Not all utilities are explicit regarding the number.
 - What is the process after the screen is failed?
- Developers want more transparency, not more restrictive language.
 - If the policy is that there is no policy and is a case by case basis, then this should be clearly stated.
- Send this document out so all participants can send in their comments.
 - Include a deadline so we can put together all of the proposed changes and finalize the document.
 - **Deadline for comments July 20th**
 - Once the matrix is edited, the DPS will post this document to the DPS DG ITWG website. The present matrix will not be incorporated into the current SIR. When updates are performed, it is requested that a notification be given at the next ITWG meeting briefly describing the changes. The DPS expects utilities to be formulating study responses to align with this technical matrix.

Risk of Islanding studies are argued a significant level of risk by the utilities, but the developers disagree with the magnitude of the risk involved in the studies.

- If the developer would like to pay for the study, would the utilities be willing to conduct it, if they haven't offered before?
 - A case like this could go through the Ombudsperson process

Borrego Solar wants to start moving toward these Detailed Risk of Islanding Studies

- What would be a reasonable cost?

In the guidance matrix: in addition to typical cost, there should be a line for timeline on the construction side of things.

- Good faith time estimates, not a commitment in any way.

Why was residential/nonresidential chosen for the determinant of the SANDIA screens?

- Why not a size limit?
 - Residential/nonresidential are terms from the SIR and are relevant classifiers that take into account meter type and project size.

Everybody in this group should be well versed in the SIR.

- We expect that everyone take initiative to familiarize with the SIR document
- We don't need to be constantly creating "cliff's notes" regarding the SIR.

Question: Residential DG already on the system being taken into consideration for the determination of peak load – is it being counted twice (reduction of peak load, light load conditions)

- Future meeting discussion with data

Joint Utilities Presentation

Monitoring and Control

Audrey Zibelman says that the DSPs have to have a high level of monitoring and control. It's a REV objective and looking at it now takes us a step closer to where we need to be in the future.

JU Approach

- There will be different requirements for PV projects 1MW and above or less than 1MW
 - Can we better define these requirements?
 - The solar developers would like to put these criteria into an easy to follow matrix.
- Utilities are currently evaluating future PV control approaches
- A stakeholder engagement group related to M&C will commence on July 14, which will inform the Supplemental DSIP filing on 11/1.

Cyber Security

Not currently centered on PV or on inverters. It's focused from Transmission downward.

JUs Experience with new SIR

Received a few pre-applications

- Some follow up questions, not a lot.

Developers' perspective

- Might be overly optimistic to say that the new SIR takes care of the majority of the queueing issue going forward
 - It will probably be helpful once the backlog is cleared out, but for now it is too early to tell the effect it will have on the future of the applications
- There is still the issue of upgrade costs: holding out for a project earlier in the queue than yours to pay the upgrade cost to significantly reduce the cost for the project.
 - This is one of the primary issues that has led, and continues to effect, the excessive queue that we are trying to manage.
 - Clustering studies and sharing the cost for relevant projects could help to address this issue.
- The new SIR requires utilities to notify the applicant that a CESIR is required, and they have 10 business days to respond.
 - The concern here is that they can respond within 10 business days just to hold their spot in the queue since there is no deadline for CESIR payment.

Preliminary report results under new SIR, in some early reports:

- Screen C, some reports came back with a "yes/no".
 - This was recognized and corrected since.

Standardizing the template for CESIR reports is going to be a task for the Ombudsman platform

- Would this be more suitable for the ITWG platform due to the technical nature of the CESIR results/report?
- We have consultants now to assist with the technical side of things, and tasks that begin at a high level will be pushed down through to a more technical analysis.

!!!Low conversion rate for pre-applications is not necessarily a bad thing...These are projects that could very well have been projects of the type that would clog up the queue, but have found a much better place to sit stagnant or move forward at a slow pace.

Opt in policy for existing projects with the new SIR?

- The Interconnections Policy Working Group will be working on a straw proposal for queue management.
 - They are taking a formal approach to including as many ideas into consideration as possible.

What should be in the SIR vs. What should be kept separate?

- Updating the SIR requires the commission for updates and is a timely process, so higher level information is critical to avoid constant and painstaking changes
- Technical guidance document will assist in the more frequently changing specifics of interconnections.

Scheduling going forward

- Agenda items
 - Matrix
 - Control and Monitoring
 - Smart inverters
 - Power factor
 - Volt/Var (Could potentially be a whole morning session)
 - Presentation should be made by industry experts who are vendor agnostic
- Dates
 - August - December?
 - August for a webinar developed by a consultant
 - Mid September for next in person
 - Second week November in person meeting