

STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 14-M-0101 - In the Matter of Reforming the Energy Vision.

CASE 15-M-0180 - Regulation and Oversight of Distributed Energy
Resource Providers and Products

CASE 14-M-0224 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to
Enable Community Choice Aggregation Programs

NOTICE OF TECHNICAL CONFERENCE REGARDING CUSTOMER AND AGGREGATED
ENERGY DATA PROVISION AND RELATED ISSUES

(Issued November 3, 2015)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Staff will convene an on-the-record technical conference on Wednesday, December 16, 2015, at 10:30 A.M to discuss access to customer and aggregated energy data and related issues, and explore actions the Commission may take on these issues in furtherance of REV objectives.

Commission action may be taken in any or all of the above captioned cases. The purpose of the technical conference is to obtain additional information on providing consumers, vendors, and local planners, access to energy consumption information, to advance REV goals including improved energy management in homes, large buildings and communities. The specific issues to be addressed are detailed below.

We anticipate multiple technical conferences as part of the REV initiative, to obtain information to assist the Commission in resolving issues raised in these and related dockets. These technical conferences are expected to focus on implementation issues. For example, an additional technical conference on customer and aggregated energy data and related issues may also be scheduled.

The on-the-record technical conference will take place at the New York State Department of Public Service's Albany Offices, 19th Floor Boardroom, Three Empire State Plaza. Video

conferencing will be available from the New York City and Buffalo Offices.¹

Written comments are not required. Parties choosing to submit comments addressing the issues identified below, are invited to do so by December 30, 2015. Parties choosing to submit comments should do so by e-filing through DMM,² or by e-mail to the Secretary at secretary@dps.ny.gov. If unable to file electronically, parties may make submissions by post or hand delivery to the Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary, Three Empire Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350. All comments received will be posted to the Commission's website and become an official part of the case record.

Parties may express interest in making a brief presentation at the technical conference on one of the topics identified below by contacting Ms. Amanda Mulhern at 518-473-5267, or Amanda.Mulhern@dps.ny.gov, by November 16, 2015. A detailed agenda for the technical conference will be issued thereafter.

(SIGNED)

KATHLEEN H. BURGESS
Secretary

¹ If you plan to attend the Buffalo or New York City location, please e-mail Sandra Bruce at Sandra.Bruce@dps.ny.gov by no later than December 14, 2015 to comply with security arrangements. Locations of offices: New York City, 90 Church St. New York, NY 10007; and Buffalo office, Ellicott Square Bldg., 295 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14203.

² To register with DMM, go to <http://www.dps.ny.gov/efile/registration.html>.

Technical Conference on Access to Customer and Aggregated Energy Data

Topics

The issues to be addressed at the Technical Conference are identified below. Each section outlines a specific topic relating to access to customer and aggregated energy data, explains why the Commission should consider action to advance the goals of REV, and identifies preliminary questions for discussion at the technical conference.

Overview

Information about energy consumption can enable consumers, building owners and local planners, to improve energy management in homes, large buildings and communities. It can also help vendors including energy services companies (ESCOs) and distributed energy resource suppliers (DERS) develop tailored energy and energy-related products and services for consumers.

The Technical Conference will explore actions the Commission may take to facilitate access to customer energy data, both customer-specific and aggregated data, to advance the goals of REV.

1) Enabling customers to share their energy use data with vendors they choose.

Consumers should have ready access to their energy usage information and should be able to easily share that information with vendors they select. This will facilitate consumer engagement with ESCOs and DER vendors as well as the ability of ESCOs and DER vendors to provide tailored products.

Consideration will be given to requiring utilities to implement a uniform protocol to provide this capability to consumers, which is secure, easy to use, and reflects standards which allow vendors to develop applications to use that data. The data should include information known to the utility, which enables a vendor to prepare an offer reflecting customer-specific information including customer name and other identifying information, energy usage history, energy bill history, and load profile. One protocol to be considered is Green Button Connect.

Q. Are there protocols or alternatives to Green Button Connect that should be considered, and if so, what are the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative?

- Q. Should vendors seeking to be provided customer data through Green Button Connect, or an alternative protocol, be considered a Distributed Energy Resource Supplier, as defined in Staff's Proposal in Case 15-M-0180?³ If so, which, if any, of the rules proposed by DPS Staff in that proceeding should not be applicable to vendors seeking to obtain customer data through the Green Button Connect or alternative protocol? If vendors seeking to be provided data through Green Button Connect or an alternative protocol should not be subject to the rules developed in Case 15-M-0180, what requirements or oversight should be applicable to those vendors?
- Q. Pursuant to the Uniform Business Practices, Section 4(E), utilities may not charge ESCOs for providing customer-specific information including energy consumption history used to market to or enroll customers. Should that requirement also be applicable to customer-specific information provided to ESCOs and other vendors via Green Button Connect or an alternative?
- Q. What other implementation issues regarding Green Button Connect or an alternative, should be addressed and how should they be resolved?
- 2) Providing aggregate energy data to third parties including municipalities for purposes of Community Choice Aggregation and community planning.**

Aggregate customer and usage data is required for ESCOs and developers to prepare informed bids for Community Choice Aggregation projects. The Commission is expected to address issues including the data to be provided, the timing of the data transmission, and whether fees may be charged for that data, in Case 14-M-0224.

³ Case 15-M-0180, Regulation and Oversight of Distributed Energy Resource Providers and Products, Staff Proposal, July 28, 2015. Under that proposal, vendors seeking to obtain customer data through tools authorized by the Commission would be required to submit an application for review and approval by DPS Staff, and abide by requirements including safeguarding customer-specific information and complying with marketing standards. Vendors which do not comply with those rules, may have their authority to obtain customer data through this and/or other tools authorized by Commission revoked.

Aggregate, service classification-specific customer and usage data, including load profile information, would also facilitate enhanced community energy planning including by assisting communities in setting energy targets and assessing progress. It would also enhance engagement of communities in energy use and management decisions. Utilities have provided this aggregated data to municipalities on an ad hoc basis, without charge.

Some utilities also provide aggregated energy consumption information for an entire building, to building managers or owners. Con Edison's tariff specifies the charges for providing this information, whereas some other utilities do not charge for providing this information.

- Q. How can utilities prepare and provide electronic access to customer data aggregated by municipality in a standard format, in an efficient manner?
- Q. Should utilities be permitted to charge municipalities or other third parties for providing this aggregate data? If so, why, and how should those charges be determined?
- Q. Should the Commission consider a privacy standard to ensure customer anonymity when aggregate energy data is released to third parties without customer consent? If so, what rule should be adopted? Rules adopted in other jurisdictions include a "15/15 rule" under which a minimum of 15 customers are included in aggregate data with no one customer's load exceeding 15 percent of the group's energy consumption, and a "4/80 rule" requiring data from a minimum of four customers to be added as long as no one customer's load exceeds 80 percent of the group's energy consumption.
- Q. What other issues regarding providing aggregate customer data to third parties should be addressed and how should they be resolved?