

## Massachusetts Interconnection Implementation Review Group (IIRG) Meeting Notes

<b>Date:</b>	October 12, 2023	Meeting held as part of the Interconnection Implementation Review Group (IIRG) for discussion on issues related to the DG interconnection process in Massachusetts. Meeting minutes are outlined below. If there are any corrections, additions, or omissions please notify the preparer.
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### Members

First Name	Last Name	Email	Affiliation	Organization	Status	Present
Kate	Tohme	<a href="mailto:ktohme@newleafenergy.com">ktohme@newleafenergy.com</a>	Developer	New Leaf Energy	Member (Co-Chair)	Y
Michael	Porcaro	<a href="mailto:michael.porcaro@nationalgrid.com">michael.porcaro@nationalgrid.com</a>	EDC	National Grid	Member (Co-Chair)	Y
John	Bonazoli	<a href="mailto:bonazoli@unitil.com">bonazoli@unitil.com</a>	EDC	Unitil	Member	Y
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Tim	Snyder	<a href="mailto:tsnyder@necec.org">tsnyder@necec.org</a>	Advocate	NECEC	Advisory Panel	Y
Sky	Stanfield	<a href="mailto:stanfield@smwlaw.com">stanfield@smwlaw.com</a>	Developer	Interstate Renewable Energy Council	Advisory Panel	Y
Sarah	Cullinan	<a href="mailto:scullinan@masscec.com">scullinan@masscec.com</a>	Advocate	MassCEC	Advisory Panel	N

### Mission Statement:

Scope of the IIRG is limited to Distributed Generation (DG) interconnection in Massachusetts and processes overseen by the DPU. Topics discussed by the group may tangentially relate to other elements, however each substantive topic must be centrally focused on its relation the state's DG interconnection processes outlines in the DG Interconnection Tariff. Recommendations from the group shall focus on process recommendations to the DPU for processes under their purview.

Additional information is available at the group website here:

<https://gridforce.my.site.com/s/article/Interconnection-Implementation-Review-Group>

Massachusetts TSRG System Impact Study Sub-Group Meeting Notes

October 12, 2023

- Reviewed history of DPU dockets related to DG interconnection processes
- Reviewed general group procedures and charter
  - In advance of each meeting, Co-Chairs will give the members opportunity for agenda items. Comments from membership and advisory council are always welcome
  - [Michael.porcaro@nationalgrid.com](mailto:Michael.porcaro@nationalgrid.com); [ktohme@newleafenergy.com](mailto:ktohme@newleafenergy.com)
- Concern of the TSRG overlap
  - Suggested that each item be put to a vote if we should push to TSRG
  - Some items will have clearer distinctions to go to TSRG
  - Suggested utilizing SMEs from TSRG as appropriate instead of deferring altogether to TSRG
  - **Action Item: Members to propose language to the Charter**
- Reviewed timing of topics to be approx. 3 months or 3-4 meetings
  - Suggested that this might not be sufficient in some cases, however the group does need to keep topics manageable and keep forward progress
  - Topics can be framed broadly, then phased to achieve narrower scope
  - **Action Item: Members to propose language to Charter**
- DPU Ombudsperson interaction
  - Group is able to reach out to Ombudsperson as needed.
    - Group to discuss any interaction necessary and Co-Chairs will perform the outreach
  - **Action Item: Co-Chairs to submit**
    - **Substantive topic list with timeline expectations for first topic**
    - **Request confirmation of group expectations, level of interaction with Ombudsperson, and topic summary details**
- Substantive topic list
  - Each item needs clear definition to ensure group alignment on the ask.
  - Immediate topics require more granular detail while others further down the list can be less granular but must still be clear and precise in the ask (not overly broad).
  - Current list

Priority	Topic Title	Topic Description
1	Simplified Process Revision	Revisions to the simplified process, including those previously discussed at the TSRG
2	Distribution System Impact Studies	Distribution impact study timelines and costs; including implementation of approved CIPs and streamlining of impact studies for enabled DG applicants
3	System Modification Costs	Utilizing technological innovations to lower infrastructure upgrade costs
4	Increase Transparency	Optimizing and making the interconnection process more predictable, including improving overall communication and information sharing between utilities, local AHJs and solar companies <b>Suggested to change to refine quantification of projects in (or behind) Group Studies, and monthly reporting of such.</b>
5	Expedited Process Revision	Revisions to the expedited process, focusing on screening, study requirements and expedited process eligibility
6	Hosting Capacity Maps	Revising hosting capacity map requirements to include queue information <b>Suggested to make this a sub-topic of #4</b>
7	TSRG-IIRG Alignment	Aligning TSRG and IIRG operating procedures
8	Area Networks	Discuss processes and approaches to increase opportunity for DER penetration in downtown area networks

- Discussed the concept of subgroups as a means to tackle topics in parallel
  - Point made that the intent of the IIRG would be to tackle pointed issues one at a time, so subgroups may not be necessary/appropriate to effectively drive the group as a whole
  - **Action Item: Members to propose charter language if desired**
- Began discussion on Topic #1, Simplified Process Revisions
- **Issue Definition:**

## Massachusetts TSRG System Impact Study Sub-Group Meeting Notes

- Revisions to the simplified process, including those previously discussed at the TSRG.
- **Specific Group Ask:**
  - Screening criteria update; includes elimination of screen #2, 15%
  - Export definitions and export capacity considerations; UL1741 CRD power control systems as a means of regulating export
  - Increased capacity size to qualify for Simplified to 60kW (25kW export single phase, 50kW nameplate; 60kW export 3 phase, 120kW nameplate); consider queue implications to other projects
  - Planning process for EDCs to perform a study when substantial aggregate simplified have connected (using simplified study rate); simplified study rate would cover moderate system modifications and be used toward the EDC aggregate studies as needed
  - Shared common system modification fee 20-75 (which has been closed per 20-75C, deferred to ESMP process)
  - Procedural question for the DPU – for green and yellow
  - Consider incorporation of ESS into simplified system designs
  - Consider timelines for screening review
  - Closeout procedures; stand alone-interconnection considerations;
  - Better alignment across companies on single parcel rule