

# Memo



**To:** Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council  
**From:** EERMC Consultant Team  
**CC:** Nathan Cleveland  
**Date:** October 14, 2021  
**Subject:** Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement Technical Working Group Updates

CONSULTANT TEAM

National Grid's Energy Efficiency (EE) Technical Working Group (TWG) and System Reliability Procurement (SRP) TWG recently convened to discuss and gather feedback on relevant EE and SRP topics. The following intends to provide a high-level update regarding issues addressed in each meeting. Additional information about the TWGs is on National Grid's website<sup>1</sup> as well as upon request.

## 1. ENERGY EFFICIENCY TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

### a) August Meeting (8/26)

- National Grid provided an interim update on the 2022 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan. The interim update included a summary of the approach for reviewing and responding to stakeholder comments, a review of trends for the system benefit charge (SBC), an initial summary of anticipated rate and bill impacts (which were not available in the first draft), responses to a selection of stakeholder comments (including high-level and sector specific comments), and the plan for including recommendations coming out of the Energy Efficiency Equity Working Group (EE EWG).
- Stakeholders recommended that additional information be provided in the presentation of the increase in the SBC and the rate and bill impact models.
- Stakeholders raised concerns around the Plan being developed with a constrained budget and the lack of information provided to show what savings are being left on the table.
- Stakeholders noted that it was not clear how often National Grid would provide updates on the commitments that came out of the EE EWG recommendations. Stakeholders recommended that National Grid at minimum provide updates in the quarterly reports.
- Stakeholders referenced the RI Grows CHP project and raised concerns about what National Grid would do if the project was not approved or did not move forward. National Grid indicated that they were in the process of developing a contingency plan.

### b) September Meeting (9/24)

- National Grid acknowledged that Stakeholders would not be signing on as settling parties on the Plan and asked if Stakeholders wanted to provide any additional thoughts.
- Stakeholders noted that their primary concerns were around not feeling like they had enough information to make an informed decision about whether or not the Plan is optimally cost-effective and optimally developed. Stakeholders agreed that the regulatory process would allow the additional information to be shared amongst the parties.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nationalgridus.com/ri-energy-efficiency-technical-working-group>

## **2. SYSTEM RELIABILITY PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP**

### **a) August Meeting (8/18)**

- The August SRP TWG agenda focused on general updates, non-pipe alternative program development, summaries of two recent non-wires alternative (NWA) projects, and a brief discussion of upcoming steps in SRP.
- Most of the stakeholder discussion was focused on the recent NWA projects. One area that was covered was about bids that National Grid received where they had concerns about the vendor's customer acquisition plan.
- National Grid confirmed that they received a total of five bids on the two recent NWA projects and that all were rejected because they were either not technically viable or not economically viable.
- Stakeholders asked National Grid to share more of its internal analysis on the NWA projects and bids review.

### **b) September Meeting(9/15)**

- The September SRP meeting was a shorter meeting with an agenda focused on general updates, the RI System Data Portal, a review of 2021 SRP commitments, and a brief discussion of upcoming steps in SRP.
- NPA program development continues and is planned for review at the October SRP TWG.
- Further discussion on NWA internal analyses expected in coming months, with potential to circle back to this topic for a future TWG meeting.
- Most 2021 SRP commitments are either completed or ongoing by their nature.
- There is potential for an additional technical session with the PUC regarding SRP.
- An open solicitation for presentations from members was shared.
- National Grid asked members whether any small business and C&I organizations they are aware of might be interested in joining the SRP TWG.