

Memo



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

To: Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council
From: EERMC Consultant Team
CC: Office of Energy Resources
Date: February 17, 2022
Subject: Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement Technical Working Group Updates

CONSULTANT TEAM

National Grid's Energy Efficiency (EE) and System Reliability Procurement (SRP) Technical Working Groups (TWG) meet throughout the year to discuss and gather feedback on relevant EE and SRP topics. The following intends to provide a high-level update regarding recent activity with these meetings. Additional information about the TWGs is available on National Grid's website¹ as well as upon request.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Following their filing of the 2022 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan ("the Plan"), National Grid informed EE TWG members via an e-mail on October 20th that they would not be hold meetings through the remainder of the 2021 calendar year due to upcoming proceedings on the Plan at the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

SYSTEM RELIABILITY PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

October 20th Meeting

- Non-Pipeline Alternative (NPA) program update, including discussion of Open Market Solicitation and NYSEERDA Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) program experience
- NPA Website officially launched
- RI System Data Portal enhancement to include zip codes associated with electric distribution feeders, enhancing locational information in the feeder Heat Map
- Standalone separate meeting on same day covering initial analysis approaches developed by National Grid to assess internal solar and targeted EE/DR resources as Non-Wires Alternative (NWA) solutions. Strong discussion took place including clear next steps for analysis and commitment to reconvene for further discussion once updated analysis ready for review.

November 17th Meeting

- Update regarding the Rhode Island Public Utility Commission planned Technical Session covering SRP scheduled for November 30th, 2021
- Review of NPA program development process
- Introduction to CommerceRI, who gave a presentation introducing themselves, much like other members did earlier in the year
- Update on RI System Data Portal's Hosting Capacity map, which had more refined nodal data added in October

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

January 19th Meeting

- Follow up meetings to review improved solar and storage and targeted EE/DR NWA resource opportunities took place earlier in January, and showed significant methodological improvements in both cases. Agreement to continue to refine methodologies moving forward, but also that the current approach is ready for testing with future NWA opportunities.
- NPA program development update, including review status of each milestone from the NPA program development cycle covering 2021-2023.
- Review of SRP Data requests, including comparing and contrasting NWA and NPA proposal review processes
- Status update on 2021-2023 SRP Plan commitments

FUTURE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS AND COUNCIL UPDATES

The National Grid team has indicated that they intend to re-examine and potentially restructure the EE and SRP TWG meeting series in 2022. Specifically, on February 8th, 2022 National Grid distributed a meeting invitation for March 24, 2022, which included an explanation of the current proposed approach:

Energy Efficiency Technical Working Group Members, this is the calendar of 2022 EE TWGs. Due to the sale to PPL, we're sending one meeting invite for March, with the rest forthcoming. The meeting series will be reissued with new information after the sale. The schedule of meetings for this series is below, with meetings generally on the fourth Thursday of the Month from 9-11 AM, except where adjusted.

TWG Calendar for 2022:

- Thursday, March 24
- Thursday, April 28
- Thursday, May 26
- Thursday, June 23
- Thursday, July 28
- Thursday, August 25
- Friday, September 30 – adjusted date

National Grid has also indicated that they plan to distribute a survey in February to current and prospective EE TWG members to begin collecting stakeholder priorities for the 2023 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan. Once full clarity for both the EE and SRP TWGs has been achieved for the balance of calendar year 2022, the C-Team intends to adapt the cadence of Council TWG update memos accordingly.