RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF ENERGY RESOURCES &
DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

Power Sector Transformation: Stakeholder Meeting on Distribution System Planning

August 16, 2017
Will shape the ongoing transformation of the electric grid to achieve three policy objectives:

- Control the long-term costs of the electric system: **system efficiency**
- Build a flexible grid to integrate more clean energy generation: **system flexibility**
- Give customers more energy choices: **customer choice**
PLANNING WILL EVOLVE BECAUSE CUSTOMERS CAN HELP MEET GRID NEEDS

Then

- The Utility’s Charge
  - Safe, reliable electric service

- Distribution System Planning
  - Identify Needs & Recommend Solutions
  - By Utility

Now

- Safe, reliable electric service & optimized deployment of resources

- Reveal Value & Source Solutions
  - By Utility customers & the marketplace
DSP NOTICE OF INQUIRY

How do key elements of DSP evolve?

- I.e., forecasting demand, power flow analysis, solution identification, hosting capacity analysis

How transparent should DSP be?

- Who might use DSP (system and customer) data? What data is needed and in what format? What are data access and security considerations?

What should the DSP process look like?

- How should users gain insight into DSP and how should DSP be coordinated with existing filings?
MAJOR TAKE-AWAYS FROM NOI RESPONSES

- All elements of DSP will need to evolve
- Increased access to system and customer data will facilitate better decision-making
- Increased DSP transparency is beneficial

- **Data access** standards and sharing procedures are key
- **Heat maps** and **hosting capacity** maps should be developed
- **Forecasting** should take into account DER
- **DSP process** should offer more transparency
PROPOSED DSP WORKSTREAM OUTPUTS

- RI System Data Portal
- RI Data Access & Governance Policy
- Heat Maps & Hosting Capacity Maps
- Include Forecasts
- Align Planning Processes

Potential Regulatory Paths

- Rate Case
- Infrastructure, Safety & Reliability Plan
- System Reliability Procurement Plan
National Grid has created a collection of maps to help customers, contractors and developers identify potential project sites. The map provides the location and specific information for selected electric transmission lines, distribution lines and associated substations within the National Grid service NY electric service area. National Grid’s electric system is dynamic. System configurations can change for a variety of reasons both planned and unplanned. National Grid will update the contents on a periodic basis so be aware that the same location may show different information over time. Information in this portal is current as of 4/10/2017.

Please note that the portal and maps are not a guarantee that generators can interconnect at any particular time and place. A number of factors drive the ability and cost of interconnecting distributed generation to the electric system and actual interconnection requirements and costs will be determined following detailed studies. These studies will consider your specific project location, operating characteristics and timing. Additionally, environmental and other required permits are independent of our interconnection process and may limit the suitability of a particular site.

Detailed information on this process can be found at: https://www9.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/business/energyeff/4_interconnection.asp
access their own usage and billing data in an easily-organized and standard format

- Customers should be able to authorize third party access to their data
- The utility should make certain system data and aggregated/anonymized customer data available to the public
- The utility should be able to charge market rates in exchange for developing and providing “value-added” data

- Types of data & format
- What is “value-added”? 
- Process for requests
- Dispute resolution
- Updates
- Method of delivery
- Privacy / security
HEAT MAPS & HOSTING CAPACITY MAPS
INCLUDE FORECASTS
ALIGN PLANNING PROCESSES FOR DSP, CAPITAL, & NWA

- Full integration of partial NWA opportunities
- Engagement of DER providers earlier in the DSP process
- All DSP regulatory processes informed by increasing analytic capabilities
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PLANNING NEXT STEPS

- DSP Work Stream Initial Proposals Document released Tuesday, August 15th
- Responses requested by Friday, September 1st
- Submit by electronic mail to dpuc.powertransformation@dpuc.ri.gov

http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/utilityinfo/electric/PST_home.html