



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Power Sector Transformation

Grid Connectivity and Capabilities Work Stream

Advanced Grid Capabilities and Questions for Stakeholders

August 20, 2017

Many of the new technologies and services that have the potential to give customers greater control over the electric usage, to create a more flexible electrical system and to enable more clean energy resources depend upon meters that can communicate automatically with a central data system and provide many kinds of data about the time and type of electrical usage. The questions below solicit stakeholder input on many aspects of advanced meter functionality.

In response to technical meetings held on May 9th, June 15th and July 31st, stakeholders are invited to provide responses to the following questions. Stakeholders may choose to respond to a selection of the questions. Responses should be submitted by email by September 8th, 2017.

- 1) Utility proposals for advanced meter functionality and distribution automation should seek to achieve a defined list of capabilities. Please review the accompanying list of capabilities and provide any comment on the completeness of the chart, the accuracy of the definitions, and the relative importance of each goal and capability within each goal.
- 2) Advanced meter functionality can enable a wide range of system and customer benefits. Please provide any information you may have to help us evaluate the qualitative system and customer benefits from each capability.
- 3) Advanced meters, like any technology, carry risks of becoming obsolete. Please describe ownership and operating models for advanced meters that address the risk of obsolescence.
- 4) Please describe any complementary measures necessary to ensure that the benefits of advanced meter applications are accessible to all customer classes, especially income eligible.
- 5) Advanced meters offer a platform on which the utility, or a third party, can provide software services, such as demand response or energy efficiency. Please provide any information to help design such a platform, including how accessible it should be to multiple providers.
- 6) Development of a shared communications network among existing wireless network operators, the electric utility, and other infrastructure providers can significantly reduce capital costs for ratepayers. Please provide any considerations to inform formation of a shared communications network.