

Integrated Distribution and DER Planning

LAUNCH NOTICE



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The recent publication of proposed Interconnection rules updates in N.J.A.C. 14:8-5 has laid a foundation for a transformation of New Jersey's approach to grid modernization. Following the proposed rules update, The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is implementing a coordinated and collaborative approach to expand the capacity and flexibility of New Jersey's electric distribution system. These efforts accelerate the clean energy transition as envisioned by the Energy Master Plan.¹ Specifically, growing hosting capacity and grid flexibility services to adequately support continuous and cost effective growth of distributed energy resource (DER) interconnection is a pivotal step towards New Jersey's transition to 100% clean energy.

PURPOSE

Concurrent to the interconnection rules update proceedings, the BPU has created a new Grid Modernization Forum (GMF) comprised of expert Workgroups with diverse knowledge bases to tackle the tougher barriers to increasing hosting capacity and grid flexibility. The BPU is currently in the process of recruiting relevant expertise to these Workgroups, which will inform future rulemakings and suggest pilots and demonstration initiatives to advance New Jersey's clean energy efforts.

IDDER Workgroup

The BPU has established the first GMF Workgroup, with the working title: Integrated Distribution and DER System Planning (IDDER). The goal of the IDDER Workgroup is to advance the implementation of a formal requirement for electric distribution companies (EDCs) to file proactive plans outlining their intentions to evolve segments of the distribution grid into more adaptive and flexible distribution systems with higher DER hosting capacities. The Workgroup is debating significant areas of importance to forming the proper request for this filing, including: appropriate grid enhancing technologies; integrated load and generation consideration; potential reconductoring criteria; non-wires alternatives; smart inverters; virtual power plants; enhanced grid visibility and analytics; advanced distribution management systems and DER Management Systems; DER support for enhanced resilience; bi-directional communication infrastructure; and enhanced cybersecurity measures. The resulting Workgroup outputs will better inform EDC and third party investments and efficient capital spending with the goal of expanding distribution system hosting capacity and improving the yield of successfully interconnected DER projects. Please stay tuned to Docket #QO24030199 for further information.



AREAS OF FOCUS

- ▶ Non-wires Alternatives
- ▶ Grid Enhancing Technologies
- ▶ Integrated Load And Generation Consideration
- ▶ Bi-directional Communication Infrastructure
- ▶ Smart Inverters and Virtual Power Plants
- ▶ Enhanced Grid Visibility And Analytics
- ▶ Enhanced Cybersecurity

RESOURCES:

- [Grid Modernization | NJ DCE Website](#)
- [NJBPU Grid Modernization Study Report](#)
- [Docket #QO24030199](#)

For more information, please contact:

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New Jersey's Grid Modernization Forum is facilitated
by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

¹ 2019 Energy Master Plan Executive Order.
nj.gov/emp/docs/pdf/2020_NJBPU_EMP.pdf (Accessed 5/10/2024).