

# **NYS Interconnection Technical Working Group (ITWG)**

## **Mission, Governance & Operations**

January 2021

## **Mission**

The goal of the Interconnection Technical Working Group (ITWG) is to identify, discuss and resolve technical barriers and challenges associated with Distributed Energy Resource (DER) interconnection process and the Standardized Interconnection Requirements (SIR) in New York State in an efficient and effective manner.

The ITWG's goal is to ensure that the necessary policies, procedures, and standards exist to address technical concerns affecting the distributed generation community and associated interconnections. This includes issues that affect all projects, such as renewables (Solar / Wind / Hydro) and other technologies (Energy Storage Systems / CHP / Farm Waste / Fuel Cells) application, review, and approval process.

## **Membership**

The ITWG shall be comprised of member representatives from each group, with titles and roles outlined as follows:

### *1) State Agencies*

- (1) Representative - Dept of Public Service – Co Chair
- (1) Representative - NYSERDA – Co Chair
- (1) Representative - NYPA
- (1) Representative – NYISO

### *2) Electric Utilities*

- (1) Primary and (1) Secondary Representative from each of the Joint Utilities (Central Hudson, Con Edison, National Grid, NYSEG, Orange & Rockland, RGE)
- (1) Primary Representative from LIPA and/or PSEG-LI
- Electric utilities group shall designate a Liaison for the group amongst the selected primary representatives

### 3) DG Industry / Developers

- Industry shall select (5-7) Primary Representatives from the DG Industry
- Industry shall designate a Liaison for the group amongst the selected primary representatives
- Industry shall select Primary Representatives and solicit input as needed from the full cross section of the distributed energy resource (DER) industry including those most impacted by the mission of this group
- Preferably, one of the Industry Representatives would also be a member of NYSEIA and be the Liaison for the group amongst the selected primary representatives.

Alternate Members - Each primary member of the group from the electric utility or DG industry can designate an alternate (secondary) to represent itself or its Company.

Membership Changes - Modifications to the ITWG membership composition shall be discussed as needed at meetings.

It is recommended that the utility and industry representatives have a technical background and/or experience in the area of distributed generation installation and interconnections in general. If needed, specific utility and industry technical experts can be brought in support for specific topic discussions in the group.

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Technical Consultants – Technical consultants (EPRI, Pterra, etc..) often participate in the ITWG meetings and have been used for their technical expertise on specific topics and coming to technical determinations on specific topics within the group.

## **Responsibilities of Members**

Non-Member Participation & Representation - Only core ITWG members shall engage in meeting discussions, unless a non-member has been invited to present or speak as a subject matter expert. For example, the Industry Liaison shall solicit input from the greater distributed generation industry at large as needed, in accordance with planned agenda topics, to ensure their voice and concerns are properly represented.

Attendance - ITWG representatives and alternates will make every attempt to attend all Working Group meetings, to be on-time, and to review all documents disseminated prior to the meeting. If a representative or their alternate cannot attend a meeting, the representative should let one of

the Co-Chair's know prior to the meeting (by telephone or e-mail).

**Information Dissemination** - It is the responsibility of the ITWG representatives and alternates to keep their organizations and other organizations in their clusters informed of developments in the Working Group process.

**Subcommittee Operations** - The ITWG may designate subcommittees on specific topics. These subcommittees will be charged with bringing suggestions, ideas, and perhaps draft products back to the ITWG for discussion.

*Agenda Setting* - Agenda calls amongst the Co-Chairs and utility/industry liaisons will be held prior to each meeting. The topics to be discussed at each meeting will be decided upon by the utility and industry liaisons and administered by the Co-Chairs accordingly. It is the responsibility of the liaisons to communicate and discuss these efforts with their respective groups to ensure the most relevant and important topics are chosen and discussed at each meeting.

## **Decision Making Processes**

1) **Seek Consensus** - The goal of the process will be to make substantive decisions by consensus of the ITWG members, where consensus shall mean that all the representatives (or their alternates in the representative's absence) are at least willing to live with a decision and choose not to dissent. If unable to consent, a representative will be expected to explain the reason for dissenting and to try and offer a positive alternative. Representatives are responsible for voicing their objections and concerns.

2) **Technical Consultancy Support** - In many cases, the technical consultant will be asked to provide and demonstrate its recommendation or position on specific technical subjects where differences of opinions are present between groups. The technical consultant shall elaborate on national best practices and experience.

3) **Final Analysis & Non-Consensus Process** - The ITWG's Final Analysis to the Department of Public Service at the end of the process will identify all areas of consensus and will provide a description of the alternative approaches preferred by Working Group representatives if and where consensus is not reached. In the case of non-consensus issues, the ITWG Co-Chairs will have time allotted to deliberate the subject matter and ultimately the Department of Public Service and/or Public Service Commission will have final say on decisions.