

Minutes of the September 19, 2024 Interconnection Working Group (IWG) Meeting

Attendees:

DER Industry

<u>Name</u>	<u>Company</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Company</u>
Dhruv Patel	NYSEIA	Michael Ruppert	JEM Engineering
Tom Casey	Harvest Power	Dennis Brown	Summit Ridge Energy
Scott Sousa	Sunation	Benjamin Piiru	Nexamp
Renuka Selvaraj	Bloom Energy	Stephen Foley	Sunrise Power Solution
Rainier Solanzo	Bloom	Mark Coles	East Side Solar Holdings
Nachum Sadan	GridEdge Networks	Kurt Feldmann	Eldor

PSEG LI

Name	Company	Name	Company
Scott Brown	PSEG LI	Nicola Montanaro	PSEG LI
Nardeen Rezkalla	PSEG LI	Pete Davie	PSEG LI
John Ng	PSEG LI	Steven Genzardi	PSEG LI
Don Mathew	PSEG LI	German Encalada	PSEG LI
James Domozych	PSEGLI	Tony Ibrahim	PSEG LI
William McMahon	PSEG LI	Reigh Walling	PSEGI Consultant
Christopher Hawks	PSEG LI		
Anie Philip	PSEG LI		
ED Orellana	PSEG LI		
Jakob Hutter	PSEG LI		

DPS /LIPA

Name	Company
Pete Mladinich	LIPA
Jami Nafiul	DPS-LI
Jason Pause	DPS

Introduction

Mr. Brown opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and conducted a roll call.

IWG Compliance Guidelines

Mr. Brown reviewed the Compliance Guidelines with participants, including expectations, procedures, policies, and topics to avoid which are stated in the compliance document.

1. 12:09 PSEGLI – Portal Update on telecommunications - SCADA & DTT

Mr. Brown opened the topic by mentioning that we had a meeting with Verizon to better streamline the interconnection process.

Mr. Brown continued that we have approached Verizon in three ways:

1. By working directly with Verizon to facilitate interconnection
2. Pushing Verizon to take responsibility
3. Also, we have had discussions with LIPA and NYSEIA examining a role where we would take on the intermediary role of arranging telecom interconnection and setting up the billing. PSEGLI stated that it does not see the benefit in doing this.

Mr. Brown mentioned that a wireless solution is also being looked at. Mr. Patel sees that this wireless solution does not solve the issue with getting the account encrypted.

Mr. Foley explained that PSEG allows wireless option with 4G circuit connection however Verizon has this system set up, but Verizon has to order TLS circuit and Wireless circuit and within the ordering process including all equipment as in Router, modem, and such, encryption has to be taken under consideration.

Also Mr. Foley added that the technicians within Verizon that had the knowledge are no longer working for Verizon. He requested, any help to push Verizon would be appreciated.

Mr. Brown responded that PSEGLI already has about three projects that have been completed on the developer side and PSEGLI side, but are only waiting for Verizon.

Mr. Foley confirmed that they have submitted applications and their team is waiting for Verizon if there is SCADA requirements. They have to wait for a long time and often have to spend about three hours on phones, and they don't know who to call if a project is up and running then drops off communications, Verizon won't respond back.

Mr. Brown confirmed that there are projects who may be electrically interconnected, having reached commercial operation but there may now be maintenance issues preventing communications. This is another area in discussion with Verizon for a resolution.

Mr. Patel asked for an update as to why Verizon is facing these issues?

Mr. Brown & Mr. Patel agreed that we will take this case by case providing the PAM numbers to dig behind those issues.

Also Mr. Brown asked Mr. Patel to provide some information sharing basis about people in Verizon to which Mr. Patel agreed will look into it.

Mr. Brown probed the same question to the developers if they are facing similar issues reaching out to the person/team/department that is responsible for any case at hand, are they always the same team handling similar issues every time?

Mr. Foley replied that Verizon seems to have a bit of a turnover as a lot of its implementation teams are overseas (Bangladesh, India, Philippines..) and some of those experts had their contracts terminated, so people are constantly changing.

Mr. Orellana added that the PSEGLI Telecom/Radio Team manages SCADA communications for DER projects, once they are fully commissioned, between the PSEGLI data centers and the application servers. PSEGLI Telecom/Radio is facing similar issues with Verizon staff turnover when working with Verizon to re-establish SCADA communications after a DER is commissioned. He mentioned Verizon can indicate circuit and 4G LTE connections are good, but they need to make sure communication is going back to our PSEGLI Hicksville & Levittown data centers and that SCADA data is visible in the application. PSEGLI doesn't know all the teams that are responsible for resolving tickets because the tickets refer to a number of teams.

Mr. Orellana suggested that we should be clear on whether it is a circuit issue or 4G LTE issue, if not it should be escalated to management to check communication with Router.

Mr. Foley answered when there is an issue with communication, Verizon should be monitoring it but they are sending out notifications to the actual customer who might have no idea what is going on.

Mr. Orellana added that SCADA data responses from the field should arrive at our data centers approximately every 10 seconds because the application is configured to poll every 10 seconds. If TLS fails, it goes to the 4G LTE wireless circuit.

2. 12:41 PSEGLI – Customer Benefit Charge (CBC)

Mr. Brown opened the topic by explaining that after 2022, a customer who installs a new Solar system has to pay the CBC charge. Also, customers who had installed a solar system prior to 2022, but who added onto the system after 2022 were paying a CBC charge. In June, 2024, a new PSC Order stated that whoever installed Solar before 2022 will then be grandfathered if they made additions to their system, meaning they will not pay any CBC charge unless at some point in the future the system is determined to be totally replaced, then they will have to pay the CBC charge.

Mr. Patel asked how many projects we have with this issue.

Mr. Brown replied approximately 400 projects.

Mr. Patel asked which date defines as before 2022.

Mr. Mathew confirmed it to be the COD date.

Mr. Patel asked if customers will be notified.

Mr. Brown confirmed that notifications will definitely go out to the customers and their developers as well.

3. 12:49 PSEGLI – Cost Sharing Review

Mr. Brown opened the topic by mentioning that discussions about cost sharing should be discussed in the IWG meetings moving forward.

Mr. Brown explained that back in 2023, SGIP created new Appendix E, and PSEG conducted a one year review and report for consideration by the working group for projects greater than 50 KW but less than 5 MW.

Mr. Brown added that as of May seven (7) projects completed CESIR studies. In some cases there were 2 projects in the same electrical area and both were assessed cost sharing due to a 3V0. However, if both projects move forward, just one of them will be assigned that initial cost.

Mr. Patel inquired if the triggering project will fund the upgrade.

Mr. Brown responded that the first project will be assigned 25% of the cost & the second project will pay their pro-rata share . So, triggering projects pay 25% and subsequent projects pays the rest. To determine which project pays the initial 25%, its determined by who is the triggering project which may be the date/time that the application is received. In some cases they come from one applicant with two applications attached.

Mr. Coles commented that construction will not start until 25% is paid for the first project

Mr. Patel suggested to Mr. Brown to discuss this more offline in details.

4. 1:06 Industry – Secondary service requirements for on-site solar

Mr. Patel opened the topic asking what the rules for using the existing service are. Reiterating that if there is a large load which is being served by single service. This project will probably need to install new service. So, this new service is listed as an upgrade but we do not know what the rules around using the existing service are.

Mr. Domozych explained that it is a matter of equipment and whether if you are able to tie it to the old equipment like the switch gear.

Mr. Patel commented if the equipment was all the right ones, then he was inquiring if there is no limit given if the CCT is applying for a separate meter not net meter.

Mr. Domozych replied that in many cases you can, but it would be very expensive. Again he said if you want to install a second meter, it will depend on the equipment. Mr. Domozych continued by saying he doesn't see an issue as to why can't we do that.

5. 1:18 Industry – SIR Data set for actual costs and for adding a projects withdrawn category

Mr. Patel opened the topic by saying that National Grid has the largest portfolios and they increase the costs even doubling costs without giving any justification as to why this increase is happening.

Mr. Patel is questioning the values of these estimates. It creates uncertainty under NY. He asked to push what projects are quoted in actual costs for CESIR. He wants to know how much of the actual costs are in line with the estimates. He understands the standard deviation involved within the calculations, and realizes that estimates do not always have to be perfect, but understanding actual costs are needed.

Mr. Patel shared an excel sheet asking about populating column AR which is under the SIR Costs. He is asking for this data starting 2019

Mr. Brown replied that we will have to get final bill and internal discussions will be held to address this area.

6. 1:26 End

Mr. Brown closed the meeting by asking if there were any closing remarks to which none were raised. Mr. Brown concluded that the next IWG meeting will be determined as soon as possible.