



MICROGRID INCENTIVE PROGRAM TOPIC FRAMING DOCUMENT

Workshop #5: Application and Review Process

Background

As described in Joint Advice Letters 3700-E-A, 6098-E-A and 4424-E-A, Workshop #5 (“Application and Review Process”) will feature a discussion about the MIP Application and Review Process. It is the IOUs’ intent to ensure a fair and equitable process that is not overly burdensome on applicants. Topics for consideration include the overall application structure including required fields and timing including review process, and information requirements at the various stages. Finally, if a discussion of project sponsorship and roles was not included in prior workshops, it may be included in this workshop.

Critical Questions for Stakeholders:

To support the development of MIP Application and Review Process and to facilitate a robust dialogue at the workshop, the following questions/issues are offered for stakeholder consideration:

Application Process Considerations

- To seed the discussion, the IOUs will review several existing application and review process models: CEC EPIC grant funding application process, the PG&E Community Microgrid Enablement Program process, and the NY Prize competition process.
- Do we want a single-stage or multi-stage application process? Should the utilities provide technical consultation to entities considering the submission of an incentive application? If so, how should the process work?
 - Considerations: Single stage could lead to “earlier” incentive payment from the point of application but would likely require more upfront work from the applicant. Multi-stage could lead to additional reviews that would need to be completed.
 - Should a community be required to engage the utility prior to submitting an application? What would be the nature of such engagement and how should it be documented?
- How should the utility share information about where resiliency needs presently exist, which specific areas are most prone to outages, what grid projects are already planned in those areas (if any), and where investments in microgrids could be advantageous?
- How will funding be tied to the process stages or steps?
- What contractual requirements may be necessary for the eventual disbursement of funds? E.g. see CEC EPIC Standard Grant Terms and Conditions.



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Information Requirements

- Basic information at project intake (e.g., project description/configuration, proposed islanded customers, project schedule, permitting requirements). Will this vary based on role of the Applicant (e.g. community, technical partner, etc.)?
 - Applicant information (e.g., project team, experience attestation, financial backing).
 - Level/evidence of community support
 - Supporting documentation for eligibility (note: minimum eligibility requirements will be discussed in Workshop #3)
- Information for technical feasibility (e.g., microgrid capabilities, single line diagram, site map, concept of operations)
 - What non-confidential technical information do applicants need to know from the utility to prior to design? For example, would aggregated load data be required?
 - What confidential information and customer private information, if any, does an applicant need to include in its application process so a utility can perform the necessary studies?
 - Note that utilities are not to disclose customer information to third parties without going through proper authorization processes. How should the IOUs incorporate existing processes to obtain information into this program? (e.g. Rule 21 pre-application, Green Button)
- How will applicants justify the estimated costs and/or requested incentive amounts for their proposed microgrid projects? What type of supporting documentation should be submitted?
- Should applicants be required to provide estimated revenue streams for services that are expected to be provided by generators, storage devices and load management technologies within the microgrid perimeter?
 - What type of supporting documentation should be provided with such estimates? How should the utility consider such estimates in determining the amount of incentives to be awarded?

Project Sponsorship and Roles

- Should there be any limitations on the type of entity that can be the microgrid project sponsor/project applicant? (e.g., community organization, an individual, generation developer, owner of a critical public facility)
- Could a community submit an incentive application for a microgrid project without the explicit involvement of a microgrid developer?
- Can a microgrid developer submit an incentive application without the support of the community?
- What is the optimal way to connect targeted communities with industry expertise? Should sponsors be required to demonstrate in their incentive application that they



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have the authority to represent the entities within the perimeter of the proposed microgrid? If so, how should this authority be demonstrated? Should the authority extend to all entities connected within the perimeter of the microgrid, or a subset of those entities?