



WORKSHOP: GRID MODERNIZATION

Mandalay Bay Convention Center
Wednesday, Sept. 13th, 2017

GRID MODERNIZATION AND SOLAR:

What are the Implications for the Future of Net Metering, Speedier Interconnection, and What are the Risks?

8:30 - 9:00 AM

EVENT CHECK-IN & NETWORKING BREAKFAST

A light breakfast will be provided before the workshop begins.

9:00 - 9:10 AM

WELCOME

Sean Gallagher
Vice President of State Affairs, SEIA

9:10 - 9:50 AM

GRID MODERNIZATION: WHAT IS IT AND WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

For many decades electric distribution utilities have been upgrading their systems with new capabilities and better equipment to make their systems safer, more reliable and less costly to operate. But with more customers than ever before producing their own clean power with solar and other distributed energy technologies, energy regulators, electric utilities and solar firms are now faced with new operational conditions as well as new opportunities to save ratepayers money through substituting traditional grid upgrades with DER.

What is happening and where? How should utilities approach these changes to their distribution systems? How will grid modernization impact the solar industry in the future?

MODERATOR

Sean Gallagher
Vice President of State Affairs, SEIA

SPEAKERS

Mark Esguerra
Director of Integrated Grid Planning,
Grid Integration and Innovation,
PG&E

Autumn Proudlove
Manager of Policy Research
NC Clean Energy Technology Center

Ric O'Connell
Executive Director, Grid Lab

9:50 - 10:30 AM

BREAK OUT DISCUSSION

Small groups will have break out sessions to discuss: What interconnection challenges do you face? What do you see coming for net metering in the future?

Small group discussions will be followed by a report out to the larger group.

10:30 - 10:45 AM

NETWORKING BREAK

10:45 - 11:25 AM

UNDERSTANDING THE DISTRIBUTION GRID FOR FASTER AND MORE CERTAIN INTERCONNECTION

A better understanding of the distribution grid will help solar projects, particularly by creating more certainty around the distribution system's ability to interconnect new systems at different locations. Currently developers of larger projects face uncertain prospects for the interconnection costs and timing for their projects: will the developer need to pay for distribution system upgrades? How long will the interconnection process take? Better planning ultimately involves the utilities releasing more granular analyses of system needs such as line-by-line analysis of the ability of the existing grid to incorporate solar systems, often referred to as hosting capacity analysis. Accurate and timely hosting capacity analyses should take a considerable amount of uncertainty and delay out of the interconnection process. It also holds the promise of being able to proactively upgrade the grid or configure solar projects to increase the amount of solar the grid can interconnect.

What is hosting capacity? How is it being developed? How will it shape interconnection?

MODERATOR

Brandon Smithwood

Director of California State Affairs, SEIA

SPEAKERS

Sara Baldwin Auck

Director, Regulatory Program
Interstate Renewable Energy Council

Andrew Hoffman

Sr. Director, Strategy and Market Development
CalCom Solar

Amrita Acharya-Menon

Engineer, Smart Grid & Technology
Pepco

11:30- 12:15 PM

VALUES, RATES, TARIFFS - BECOMING TIME AND LOCATION BASED

Another element of grid modernization involves developing compensation frameworks or rate design reforms to encourage DER providers to build projects in strategic locations. This includes making valuation more dependent on location; developing solicitations, rates, and tariffs to meet needs in areas of the distribution system with identified needs; and potentially modifying underlying tariffs. In areas with high levels of solar deployment, modification of tariffs could include considering reforms to net metering.

What is happening with locational value? What is the state of new “value-based” tariffs today?

MODERATOR

Dave Gahl

Director of State Affairs, SEIA

SPEAKERS

Melissa Kemp

Policy Director, Northeast
Cypress Creek Renewables

Megha Lakhchaura

Director of Public Policy
Sunrun

Margot Everett

Sr. Director of Rates and
Regulatory Analytics
PG&E

Miles Farmer

Clean Energy Attorney
NRDC

12:15- 12:20 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Sean Gallagher

Vice President of State Affairs, SEIA