

JOINT UTILITIES OF NEW YORK

DISTRIBUTED SYSTEM PLATFORM (DSP) ENABLEMENT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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- Forthcoming Joint Utilities website update will offer streamlined access to JU programs and information.
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FEATURED DEVELOPMENTS

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Website: <https://jointutilitiesofny.org/>

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QUICK HITS

- **Commission approves National Grid’s AMI deployment proposal:** On November 20, 2020, the Public Service Commission (“Commission”) approved National Grid’s proposal for the deployment of AMI with certain modifications in the AMI Order. The Order sets a six-year project deployment schedule (2 years of back-office systems followed by 4 years of meter deployment) to begin in the second quarter of 2021. In the AMI Order, the Commission made adjustments to the benefit-cost analysis (“BCA”) and mandated that the Company offer customers data on a reduced latency. The Commission also requested additional filings: an AMI Benefits Implementation Plan which the Company filed on January 19, 2021, and a revised Customer Engagement Plan due May 20, 2021. The Commission’s AMI approval covers costs of roughly \$637 million 20-year net present value with a capital expenditure cost cap of \$475.2 million nominal for the first six-years of deployment.
- **Orange & Rockland files Rate Case with focus on reliability and resiliency:** On January 29, 2021 Orange and Rockland filed for NYPSC regulatory review of its electric delivery rates to be effective January 2022. O&R recognizes that in the clean energy future, customers will increase their dependence on electricity as an essential service to provide for heating and transportation as well as for power and cooling. This will drive an increase in the importance of even greater reliability and resiliency for the transmission and distribution systems --- both critical goals of this request for regulatory rate review. The filing emphasizes climate leadership, including expanded energy efficiency programs, programs to advance the electrification of heating and electric vehicles, and investments in grid modernization. O&R also is proposing investments to reduce outages, such as storm hardening efforts to expand the automation of the electric distribution system.
- **PSC issues Order Approving Electric and Gas Rate Plans in Accord with NYSEG, RG&E and other parties’ Joint Proposal, with Modifications:** On November 19, 2020, the Commission issued an [Order](#) approving NYSEG, RG&E, and various other parties’ Joint Proposal on electric and gas rate plans, with modifications. Provisions within the Joint Proposal further the objectives of CLCPA and other provisions are directly responsive to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Order includes approval of implementation of AMI capabilities within the utilities electric and gas service territories, commitments to help the state achieve its clean energy goals, and investments in DSIP related projects.
- **Joint Utilities host DSP stakeholder webinar detailing new developments:** On December 10, 2020, the JU DSP hosted a webinar to keep stakeholders up-to-date on DSP actions, provide information on customer programs and opportunities, and take questions from stakeholders. Utility representatives discussed the details of new approaches to the Electric Vehicle Make-Ready Program, its new smart inverter roadmap, available information sharing resources, the recent refresh of New York hosting capacity maps, and NYISO coordination in light of FERC Order 2222. T. Stakeholders posed questions and are invited to submit follow-up thoughts to the info@jointutilitiesofny.org.

QUICK HITS

- **Website update will offer streamlined access to JU programs and information:** The JU is launching an effort to update its website to foster a more user-centric experience and streamline access to centralized information on resources, programs, and stakeholder engagement opportunities offered by the Joint Utilities. Work will begin in February and the full update will be released through the spring, building on new tools added in recent months to help vendors quickly access information and participate in the Direct Current Fast Charging Per-Plug Incentive (DCFC PPI) Program and EV Make-Ready Program. The updated website will focus on more easy-to-access links to utility programs and data. Check <https://jointutilitiesofny.org/> for updates.
- **PSC Issues Order on Phase 1 Local T&D Projects:** On February 11, 2021, the PSC issued an order on the utilities' proposed Phase 1 local transmission and distribution (T&D) projects. The order provides guidance for Phase 1 projects in that the utilities should proceed with Phase 1 projects already included in a rate filing or plan and include any additional Phase 1 projects that support CLCPA goals in the next rate filing (unless funding is needed sooner). The utilities will submit semi-annual reports (January 1st and July 1st) each year to provide updates and must further consider and report on the applicability of advanced technologies to their Phase 1 projects. The PSC will address Phase 2 projects in a future order.
- **Commission approves statewide energy data platform:** On February 11, 2021, the Commission issued an Order approving the design and implementation of a statewide Integrated Energy Data Resource (IEDR) platform to support New York's clean energy goals by enabling more access to data. Phase I will enable five priority data use cases over 24-30 months, while Phase II will enable 40+ more data use cases over 30-36 additional months. NYSERDA will serve as the Program Sponsor and will file an initial implementation plan within 30 days of the effective date of the Order and an updated implementation plan by August 10, 2021, after procuring a program manager. The Order approved Phase I budget caps for the utilities and NYSERDA and describes program schedule, governance structure, and reporting requirements. The use cases will be developed considering a stakeholder process, the Advisory Group, and the Steering Committee.



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UTILITIES SUBMIT PLANS TO ALIGN T&D INVESTMENTS WITH CLCPA

On November 2, 2020, the JU—in combination with the Long Island Power Authority—filed the [Utility Transmission and Distribution Investment Working Group Report](#) (Utility T&D Report). This report contains the utilities' proposals and recommendations on two related matters. First, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) establishes ambitious targets for New York with respect to greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions and renewable generation resource development. Second, the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act (AREGCB) directs the Commission to take steps to ensure that the State's electric grid will enable achievement of the State's climate objectives. The Utility T&D Report fulfills the requirements of the Commission's May 14, 2020 [order](#).

The Utility T&D Report identified two types of local transmission and distribution projects (LT&D) that would directly support the attainment of these clean energy goals:

- **Phase 1** projects are immediately actionable projects that satisfy Reliability, Safety, and Compliance purposes but that can also address bottlenecks or constraints that limit renewable energy delivery within a utility's system. These projects may be in addition to projects that have been approved as part of the utility's most recent rate plan or are in the utility's current capital pipeline. Phase 1 projects will be financially supported by the customers of the utility proposing the project.
- **Phase 2** projects may increase capacity on the local transmission and distribution system to allow for interconnection and delivery of new renewable generation resources within the utility's system. Phase 2 projects tend to have needs that are driven primarily by achieving CLCPA targets. Broad regional public policy benefits suggest the likelihood that cost sharing across the Utilities may be appropriate. These projects require additional time to plan and prioritize using the investment criteria and benefit cost analysis (BCA) methodology described in the report.

The Utility T&D Report is split into three parts. In **Part 1**, the utilities present project investment criteria and prioritization recommendations. To achieve CLCPA objectives, the utilities will need to expand planning objectives, adapt decision-making tools, and integrate insights gained from stakeholder engagement. Additionally, there will need to be changes to existing cost allocation and recovery practices to support LT&D investments required to meet CLCPA objectives. This may require Commission approval outside a utility's normal rate case, both to advance Phase 1 projects and recover costs of Phase 2 projects.

Part 2 identifies the range of potential LT&D upgrades each utility recommends as being necessary to accelerate achievement of CLCPA objectives. To inform these recommendations, the utilities assessed projected system conditions in 2030, which aligns with the CLCPA goal of delivering 70% of the State's electricity from renewable resources by that year.

Finally, **Part 3** provides an overview the utilities' progress in developing a plan to study, evaluate, pilot, demonstrate, and deploy new and/or underutilized technologies and innovations that can provide a range of electric grid benefits. The utilities emphasize the need to alleviate transmission system bottlenecks to enable delivery of renewable energy throughout the State. The utilities identified a range of potential technologies that could help address these needs, including cable and transmission line monitoring systems, dynamic line and equipment rating systems, and power flow controllers.

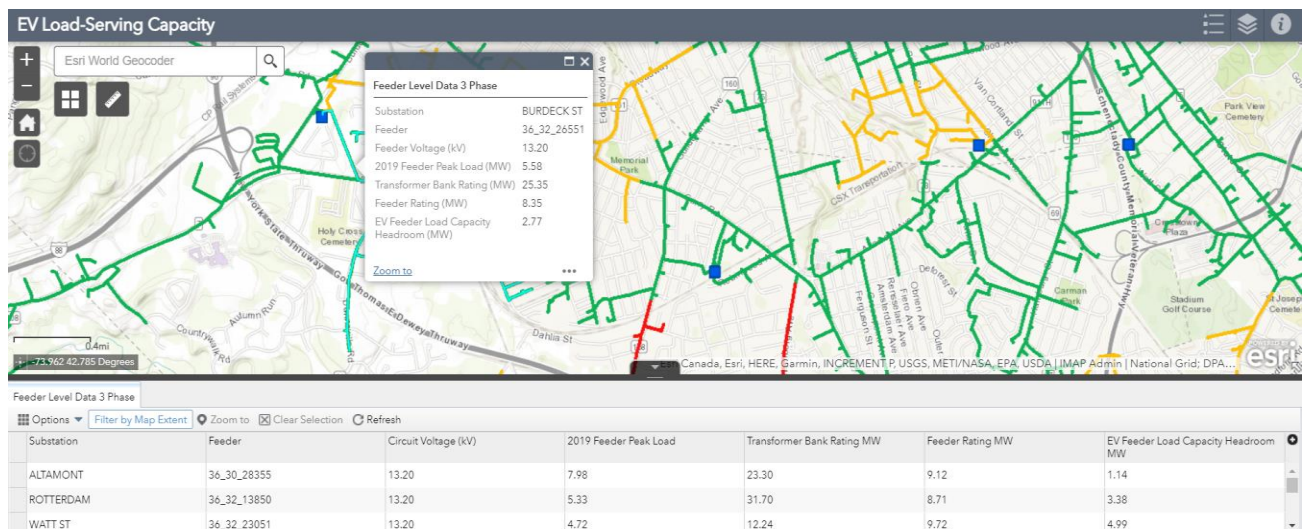
RECENT HOSTING CAPACITY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND FORTHCOMING ENHANCEMENTS

The JU held their second hosting capacity stakeholder engagement meeting of 2020 on November 19, 2020. A copy of the presentation materials and a summary of the meeting discussion items [can be found here](#). This meeting provided stakeholders with the opportunity to ask questions about forthcoming enhancements – such as REST URL access, increasing the analysis refresh rate for circuits experience significant changes, and the development of load capacity maps – as well as to provide input on the mid-long-term direction of the hosting capacity roadmap.

Increased Analysis Refresh Rate. As of April 1, 2021, the hosting capacity maps will be refreshed with updated analysis results for circuits that have experienced 500 kW or greater of additional distributed generation over the prior six months. Increasing the analysis refresh rate so developers have more up to date information has been a major priority item for stakeholders.

Additional Map Functionality. Stakeholders have also expressed interest in the ability to overlay the JU’s hosting capacity within their own GIS tools. As of March 1, 2021 (subject to all JU commitment), the JU have updated their system data portals to include a REST URL corresponding to their hosting capacity portals. This REST URL functions as a live link to each utility’s hosting capacity, so the information provided to stakeholders remains accurate and up to date, as circuit conditions change with each analysis update. This approach and functionality were first piloted with Scenic Hudson before being expanded to third parties more broadly.

Energy Storage Capacity Maps. Hosting capacity maps for energy storage technologies remain a high priority for the JU. The EV-load capacity maps released in December 2020 serve as an initial step to providing hosting capacity maps for energy storage. The JU will continue to solicit input from stakeholders on hosting capacity maps for energy storage at future stakeholder meetings in 2021.



UTILITIES PURSUE AMBITIOUS TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE MAKE-READY PROGRAM

The Joint Utilities are six months into implementing the [Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Make-Ready Program](#) (MRP), as ordered in July 2020. The Order supports CLCPA goals as well as New York State's zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) goal of deploying 850,000 electric vehicles across the state by 2025. The total budget for the program is \$701 million, \$206 million of which must directly benefit low- to moderate-income and disadvantaged communities.

Customers looking to participate in the MRP or the [DCFC Per Plug Incentive](#) will need to apply via an online portal hosted on each company's MRP website, linked in the table below. The applications became live on October 16, 2020 and will continue to be updated throughout 2021.

Utility Company Make-Ready Program Website Links
Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation
National Grid
New York State Electric & Gas Corporation
Orange and Rockland
Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation

Customers participating in the MRP must use an Approved Contractor listed on the [JU website](#). Contractors can self-certify to become approved through the JU website. Customers who are considering converting fleet vehicles to EVs can apply to receive a fleet assessment from their utility. The [EV Make-Ready Fleet Assessment Services](#) application is available on the JU website and should be submitted to the customer's load serving utility. To assist customers choose sites in the distribution system with available capacity, each JU member published EV load capacity maps in December, 2020. The load capacity maps are detailed on page 5.

The utilities filed their joint [Medium- and Heavy-Duty Make-Ready Pilot Program Implementation Plan \("MHDPPIP"\)](#) on October 14, 2020. The MHDPPIP is designed to reduce diesel emissions by encouraging the conversion of medium- and heavy-duty fleets to electric vehicles (EVs) in the utilities' service territories. The Pilot Program focuses particularly on disadvantaged communities (DACs) and offers incentives to mitigate the cost of developing EV charging capacity for qualifying medium- and heavy-duty fleets. The incentives cover up to 90% of the utility-side make-ready costs. Fleet operators and managers may apply for incentives through the website of the applicable participating utility.

The utilities independently filed their proposals for a [Mass Market Managed Charging Program](#) on December 4, 2020. The proposals outline each company's approach to piloting a comprehensive managed charging program for residential EV owners that may consider both passive and active features designed to encourage and optimize off-peak charging of light-duty EVs. The JU will join DPS for a public stakeholder Technical Conference on March 17, at which time the companies will present their Managed Charging proposals for discussion.

COMMUNITY DISTRIBUTED GENERATION (“CDG”): BILLING AND CREDITING PROGRAMS

The Joint Utilities are in the process of implementing and automating Net Crediting programs for CDG projects across New York, pursuant to the December 12, 2019 [Order Regarding Consolidated Billing for Community Distributed Generation](#). These programs, which are designed to reduce “soft costs” (e.g., customer acquisition costs, billing costs, etc.) for CDG developers, involve a variety of complex technical and policy matters that have been the subject to extensive stakeholder engagement efforts by the JU. Differences between CDG projects that are compensated under the Value Stack and those that remain compensated on a



volumetric basis introduce corresponding distinctions in the manner in which these programs must be administered. Value Stack Net Crediting programs are being deployed, while program design features for Volumetric Net Crediting remain in development.

The JU are also in the process of designing and implementing a Remote Crediting program, which will replace Remote Net Metering.. The Joint Utilities hosted a Technical Conference on Remote Crediting on January 8, 2021.

There is considerable enthusiasm for these crediting programs among developers and other stakeholders. The JU look forward to continued collaboration with these parties as these programs become available and as proposals for program modifications are evaluated.



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INTERCONNECTION POLICY WORKING GROUP FILES NEW COST SHARING PROPOSAL

The Interconnection Policy Working Group filed a new cost sharing proposal in October that addresses cost allocation and cost recovery related to Distribution projects. The New York Standardized Interconnection Requirements (NYSIR) has an existing cost sharing mechanism that is limited to large substation upgrades, with costs paid by the first project to move forward and later defrayed by later interconnecting projects that benefit from the increased capacity. The new cost sharing proposal is meant to stimulate additional hosting capacity upgrades while more fairly spreading the costs over the projects benefiting from the upgrades. The proposal also allows for synergies between a utility's capital plan and opportunities for increasing hosting capacity.

The NYSIR cost sharing proposal consists of two categories. The first is utility-driven upgrades, including multi-value distribution projects and proactive 3V0 upgrades. The multi-value distribution projects look at a utility's capital plan and identify opportunities to increase hosting capacity. Utilities can add scope to existing capital projects to increase hosting capacity, with the incremental costs (those not already in the capital plan) passed along to interconnecting projects on a pro rata basis, where a project's contribution is based on the size of the project. The proactive 3V0 mechanism is an extension of National Grid's 3V0 REV Demo, where the utility funds the installation of the upgrade, and developers pay a pro rata cost based on the size of their system.

The other category covered by the cost sharing proposal is market-driven upgrades. This mechanism looks at areas where DG in queue triggers upgrades. For substation upgrades, cost sharing will be on a pro rata basis based on system size. For larger substation transformer bank upgrades, a minimum of 75% of the bank must be paid for by interconnecting projects before the utility proceeds with the upgrade. The proposal also includes a mechanism for distribution line upgrades, which is a first-mover cost paralleling encumbered line policies.

Based on the volume of interconnection applications already in queue, including dozens of substations across the state with queues already exceeding the capacity of the station, along with the National 3V0 REV Demonstration project, the Interconnection Policy Working Group anticipates that costs will be allocated among participating developer projects for hosting capacity upgrades. If some costs are not recovered via the pro rata cost sharing proposal, utilities will rate base any unrecovered costs. Unrecovered costs will be limited based on minimum required thresholds for substation transformer-level upgrades, along with caps to spend depending on a percentage of each utility's distribution capital plan. Further details are available in the filed cost sharing proposal ([PSC Case Number Case 20-E-0543](#)).



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NOTABLE DATES



February 2021

- 2/25 – Interconnection Technical Working Group meeting with DPS Staff and Industry

March 2021

- 3/17 – Technical conference date indicated by DPS Staff for utilities to present their EV managed charging proposals

April 2021

- Tentative release of updated JU website

View our monthly calendar online: jointutilitiesofny.org/stakeholder-engagement/

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We're interested in hearing from you. Do you have questions, comments, or ideas? Email us at info@jointutilitiesofny.org. And for more information on updated data and other useful references, be sure to visit the Joint Utilities website at <https://jointutilitiesofny.org/>.

