

draft

Resiliency and Microgrids Working Group Charter

California Public Utilities Commission

I. Overview

Goal

The Resiliency and Microgrids Working Group's (RMWG) goal is to facilitate thoughtful and informed discussions amongst the working group participants to continue to support resiliency efforts and the commercialization of microgrids.

Objective

The primary objective of the RMWG is to solicit input from the working group members to inform the CPUC's potential Track III proposals and activities. The members will further explore the resiliency and microgrid-related issues identified in the proceeding thus far¹, and provide input by drawing on their expertise and experiences. To achieve this objective, the RMWG will serve as a forum for Energy Division staff to:

1. Help determine the appropriateness and priority of specific issues in Track III of the proceeding.
2. Facilitate discussions and solicit informal input to support a shared understanding.
3. Present and/or invite speakers to present on the resiliency and microgrid-related issues identified in the Concept Paper and Track II Staff Proposal.
4. Gather data that may inform future policies in the form of a staff proposal and/or white paper.

Formal Comments

The discussions that take place during the RMWG meetings will not be entered into the formal record of the Microgrid and Resiliency R.19-09-009. However, these informal discussions may inform policies in a staff proposal and/or a white paper in 2021. The staff proposal and/or white paper will be entered into the record of the proceeding. At that time, parties to the proceeding will have an opportunity to offer formal comments.

¹ As identified in the "CPUC Microgrid and Resiliency Staff Concept Paper" (July 2020) and "Staff Proposal for Facilitating the Commercialization of Microgrids Pursuant to Senate Bill 1339" (July 2020).

Sub-Groups

The RMWG will be the primary venue for presentations and member discussions. However, there may be a need to convene discrete, specific-purpose bodies that branches off the main group to fulfill specific functions. The structure, format, facilitators, and defined work products may vary depending on the specific purpose of the subgroup.

II. Statutory Background and Requirement

SB 1339, enacted in 2018, directs the CPUC to undertake activities to further develop policies related to microgrids.² On September 12, 2019, the CPUC initiated Rulemaking (R.) 19-09-009 to develop a framework for facilitating the commercialization of microgrids pursuant to SB 1339 and improving the resiliency of the electrical system.

On December 20, 2019, the CPUC issued a scoping memo which divided the proceeding into three tracks. According to the scoping memo, Track 1 of the proceeding encompasses the CPUC's goal of deploying resiliency planning in areas that are prone to outage events and wildfires, with the goal of putting some microgrid and other resiliency strategies by Spring or Summer 2020. Track 2 of the proceeding is intended to accomplish the state's broader policy goals in the context of supporting microgrids and resiliency such as, but not limited to, developing standards, guidelines, rates, and tariffs to support and reduce barriers to microgrid commercialization statewide. Lastly, Track 3 of the proceeding will consider the ongoing implementation requirements of SB 1339 as well as any future resiliency planning such as, but not limited to, the formation of working groups to codify standards and protocols.

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code (PUC) Code 8371(e), the CPUC formed this working group to codify standards and protocols needed to meet the California electrical corporation and Independent System Operator microgrid requirements.

² SB 1339 is also known as Public Utilities Code 8371. See Appendix 9.3 for a complete copy.

draft

III. Ground Rules for Participation

To participate in the RMWG, members must acknowledge and agree to the following ground rules.

1. Members must be willing to work constructively and collaboratively to find reasonable approaches for developing the work products identified in this charter recognizing the broader CPUC goals and responsibilities and policy goals, including but not limited to: promote safe and reliable utility service, ensure just and reasonable rates, and design and implement public policies that promote California's environmental sustainability goals.
2. The topics to be addressed may become highly technical. Energy Division will do its best to provide materials and resources to facilitate understanding of these topics. Members must make a good faith effort to review and understand any materials provided in advance of RMWG meetings. This may require time outside of the designated RMWG meeting times.
3. Members must restrict comments and discussions during meetings to the relevant topics being discussed for each meeting.
4. Members must be committed to helping Energy Division meet the deadlines that will be developed in this working group.
5. Members acknowledge that amendments to the charter might be updated and revised from time to time.

IV. Frequency and Format of Meetings

Energy Division will host working group meetings approximately every 4 weeks. Additional meetings will be added, as necessary. Members can participate in the RMWG either online via WebEx or join by telephone.

Each meeting will generally follow a standard format (see table below). The meeting will begin with reviewing administrative items such as providing updates and discussing near-term activities. Then, Energy Division will introduce a new topic area in which they will present or invite a presenter to speak on the topic. Afterwards, the working group will have the opportunity to ask clarifying questions and further discuss. The meeting will conclude with next steps and action items.

Specific meeting agenda items will be circulated by Energy Division prior to each scheduled meeting. The meeting duration will depend on the number of topics and presenters.

The meetings may be recorded but will not be part of the formal proceeding.

draft

AGENDA

The table below presents a sample agenda for working group meetings. Actual agendas will be circulated to the service list of the microgrids and resiliency proceeding (R.19-09-009) prior to each meeting.

Agenda Item	Description
Introductions/Admin	Examples: Energy Division reports out on recently completed action items; provides updates to follow up items from previous meeting; discusses near-term activities.
Presentation Topic	Energy Division introduces topic area; Energy Division presents or invites a presenter to speak on the topic.
Group Discussion and Q&A	Members have discussions on the topic presented, ask clarifying questions, and provide initial responses/input. This may or may not include breakout groups and group report outs afterwards.
Close	Next Steps and Action items

V. Priority Topics

In Autumn 2020, the RMWG meeting will host a kickoff meeting to introduce the charter's goals, priorities, and timeline and receive feedback. In the subsequent meetings, the RMWG will examine the following list of topics. This list does not indicate the chronological order that the topics will be addressed. Additionally, the topics are subject to change, and the reprioritizations of the topics may be necessary as the discussions evolve over the course of the RMWG meetings.

The primary guiding principle for separating high from lower priority topics is to avoid duplication of effort and inconsistency across proceedings, programs, and policies within the CPUC and across other related institutions, including CARB, CAISO, and CEC. Another, related guiding principle is to focus efforts on barriers to microgrid commercialization that are within CPUC jurisdiction.

In other words, lower priority topics are those that involve:

- Changes to policies recently litigated and/or decided by the CPUC (e.g., in Track 1 or Track 2 decisions)
- Matters currently under deliberation in other proceedings within or outside of CPUC (e.g., NEM, SGIP, CAISO Initiative: Energy Storage and Distributed Energy Resources, CAISO Initiative: Proxy Demand Resource – Resource Adequacy Clarifications)

Priorities

draft

- Tariffs or procurement approaches for multi-parcel microgrids (Types III & IV based on Concept Paper classification system), including but not limited to rates, rules, standard contracts, agreements, and cost allocation
- PUC 218-compliant approaches for multi-parcel microgrid ownership
- Value of resiliency, including but not limited to metrics or frameworks for value discovery

Lower Priorities

- Definitions of critical facilities
- CAISO wholesale market access
- Tariffs for single parcel, customer-facing microgrids
- Changes to PUC 218