#### Stakeholder meeting March 16, 2023

### Connected Solutions 2023 Update

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# **Commercial &** Industrial Offerings

#### **Summary of Program Updates**

- 1. Oversized batteries applying to ConnectedSolutions
- 2. Recent evaluation of Commercial Daily Dispatch offer
- 3. Shutdown day standards do not appear to be necessary
- 4. Factoring in negative event days improves performance accuracy
- 5. Peak window seems to be shifting later
- 6. PA-specific updates
- 7. Fossil Fuel Generators no longer eligible for Targeted Dispatch



1. Oversized battery projects applying to ConnectedSolutions



Sites that are net exporters of power during ConnectedSolutions events will have their performance capped at 150% of the site's **annual peak load less the nameplate power of the battery.** 

The site's annual peak load will be reassessed every year.

New construction with no pre-existing site load or major facility expansions will be handled on a caseby-case basis based on projected planned load indicated on the service application made to the EDC.

This only affects the maximum Connected Solutions pay-for-performance incentive. It does not impact the customer's interconnection service agreement or the customer's participation in the wholesale market or other mechanisms.

Additional details will be provided in the program materials once finalized.



Recent evaluation included recommendations on Commercial Daily Dispatch for batteries

PAs are considering how results may be applied.

For summer 2023, battery baselines will NOT be applied (subject to regulatory clearance).

A copy of the evaluation study is available here:





3. Shutdown day standards do not appear to be necessary

No customer or vendor has used this feature since it was added and adding in the ability to receive customer maintenance days and update performance calculations creates unnecessary complexity.

We propose removing this section and handling customers who have scheduled shutdowns on a caseby-case basis.







## 4. Factoring in negative event days improves performance accuracy

Some participants do not reliably curtail during events and may not be taking any extra actions to shed load during demand response events but are instead relying on the lack of penalties in the program to earn incentive by default. A 2021 evaluation report highlighted this as an area to address.

To address this issue, we will incorporate *all* event performance (positive or negative) when determining seasonal performance.

There will never be financial penalties assessed to the customer or curtailment service provider.



A copy of the evaluation study is available here:

https://ma-eeac.org/wp-content/uploads/MA21DR05-E-CI-2021-Summer-CI-ADR-Evaluation-Report\_FINAL.pdf



#### 5. Peak window shifting later

The grid peaks have shifted to later in recent years due to increased solar generation.

The current event window is from 2-7pm.

PAs are considering updating the window to 3-8pm for the 2023 season.





6.1 PA-specific update – National Grid

#### Requiring battery-level meter data for batteries participating in Daily Dispatch

To date, National Grid has allowed customers and vendors to choose to have their performance for batteries calculated using either utility meter data or asset-level meter data.

Other program administrators only accept asset-level meter data.

To better align the programs across all program administrators, National Grid proposes to only calculate battery performance with asset-level meter data.

For battery only sites, you can use battery inverter data or meter data. For sites using a battery AND other curtailment, we would need battery inverter AND meter data as baselines apply to all curtailment other than batteries.



6.2 PA-specific update – Unitil

#### Removing clause that a minimum percentage of incentive be paid to the end customer

Currently the program materials has an exception for Unitil regarding how incentives are passed down to customers.

To better align the programs among all the program administrators, this section will be removed.

#### Shared Savings

Typically, customers share the incentive with CSPs. This is a common practice in other demand response programs, such as ISO-NE's programs. How or if the incentive is split between the customer and the CSP is up to the customer and the CSP. The PAs, except for Unitil, do not require or reject how or if the incentives are split. For Unitil, CSPs must pass through a minimum percentage of the incentive to the end customer. Direct Participants will receive the full incentive amount directly.



7. Fossil Fuel Generators no longer eligible for Targeted Dispatch

Just a reminder of a change that has already been written into the program materials.

- Fossil Fuel-based generators were removed from Daily Dispatch in 2022.
- Existing Fossil Fuel-based generator customers were allowed to stay in Targeted Dispatch in 2022.
- In 2023 fossil fuel-based generators will be completely removed from both Daily and Targeted Dispatch.





## Residential and Small-Commercial Offerings

#### **Summary of Program Updates**

- 1. Offers for EVs and EVSEs are evolving
- 2. Need to simplify Direct Load Control (DLC) battery offering enrollment flow
- 3. Calling day-of events improves accuracy
- 4. Current number of thermostat events may not be adequate
- 5. Incentive changes



#### 1. Evolving offers for EVs and EVSEs

• The EV and EVSE ConnectedSolutions offers are in transition as a result of recent DPU orders. Offers will be stood up outside of the Energy Efficiency programs.



2. Simplifying Direct Load Control (DLC) battery enrollment flow

Currently customers enroll in Connected Solutions **before** their battery is ready to participate. This causes a paperwork burden on customers, installers, and inverter manufacturers.

The PAs propose to have customers enroll in Connected Solutions after their battery systems come online.

Application for the Heat Loan will be done through a separate Heat Loan portal, currently used for all other energy efficiency measures. This should be live before summer 2023.

The PAs will give at least a 6 month notice of any changes to the DLC battery incentive rate so that customers can continue to buy with confidence.



3. Calling day-of events for residential thermostats

Load forecasts are more accurate the day of an event than the day ahead of an event.

Calling some technologies on the day of an event (instead of the day ahead) would help us better target the projected peak hour.

Engaging vendors, manufacturers, and customers across device classes to assess feasibility to respond to a day-of (instead of a day-ahead) signal.

## 4. Increasing maximum number of thermostat events

This past summer (2022) the PAs called 15 thermostat demand response events early in the season due to the extended heat wave. The current program rules state that the number of events will be capped at 15.

The program administrators are increasing the maximum number of thermostat events to 18-20. The PAs will still attempt to call no more than 15 events.



- The enrollment incentive for thermostats will increase starting March 22nd from \$25 to \$50.
- Eversource's battery performance payment will increase from \$225 per avg. kW to \$275 per avg. KW, aligning with the other Program Administrators offer.

## Questions?







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