

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Minutes and Informal Instructions of the Open Meeting of
Thursday, April 15, 2021

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) met as noticed. Present were Chairperson Valcq, Commissioner Nowak and Commissioner Huebner.

Minutes

The Commission approved the minutes of the open meeting of Thursday, April 8, 2021.

3270-FR-2020 - Application of Madison Gas and Electric Company for Reconciliation of Actual Fuel Costs to the Authorized 2020 Fuel Cost Plan

The Commission approved the Notice of Investigation and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

6680-AF-102 - Request of Wisconsin Power and Light Company for Deferral of Incremental Pre-Certification Costs and to Begin Accruing Allowances for Funds Used During Construction on Pre-Construction Costs Associated with Solar Generation Resource Development

The Commission approved the Notice of Investigation and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

2260-WI-100 - Investigation into the City of Glendale, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, as a Water Public Utility, into its Failure to Submit a 2019 PSC Annual Report

The Commission approved the Draft Final Decision and directed it to be signed by the Secretary to the Commission.

1-AC-256 - In the Matter of Rulemaking to Update Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter PSC 119 for Interconnecting Distributed Generation Facilities**Review of Statement of Scope Following Preliminary Hearing**

The Commission approved the Statement of Scope and directed Commission staff to continue the rulemaking process.

9705-FG-2020 - Project Year 2020 (PY20) State Energy Program (SEP) Formula Grant Awarded by the US Department of Energy**Critical Infrastructure Microgrid and Community Resilience Centers Pilot Grant Program**

The Commission reviewed the proposed program design and budget for the Critical Infrastructure Microgrid and Community Resilience Centers Pilot Grant Program, and made the following determinations.

1. For purposes of this grant program, the following definitions shall apply:

Microgrid: A group of interconnected loads and distributed energy resources within clearly defined electrical boundaries that acts as a single controllable entity with respect to the grid. A microgrid can connect and disconnect from the grid to enable it to operate in both grid-connected or island-mode.⁴¹

- Level 1 or single customer: a single Distributed Energy Resource (DER) or multiple DERs serving one customer through one meter. Example: a single facility (such as a hospital) using an on-site microgrid to provide backup power.
- Level 2 or single customer or campus setting (partial feeder microgrid): a single DER or multiple DERs serving multiple facilities, controlled by one meter at the interconnection point (also known as Point of Common Coupling or PCC). Example: a microgrid sited on a University campus connected to multiple buildings.
- Level 3 or multiple customers (advanced or full feeder microgrid): a single DER or multiple DERs serving multiple facilities or customers on multiple meters. The DER(s) may be located on a different site from the facilities or customers. While the advanced microgrid has one PCC, the individual facilities or customers within the advanced microgrid may have their own individual connections to the distribution grid.

Community Resilience Centers (CRC): Facilities designed to provide emergency heating and cooling capability; refrigeration of temperature-sensitive medications, vaccines and milk from nursing mothers; plug power for durable medical equipment (to include dialysis equipment and continuous positive airway pressure machines); plug power for charging of cell phone and computer batteries; and/or emergency lighting. A CRC may also be a designated location (by the city, county, or State of Wisconsin) for the distribution of emergency services during extended grid outages. This center would not necessarily be a replacement for an emergency shelter, and should not be required to have food service capabilities, showers, or locker rooms; however, an emergency shelter that does provide these services would still be eligible to apply. A CRC can be a Level 1, 2, or 3 Microgrid (see definition of Microgrid).

2. The Areas of Interest and Eligible Activities shall be limited to Critical Infrastructure Microgrid Feasibility Studies for Levels 1, 2 and 3 (as defined above).

Commissioner Huebner dissented and would have included Planning and Implementation of Community Resilience Centers as an Area of Interest.

3. The funding for the program shall be:

Area of Interest – Eligible Activities	Total Funds Available	Maximum Grant Requests
AOI 1: Critical Infrastructure Microgrid Feasibility Studies	\$985,000	
Level 1 or Level 2 Microgrid Feasibility Study		Up to \$50,000
Level 3 Microgrid Feasibility Study		Up to \$100,000
	\$985,000	

Commissioner Huebner dissented.

4. Eligible entities for this program include the following:

- Lead Applicants - MUSH (Municipalities, Universities, Schools, and Hospitals) Market.
- Target Partners - Lead applicants should partner with appropriate public, private, and non-profit entities, or their subunits, with unique oversight or expertise in sectors appropriate to the project such as housing authorities, municipal utilities, and engineering firms.

Commissioner Huebner dissented.

5. The criteria in the application instructions shall prioritize reliability and resilience benefits (during outages not caused by events beyond a utility’s control) and benefits of avoiding major power outages (i.e., outages caused by major storms or other events beyond a utility’s control).

The Commission directed the Division of Digital Access, Environmental and Consumer Affairs to draft an order consistent with its discussion.

9705-FG-2021 - Project Year 2021 State Energy Program Formula Grant Awarded by the US Department of Energy

The Commission approved the proposed State Energy Program Project Year 2021 Annual Plan as outlined in the Commission memorandum dated April 6, 2021 ([PSC REF#: 409328](#)), and made the following additional determinations in connection with the proposed program design and budget for the Wisconsin Refueling Readiness Grant Program – Round III:

1. The eligible activities for Area of Interest One – Tap Switch Installation Grants, include:
 - Up to \$5,000 per tap switch for a typical highway shop and convenience store.

- Up to \$25,000 for Bulk Storage Facilities per switch gear (larger-scale, requiring engineering planning) so that bulk facilities can purchase or rent a generator to provide back-up power to the facility.
2. The eligible activities for Area of Interest Two – Generator Readiness, include:
 - Up to \$100,000 to offset installation of generation and storage and associated appurtenances to prevent back flow onto the grid and provide back-up power in the event of an emergency.
 3. The available funding per Area of Interest (AOI) is as follows:

Activity	Maximum Grant Request	Available Funds per Activity	PVE Funds
AOI One: Tap Switch Installation Grants		\$100,000	
Typical Highway Shop and Convenience Store	\$5,000		
Bulk Storage Facilities	\$25,000		
AOI Two: Generator Readiness	\$100,000	\$100,000	
SAFER2 Tap Switch	\$5,000	\$0	\$15,000
Total		\$200,000	\$15,000

The Commission directed the Division of Digital Access, Environmental and Consumer Affairs to draft an order consistent with its discussion.

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.



Steffany Powell Coker
 Secretary to the Commission