



**NARUC**

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

## **Call for Member Applications to Receive Technical Assistance on Smart Grid Issues**

With support from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), NARUC CPI has opened an opportunity for direct technical assistance to Public Utility Commissions on smart grid, electric vehicle interoperability, grid modernization & resilience, and other electric system integration issues.

Support will be available spring 2022 through spring 2023. Applications are due by January 21, 2022.

NARUC anticipates selecting between four and six states for assistance, depending on the level of support needed by applicants, striving to support a diverse range of topical issue areas.

### **Goal:**

The goal of this program is to accelerate progress by states and utilities in adopting “interoperability” considerations and industry standards within utilities’ electricity-related investments—minimizing unnecessary costs while accelerating deployment of the smart grid and its benefits.

Interoperability is the ability of devices to communicate with one another, which allows for more seamless integration of old and new technologies on the grid.

### **Topical Issue Areas:**

NARUC experts are available to provide members with assistance across such issues as:

- Considering the applicability, benefits, valuation, and best practices for interoperability when developing regulations or commission guidance for utilities related to:
  - Transportation electrification / electric vehicle investments
  - Distributed energy resource (DER) interconnection rules and requirements
  - Advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) investments
  - Distribution system plans
  - Grid modernization investment proposals
  - Reliability and resilience investments and operational approaches
- Cybersecurity considerations for smart grid investments and DERs connecting to the grid
- Identification, review, application, and implementation of industry standards, such as:
  - IEC 15118 for EV interoperability
  - IEEE 1547-2018 or IEC 61850 for DER interconnection
  - ANSI C-12 for advanced metering investments
  - Open ADR or 2030.5 for DER communications and demand response
  - NAESB REQ.21 - Energy Services Provider Interface for data sharing via Green Button Connect
- Understanding the implications of interoperability for enabling wholesale-DER market access (e.g., via FERC Order 2222), utility operations and planning, utility-customer coordination, and utility-DER aggregator coordination
- Other electric system smart grid topics, as identified by NARUC members



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### **Types of Support Available:**

Technical assistance a Commission might receive from NARUC could include (but is not limited to):

- Offering educational or training sessions (virtually or in person) to support state-specific education on interoperability, focused on issues expected to emerge in upcoming dockets or proceedings.
- Creating, facilitating, and/or presenting at technical or multi-stakeholder workshop(s), including advising on agenda development, speaker invitations, and valuable outputs; could include drafting workshop summaries, findings, and/or suggestions for next steps.
- Conducting economic analysis of benefits and costs associated with proposed utility investments in smart grid technologies.
- Developing briefing papers on key topics identified by state commission members.
- Reviewing utility and/or intervenor filings in relevant proceedings, dockets, or rulemakings and providing comments to Commissioners or Commission staff to support their responses.
- Organizing multi-state working groups of commissioners and staff to address similar interoperability issues being encountered across jurisdictions.

### **Schedule:**

- November 2021 – December 2021: NARUC members review 2022-2023 Commission calendars to identify upcoming technology integration activities, such as anticipated grid modernization filings, electric vehicle charging proceedings, resilience dockets, interconnection proceedings, and other potential smart grid discussions and decision making.
- By January 21, 2022: Interested NARUC members submit a one-page application for assistance.
- February-March 2022: NARUC & NIST staff review applications, follow up with applicants, and facilitate matchmaking between members and experts to finalize projects and scope.
- April 2022: NARUC hosts a virtual project kick-off meeting with each selected Commission and its paired expert(s) to establish a detailed project schedule.
- May 2022-June 2023: NARUC experts work with Commission members to provide assistance. NARUC staff offer periodic cohort-style peer sharing opportunities among assistance recipients, which could include an in-person working session alongside a NARUC Meeting.
- July-September 2023: NARUC staff and experts develop a summary report of the assistance projects and recommendations for future efforts to support Commissions.

### **Application:**

NARUC members should complete the [linked application form](#), which requests information about:

- Topic(s) and scope of the desired technical assistance
- Need for and potential impact of such technical assistance
- Timing of the assistance needs
- Commitment to assign a Commission point of contact to liaise with NARUC, if selected.

Contact [Danielle Sass Byrnett](#), NARUC CPI, with questions. Applications due **Friday, January 21, 2022**.