

Defense Energy Resilience: Commissioner FAQs

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

While writing [*Regulatory Considerations for Utility Investments in Defense Energy Resilience*](#), NARUC identified several recurring challenges that state officials have faced in supporting defense energy resilience investments. NARUC drew on those challenges to develop a list of FAQs for state utility regulators and public utility commission (PUC) staff and tested them with a group of current and former state utility regulators. This FAQ section is tailored for a PUC audience and captures questions that state utility regulators should ask themselves and regulated utilities when considering collaboration with defense communities. While the FAQs evolved through iterative review, the problem that undercuts them did not: that state regulators, utilities, and Department of Defense (DoD) officials rarely know how, when, and whom to engage on potential defense energy resilience investments.

Internal Questions

Questions PUCs should ask themselves to prepare for DoD collaboration

Personnel and Key Stakeholders:

1. Does the PUC have a dedicated staff member working on DoD opportunities?
 - a. Who do you currently work with regarding DoD collaboration? Do you have a specific contact within the DoD or installation(s) in your state?
2. Does the responsibility for developing military installation energy projects reach across different organizations and offices?
 - a. What other state government agencies have equities in executing an installation energy resilience project?

Plans and Policies:

3. Are the state's Emergency Support Function-12 plans up to date with the right contacts for each role?
4. What policies, rules, and programs are in place at the PUC to support energy efficiency and resilience on military bases?
 - a. Factors to consider include infrastructure upgrades, interconnection/self-generation, exporting/demand response, microgrid/islanding capabilities, etc.

External Questions

Questions PUCs should ask their regulated utilities to prepare for DoD collaboration

Personnel and Key Stakeholders:

5. What relationships do the regulated utilities in my state have with their DoD customers?
 - a. Who are their main points of contact (organization)? How involved are they in project identification and development?

Plans and Policies:

6. How does the DoD currently track or respond to utility regulatory events, such as rate or program changes, that may impact DoD installations in my state?
 - a. For example, utility incentive programs or new utility rates and tariffs.
7. Are there currently plans for installations in your service area to participate in energy resilience readiness exercises, as required by Congress?¹

Infrastructure and Projects:

8. Do military bases have behind the meter microgrids in your service area, or plans for them?
 - a. If yes, does that installation's microgrid impact utility operations in that service area?
9. What surrounding, off-base infrastructure will be impacted if a DoD facility goes down, and what are the implications of such an event?

Funding/Rate Payers:

10. Are there communities nearby DoD installations in your state that could benefit from an energy resilience project?
 - a. For example, benefits could include an increased reliable and resilient grid, renewable energy sources, additional emergency response capabilities, or rate decreases?
11. Do any state energy agencies have active grants or contracts with any DoD installation or facility to support joint activities that are intended to benefit both the state and DoD?

¹ See *Appendix A: Key Policies and Documents for Critical Infrastructure in the Defense Energy Resilience Key Resources Guide*