The Insider Digest is a resource developed exclusively for IREC’s sponsors and funders who support the work we do toward our vision of a 100% clean energy future. The Digest provides quarterly updates on our state regulatory advancements and our national progress building a quality trained workforce to support a clean energy economy.

ABOUT IREC

Since 1982, IREC has made clean, efficient, sustainable energy possible for more Americans through forward-thinking regulatory reform, quality workforce development and consumer empowerment.

An independent not-for-profit, IREC works across the U.S. in both regulatory and workforce forums to bring to fruition the bold clean energy goals being set by cities, states and the private sector. From state regulators and the clean energy industry, to advocates and allied professions, diverse stakeholders rely on IREC’s thought leadership, tools and resources to identify and adopt the best practices needed to build a strong foundation for clean energy market growth.
IREC’S CORE FOCUS AREAS

REGULATORY PROGRAM

Interconnection
Grid Modernization
Energy Storage
Smart Inverters
Shared Renewables

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Training Program
Accreditation
Job-Focused Training
Programs for Allied Industries
Micro-Credential Development
Promotion of Clean Energy
Industry Careers
Training-to-Jobs Pipelines
IREC’s Workforce Program

IREC leads the nation in the development of quality and competency standards, accreditation and certification programs for clean energy educators and training programs in renewable energy and energy efficiency. IREC continues to pioneer integrated solutions to scale the clean energy workforce and provide training and resources to allied professionals interacting with clean energy technologies.

2019 Workforce Highlights

Interactive Career Maps

- Created and launched the Careers in Climate Control Technology (HVACR) Career Map (www hvaccareermap.org) through a partnership with the California Community College system.

Dynamic eLearning

- A series of 29 online learning modules are under development for administrative professionals throughout the states and US territories with the US Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). The interactive learning experience will help WAP directors, fiscal managers and quality assurance managers perform their jobs more effectively.
2019 Workforce Highlights

**Allied Professional Training**
- Provide job-focused solar training that has been completed by over 14,000 code officials and firefighters in person and through IREC’s online learning management system ([www.cleanenergytraining.org](http://www.cleanenergytraining.org)) to date. Funded by US Department of Energy.

- Provide in-person training on solar plan review and inspection to code officials and installers throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in partnership with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center.

- Partner with WinnCompanies and the National Apartment Association Education Institute to transform Winn training initiatives to impact the energy efficiency of thousands of military housing and low-income units throughout New York State. Funded by NYS Energy Research and Development Authority, this is the first offering of the national Apartment Maintenance Technicians Certification to professionals who primarily speak Spanish.

**Training-to-Jobs Pipelines**
- Partnered with the National Association of Home Builders - Home Builders Institute to create a solar certification for Job Corps students. As a result, to date, 581 Job Corps graduates demonstrating roof-ready solar job skills through hands-on training and successful performance on the national certification exam.
IREC’s involvement in regulatory proceedings in nearly every state has led to consensus-based, viable solutions that enable higher penetrations of distributed energy resources – including solar, wind and energy storage – and a streamlined process to connect to the electric grid.
Regulatory Highlights by Region (April – June 2019)

NORTHEAST/MID-ATLANTIC

MASSACHUSETTS
On May 22, the Department of Public Utilities opened a new distributed generation (DG) interconnection docket which will be focused on the following topics: energy storage interconnection, management of interconnection queues, study processes, timeline enforcement mechanism and DG interconnection to the transmission system [Docket 19-55]. Note: IREC filed a petition to intervene.

MARYLAND*
The Phase II interconnection workgroup finalized its report, filing it in the docket in July and requesting a formal rulemaking to adopt the report’s recommended provisions. The Phase II workgroup discussions and recommendations addressed energy storage interconnection, hosting capacity analysis and smart inverters, among other topics [Docket PC 44].

* Indicates that IREC is an active intervenor
Regulatory Highlights by Region (April – June 2019)

**MIDWEST**

**MINNESOTA**

The Commission is finalizing its draft interconnection technical requirements that have been updated to incorporate IEEE Standard 1547-2018 [Dockets 01-1023 & 16-521].

The Commission will be issuing an order soon that will require Xcel Energy to publish additional data on its annual hosting capacity map [Docket 18-251].

**MICHIGAN**

On June 27, the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) held a distribution system planning stakeholder workshop which provided an overview of hosting capacity analysis and other issues [Docket U-20147]. IREC attended the workshop but is not an active intervenor in the docket.

IREC is providing technical support in the state by sharing expertise and feedback with the Commission and Staff on interconnection and grid modernization.

* Indicates that IREC is an active intervenor
IREC Insider Digest *PREVIEW*

Regulatory Highlights by Region (April – June 2019)

**SOUTHEAST**

**SOUTH CAROLINA**
The Office of Regulatory staff has recommended that the Commission open a new docket within 6 months to update and review its interconnection standards as required by the South Carolina Energy Freedom Act signed into law in May 2019. The Act includes a requirement to consider energy storage. IREC will determine next steps pending Commission action on this recommendation.

**NORTH CAROLINA***
On June 14, the Commission issued an order approving revisions to its interconnection standard that were agreed upon by Commission staff and the utilities but not reflective of all of the changes sought by IREC or other distributed energy resource advocates [Docket E-100 Sub 101].

* Indicates that IREC is an active intervenor
**Regulatory Highlights by Region**
(April – June 2019)

### MOUNTAIN WEST

#### ARIZONA
On July 19, the Commission issued a decision requiring Staff to file a Notice of Supplemental Proposed Rulemaking with the Office of the Secretary of State for publication in the Arizona Administrative Register by August 9, initiating a formal rulemaking process for the adoption of statewide rules for the interconnection of distributed generation systems. The proposed rules address the interconnection process (including timelines and system review) and incorporate energy storage as an eligible generation facility, among other provisions [Docket RE-00000A-07-0609].

#### NEVADA*
Since the filing of its distributed resource plan in April 2019, NV Energy has been in settlement discussions with stakeholders to improve its online hosting capacity portal. The settlement agreement will go to the Commission for approval [Dockets 17-08022 & 19-04003].

#### MONTANA*
On June 7, the Commission issued an order requiring NorthWestern Energy (NWE) to allow the interconnection of energy storage as part of net metered distributed generation projects as well as approving improvements to the utility’s timeline obligations. On June 17, NWE filed a motion for reconsideration of this decision. A staff memo rejected NEW’s position and arguments and filed their memo with the Commission. The Commission will rule on the motion soon [Docket D.2016.9.66].

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* Indicates that IREC is an active intervenor
In January 2019, the state’s investor owned utilities reinstated their integration capacity (ICA) maps, and since that time, stakeholders (including IREC) have been working on improvements to the maps and the underlying data. The Administrative Law Judge has asked for formal comments on the recommended improvements and indicated that a workshop will be held on August 22. Comments are due August 1 and reply comments are due September 12 [Docket R.14-08-013].

Rule 21 workgroup 3 completed its final report which was filed in the docket on July 19, followed by a comment period that will end on August 22. The workgroup covered several issues, including timeline reporting/enforcement, inadvertent export and limited export, among other topics [Docket R.17-07-077].

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IREC Insider Digest

The IREC Insider Digest PREVIEW includes quick highlights from our regulatory and workforce development efforts across the country. The complete IREC Insider Digest provides more in-depth regulatory summaries by state and is intended as an advance supplement to our Quarterly Insider Updates for sponsors.

For more details or to become a sponsor, please contact Larry Sherwood (Larry@irecusa.org).

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