



# Assessing the Role of Energy Efficiency in Microgrids

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#### **Learning Objectives**

- Microgrid basics
- Microgrids as a force in Market Transformation
- Discuss the role of energy efficiency in the planning of a microgrid
- Share some key lessons learned while performing microgrid feasibility studies



### About TRC

A pioneer in groundbreaking scientific and engineering developments since 1969, TRC is a national engineering, consulting and construction management firm that provides integrated services to three primary markets:







- Electrical Transmission, Distribution & Substation Engineering
- Energy Efficiency, Demand Response, Renewable Energy, CHP
- Communications Engineering

#### **Growth Drivers**

Reliability | Power Supply | Aging Generation Assets | Regulatory Transformation



#### **TRC Microgrid Team** *TRC Multi-discipline team*



#### Information Technology



## What is a Microgrid and why should I care?



#### Today's Grid





#### **Tomorrow's Microgrids**





### **Microgrid Basics**

As defined by the US Department of Energy,

"Microgrids are localized grids that can disconnect from the traditional grid to operate autonomously and help mitigate grid disturbances to strengthen grid resilience."



### What is a Microgrid?

To put this another way,

"Microgrids are 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 and that connects and disconnects from such grid to enable it to operate in both grid connected or Island Mode."

- CT Public Act 12-148 § 7



#### **Types of Microgrids**





## **Microgrid Basics**

Critical facilities kW demand = "The Load"

**Distributed Generation (DG)** = Creates power to operate independent of utility grid.

*"Island Mode" =* separated from utility grid, all loads supplied with power from DG.

*"Grid Paralleled Mode" =* DG resources operating in parallel with utility grid.



### **Distributed Generation Technology**





# **Microgrid Basics**

Microgrids are all about <u>kW</u> – **Demand & Capacity** Facility *demand* in peak kW required DG *capacity* in maximum kW delivered

#### **Demand reduction affects required DG capacity.**

Kilowatt/hours kWh = energy cost, savings. Affects operating cost, <u>not</u> DG capacity.



# **Distributed Generation for Microgrid**

The power produced by DG must precisely match the demand of the combined loads -

"Coincident Load"

DG capacity must <u>always</u> exceed peak load -

#### "spinning reserve"

DG must be able to follow changing load.

- Base Load generation Near steady output
- Peaking Generation follows load/maintains frequency



### **DG operation in Grid Paralleled Mode**

#### The DG required for Island mode will not be economically feasible without grid paralleled operation.

- DG operation in Grid Paralleled mode is all about efficiency.
- Reduces purchased electricity cost
- Time of day utility rate is advantageous
- Potential to provide Ancillary services. (Freq. regulation, volt/VAR support, Demand reduction resource.)
- May provide thermal energy, operation usually follows thermal load.



#### TRC Microgrid Team TRC Multi-discipline team



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Environmental



## What is a Microgrid and why should I care?



# Are Microgrids a potential force in market transformation?



#### **Climate Change Adaption**



Photo source: Nasa



# **Public Policies Promoting Microgrids**

- CT DEEP Microgrid Program
- CA "California Funds the Next Wave of Microgrids Paired With Renewables and Storage"
- Maryland Microgrid Task Force
- NY REV and NYSERDA NY Prize
- MA Microgrid Program

Innovators / early influencers in public policy

# New York Reforming the Energy Vision (REV)

- "New York struggles with an aging electricity infrastructure, which will require an estimated \$30 billion infusion of capital over the next decade"
- "Half of New York's power will come from renewable sources in the next 15 years, under a new state energy plan"



#### Solar PV \$/Watt



Source: Bloomberg New Energy Finance & pv.energytrend.com



#### **Microgrid Market Size Projection**



http://www.navigantresearch.com/blog/why-california-will-lead-theworld-on-microgrids - March 2013





# What role does energy efficiency play in a microgrid?



#### A New Multidiscipline Approach TRC Multi-discipline team



#### Information Technology

Environmental



# A New Multidiscipline Approach

	Power Delivery Engineer	Energy Efficiency Enginee					
Traditional Grid	kW – demand peak and min. to develop load profiles – 15 minute interval data	Energy Cost (\$) Savings, kWh/yr savings, MMBtu/yr savings, kW Savings (when applicable)					
Microgrid	kW – demand peak and min to develop load profile – 5 minute interval data Existing or planning? PV, Emergency Power, EE upgrades, large motors, electric heat	Large kW demand peak savings Projected fuel costs within microgrid EE upgrades now and then overtime					



#### The Meter is No Longer a Clear Divide





#### **A New Multidiscipline Approach**



Vulnerability Assessments (e.g., Threat Vulnerability Assessments & Risk Analysis) to help identify requirements & set goals



## <u>Energy efficiency</u> within a microgrid may include upgrades on both sides of the meter.

# *"Customer-side" or the "utility-side" of the meter.*



## **Microgrid Energy Efficiency**





# **Microgrid Energy Efficiency**

# What is different from the current energy efficiency industry?

Building level "energy rates" may fundamentally change for "customers" located within microgrid

- Not as simple as checking the historical average or published utility rate structure – business models are more complex
- Efficiency gains "upstream" of the building may impact the delivered cost of energy. This may fundamentally change the cost structure and cost effectiveness of certain building level upgrades



#### **Traditional EE Project Revenue Model**

Stakeholder Primary Relationships Diagram

e- = energy services

\$ = cash flow





#### **Microgrid Business Model**





#### **Core Microgrid: Revenue**

#### Scenario w/ 5 year NYPA rate

<u>ltem</u> Traditional Revenue		<u>Y1</u>		<u>Y25</u>	<u>Ann</u>	ual Average	<u>25 א</u>	<u>Year Total</u>
Huron Campus Bilateral Contract: Electric	\$	- 10,130,462.99	\$	- 23,831,373.00	- \$	17,874,891.67	- \$	446,872,291.85
Huron Campus Bilateral Contract: Thermal		1,985,364.87	\$	2,706,867.65	\$	2,328,283.25	\$	58,207,081.35
Total Traditional Revenue	\$	12,115,827.86	\$	26,538,240.65	\$	20,203,174.93	\$	505,079,373.20
Ancillary Service Revenue								
Community Emergency: Demand Charge	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Community Emergency: Electricity	Ś	-	Ś	_	Ś	_	Ś	
NYISO Generator w/ PTID#: Capacity	\$	420,000.00	\$	420,000.00	\$	420,000.00	\$	10,500,000.00
NYISO Wholesale Market: Electricity	\$	2,045,876.40	\$	2,045,876.40	\$	2,045,876.40	\$	51,146,910.00
NYISO Emergency Energy Support: Electricity	\$	72,000.00	\$	72,000.00	\$	72,000.00	\$	1,800,000.00
NYISO Voltage Support: VAR	\$	11,757.00	\$	11,757.00	\$	11,757.00	\$	293,925.00
Total Ancillary Service Revenue	\$	2,549,633.40	\$	2,549,633.40	\$	2,549,633.40	\$	63,740,835.00
Total Revenue	\$	14,665,461.26	\$	29,087,874.05	\$	22,752,808.33	\$	568,820,208.20







#### **Building Energy Efficiency vs. Add. Generation**



Should we add additional capacity?

Should we invest in efficiency?



### E.G. Chiller vs CHP Capacity

Total Peak Demand		c <b>iency)</b> Installe	d cost (M)			 / t (M)		
Chiller Replacement (9500 to			21.85	4.54	MW	20	25	MW
Lighting Improvement			4.8	0.30	MW			
Low-cost ECMs from Ben king report		\$ \$	0.2	0.23	MW			
	Total Estimated	Peak Deman	d Prelaction	5.07	P			
Estimated Installed	n Millions) per MW	\$	5.30	М		\$ 4.00		
Estimated Installed	for 5.07 MW (in Million	s) \$	26.85	М		\$ 20.28 N		
Estimated annual c	avings (in Million)		0.928	М				
Incremental cost t	all energy efficiency vs (	CHP \$	6.5					
Simple payback in	s i			ears				
Notes								
Does not take into	nt value of thermal ene	ergy genera	additic	onal CHP o	ranacity			
Based on .05 per kW	rrent rate. Microgrid r		Ill need to					
Does not value emiss	avings							
Assumption of no den		gri						



### **Microgrid Phases & Role of EE**

Feasibility – focus on large kW savings to reduce load. Compare investments in energy efficiency to generation.

Design – establish "delivered" costs of energy to the building based upon unique attributes of each microgrid. Identify EE opportunities and perform cost benefit analysis

Implementation – support installation of EE upgrades required for microgrid operation. Verify load reductions.

**Operations – continued focus on EE to allow for growth** 



*"The first thing we need to do is reduce the loads."* (Energy efficiency can play a major role)

*"I need megawatts, don't bring me a 100kW."* (Permanent demand reductions are the primary concern during feasibility)

*"We have grown accustomed to the notion that power is available in infinite supply."*(The kW savings better be real or the system could go down in island mode)



### Conclusion

- Microgrids may be a significant force in market transformation
- Microgrids require and will promote a multidiscipline approach and a shift to systems thinking
- Energy efficiency has a key role but requires a different approach
  - Approach varies by phase of the project
  - Efficiency gains upstream can impact building level EE cost-effectiveness
  - The requirement to island raises the stakes for everyone





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