

Agenda – Pending Loads Implementation Workshop

Date: Friday, March 14, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Register for the virtual CPUC workshop here:

<https://cpuc.webex.com/weblink/register/r1d7d0e0cd82c820478bc8e4920ed3820>

Procedural Background:

The purpose of Rulemaking 21-06-017 is to prepare the electric grid for a high number of distributed energy resources. In establishing this proceeding, the Commission recognized the need to review utility distribution planning processes. Track 1, Phase 1 of this proceeding focuses on near-term improvements to the distribution planning and execution process.

In 2024, the Commission adopted Decision [D.24-10-030](#) in the High DER Proceeding approving the proposal to create a pending loads category in distribution planning. The Decision explained that pending loads are estimates of load growth that are less certain than a known load (e.g., a customer request for service) but more certain than economic disaggregation of the IEPR forecast. The pending load category will be informed by existing utility coordination efforts, planning programs, and an aggregation of publicly available information. The stated goal of the pending loads category is to increase utility awareness of where loads will likely appear in the mid-term years of the distribution planning process. To develop the final definition of pending loads, the types of data to be included, and how they will be used in planning, the Decision directed the Utilities to present at a CPUC-hosted workshop.

Workshop Objectives:

The Commission sees this workshop as an opportunity to allow for more stakeholder engagement in developing the pending loads category by reacting to developed proposals and presenting preferred alternatives. Stakeholder opinions will assist Utilities in the development of the formal advice letter proposal and be considered in the Commission's review.

The workshop will be recorded and made available on the CPUC Distribution Planning webpage. The recording will not be a part of the High DER record.

The Decision included the following topics to be addressed at the workshop:

1. Identify the specific sources of information, at minimum, to inform the pending loads category.
2. Identify uses of pending load to inform the forecast and the investment plan.
3. Determine how to coordinate the pending loads data with the transportation electrification rulemaking.
4. Discuss the types of pending loads that should be allowed to exceed the integrated energy policy report (IEPR) in the near term and justification.
5. Discuss appropriate guardrails for the pending load category.
6. Identify strategies to reduce any ratepayer risk association with pending loads.
7. Discuss additional reporting requirements to be implemented for pending loads evaluation.
8. Clarify what is currently included in the IEPR to ensure pending loads are incremental to known loads and loads accounted for in the spatial load growth forecasts.
9. Alignment in the use of pending load data in the distribution planning and execution process and other planning processes including, for example, integrated resource planning, the Transmission Planning Process, and General Rate Cases.

Workshop Agenda:

Time	Agenda Item	Details
9:00 - 9:30 AM	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening remarks by Commissioner Houck Energy Division Background and Workshop Framing <p>Objectives: Determine coordination of pending loads with TE and other planning processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop logistics Commissioner Darcie Houck to set the stage for the workshop and emphasize its purpose. Energy Division opens with context and frames the workshop objectives.
9:30 – 10:00 AM	<p>CEC Presentation – IEPR contents and application to distribution planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> California Energy Commission presents an overview of the IEPR contents and the details of load modifiers for sectors of rapid load growth. <p>Objectives: Clarify what is included in the IEPR to ensure pending loads are defined in relation loads accounted for in the IEPR forecast. Alignment of the use of pending loads with other planning processes.</p>	<p>Provide background on what is currently included in the IEPR, particularly relevant load modifier forecasts (TE), and all of their components. Discuss how Pending Loads could interact with the IEPR's forecasted loads.</p>
10:00 – 10:10	Break	Be back in 10 minutes!
10:10 AM – 12:10 PM	<p>IOU Presentations: Pending Loads early implementation, proposals, implementation processes, and risks, safeguards, and reporting requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation by IOUs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PG&E SDG&E SCE <p>Objectives: Propose data sources to inform pending loads, uses of pending loads in DPEP, the allowance of types of loads to exceed the IEPR, guardrails and risk reduction strategies, and annual reporting requirements.</p>	<p>Covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IOU experience with Pending Loads so far. Compare and contrast DPP before and after Pending Loads implementation & provide illustrative examples. Proposal of sources and load types that should be able to exceed the IEPR. Present risks and propose safeguards, and reporting requirements.
12:10 – 12:40 PM	Open Discussion	Reactions to the IOU proposals
12:40 - 1:40 PM	Lunch	Be back in 60 minutes!
1:40 – 2:50 PM	<p>Stakeholder perspectives on benefits, risks, safeguards, and reporting requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cal Advocates – Richard Khoe and Marc Hutton Hoop Valley Tribe - Linnea Jackson Morongo Band of Mission Indians - Karen Woodard Additional stakeholders TBD <p>Objectives: Propose and discuss data sources to inform pending loads, the use of pending loads in DPEP, the allowance of types of loads to exceed the IEPR, guardrails and risk reduction strategies, and annual reporting requirements.</p>	<p>Stakeholders will present perspectives on benefits and risks associated with Pending Loads.</p> <p>Present proposals for types and treatment of load in the Pending Loads category and/or safeguards and reporting requirements.</p>

2:50 – 3:20 PM	Open Discussion	Reactions to stakeholder presentations. Closing thoughts from participants and attendees.
3:20 – 3:30 PM	Closing Remarks and Next Steps	Summary of key takeaway, closing remarks, and next steps

Next Steps:

- Following the workshop, the Utilities shall file a Pending Loads Implementation Workshop Report no later than April 1, 2025.
- Utilities shall collect informal comments from parties on the Pending Loads Workshop Report no later than May 1, 2025.
- The Utilities shall file a Tier 3 Advice Letter:
 - (1) proposing the method for developing the pending loads category and incorporating the category into the Distribution Planning Process;
 - (2) defining the types of information considered in the pending loads category and the general criteria applied to each category; and
 - (3) discussing the risk of pending loads that do not materialize and how to mitigate the risk.
 - The Pending Loads Implementation Advice Letter shall include the Pending Loads Workshop Report and a description of how information gathered from the workshop and the informal comments influenced the proposal.
- Upon the disposition of the Tier 3 Advice Letter, Utilities must create a pending loads category in the Distribution Planning Process no later than December 31, 2025.