GRID RESILIENCE AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

Established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the U.S. Department of Energy’s Grid Deployment Office is administering a historic $10.5 billion investment via the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program to enhance grid flexibility, improve the resilience of the power system against growing threats of extreme weather and climate change, and ensure American communities have access to affordable, reliable, clean electricity when and where they need it.

THE FUTURE GRID PROJECT

The Future Grid project will deploy innovative digital technology solutions to maximize the value of distributed energy resources (DERs) through advanced network management, resource orchestration, and control. The project will build upon foundational grid modernization investments in advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), advanced distribution management systems (ADMS), distributed energy resource management systems (DERMS), and fault location, isolation, and service restoration (FLISR) currently underway in electric service territories across New York and Massachusetts through components including network-adaptive DER connections, enhanced FLISR-DER integrations, and substation-edge computing.

Anticipated Outcomes and Benefits

› Enhance the operational flexibility of DERs for critical load balancing functions.
› Streamline interoperability of smart technology for real-time monitoring and control of the distribution system.
› Support the rising volume, diversity, and complexity of DER technology in service territory and reducing queues for new DER interconnection.
› Upgrade system resilience through autonomous controls and improved sectionalization.
› Dedicated community benefits planning staff committed to targeting disadvantaged communities (DACS) for improvements in energy resilience, community energy ownership, and job creation and training opportunities while reducing energy and environmental burdens.
› $4 million for community benefit initiatives, including STEM-focused workforce development programs and supporting 180 Full-time Equivalents (FTEs).
› Strong commitment to engagement with community business organizations.
› Commitment through supplier diversity to increase diverse spend in under-served, marginalized and disenfranchised communities.
› Commitment to work with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) to plan initiatives that keep union workers capable and ready to support the energy transition.
› Organization-wide effort to implement a range of robust diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility initiatives.

National Grid’s Responsible Business Charter commits to:

› Ensuring fairness of pay across the organization and ensure pay practices do not show bias.
› Achieving at least 50% diversity in new talent programs as well as senior leadership group by 2025.
› Providing unconscious bias training to all employees.

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