

STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

- CASE 18-M-0084 - In the Matter of a Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Initiative.
- CASE 18-M-0376 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission Regarding Cyber Security Protocols and Protections in the Energy Market Place.
- CASE 16-M-0411 - In the Matter of Distributed System Implementation Plans.
- CASE 15-M-0180 - In the Matter of Regulation and Oversight of Distributed Energy Resource Providers and Products.

NOTICE OF GREEN BUTTON CONNECT WORKING GROUP

(Issued February 7, 2019)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Department of Public Service (DPS) Staff will convene a working group meeting on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 10:30 A.M. to begin discussions on the development of Green Button Connect (GBC) terms and conditions. The meeting will take place at the New York State Department of Public Service's Albany Offices, 19th Floor Boardroom, Three Empire State Plaza.

On December 13, 2018, the Commission issued its Order Adopting Accelerated Energy Efficient Targets (the Order),¹ which directed the utilities and Staff to conduct a collaborative with DER providers and other interested parties to develop GBC terms and conditions that are consistent across utility service territories, and that make it no more difficult for a DER provider, for whom a customer has provided consent, to access data than it is for the individual customer to access data.

¹ Case 18-M-0084, In the Matter of a Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Initiative.

GBC is a widely recognized and well-accepted method of providing customers access to their energy usage data as well as enabling customers to consent to the provision of their energy consumption data to one or more third parties. New York utilities have been encouraged to include GBC implementation plans in their Distributed System Implementation Plans (DSIP) and in plans for rolling out Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). At this time, all electric utilities are pursuing implementation of GBC, with the exception of Central Hudson which is implementing tools with similar functionality. The Order recognized the rollout of AMI will not be complete for several years and because monthly customer usage, available with current metering, is useful to efficiency and energy management vendors, the utilities should expedite their implementation of GBC.

In order for the full benefits of GBC to be realized, responsibilities for third parties accessing data through GBC as well as the utilities' interaction with these third parties must be clearly articulated in a GBC terms and conditions agreement. The working group will focus only on the terms and conditions necessary for the useful and effective implementation of Green Button Connect in a consistent manner throughout the State.

Additionally, the working group will discuss the feasibility of differentiating a "customer agent," an entity to whom the customer has given permission to access their data, from other third parties for simplified/streamlined data access. Specifically, the working group should consider how this designation could be utilized both pre- and post-GBC. In the event that the collaborative does not produce a mutually agreed upon agreement, the Commission directed Staff to propose GBC terms and conditions based on successful terms utilized in other jurisdictions.

Staff anticipates conducting multiple working group meetings in order to develop and finalize the necessary GBC terms and conditions. This meeting will kick off the GBC working group scope and process. Given the breadth of this topic and anticipated parties' interests, the first meeting will focus on 1) an overview of the GBC platform; 2) identification of the substantive elements necessary for the GBC terms and conditions; and 3) designation of a customer agent. Elements of the GBC terms and conditions are expected to include: registration requirements; IT testing requirements; conditions of participation; confidentiality requirements (including any non-disclosure requirements); protection of customer information (including data security measures); notifications of security incidents; and indemnification. Staff will utilize input received at this initial working group meeting to develop a schedule for future GBC working group meeting dates and topics for discussion.

Participation by Webex will be available for individuals unable to attend in person. Information for joining the Webex will be posted in Case 18-M-0084 at least five days prior to the meeting date.

Interested stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments or questions in advance of the meeting in Case 18-M-0084. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Strait by email at Kelly.Strait@dps.ny.gov, or by telephone at (518) 474-8026.

(SIGNED)

KATHLEEN H. BURGESS
Secretary