



EQUITY TIGER TEAM

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Purpose, Objectives, & Scope

The Equity Tiger Team will be actively assessing societal challenges and opportunities provided by the commercialization of a broad range of LDES technologies and developing consensus-based recommendations to ensure energy equity and environmental justice principles are upheld.

- Assess the distributional impacts of LDES commercialization and its potential for impact on traditionally disadvantaged or underserved communities, and to identify and disseminate good practices that address barriers to equitable access to the benefits of LDES.
- Review existing studies and prior knowledge.
- Get input from industry and experts.
- Make recommendations to frame multiple pathways to achieve LDES commercialization over the next decade.

AND

- Work with other Tiger Teams to help identify equity issues in those areas

Initial Recommendations

Recommendation 1: State Public Utilities Commissions or Departments of Energy should have a designated officer in charge of equity, accessibility, or inclusion.

Rationale: Equity is a cross-cutting issue that impacts all aspects of the energy economy, and must be an explicit consideration in siting, operations, and all other facets of LDES. To adequately incorporate principles of inclusion and equity, state energy offices and regulators need guidance in the form of a framework or protocol, overseen by an individual who can help with the application of metrics to measure the success of equity initiatives, and who can show the value that equity brings to the economy and communities.

Recommendation Recipients: State PUCs and Departments of Energy, State legislatures

Recommendation 2: Grid-connected LDES projects that have explicit community benefits agreements and that have performed cumulative impacts analysis should be given higher priority in permitting, approvals, and the interconnection queue than those lacking evidence of community engagement and equity considerations.

Rationale: Project developers who meaningfully engage with the communities that will host their projects and are deliberate in assessing, communicating and mitigating potential projects' impacts will address community expectations and concerns appropriately. Thus project teams that thoughtfully and intentionally integrate their host communities in important decision making processes and perform harm reduction analysis like cumulative impacts present lower risks of not obtaining stated goals like schedule and budget as well as community benefits not being fully realized. We therefore recommend that this reduction in risk be taken into account by responsible parties including but not limited to interconnection authorities, and that these projects be given higher priority in interconnection queues because they are more likely to be completed in a way that meets all stated goals including time, budget and community benefits.

Recommendation Recipients: Interconnection authority, state siting boards, RTO/ISO

Defining the Challenges

- Equity challenges not explicitly defined in the Ltoff report
- No feedback on initial equity challenges
- Strategy with choosing challenges: important *and* actionable



New Challenges & Recommendations

- Challenge #1: Equity-related metrics are lacking in the LDES space.
 - Recommendation: Identify DOE policy priorities and guidance/programs/tools that exist in other energy spaces, and those used in industry. Identify ways in which these are applicable or can be adapted to LDES' unique requirement.
- Challenge #2: Participation by community members must be rewarded with both real and timely benefits reflective of community-identified needs, and affected communities should realize dividends over time.
 - Recommendations to project developers: 1) budget for immediate and timely benefits; and 2) provide projections of long-term benefits and burdens
 - Recommendation to funders/permitting authorities: Look for the above in CBPs or other cultural/social impact reporting requirements.

