Freetown distributed energy systems



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The Freetown area is chosen as one of six regions in Massachusetts that need electric system enhancements to maintain reliability and enable distributed energy resource (DER) facilities to safely interconnect and operate.

The upgrades needed in this area include:

If all six groups of projects are approved, that would enable the integration of approximately 1 gigawatt (GW) of solar energy needed to help Massachusetts achieve its net-zero carbon emissions goal by 2050.

Distributed energy resource (DER) projects will help support the clean energy goals of Massachusetts and the objectives of renewable energy developers across six different areas.

Distributed energy resources (DER) are small-scale energy generation and storage technologies, interconnected to the electric grid, and installed at or near where the energy will be used.

Distributed generation(DG)refers to the array of DER technologies used to generate electricity, such as solar panels, wind turbines, natural gas and fuel cells.

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of DER facilities, primarily solar and battery storage, seeking to interconnect to the electric grid in southeastern and western Massachusetts. These DG projects require equipment upgrades at some existing substations, as well as the installation of new transmission lines in existing rights-of-ways.

We conducted extensive system planning studies seven affected areas where electric system upgrades are needed to support the interconnection of new DER. These clean energy resources are needed to help Massachusetts achieve its net-zero carbon emissions goal by 2050.

If all six groups of projects are approved, that would enable the integration of approximately 1 gigawatt (GW) of solar energy. So far, five groups have been approved by the Department of Public Utilities (DPU).

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Distributed energy resources (DERs) are proliferating on power systems, offering utilities new means of supporting objectives related to distribution grid operations, end-customer value, and market participation. With DER management systems (DERMS), utilities can apply the capabilities of flexible demand-side energy resources and manage diverse and dispersed DERs, both individually and in aggregate.



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NREL-developed optimization tools, control architectures, and DER analytics are collectively contributing to modern DERMS solutions and can help utilities, communities, companies, and other solution providers make existing and incoming devices work for grid flexibility, reliability, resilience, and more.

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