



KENTUCKY MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY

Community IRP Focus Group Feedback

General questions and answers raised during the Community IRP Focus Group

1. Is this KYMEA's first time doing an IRP?

KYMEA Response: When the Agency first began in 2015, the directors and consultants worked through numerous resource planning and modeling processes that were essentially the activities of an IRP. While the staff has significant experience developing IRPs over many years, the 2020 IRP could be considered KYMEA's first formal IRP process that includes public participation.

2. Is KYMEA using consultants to develop its IRP?

KYMEA Response: KYMEA works with many consultants. Most of the planning and modeling will be done in-house. There will be some need for consultants to assist in forecasting, transmission studies, and negotiations.

3. Which communities are participating in this IRP process?

KYMEA Response: KYMEA's eight All Requirements members: Barbourville, Bardwell, Corbin, Falmouth, Frankfort, Madisonville, Paris, and Providence along with two transmission customers, Benham and Berea are participating in the IRP process. KYMEA is open to other municipals who are interested in joining the planning efforts.

4. How does the IRP affect local customers?

KYMEA Response: 80% of the local utility expenses are due to power supply. KYMEA is not-for-profit and was established to provide local control to the community's power supply and rates. When COVID-19 came along, the members said, "We need a way to provide relief to our customers." They were able to do this through the Agency by developing a Rate Relief Plan and a Member Late Payment Protection Plan.

5. Will changes in the portfolio affect local control?

KYMEA Response: No changes in the portfolio affect local control. Local control is by the governing board. The governing board is made up of representatives from each member's utility. The representatives make decisions on the power supply portfolios for the Agency.

6. What has KYMEA done to inform the public of the IRP process and this meeting? What outreach was done to ratepayers in each community, and what outreach is planned for future Community IRP Focus Groups?

KYMEA Response: The Website is KYMEA's primary information outlet for the IRP process. We have dedicated pages on www.kymea.org that provide timelines, meeting dates, presentations, videos, and feedback opportunities. KYMEA also publishes a quarterly newsletter that advertised the Community IRP Focus Group Sessions.

7. Can you point me to the business case for KYMEA's owning of a combined cycle gas power plant, and who has recommended that KYMEA build one?

KYMEA Response: Through the IRP process, we will look at a wide array of technologies for transmission and energy resources. We intend to study these options, along with corresponding rates and investments. The results will be present to the Board of Directors so that they can make an informed decision. There is no commitment at this time to a combined cycle gas plant.

8. How does RWE plan to address vegetation at the solar site?

RWE Response: RWE plans to use a species of grass or ground cover that doesn't grow very high and one which will also give a good albedo and bifacial gain.

9. How do you clean the solar panels?

RWE Response: Traditionally, pressure washing with water only is best. Cleaning is typically done on a quarterly basis.

10. How will snow and ice affect the solar panels?

RWE Response: Snow and ice will drop the overall production, but snow on the ground will increase the albedo and bifacial gain. This type of effect is modeled, forecasted, and planned for.

11. What kind of staff is necessary to run and maintain the solar farm?

RWE Response: There is typically a regional operator who maintains the solar farm. They are usually able to be on-site within a couple of hours to address any issues that arise. An analytical team monitors the project in real-time virtually.

12. How much battery storage is included in the Ashwood solar project, and what type of batteries?

RWE Response: There are no batteries in the Ashwood project at this time, but KYMEA is exploring batteries as an additional option in the 2020 IRP.

13. Do you typically pair around 60% of a solar site with batteries, or does it vary by application?

RWE Response: Battery pairing varies by application and region. RWE has seen 25%-75% of battery pairing for solar projects. 25% would be the minimum option to perform effective shaping.

14. What duration battery do you commonly use?

RWE Response: For standard application and peak shifting, we typically use a two-hour battery.

15. Would it be difficult to add batteries in the future?

RWE Response: We would need to look at the interconnection to ensure there is capacity and available land. It would not be a difficult option to explore.

16. What is the lead time on a RICE unit?

Boyd CAT Response: to complete a project through commissioning, it will take 12-14 months.

17. What kind of staff is necessary to run a RICE unit?

Boyd CAT Response: Depending on how the Agency wants to operate a plant will determine the amount of staff required. The units require about four maintenance services a year and can be operated remotely.

18. Does CAT do anything with hydrogen fuel cells or other hydrogen generators?

Boyd CAT Response: Not at this time.

19. Do you evaluate scenarios using battery storage?

KYMEA Response: Yes, KYMEA is modeling battery storage in the IRP process.

20. How do batteries factor into your net-zero carbon scenario?

KYMEA Response: There are several net-zero scenarios where we are modeling different battery storage options.

21. Were you able to factor into your model an increase in electric vehicles?

KYMEA Response: An increase in electric vehicles is baked into the demand cases that are being analyzed.

22. Does KYMEA plan to build a large power plant?

KYMEA Response: No, anything that KYMEA decides to build would be built with the intent to serve our members' load.

Feedback and Questions Post Community IRP Focus Group

1. **Andy McDonald:** I was glad to be able to participate. I learned a lot from the meeting. I think the Agency needs to make further efforts to invite public participation in the IRP process. For example, the website refers to participants but does not tell you how to register for the meeting. The links for Participant Resources say, "coming soon" and have said that for a long time. I referred some friends to today's meeting, and it was not simple to direct them on how to join the meeting. Some ideas for how to actively inform customers and stakeholders about the September session and the opportunity to comment on the IRP process:

- Provide flyers to be inserted in Member customers' bills (or text that could be added to documents already provided to members).
- Post notices on Member websites.
- Ask members to reach out to stakeholders who they know have an interest in these issues, including local elected leaders and utility board members.
- Use social media like Facebook.

Will the September session be a repeat of today or the next step with new information?

KYMEA Response: In the future, KYMEA will continue to explore ways to broaden public awareness of the Community IRP Focus Group Meetings. The September Community IRP

Focus Group Agenda will be new material, not the same as the June Community IRP Focus Group

2. **Jim McWilliams:** I missed the discussion this morning. Why wasn't this meeting advertised? Will a recording be made available? I'm no expert on how to properly "notice" public meetings, but I have seen that the Frankfort State Journal publishes legal notices frequently advising the public of a given meeting. Have y'all thought about employing that tactic? Since the Frankfort PB is a majority member of KYMEA, I'd hope that Frankfort residents would be interested to help plan for the future, as well as citizens from other member communities. I'm curious if the Agency is concerned that committing member cities to the risk of a long term commitment to a gas plant will lead to defections from the AR group or, ultimately, members leaving KYMEA altogether? Why would it be in the best interest of a member to remain in the AR group and be tied to a long-term commitment to a gas plant? I'm thinking about all of the aggressive efforts underway to decarbonize our energy sector and how rapidly it all is changing. Who knows what the economy will look like in a post-pandemic world? It's too early to tell -- we just don't know.

KYMEA Response: In the morning session of the meeting, we reviewed the website, where we will be posting all presentations and videos. We should have it published in the next week or so on our website for public viewing. The Agency complies with meeting notice requirements, but with your feedback, we may decide to add some additional advertisements for future meetings.