

**Minutes from meeting of IRP Stakeholder Technical Advisory Group (STAG)**  
**Meeting 1 – July 12, 2023**

*Overall takeaways:*

1. Some members of the STAG had an interest in maximizing energy resources sited in Glendale (including distributed energy resources such as customer-sited solar and storage) to both achieve clean energy goals and overcome challenges associated with Glendale's transmission constraints.
  - a. The constraint on Glendale's transmission capacity was of particular interest to the group, and multiple members expressed a desire to discuss this challenge more and explore solutions through the IRP and other avenues.
2. Customer education and behavior change was a recurring theme across the meeting, with multiple members expressing interest in strategies to engage customers in energy saving and clean energy programs. Members discussed that customer behavior change is an essential component of successful distributed energy resource (DER) programs, including energy efficiency, demand response, and customer-sited solar and storage programs.
3. There was a desire from multiple members to make sure the IRP is not just rubber stamp process and that there's adequate opportunity and time for both the Glendale community and City Council to review and provide feedback before finalization.
  - a. Relatedly, members wanted clarity on how GWP will ultimately choose its preferred scenario from this IRP.

*Member introductions:*

1. All members introduced themselves by stating their name, affiliation, location in Glendale, customer type, and one thing they'd like to contribute or get out of the STAG process.
2. Most STAG members represent residential customers, with several representing larger commercial interests. Many have lived in Glendale for years and have a desire to get more involved in the future of the city.
3. Themes that arose when members spoke about what they'd like to contribute/get out of STAG included:
  - a. A desire to make sure there's true community involvement in the IRP process so it's not just a "rubber stamp" exercise.
    - i. Some members raised a desire to conduct outreach to their communities to get their input on the STAG process (e.g., via polling), which is welcome.
  - b. A commitment to representing voices that are often underrepresented in city planning processes, for instance renters, immigrant communities, low-income residents, youth, and other marginalized groups. Some members raised a desire to help these groups overcome barriers to participation in the IRP process and make this plan work for the entire community.
  - c. Emphasis on clean energy/sustainability and affordability as central priorities for this IRP, reflected by numerous STAG members. Several STAG members also raised the importance of reliability, especially for commercial customers with high energy demand.

*Presentation from Glendale Water & Power about its power system and integrated resource planning:*

1. See the accompanying PowerPoint PDF for the slides presented by GWP.
2. Glendale Water & Power presented an overview of its power system, including its customer types, peak energy demand, and progress on DER and energy efficiency programs.
3. GWP also provided an overview of integrated resource planning and the central planning considerations in IRPs (meeting reliability standards and clean energy mandates at the lowest possible costs), including constraints unique to Glendale (such as transmission).
4. Questions and discussion points among the STAG related to this presentation included:
  - a. Transmission
    - i. Multiple members were interested in further discussing access to transmission resources as a key factor in designing community-preferred modeling scenarios.
    - ii. GWP shared that it has tried multiple ways to get access to more transmission, but that the utility has a limited ability to act on its own given its small size. GWP must coordinate any efforts related to transmission with LA and other surrounding municipalities, given these communities share these resources.
    - iii. STAG members asked questions about what transmission projects are in the queue and when additional transmission capacity might come online.
      1. GWP shared that many projects are in the queue, but that it commonly takes a decade or more to build new transmission lines. With that in mind, GWP suggested the group should not count on new projects coming online in the IRP planning period (20 years) and instead operate under the assumption that GWP's existing transmission resources will be what is available to the utility for the coming future.
  - b. Local vs. remote energy resources in Glendale's power mix
    - i. STAG members asked questions about what portion of Glendale's power comes from inside the city, versus is imported to the city via transmission. Strategen will prepare this information to share with members next time.
    - ii. Some members saw Glendale's transmission constraints as a factor that should lead to the expediting and expanding of rooftop solar in Glendale. Some were curious what amount of power that strategy could generate.
      1. GWP shared that it is looking into local solar projects, including on parking lots, and into other options to promote local resources (like tariffs and small-scale power purchase agreements).
      2. It also shared that, while rooftop solar can play a role in meeting Glendale's reliability and clean energy goals, not every rooftop may be suitable for solar given their angles and that the utility must also have energy resources available when solar isn't producing.
  - c. System reliability
    - i. In response to GWP sharing about the reliability standards it must meet in its IRP planning and operations, some members asked questions about whether GWP has ever faced a "contingency" event (where the utility's largest transmission or generating resource fails).
      1. GWP responded that the utility came very close to such a failure this past winter, with a transmission outage in LADWP's system that affected Glendale. During this event, the utility was monitoring things closely to

see if it would have to institute blackouts. GWP said it was able to survive this situation because of low energy demand at that time (the utility experiences peak demand in the summer), resource reserves, and effective technical planning.

d. Consumer behavior

- i. Some members were interested in discussing the ability to change consumers' behavior, including turning off lights, adjusting thermostats, or using appliances at certain times of day to take advantage of renewable energy production times. Consumer education was raised as a central way to change behavior.

*Presentation from Ascend Analytics about the IRP modeling process:*

1. See the accompanying PowerPoint PDF for the slides presented by Ascend Analytics.
2. Ascend presented an overview of its work on IRPs, the way that modeling is used to evaluate the future of Glendale's power system, and how its model is built.
3. It also presented results of analysis it conducted showing how Glendale's energy portfolio would evolve into the future (assuming no new resources are added to the system beyond those Glendale has already developed or contracted). This included presenting information on what percentage of clean energy Glendale will achieve by 2030 with these existing resources.
4. Questions and discussion points among the STAG related to this presentation included:
  - a. Glendale's energy demand
    - i. STAG members asked how Ascend is projecting future growth in energy demand for the city, considering factors such as electrification and increased electric vehicle (EV) adoption. Relatedly, one also asked whether Ascend will be considering growth in population as a factor that might increase Glendale's energy demand, including growth in housing supply.
      1. Ascend is working with GWP on projections for future energy demand and will consider factors such as electrification and EV adoption.
  - b. Consumer-facing resources and consumer behavior
    - i. Some STAG members expressed particular interest in customer-side resources and programs as resources to prioritize in modeling.
    - ii. One member asked how Ascend considers consumer behavior in its model, especially when evaluating the contribution of customer-dependent resources.

*Presentation from Strategen Consulting about the IRP community engagement process and STAG's role:*

1. See the accompanying PowerPoint PDF for the slides presented by Strategen Consulting.
2. Strategen presented an overview of the STAG's role in the IRP process and the expectations for members. This role includes developing at least two community-preferred scenarios for Ascend/GWP to model in this IRP process, as well as acting as a bridge between the Glendale community and the modeling team.
3. It also covered the STAG timeline and key deadlines in the IRP process.
4. Questions and discussion points among the STAG related to this presentation included:
  - a. GWP's decision-making in this IRP
    - i. One member asked for clarification on who the GWP Commission is and what their role is in creating the IRP and deciding on GWP's preferred scenario.

1. GWP responded that the GWP Commission is a group of five Glendale residents appointed by the City Council who advise on GWP's operations. They will be informed of, but not have decision-making power over, GWP's IRP.
  - ii. Some members asked for clarification about who at GWP will make the decision about which scenario to select from this IRP.
    1. GWP responded that their IRP team (including the Assistant General Manager for Power Management, Integrated Resource Plan Manager, and others) will analyze the modeling results, in coordination with Ascend Analytics, and make a recommendation to GWP's General Manager on the utility's preferred scenario. After GWP has selected its preferred scenario, it will be presented to City Council, who must approve it before the plan is finalized.
- b. The timeline for IRP review
  - i. One member asked if there will be enough time in December for Glendale City Council to meaningfully review and provide comment on the IRP before it breaks in mid-December. They raised the concern that presenting the plan to Council too late could result in a "rubber stamp"-type process.
    1. GWP and Strategen responded that the proposed timeline is tentative and it's possible to bring the IRP to City Council sooner than the suggested date of 12/5/23. GWP shared that Council will be receiving updates on the IRP prior to December, including an update on modeling results in September. That means the December meeting won't be the first time the Council or community is hearing about the IRP results and GWP's preferred scenario.
- c. Community outreach
  - i. Some members asked about the outreach being done to promote the IRP process. Members acknowledged the multiple languages spoken in Glendale and the various communities in the city and wanted to make sure the promotion plan is accessible and that no one is left behind.
    1. GWP responded that it sent out mailers to ~25,000 customers (who have no email address registered with GWP). These mailers included QR codes to translate them to other languages (e.g., Armenian, Spanish).
    2. GWP has also been advertising townhalls and other IRP-related updates in its newsletters and customer emails.
    3. At townhalls, GWP is providing translation in multiple languages and is hosting townhalls in different locations across Glendale to reach different segments of the community.
  - ii. One member asked if it's possible to do in-bill flyers about the IRP, in addition to the mailer already sent out.
    1. GWP responded that this is possible, but it takes ~two months for in-bill flyers to reach all customers given the billing schedule. Any customer receiving paper bills has already received a mailer, and any customer receiving electronic bills has already received IRP emails.