



Microgrid Resources Coalition

Various, NJ

Founding Member

ABOUT THE MRC

The Microgrid Resources Coalition (MRC) is a consortium of leading owners, operators, developers, suppliers and investors formed to advocate for policies and regulations that support microgrid deployment. The group believes that microgrids represent the cutting edge of a distributed energy future. By providing power when the grid is down and energy savings when the grid is operating, microgrids meet their hosts' needs for enhanced reliability, energy savings and reduced emissions. By responding flexibly to the needs of the grid, they deliver energy, capacity and ancillary services that improve the reliability of the bulk power system and the efficiency of energy markets.



The Microgrid Resources Coalition: Advocacy for the Grid of the Future

The MRC was established following meetings in summer and fall 2013 between MRC founding members Princeton University and ICETEC Energy Services, MRC counsel Drinker Biddle & Reath and each of the commissioners of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). In those meetings, the group described Princeton's microgrid, its successful performance during Superstorm Sandy and its integration into the PJM Interconnection (PJM) energy markets. The group then discussed plans to establish an advocacy organization.

Following a first meeting with then FERC Chairman John Wellinghoff, he requested that members of the group meet individually with each of the other four commissioners, which they did. Each was enthusiastic about the proposed coalition and its mission; and FERC Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur, a Princeton graduate, has since toured the Princeton facilities. Subsequently, NRG Energy, **Concord Engineering** and **IDEA joined Princeton and ICETEC in launching the MRC.**

Microgrids offer a wide range of other benefits to their hosts, the larger grid and to the surrounding community. By "islanding" from the grid in emergencies, a microgrid can both continue serving its included load and serve its surrounding community by providing a platform to support critical services – from hosting first responders and governmental functions to providing key services and emergency shelter. Microgrids can make it feasible to place generating capacity in congested areas of the grid and, from a planning perspective, can reduce contingencies that threaten grid stability. Using electric and thermal storage capabilities, a microgrid can provide local management of variable renewable generation, particularly on-site solar. Through fine-tuning its own generation and load, a microgrid can provide load following and other ancillary services to the grid in response to real-time signals. Moreover, microgrids are capable of providing energy and multiple ancillary services at the same time. Local microgrid service providers make the operation of the grid more competitive.

The MRC advocates for policy and regulatory reforms that recognize and appropriately value these services, while assuring nondiscriminatory access to the grid for a wide variety of microgrid configurations and business models.