

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### **What is a Group Study?**

A Group Study is a distribution analysis consisting of multiple distributed generation (DG) projects and their collective impact on the system, to understand what system modifications would be required to support these DG projects when interconnected. When done on an individual project basis, this analysis is referred to as an impact study.

### **What is an Extended Group Study?**

The Extended Group Study is an option that requires unanimous consent from each member of a group of projects being studied. This Study option produces a +/- 15% cost estimate as result of the Study. Eversource may exceed the timeframes outlined in the Order when a Group elects the Extended Group Study option due to the detailed design required to produce a more refined estimate.

### **I received a notification on June 12<sup>th</sup> that my project will be part of the Group Study; how do I know which project is being included?**

After the general notification went out, customers received a project specific, individual follow up with the work order number/application ID that was invited to be part of the Group Study.

### **Why was one of my projects selected for the Group Study but not the other(s)?**

Group Study projects are selected if they are within an area that has several other projects that could all benefit by being studied together and ultimately sharing any group solution, if needed. A Group Study consists of 2 or more projects.

### **Can you clarify the cost range of the Group Study that was listed in the notification letter, is it per Study Group or per project?**

The cost range listed in the notification letter is per project and will vary by group based on the final number of participants who opt in to the Group Study.

### **What is needed from distributed generation applicants in order to help get the Group Study underway?**

Both the customer and Eversource need to complete several steps before studies can begin. These steps include:

- The applicant should attend and participate in their specific group's scoping meeting. While attendance is recommended, it is not mandatory.
- Eversource will provide the applicant with a cost approximation for their group's study. The cost will become final once all applicants opt in or out.
- After reviewing the study cost approximation, the applicant will opt in or out of the study in the given timeframe.

- The applicant will provide and executed Group Study Agreement with payment to Eversource.
- All applicants in a group will need to provide payment and executed agreements back to Eversource before the Group Study can commence.

Each of the above steps needs to be completed by all customers in the Group Study before it will begin.

**Payment for our project's impact study was previously submitted and we now received notification that the project is in the Group Study. Where will my payment go?**

If you have paid for an individual impact study that has not yet started, your payment will be applied towards the Group Study fee should you decide to opt in.

**Will I receive an interconnection service agreement (ISA) once the Group Study is completed?**

If a project opts in to the Group Study, it will receive an ISA once the Group Study is completed and the Group Solution is known in addition to a completed transmission study with known results and required upgrades.

**In the current individual, sequentially studied queue my project is in position 3 to be studied on its own. Will I retain that same position if I opt in to my Group's Study?**

Group Study applicants who opt in are coming from various queues and queue positions (on an individual feeder basis) and funneling into 1 larger group to be studied (one entire substation or multiple stations). Application deemed complete dates will be what determines position in the larger single group. It is likely that your project's queue position will change once it's combined into the larger grouping with other projects.

**What is the Group Study fee per project based on?**

Group Study applicants who opt in will be charged a study fee percentage based on their aggregated system design capacity for the individual facility (in MW AC). For applicants who have battery storage, the storage capacity will be included in the system design capacity calculation for the fee.

**What are the system modification costs going to be based on for each applicant in a Group?**

Associated system modification costs for the Group Solution, will be assessed on the customer's maximum export capacity. The customer must certify its maximum export capacity and provide all necessary documentation for Eversource's review prior to the start of the Group Study.

**Are the process timeframes in business days or calendar days?**

All timelines are in business days. July 3<sup>rd</sup> is excluded because it is a state holiday.

**Will TOV studies be included in the allotted study timing? Or is that going to require additional time?**

Yes, all study work will all be completed in the 100-160 business days (pending final group size per the Order) and consolidated into a single report.

**Will the Level 3 ASO be done in parallel with the Group Study? Do I need to provide all the same technical data again?**

Yes, the Level 3 ASO has been underway and the Group Studies will start once the Groups are defined with all opted in projects. Eversource will use a project's existing technical provided for the Level 3 ASO.

**How much additional time does the Extended Group Study take?**

It's not clear how much longer the Extended Study will take yet due to the additional engineering and cost refinement needed as an output of this study. Eversource intends to complete any Extended Group Study in as expedient of a timeframe as possible.

**What happens if a large percentage of applicants decide to opt out of the Group Study?**

The Group Study will still exist, just with fewer members. It's in a project's best interest to participant in a Group Study because of the shared Group Solution that will be the outcome. Additionally, when a project opts out it will need to wait until after the Group Study completion for an individual distribution study to be performed, contributing to more time in the project's schedule.

**What happens if a group moves forward in the Group Study and results include high costs for the Group Solution and projects don't move forward?**

As long as there are group members, costs would be reallocated.

**Is it possible to provide a list of substations that are included in the Group Study?**

Yes, please see table below by group:

Group	Substation(s)
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EMA - Marion-Fairhaven	Arsene Crystal Spring 646 Rochester 745 Wing Lane 624
EMA - Plymouth	Brook St. 727 Tremont 713 Valley 715 Manomet 721 Kingston 735 Wareham 714 West Pond 737
EMA - Cape	Falmouth 933 Hatchville 936 Harwich 968 Hyannis Junction 961 Otis 915 Sandwich 916
EMA - Freetown	Bell Rock 661
EMA - Dartmouth-Westport	Cross Rd. 651 Fisher Rd. 657
EMA - New Bedford	Industrial Park 636
WMA - Plainfield-Blandford	Berkshire 18C Blandford 19J Plainfield 18K
WMA - Ashfield-Shelburne	Ashfield 38A Cumberland 22B Shelburne 29R

**If a project did not participate in the Level 3 ASO study, but does participate in the Group Study, how will you treat that project?**

To receive an ISA, all projects will require a transmission analysis to be performed. The intent is to make getting to the ISA “finish line” as easy as possible with efficient study processes (both distribution and transmission) and we hope customers can take advantage of opting into both.

**Will we receive a list of other projects in our Group Study?**

Yes, all Group members who opt-in to the study will be shared with the entire group after the opt in/out period completes and the Group is defined.

**If we have already paid for an impact study, will it be applied to the Group Study fee?**

We are reviewing if either a refund will be given or if the payment will be credited towards the Group Study fee (if the project opts in).

**I have a new project application that I plan to submit – will it be included in this round or the next round of the Group Study process?**

It will be included in the next Group Study batch of projects. The cutoff for this Group Study was for applications deemed complete by June 12, 2020.

**What is the timeline for construction after ISAs are issued upon completion of the Group Study and the respective ASO/transmission analyses?**

Once ISAs are issued and payment is made, projects will be put into a queue for design completion for associated upgrades (distribution, substation and transmission as applicable) followed by construction commencement. Each project will have its own unique timeline for construction completion pending each individual scope of work required per project.