Evaluate Third Party Aggregator and Vendor Interest in Residential Digital Rates

1. Overview

The objective of this study is to evaluate third-party (example: integrated demand side management aggregators and smart energy vendors/manufacturers) interest in using residential digital rates to help customers be successful when they are already enrolled in a dynamic rate such as time of use (TOU), electric vehicle (EV) and SmartRate. Below are the proposed scoping topics for this study:

- Defining a digital rate
- Determining the format of the dynamic rate
- Scoping information technology (IT) architecture design that can be scaled in the future
- Documenting third parties' preferences on the channels and different type of rates
- Testing different channels that can provide digital rates to third parties
- Testing the elasticity of different type of rates (dynamic, tier and non-tier, etc.)

2. Collaboration

PG&E's DR Emerging Technology and Share My Data teams jointly designed and will implement this Emerging Technology assessment. Internal stakeholders would include the Pricing Products and IT teams. PG&E hired a consultant to lead the digital rate development.

3. Results/Status

CPUC Energy Division Staff suggested that PG&E put this DRET study on hold due other priorities, such as the Reliability Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR). PG&E delayed the deployment of this DRET study until the end of second quarter 2021 and is restarting the study in the 3rd quarter of 2021.

PG&E hosted three webinars to enroll third parties into the study and three parties submitted a registration form to show interest in participating in the study. PG&E signed a participation agreement with one vendor in the 3rd quarter of 2022 and starting engagement with this vendor in the 4th quarter of 2022.

4. Next Steps

PG&E and its DRET study implementer worked on systems integration with the vendor and this vendor plan to offer this study to its employees starting 2nd quarter of 2023.