

THE DISTRIBUTION FORUM



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ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

HIGHLIGHTS

Creates a community for North American distribution companies that support one another in advancing operational excellence.

- Confidential forum to share experiences, lessons learned, issues and concerns.
- Development and dissemination of leading practices.
- Peer reviews to advance operational excellence.
- Serve as a voice for the industry.

Background, Objectives, and New Learnings

The Distribution Forum (DxF) is a community of electric companies with a mission to promote excellence in the safe, reliable, resilient, and cost-effective operation of the distribution system. With more than 25 utilities already engaged and participation growing, the DxF members challenge each other to raise the bar for operational excellence and support each other on the journey through:

- Information Sharing - Members share experiences, issues, concerns, and lessons learned in an environment where constructive peer-challenge to improve is the norm. To promote open sharing, every member signs a non-disclosure agreement to ensure that what is said in the DxF meetings stays within the DxF.
- Developing Leading Practices – Members share and refine “leading practices,” which are developed by member and EPRI subject-matter experts and represent the best thinking and strongest performance, for consideration by others.
- Conducting Peer Reviews – The DxF conducts confidential peer reviews of specific member utilities. Subject matter experts from several member utilities and EPRI visit a host utility, review its current practices, and make recommendations for improvements.
- Serving as the “Voice of the Industry” – Members share and discuss issues such as emerging vulnerabilities and risks, and industry trends and potential responses, and then share their insights with industry stakeholders through white papers.

Patterned after similar industry organizations, such as the North American Transmission Forum, the DxF leverages the collective expertise of hundreds of subject matter experts to work together to share information, solve challenges, and facilitate improvements, all focused on distribution.

For more information, go to: [Distributionforum.epri.com](https://distributionforum.epri.com)

Benefits

Member companies are expected to leverage the collective experience and innovation of their peers and EPRI to hone their practices and advance operational excellence across their entire distribution organization. Implementation of the results produced by the DxF may benefit the public through increased service reliability and safety, and affordable electricity rates.

Project Approach and Summary

The foundation of the DxF is its advisory structure. The Executive Committee, comprised of a small group of senior distribution executives, and the Leadership Council, comprised of one representative from each member company, provides strategic guidance and helps to set priorities. The DxF Executive Committee and Leadership Council first met in Fall 2023 and have been meeting on a quarterly basis.

Practice Groups are the “engine” of the DxF. Practice Groups engage subject matter experts in specific disciplines. In addition to sharing experiences, information, and issues with each other, they develop and maintain leading practices, determine principles of excellence, and provide the subject matter experts for peer reviews. The DxF intends to form practice groups in the following areas:

- Control Center Operations
- Underground
- Overhead
- Field Operations
- Planning
- DER

Deliverables

EPRI intends to develop a member’s website that will include a repository of the leading practice documents developed by the practice groups and summaries from peer reviews. The website will also provide a forum function that will allow members to ask questions and share experiences and lessons learned.

The non-proprietary results of this work will be incorporated into EPRI’s R&D programs, and available to the public for purchase, or otherwise.

Price of Project

This project is offered as an annual, subscription-based, supplemental project, with access running from January 1 to December 31 each calendar year. The price is based on participant’s annual distribution throughput (GWh). The annual membership fee is:

- Large Utilities \$50,000 (> 70,000 GWh)
- Medium Utilities \$35,000 (> 30,000 GWh)
- Small Utilities \$20,000 (all others)

The project qualifies for Self-Directed Funding (SDF).

Project Status and Schedule

- There are currently more than 25 utilities participating in the DxF.
- The Control Center Operations and Underground Practice Groups have launched and priority focus areas for practice development and peer review are underway. Leading practices and principles of excellence will be documented throughout 2024.
- Additional practice groups will be created and priorities established in 2024.

Who Should Join

Any organization that owns or operates distribution systems (over 200 miles of 4kV and above) in North America can join the Distribution Forum.

Contact Information

For more information, contact the EPRI Customer Assistance Center at 800.313.3774 (askepri@epri.com).

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