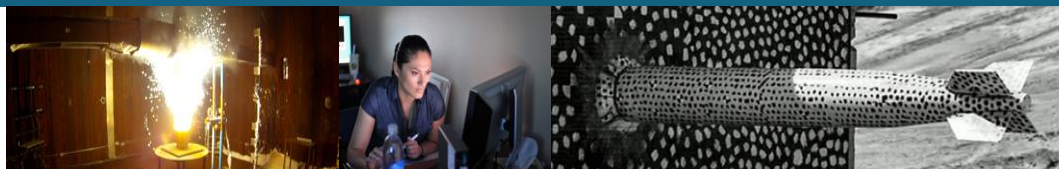




# Microgrid Conceptual Design Methodology and Guidebook



## *Deploying Microgrids in Honduras Workshop / June 14-15, 2022*

*Organized by U.S. Department of Commerce Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP)*

Olga E. Hart, Brooke Marshall Garcia, and Matthew S. Lave



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# The Role of the U.S. Department of Energy in US Energy R&D



17 National Laboratories addressing the world's large scale, complex research and development challenges

**Federal Government**

**Department of Energy**

National Laboratories have served as the leading institutions for scientific innovation in the United States for more than seventy years

Office of Science Laboratories



National Nuclear Security Administration Laboratories



Other Energy Department Office Laboratories

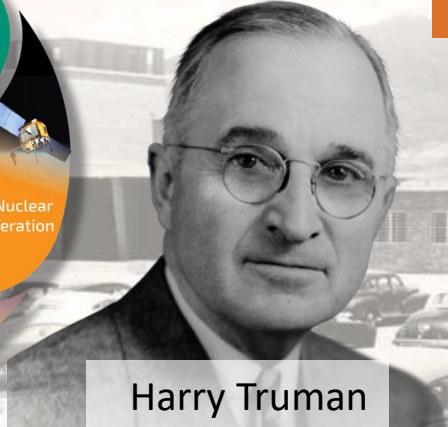


# About Sandia National Laboratories

3



*Exceptional service in the national interest*

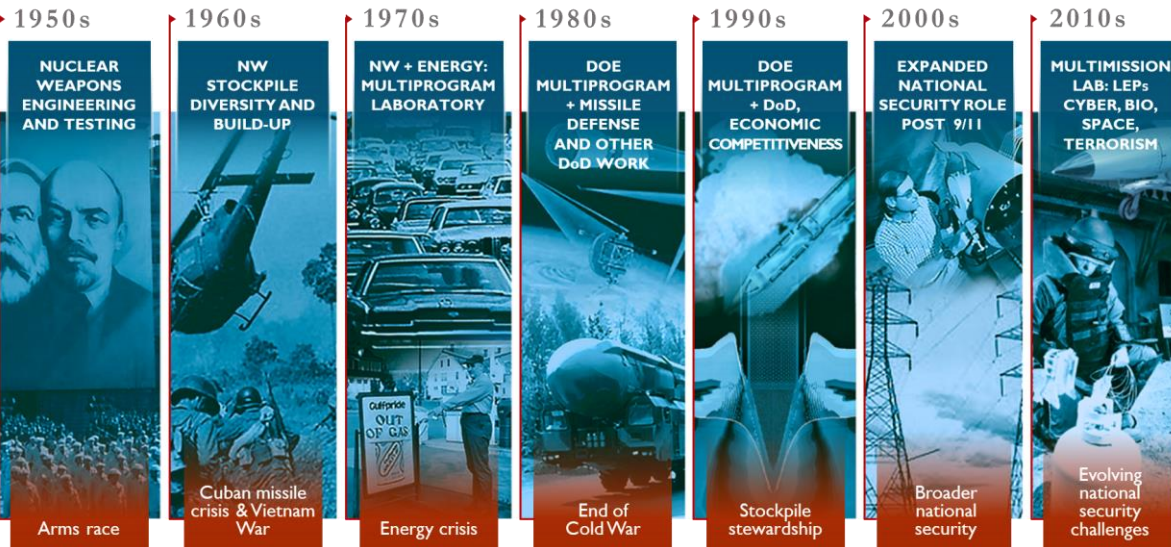


Harry Truman

to undertake this task. In my opinion you have here an opportunity to render an exceptional service in the national interest.

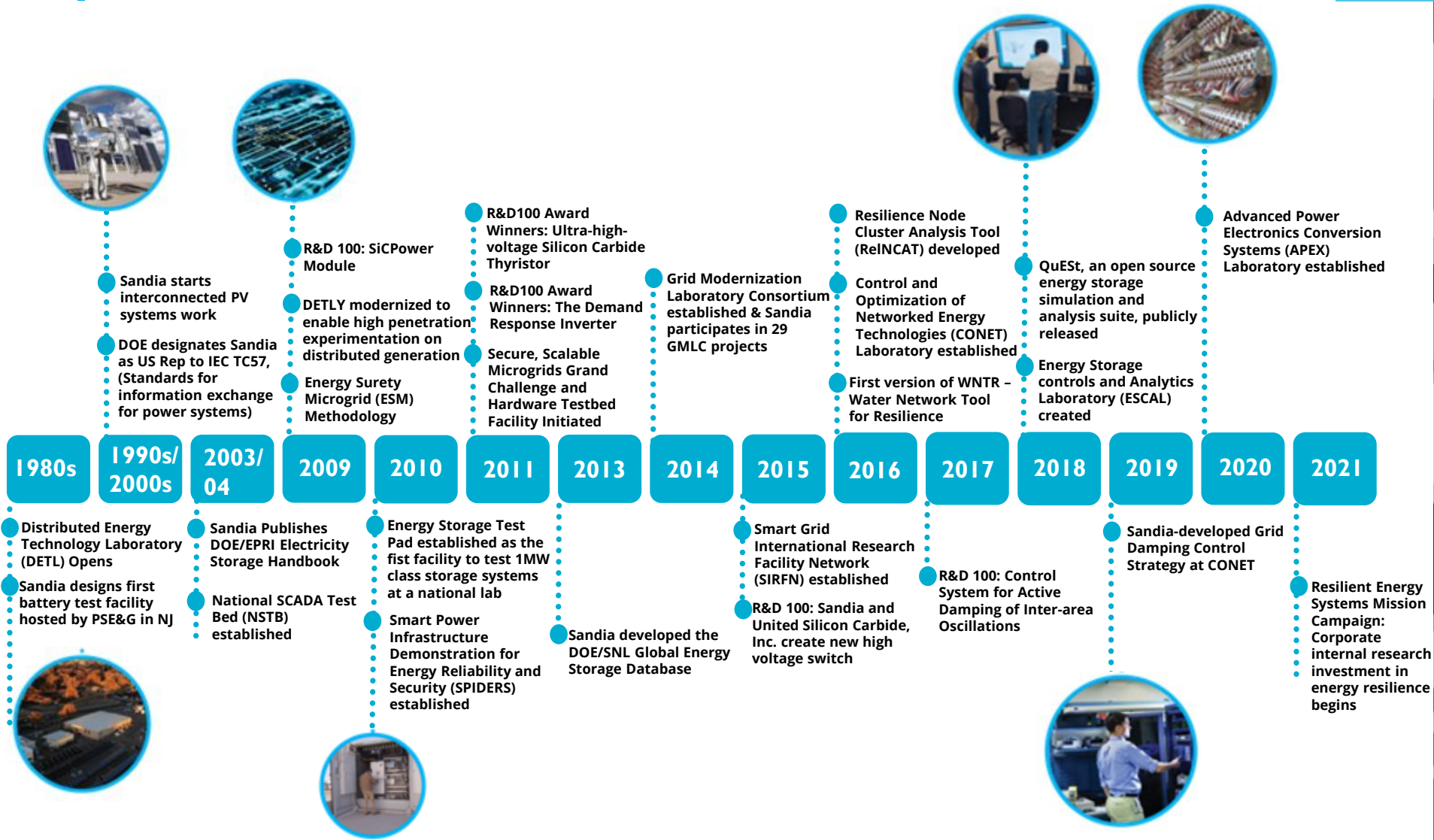
Albuquerque, New Mexico (1949)

Livermore, California (1956)



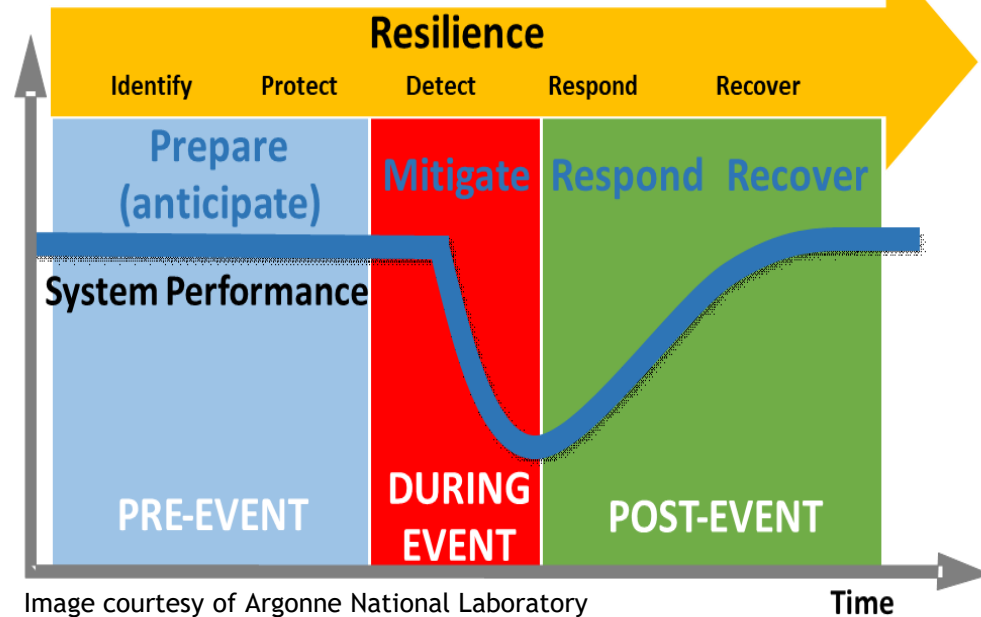


# Sandia's History of Supporting Grid Modernization Efforts



# Resilience Science at Sandia

A resilient energy system **supports critical community functions** by preparing for, withstanding, adapting to, and recovering from disruptions



1. Includes hazards with low probability but potential for high consequence

Naturally fits within a risk-based planning approach...

...but difficult to capture this type of risk with high confidence

2. Resilience is contextual – defined in terms of threats or hazards

A system resilient to hurricanes may not be resilient to earthquakes

# Need for Reliable Electric Power

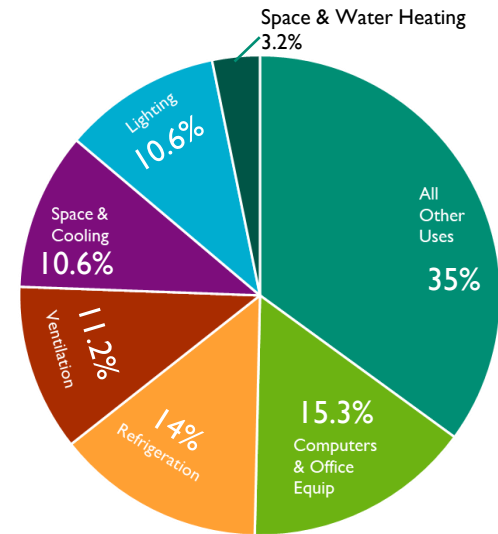


Our society is highly dependent on electric power

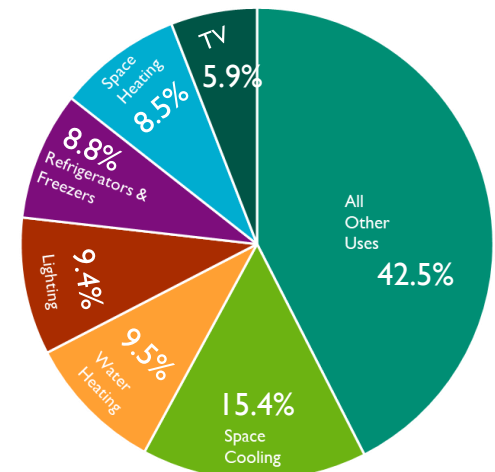
Power outages have severe consequences:

1. Productivity:
  - Damage to equipment
  - Loss of perishables
  - Lost computing time
  - Unsafe work conditions
2. Daily Life
  - Communications challenges
  - Cooking difficult
  - Entertainment unavailable
3. Health

U.S. Commercial Sector Electricity  
Consumption By Major End Uses, 2017



U.S. Residential Sector Electricity  
Consumption By Major End Uses, 2017



# Electric Power Interdependencies

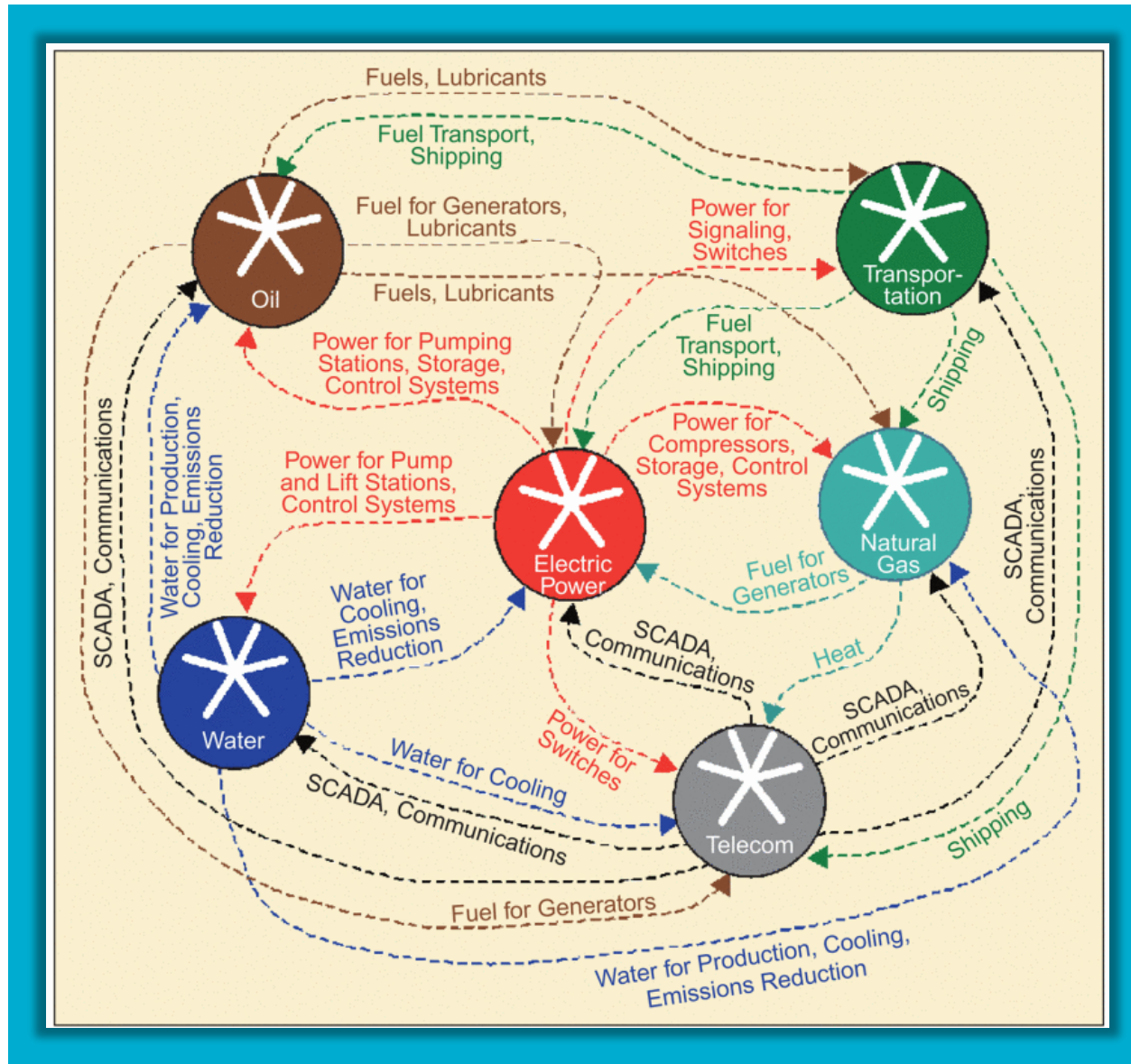


Image from: "Identifying, understanding, and analyzing critical infrastructure interdependencies," S.M. Rinaldi, J.P. Peerenboom, T.K. Kelley, IEEE Control Systems Magazine, Volume 21, Issue 6, Dec. 2001: <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/969131>



## Transmission

- Move bulk electricity from generation to load centers
- Longer distance (10s to 100s of miles), high capacity, high voltage

## Distribution

- Distribute electricity to end users
- Shorter distance (up to several miles), lower capacity, lower voltage

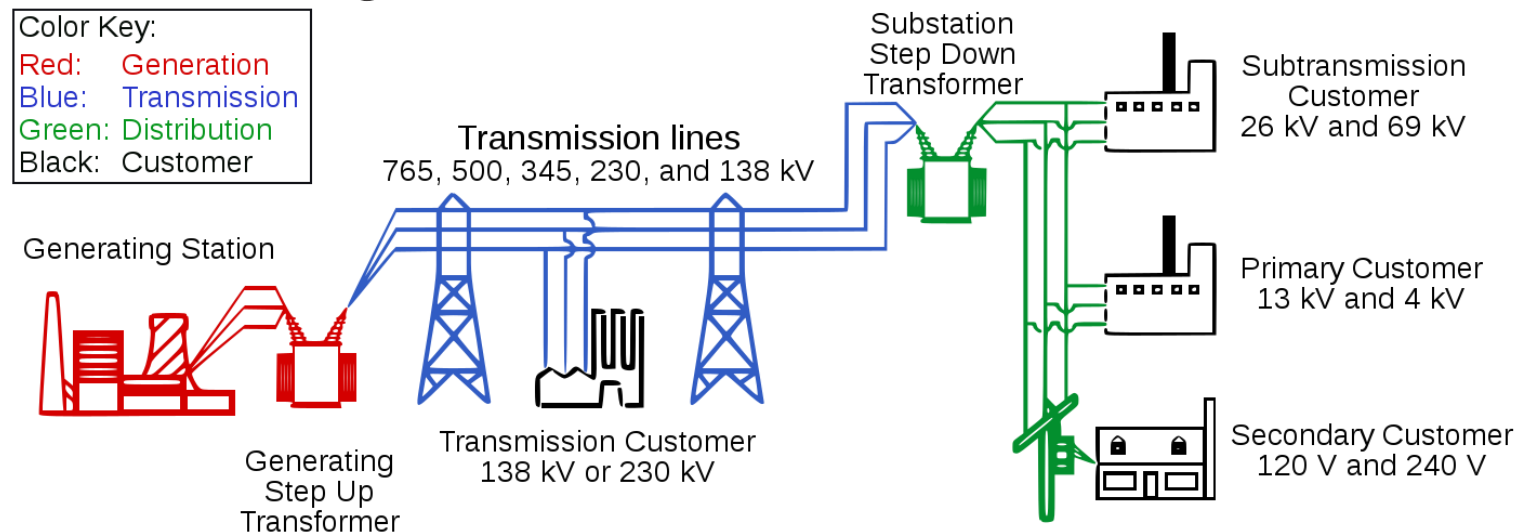


Image from FERC report: <https://www.ferc.gov/industries/electric/indus-act/reliability/blackout/ch1-3.pdf>



# Electric Grid is Limited in Ability to Meet Energy Assurance Requirements



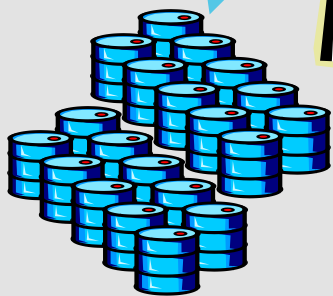
## Fuel Supply

### Oil and Gas



Gas

Crude



### Refinery



Oil

Coal



## Fixed Infrastructure

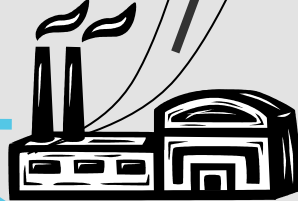
### Transmission



### Substation



### Generator



### Distribution



## Random Loads

### Load

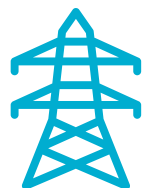


### Load



Fuel storage not on load side of system  
Fixed infrastructure is less flexible  
Several failure points in long system

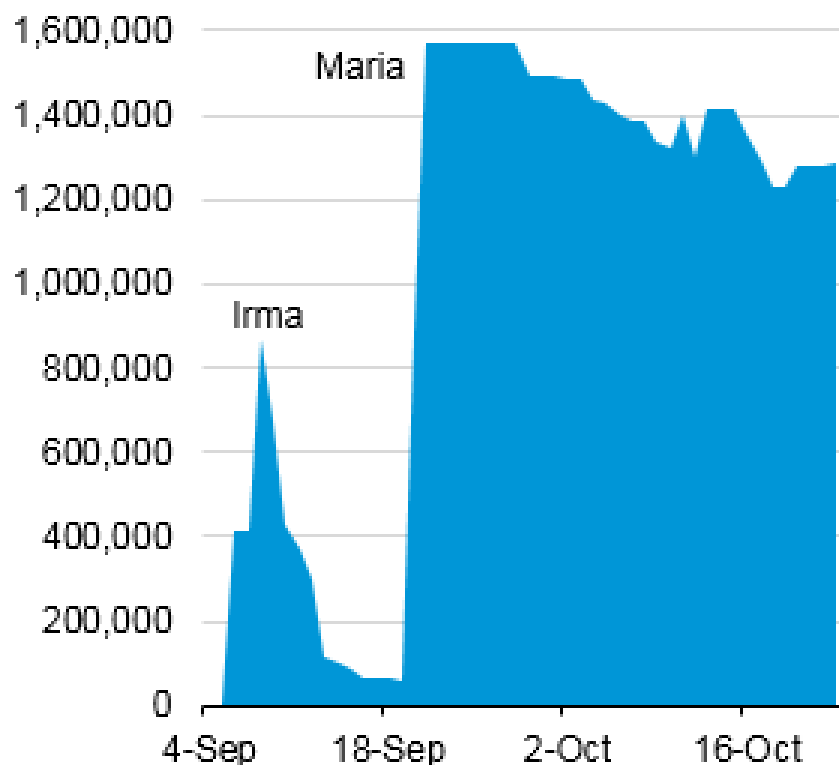
# Slow Restoration



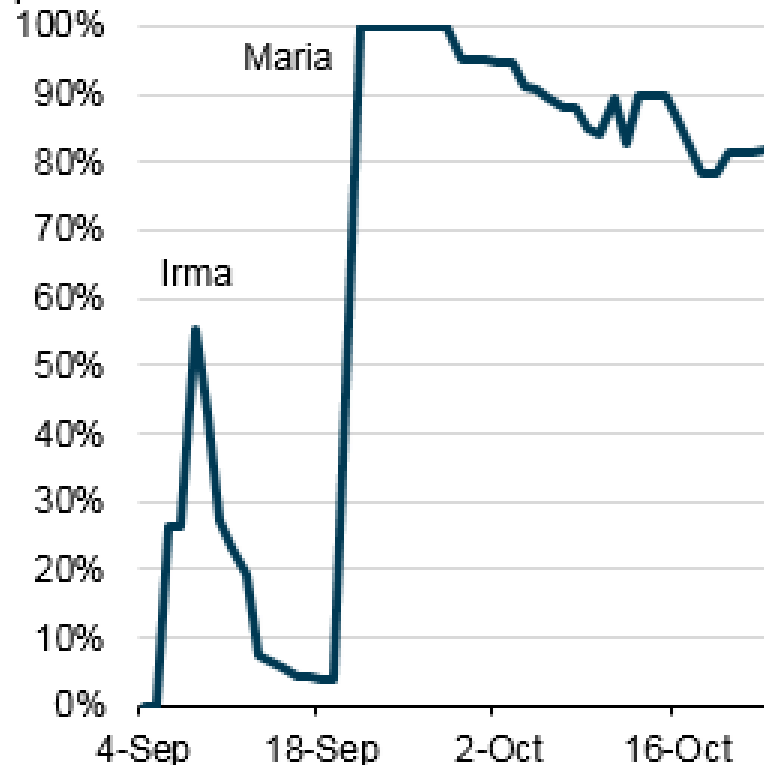
Outage-causing event may disrupt fuel supplies, transportation, communication, etc., leading to a long restoration period.

## Hurricane-related power outages in Puerto Rico

number of customers



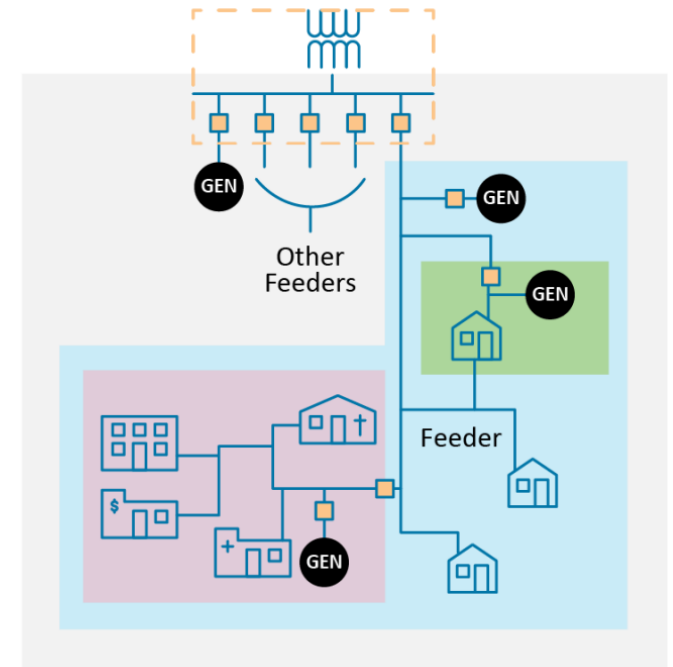
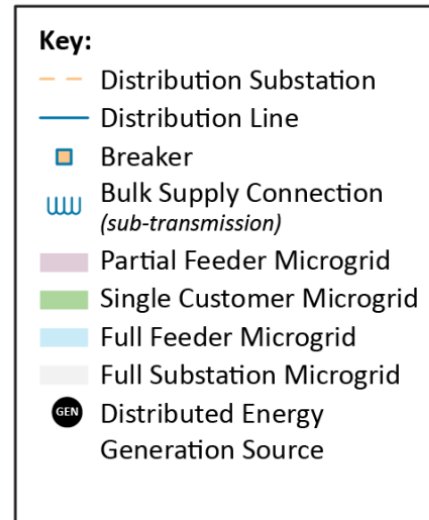
percent of total customers



# What is a microgrid?

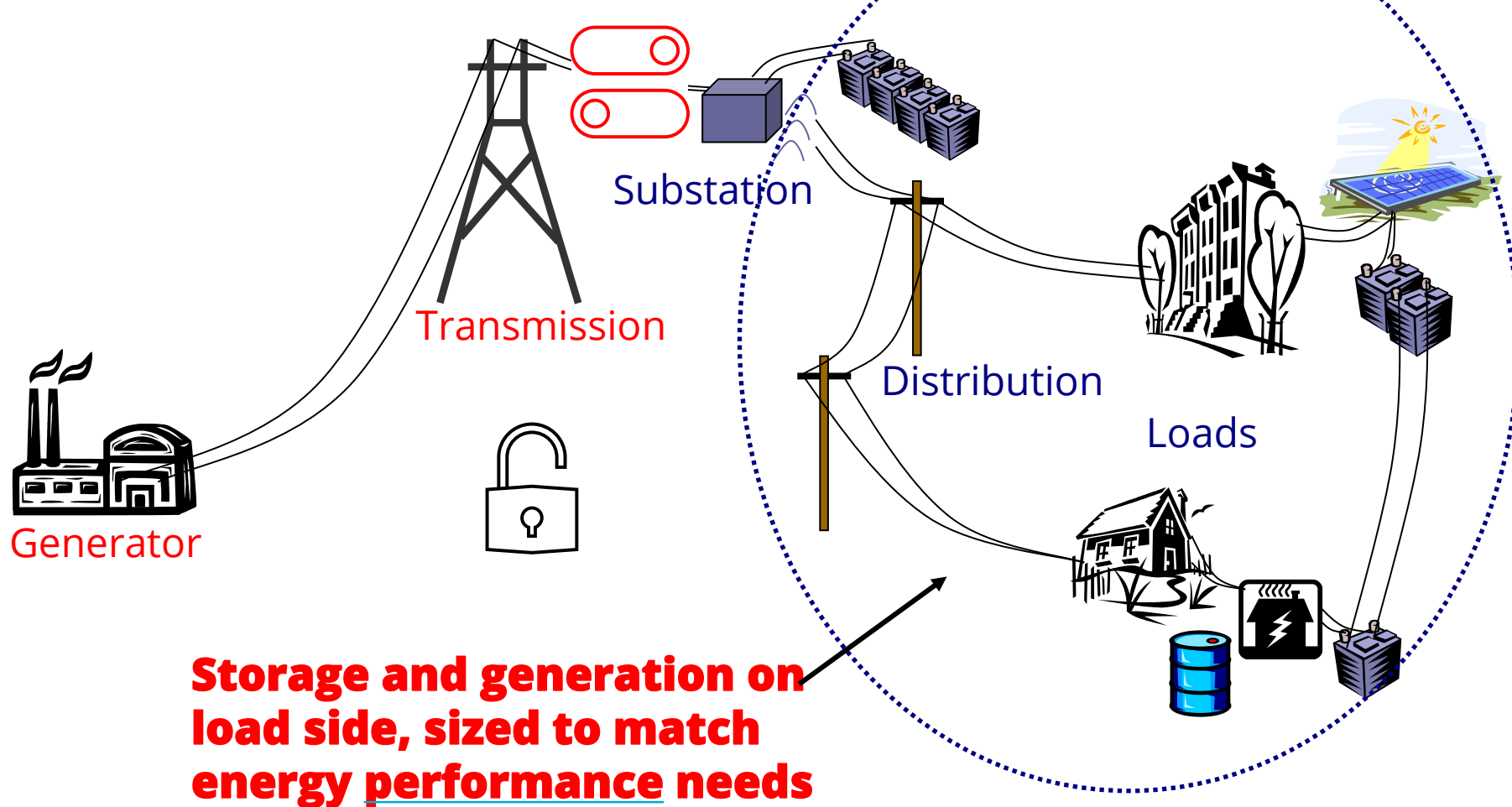


“**microgrid**” – A set of loads with local generation that can be isolated from the main electric grid



- Motivation for “micro” based on size
  - Generating capacity of very large electric grids (United States, Europe, China, India, etc.) is 100s of GW to 1TW
    - grid”  $\sim \mathcal{O}(1\text{TW})$
    - “micro” grid  $\approx 10^{(-6)} \times \text{grid} \rightarrow \text{microgrid} \sim \mathcal{O}(1\text{MW})$
- However, microgrids can be much less than or much greater than 1MW

# Microgrids are Associated with the Distribution System





# Opportunity for Microgrids



1. Reliable electric power is critical to health, safety, and productivity
2. Historical practice of providing power security based on back-up generators has been problematic
  - *Frequently over-sized and under-maintained, low probability of start (<60%)*
  - *Dedicated to one building or facility*
  - *Operations for extended periods problematic*
3. Advanced microgrids are an energy assurance solution
  - Advanced microgrids improve energy surety – safety, security, reliability, sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and resiliency of electric power
    - *Local generation reduces possible nodes of failure*
    - *Renewable energy can be incorporated, improving sustainability and reducing fuel dependencies*
    - *Generation matches load, reducing costs*
    - *Designs considering threats can improve resilience*

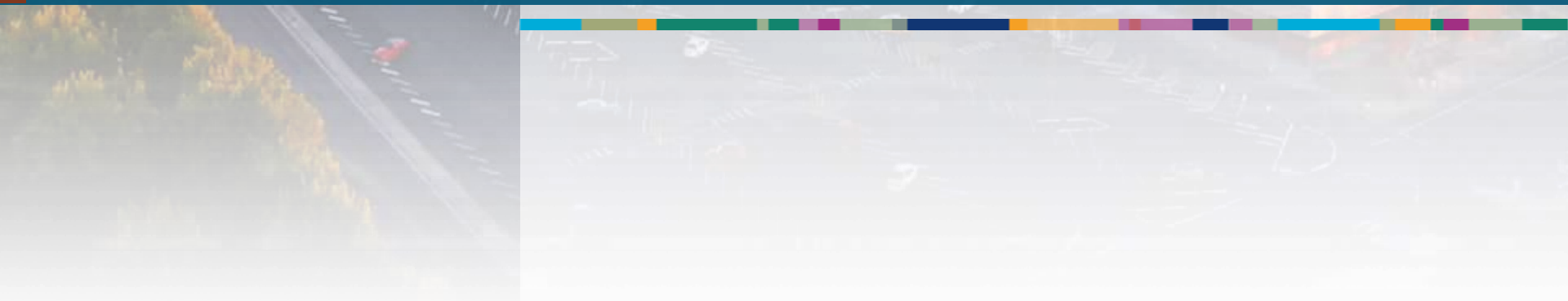


**Q: What is your primary  
GOAL for your microgrid?**

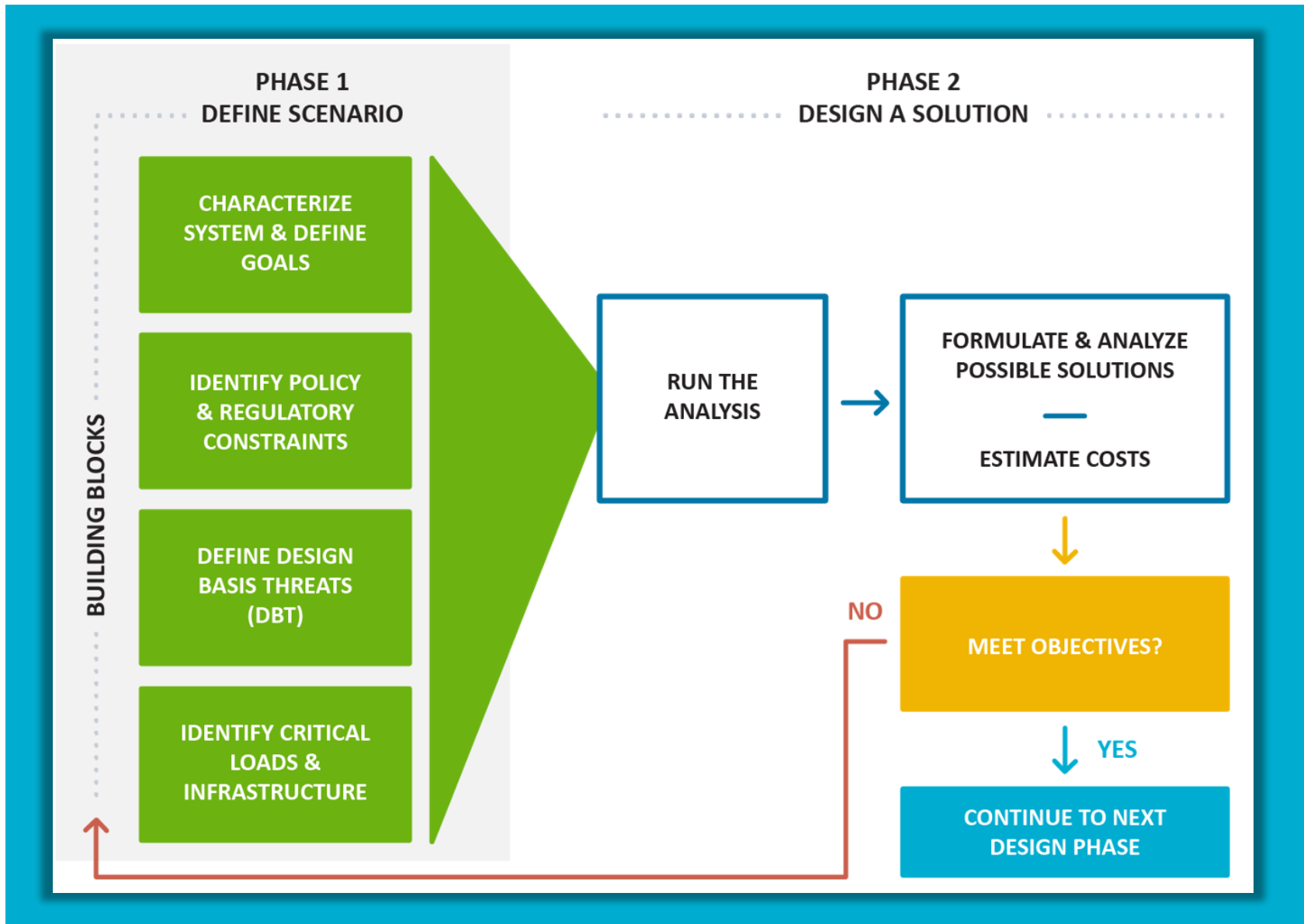
- A) Primary source of power
- B) Backup source of power
- C) Assist with renewable energy goals
- D) Other



# **Sandia's Microgrid Conceptual Design Methodology Framework**

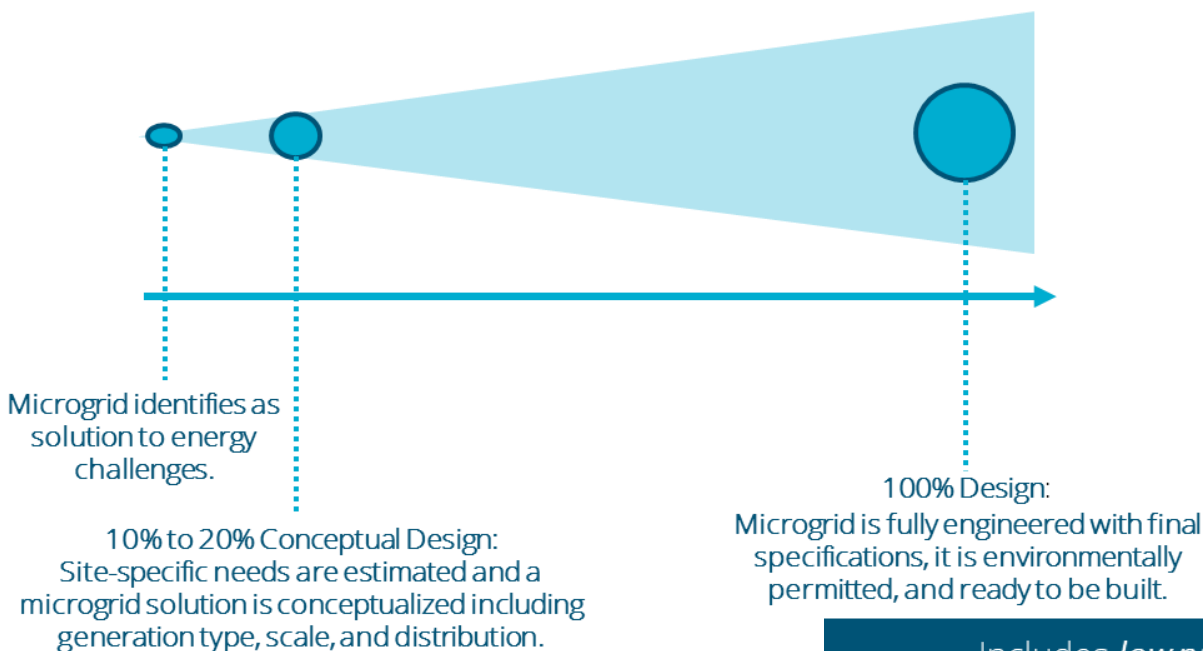


# Microgrid Conceptual Design Methodology Framework





# Scope



## RESILIENCE

Includes *low probability, high consequence* event.  
Not standardized. Still working on methods, *metrics, and tools*

## RELIABILITY

Focuses on system performance with respect to *commonly expected events* (component failure, etc.)

*Widely adopted* for infrastructure investment decision-making

Standardized methods, metrics and tools exist to evaluate reliability



# Microgrid Conceptual Design Methodology: Phase 1

## Defining the Scenario



## BEGIN ASSESSMENT OF SITE BOUNDARIES

### Evaluate:

- What is the **geographic footprint**?
- What types of **services and assets** do we want to provide energy resilience?
- For what **duration of time** (days, weeks, longer) do we want to provide these services and assets?
- What types of **generation resources** should we consider (e.g., diesel, gas, generators, cogeneration, renewables like PV or wind)?
- In addition to providing emergency services, do we want to consider **ancillary benefits** like selling power back to the utility, meeting renewable energy goals, etc.?
- What **funding sources** are available (federal, city, state, private purchase agreements, etc.)?

### PHASE 1 ..... DEFINE SCENARIO

CHARACTERIZE  
SYSTEM & DEFINE  
GOALS

IDENTIFY POLICY  
& REGULATORY  
CONSTRAINTS

DEFINE DESIGN  
BASIS THREATS  
(DBT)

IDENTIFY CRITICAL  
LOADS &  
INFRASTRUCTURE

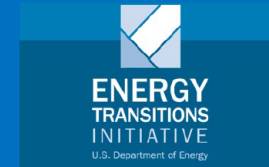
# Assess Critical Loads & Interdependencies



## EVALUATE THE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIZATION

### Evaluate:

- Develop a rubric for evaluating critical infrastructure.
- Consider outage duration as a factor in critical ranking.
- Get community input and feedback for enhanced resiliency and equitable outcomes.



### Handout 3: Powering Critical Infrastructure

Assign the following general services and facilities high, medium, or low priorities. Assign each facility a category of service (e.g., grocery stores apply to the category of "Food" service) to help map facility priorities to service priorities.

	Service	Tolerance (hours)	Priorities (H, M, L)
1	Communications	<1 day	H
2	Medicine/Supplies	<1 day	H
3	Ambulance	<1 hour	H
4	Fire response	<1 hour	H
5	Road Clearing	days	M
6	Clean water	<1 day	H
7	Food	<3 day	H
8	Wastewater	<1 day	H
9	Flood Control	days	M
10	Shelter	<1 day	H
11	Trash collection	Many days	L
12	Police	<1 day	H
13	Mail delivery	Many days	L
14	Hospital	<1 hour	H
15	Heating/Cooling	days	M
16	Transportation	days	M
17	Fuel	<2 day	H
18	ATMs/money	days	M





**Q: What are the  
critical *services*  
in your study  
area?**

# Example Critical Services Prioritization



*Grouping critical services and associated assets in terms of priorities of the needs of the community for the impacts of the DBT event helps define how resilience improvements can be targeted to needs and be cost-effective*

## Critical Services Hierarchy

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Cell Tower Emergency Operations Hospital Water Pump 	Shelter Grocery Store 	Banks Sewer Treatment 

# Design Basis Threat



**BEGIN ASSESSMENT OF DESIGN BASIS THREATS.  
COME OUT OF THIS STEP WITH PERFORMANCE  
GOALS IN RESPONSE TO DESIGN THREATS.**

## Evaluate:

- Discuss natural, manmade, and other threats – make **comprehensive** list from which to down **select** design parameters.
- Discuss **likelihood v. severity**
- Look at maps and other material to **identify consequences** (e.g., flood mapping, risk indices, news reports)
- Discuss consequence-based evaluation (i.e., **what do we lose, and who loses it, when we lose power**)

## Example Threats

### Natural

Earthquakes  
Flooding  
Hurricanes  
Wildfires  
Drought

### Direct Intentional

Cyberattack  
Electromagnetic Attack  
Kinetic/Physical Attack

### Structural/Other

Economic/Market Shocks  
Regulatory/Policy Changes  
Aging infrastructure  
Capacity constraints  
Workforce turnover  
Supply chain interruptions  
Human error



**Match the DBT  
with the typical  
distribution  
system **outage**  
**duration****



**MONTHS**

**WEEKS**

**DAYS**





**WEEKS**

**MONTHS**



**DAYS**



**DAYS**

**WEEKS**

**MONTHS**



**WEEKS**



**Match the DBT  
with the typical  
impact level**



**HIGH**

**MEDIUM**

**LOW**



**HIGH**



**HIGH**



**LOW**

**MEDIUM**

**HIGH**



**LOW**

**MEDIUM**



## CAPTURE THE POLICY AND REGULATORY CONSTRAINTS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THIS MICROGRID LOCATION

### Evaluate:

- Regulatory requirements and limitations to grid-tied microgrids (e.g., Puerto Rico “Microgrid Rule” 75% to be independent of PREPA ← will determine footprint)
- Consider audience: utility, regulator, developer
- Consider funding requirements if known





# Microgrid Conceptual Design Methodology: Phase 2

Design and Evaluate Solutions

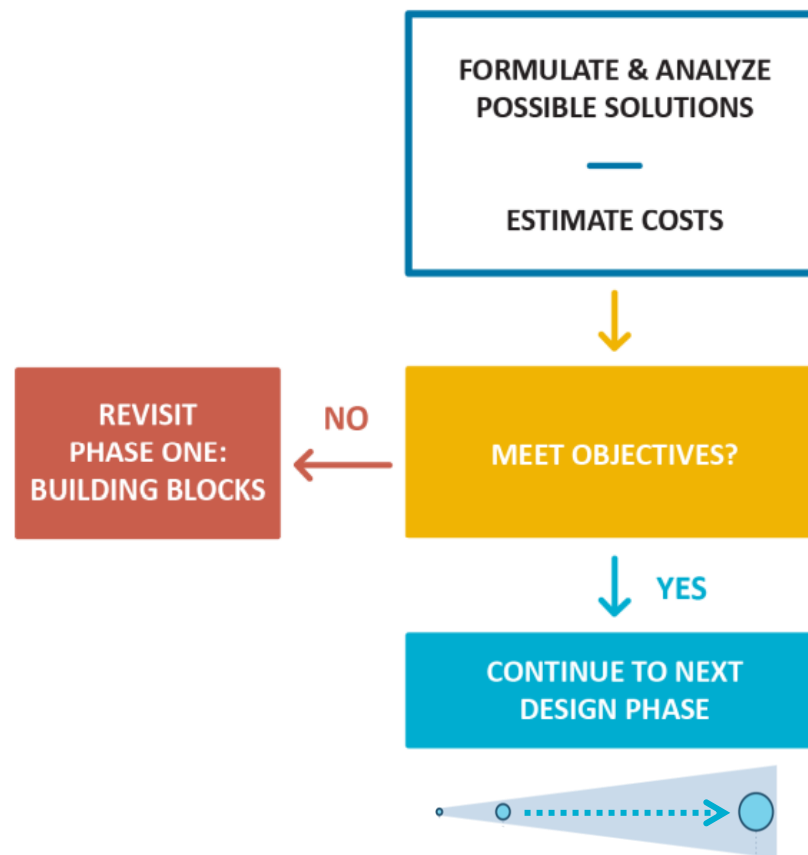


# Formulate and Analyze Solutions



## START TO FORMULATE AND ANALYZE SOLUTIONS

- Site generation sources and capacity goals
- Potential **tie-in points** if microgrid is not stand-alone
- Groups of users – look at clusters that might yield higher resilience opportunities (economies of scale, impacting the most users with a single microgrid)
- Sketch **proposed feeders and switch locations**
- Estimate **DER options**, consider fuel, assess equipment types and quantities



# Estimate Up-Front Costs



## DEVELOP A COST ESTIMATE

### Evaluate:

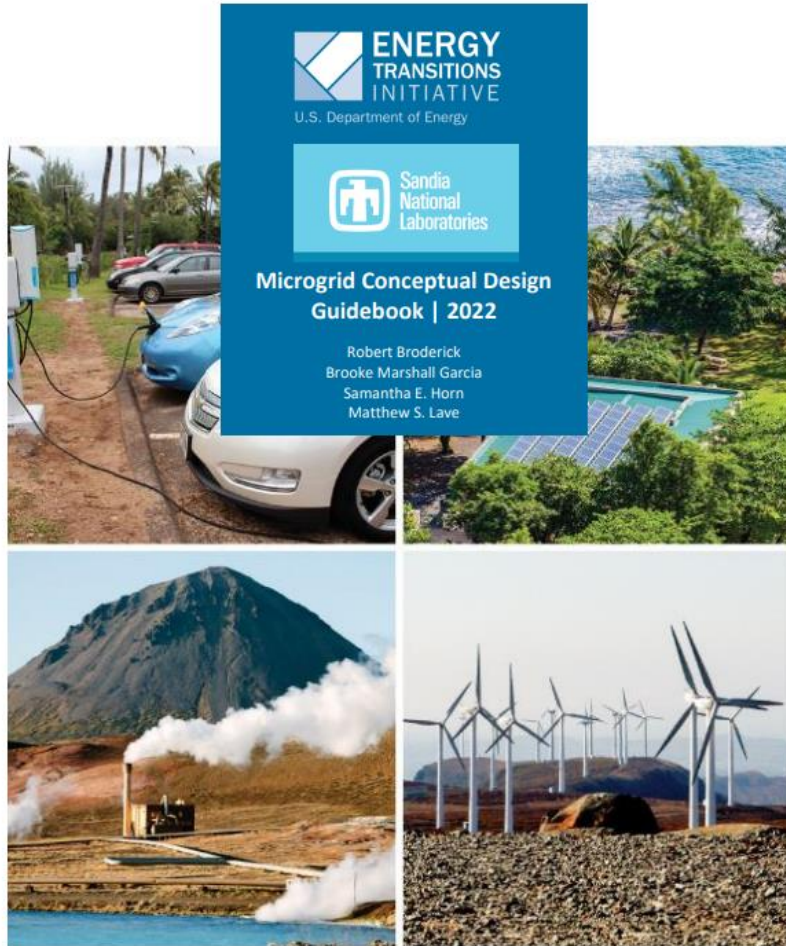
- Variability as a function of generation type, be sure to include fuel costs
- Cost per MW
- Hardware upgrades and investments
- As time permits evaluate trade-offs and how maximize return on investment.

Based on a survey done in 2018, Microgrids in the Continental U.S. average [21]:

**\$2M to \$5M / per MW**

Source: "Phase I Microgrid Cost Study: Data Collection and Analysis of Microgrid Costs in the United States," National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, CO, 2018





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## Table of Contents:

1. Introduction to Electric Power Systems and Energy Resilience
2. Sandia's Energy Resilience Frameworks
3. Microgrids
4. Microgrid Conceptual Design Activity
5. Business Models
6. Tools – DOE Lab sampling
7. Appendices

**Available at:** [https://energy.sandia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ETI\\_SNL\\_Microgrid\\_Guidebook\\_2022\\_SAND2022-4842-R\\_FINAL.pdf](https://energy.sandia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ETI_SNL_Microgrid_Guidebook_2022_SAND2022-4842-R_FINAL.pdf)



# Additional Content – DOE Lab Tools



<p><b>Microgrid Design Toolkit (MDT)</b></p> <p>The MDT is a decision-support tool that aids microgrid planners and designers in quantitative analysis to meet objectives and constraints for efficiency, cost, reliability, and environmental emissions.</p> <p><a href="https://www.sandia.gov/CSR/tools/mdt.html">https://www.sandia.gov/CSR/tools/mdt.html</a></p>	<p><b>Technology Management Optimization (TMO)</b></p> <p>TMO software optimizes user-defined problems using a genetic algorithm. It can be used to determine optimal design for power generation and distribution systems.</p> <p><a href="https://www.sandia.gov/CSR/tools/tmo.html">https://www.sandia.gov/CSR/tools/tmo.html</a></p>
<p><b>Performance Reliability Model (PRM)</b></p> <p>The PRM evaluates the performance of a microgrid design, focusing on the behavior of a microgrid when operating in islanded modes following extreme weather events. PRM and TMO are embedded in the MDT tool.</p> <p><a href="https://www.sandia.gov/CSR/tools/mdt.html">https://www.sandia.gov/CSR/tools/mdt.html</a></p>	<p><b>The Distributed Energy Resources Customer Adoption Model (DER-CAM)</b></p> <p>DER-CAM answers several important questions related to optimal distributed energy resource solutions for microgrids including: the optimal portfolio, the ideal installed capacity, energy bill considerations, where in distributed energy resources should be installed and how should they be operated to ensure voltage stability, and what is the optimal DER solution that minimizes costs while ensuring resilience targets.</p> <p><a href="https://gridintegration.lbl.gov/der-cam">https://gridintegration.lbl.gov/der-cam</a></p>
<p><b>EPRI's Open DSS</b></p> <p>Power distribution system simulation and analysis.</p> <p><a href="https://smartgrid.epri.com/SimulationTool.aspx">https://smartgrid.epri.com/SimulationTool.aspx</a></p>	<p><b>GridLab-D</b></p> <p>Power distribution system simulation and analysis</p> <p><a href="https://www.gridlabd.org/">https://www.gridlabd.org/</a></p>
<p><b>System Advisor Model (SAM)</b></p> <p>Techno-economic software model that facilitates decision-making. Can model renewable energy systems and their financials.</p> <p><a href="https://sam.nrel.gov/">https://sam.nrel.gov/</a></p>	<p><b>ETI Islands Playbook</b></p> <p>Information and resources to help you initiate, plan, and complete an energy transition that relies on local resources and eliminates dependence on imported fuels.</p> <p><a href="https://www.eere.energy.gov/islandsplaybook/">https://www.eere.energy.gov/islandsplaybook/</a></p>
<p><b>REOpt</b></p> <p>Techno-economic design support platform to optimize energy systems. Recommends optimal mix of renewable energy, conventional generation, and energy storage technologies to meet cost savings, resilience, and energy performance goals.</p> <p><a href="https://reopt.nrel.gov/">https://reopt.nrel.gov/</a></p>	<p><b>ReNCAT</b></p> <p>Resilience Node Cluster Analysis Tool (ReNCAT) sites microgrids for optimal cost versus social burden performance subject to outage conditions.</p> <p>Not yet publicly available, contact this group for more information:</p> <p><a href="https://energy.sandia.gov/programs/electric-grid/renewable-energy-integration/">https://energy.sandia.gov/programs/electric-grid/renewable-energy-integration/</a></p>



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



**Sandia  
National  
Laboratories**



**Pacific Northwest**  
NATIONAL LABORATORY





# Additional Content – The Basics of Business Models



## 5. Business Models

A business model designed to support new microgrid systems remains a critical factor in its viability. Though the regulation and management of these systems is no doubt a primary driver, this guide focuses primarily on the technical factors including sizing, operational costs, and developing metrics to quantify overall benefits. We will not be exploring or comparing models. This section is intended to present a high-level overview and structure discussion.

There are three basic models in use today:

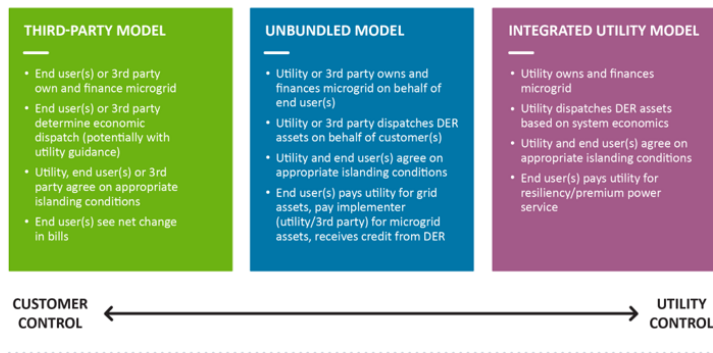


Figure 17: Description of various microgrid operation models in use.

At present, there is no single “best” microgrid business model. End-user ownership still largely dominates the business models in practice, but there are innovative third-party and mixed ownership models that are emerging (Figure 17).

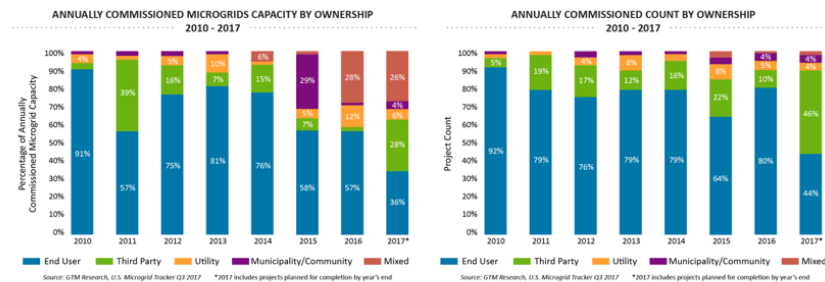


Figure 18: Ownership of Microgrids by Capacity and Count 2010-2017 [10] Case Studies







# Summary



# Summary



1. Reliable power is the backbone of infrastructure and enables the provision of critical services.
2. A resilient energy system supports critical community functions by preparing for, withstanding, adapting to, and recovering from disruptions.
3. Microgrids are one option to enhance reliability and resilience to power outages.
4. Sandia's Microgrid Conceptual Design Methodology developed to guide communities through developing and evaluation their vision for microgrids as solutions for their particular energy needs.
5. Sandia's latest Microgrid Conceptual Design Guidebook released in April 2022, publicly available to provide communities a starting place to investigate microgrid design.



# Thank You Questions | Comments

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