

Power Resilience, Regulatory Compliance, and the Future of Healthcare Infrastructure

Webinar Q&A

July 7, 2026

- 1. With all the complexities of creating a micro-grid, are you seeing facilities in CA choose to move forward with adding micro-grids to their campuses? What are your best responses to facility owners to help tip the interest towards consideration of adding the system?**

We are seeing a few clients pursue the microgrid approach. There does not seem to be a "one size fits all" pitch that sparks interest other than significant savings and/or revenue. Resiliency also leads to some interest but is not the primary consideration. Right now, widespread economic uncertainties, particularly in healthcare, are making folks more conservative.

- 2. How did special seismic certification factor into the existing fuel cell system at Kaiser Ontario when it was brought into the new microgrid system?**

For Kaiser Ontario there are/were existing emergency generators installed, these remain in operation and meet the CEC 517.30 requirement for Essential Electrical System Sources. The intended microgrid design at this site included PV's, batteries, and a fuel cell configured to parallel with the "normal power" and in the event of a utility outage, to parallel with the "emergency generators". This was a demonstration project to show that the microgrid could parallel with the emergency generators and if reliable, the emergency paralleling switchgear would shut down all but 1 generator, if power produced by the microgrid is reliable and of significant magnitude to carry the site emergency load. As it turned out, for various reasons, in the emergency mode the microgrid was configured to only have the batteries parallel with the emergency generators. Note there was an AMC which was approved to have these resources connect to the emergency bus, which stated that in the event of any issues with the microgrid power reliability it would be disconnected and the existing emergency generators would carry the emergency load for the site as originally design (prior to implementation of the microgrid).

- 3. How does code contemplate "fuel" duration from solar and battery resources given emergencies could occur when the sun isn't shining and a battery's state of charge could be low?**

There is no on-site fuel storage requirement if the microgrid is configured to parallel with the normal power source for the site. If the microgrid is going to be used as an Essential Electrical System "Power" Source: The code currently requires fuel

sufficient for 72 hours operation at full load output of the required Emergency Power Supply System Source for acute care hospitals, CEC 517.31(H). We recommend that if you would like to take a different approach that takes into account battery storage capabilities and/or Photo Voltaic energy production, that you discuss with our team during the scoping or schematic phase.

4. Since Network Switching and Routing equipment support medical equipment, why would it not be classified the same and also be on critical branch?

CEC 517.34(A)(6) requires - Telecommunications entrance facility, telecommunications equipment rooms, and telecommunication rooms and equipment in these rooms be fed by the critical branch. CEC 517.34(A)(8) requires - Clinical IT-network equipment to be fed by the critical branch.