

Culebra and Vieques Microgrid Technical Assistance Efforts





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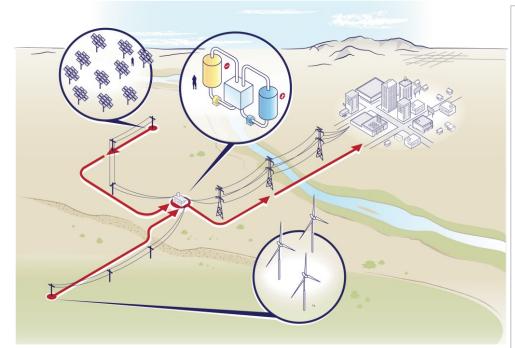
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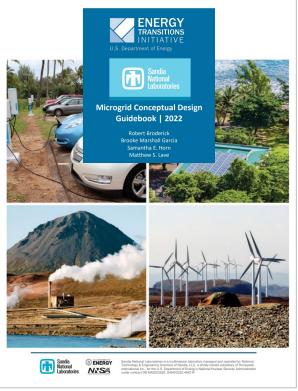


Sandia National Laboratories

Sandia National Labs - one of the U.S. Department of Energy's research laboratories - has a research and development department dedicated to evaluating and enabling advanced microgrids.



Taken from Sandia National Laboratories' Advance Microgrid website: https://energy.sandia.gov/programs/electric-grid/advancedmicrogrids/





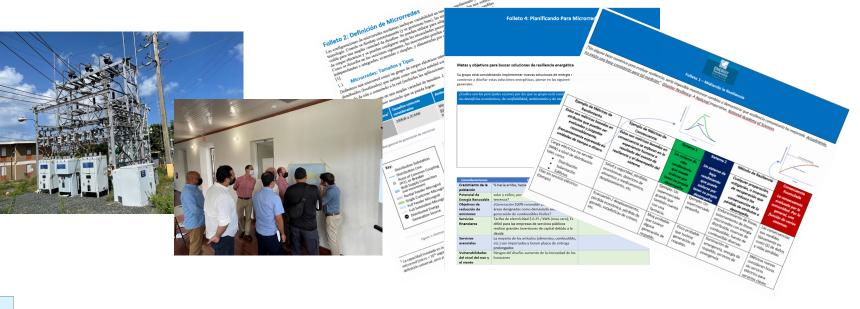
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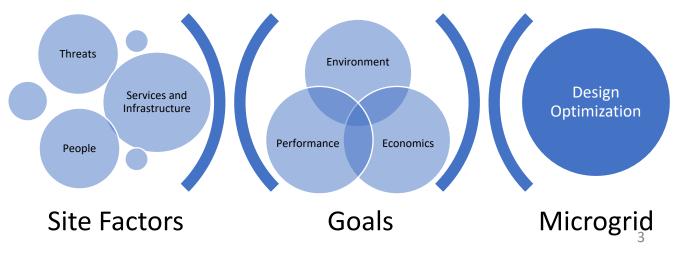
The Microgrid Conceptual Design Guidebook was published as part of Sandia's effort to enable communities in their energy transition goals.

Vieques, 2021 Workshops to Now

As part of the DOE energy resilience projects, Sandia developed tools used for siting and roughly sizing/costing microgrids with a focus on resilience metrics that quantify how well primary human needs are satisfied during and after disruptions.







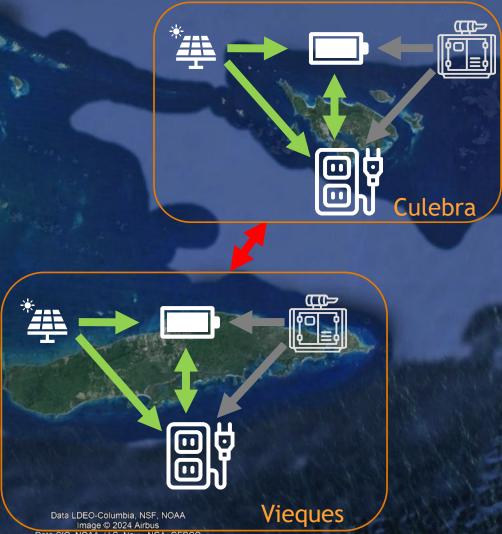
Culebra & Vieques Microgrid Conceptual Layout



Culebra and Vieques microgrids can operate with or without connection to the main island generation. During typical conditions, power can flow to Vieques/Culebra or excess generation can flow back to the main island. In an emergency, Culebra and Vieques microgrids can operate independently or as one combined Vieques + Culebra microgrid.



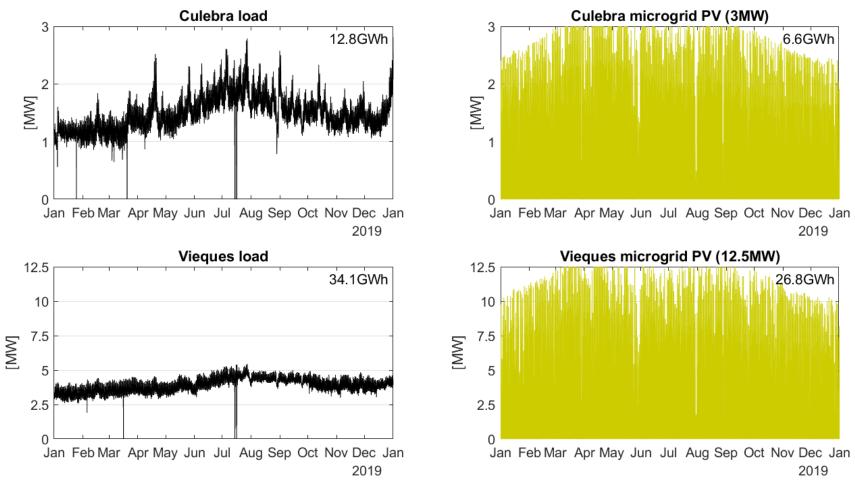
Links between islands Within-island connections, always on Used only in an emergency



Generation cartoon map from NREL Satellite map from Google Maps Generator icon and electric socket icon from Flaticon.com

Load and Microgrid PV

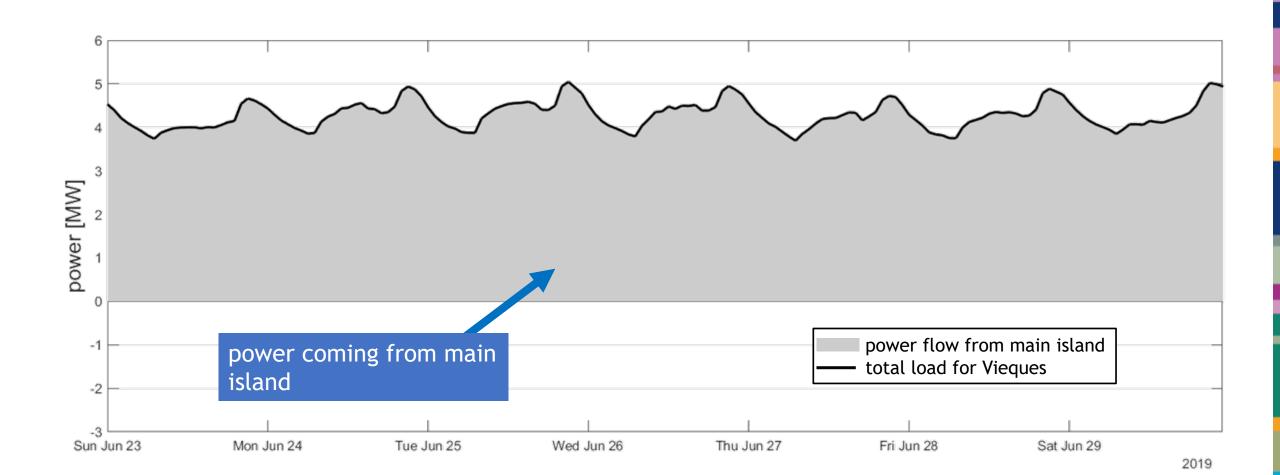
Based on preliminary microgrid PV sizing* of 3MW on Culebra and 12.5MW on Vieques, microgrid solar would produce a large amount of the total energy consumed on Culebra and Vieques. Solar power capacity is much larger than each island's peak power consumption because solar power is only produced during sunny daytime hours, so must be larger to match energy needs.



*https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20230329/biden-harris-administration-fema-approve-over-102-million-phase-1-solar



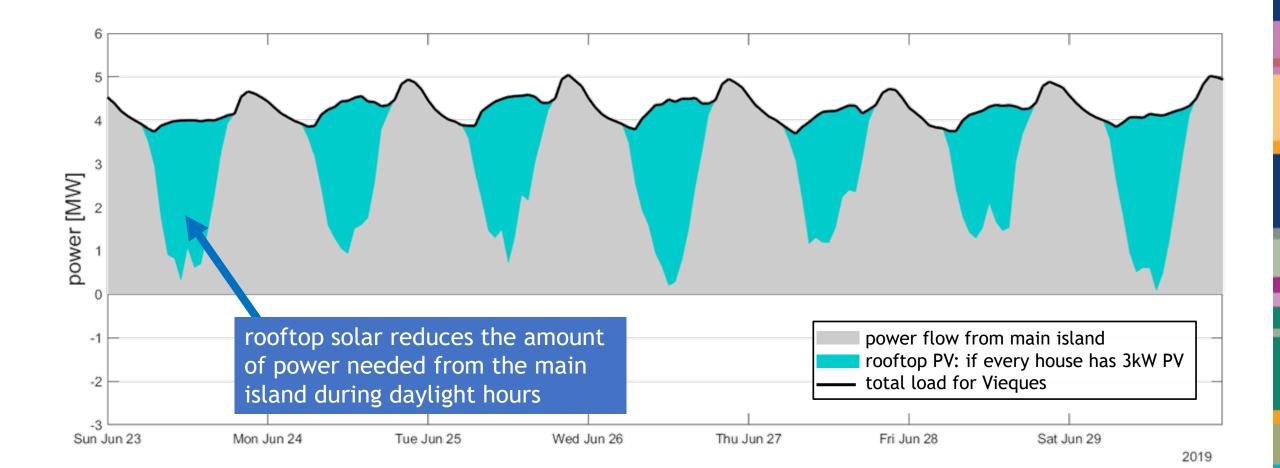
Today, almost all power comes from generators on the main island.



Typical Week with Rooftop Solar



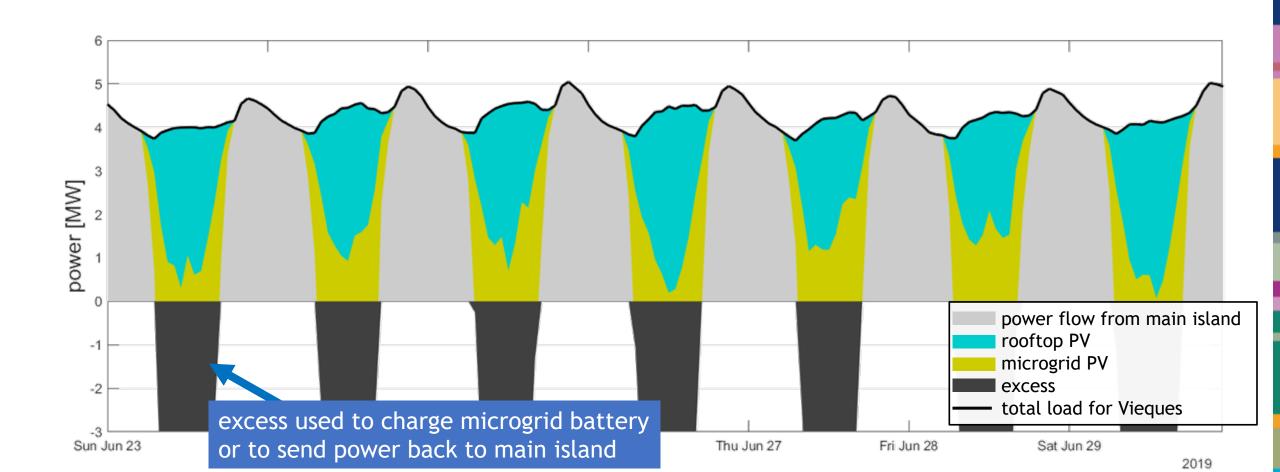
As the amount of rooftop solar increases, the amount of power drawn from the main island during the day will decrease.



Typical Week with Microgrid Solar



With the microgrid setup, excess solar power generated on Vieques will be used to charge the microgrid battery or will feed "backwards" to power loads on the main island or on Culebra.

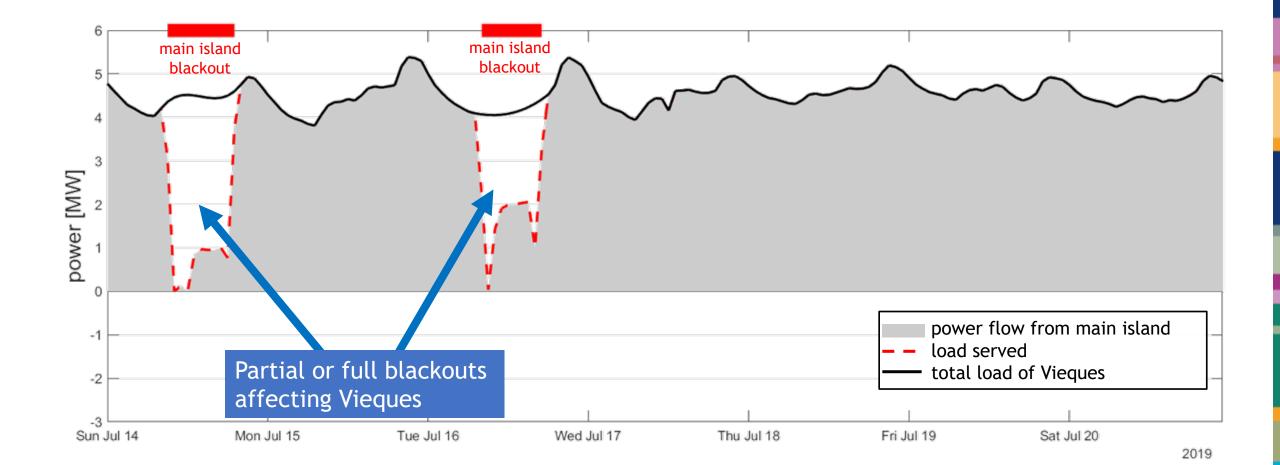


Week with Blackout: no Microgrid



Without a microgrid, when the main island experiences a blackout so will Vieques.

Rooftop solar systems with batteries may be able to keep powering specific homes for as long as the battery lasts, but any buildings without solar + battery systems will loose power.

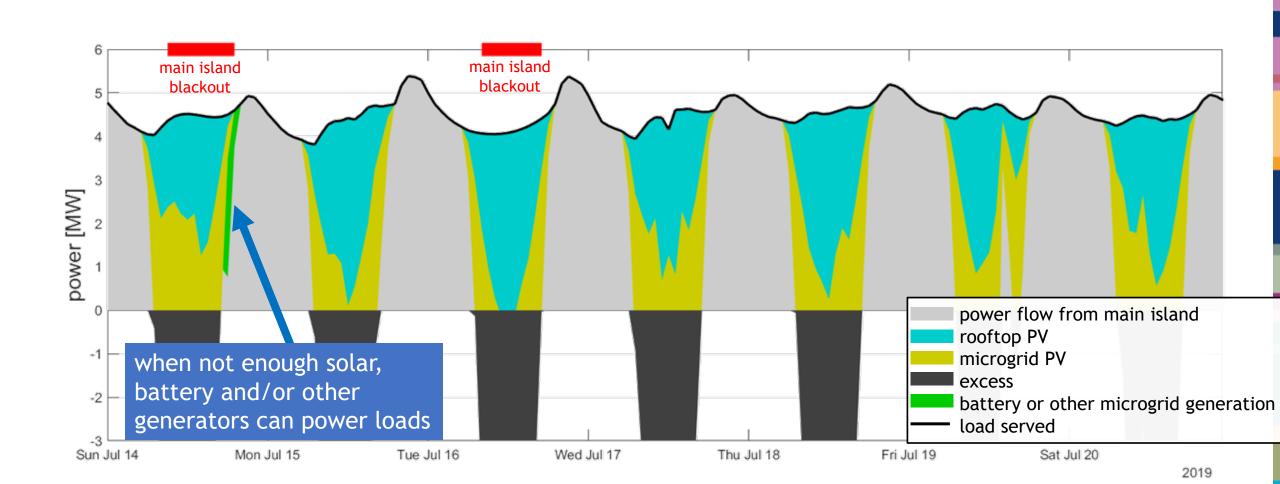


Week with Blackout: Microgrid Operates Islanded



With the microgrid setup, Vieques can remain powered even when there is a blackout on the main island.

When available, solar generation will power loads on Vieques. When solar power is not enough, batteries and/or other generation that is part of the microgrid will be utilized.



Long-Duration Blackout: Microgrid Operation



If Hurricane Dorian had caused a long-duration blackout, the microgrid could have supplied power to Vieques.

For a few hours, perhaps up to a few days, the microgrid solar plus battery system could power Vieques. For a longer blackout, additional generation on the microgrid will be necessary.

