

# Draft Interconnection Standards



August 28, 2019

- Stakeholder workgroup process initiated by U-20344 order issued on November 8, 2018
- Interconnection Workgroup
  - 9 stakeholder meetings
  - Beginning document Minnesota Interconnection Rules
- Combined Interconnection, Distributed Generation, and Legally Enforceable Obligation ruleset will be emailed to all three stakeholder workgroups today
- Written comments due Monday, September 30, 2019

# Highlights of New Interconnection Rules

- Pre-Application Report
- New timelines for both utility and interconnection customer
- Applications removed from queue due to customer inactivity
- Establishes queue processing for large projects
- Fast Track w/technical engineering screens
- Increases Commission oversight and transparency in application fees and study costs

- Fast Track Application Processing
  - No queue process
  - Applications are processed according to applicable timelines
- Study Track Application Processing
  - Sequential queue process
    - Provisions for affected system delays
  - Utility may opt for a batch or geographic cluster process
    - Batch or geographic cluster process queue procedures would be included in a utility's interconnection procedures

Applies to residential-sized projects and larger projects that meet fast track size eligibility.

- 1) Application Filed
- 2) Utility Application Completeness Review
- 3) Initial review using technical interconnection screens
- 4) Inspection, testing and commissioning
- 5) Interconnection Agreement
- 6) Authorization to Operate

- 1) Pre-Application Report
- 2) Application Filed
- 3) Utility Application Completeness Review
- 4) Scoping Meeting
- 5) System Impact Study (may be 2 phases)
- 6) Customer Options Meeting
- 7) Facilities Study (includes draft and final reports)
- 8) Construction Agreement
- 9) Inspection, testing and commissioning
- 10) Interconnection Agreement
- 11) Authorization to Operate

- Staff is continuing to discuss whether the fast track initial screens should be moved from the rules to the utility interconnection procedures.
  - Smart inverters incorporation
  - Increasing distribution system data availability
  - Screens may be outdated (ie: IEEE 1547-2018)
    - New interconnection configurations (energy storage)
- Supplemental review screens have been moved out of the rules and are planned for the procedures
- Some timelines may be more appropriate in procedures

- Initially, the electric utility will file a set of fees based on cost estimates, by level, for review in a contested case
  - Pre-application report
  - Application
  - System impact study
  - Facilities study
- Utility shall review fees annually, or at any time
- Fees adjusted after contested case



# Study Timelines – System Impact Study

- Utility receives signed system impact study agreement and payment
- Utility has 45 business days to complete study
- Potentially an additional 5 business days if utility requests additional data
- Utility notifies interconnection customer of results, provides the report and a facilities study agreement, if needed, within 3 business days of completing the study
- Interconnection customer has 15 business days from receiving the report to either pursue a customer options meeting or withdraw the application

# Study Timelines – Facilities Study

- Customer options meeting scheduled within 25 business days of interconnection customer opting to go forward after receiving system impact study report.
- Customer has 20 business days after customer options meeting to return signed facilities study agreement and payment
- Utility has 60 business days to complete the study and provide DRAFT facilities study report to customer
- Utility and customer may meet within 10 business days to discuss DRAFT study report & customer may provide written comments within 20 business days for utility to address in final facilities study report
- Utility provides final facilities study report and draft construction agreement within 15 business days

- Stakeholders may email written comments to [evansn@michigan.gov](mailto:evansn@michigan.gov) and [baldwinj2@michigan.gov](mailto:baldwinj2@michigan.gov) by the close of business on Monday, September 30, 2019
- Stakeholders with extensive and substantive comments are asked to arrange to meet with Staff prior to September 30 to discuss comments
- Staff will review comments and revise rules
- Proposed ruleset completed by the end of October

**Thank you!**

**Questions?**