

# **INTERCONNECTION PROCEDURES MANUAL**

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## **MANUAL OF PROCEDURES FOR INTERCONNECTION REQUESTS**

### **INITIAL FEES**

(1) After the effective date of these rules, fees for the pre-application report, the simplified track, the non-export track, the fast track, and the study track may not exceed the initial fee caps listed in below paragraph (2), and the caps must remain in effect until interconnection procedures are approved by the commission under R 460.920.

(2) The initial fee amounts for all levels of DERs are as follows:

(a) The pre-application report fee may not exceed \$300.

(b) The simplified track fee and any applicable legacy net metering program application fee pursuant to R 460.1004(7) or distributed generation program application fee pursuant to R 460.1006(6), together, may not exceed a total of \$50.

(c) The non-export track fee may not exceed \$100 + \$1/kWac for certified DERs and \$100 + \$2/kWac for non-certified DERs.

(d) The fast track initial review fee is \$100 + \$1/kWac for certified DERs and \$100 + \$2/kWac for non-certified DERs.

(e) The transition batch fee for interconnection application review and the scoping meeting may not exceed \$300.

(f) The fee for a fast track supplemental review including all review screens may not exceed \$5,000.

(g) The study track fee for interconnection application review and the scoping meeting may not exceed \$300.

(h) The system impact study fee may not exceed \$30,000. For a level 5 system, the Cooperative fee shall not exceed \$50,000. [This is because Cooperatives will likely need to engage up to two separate external engineering firms and the process will involve an affected system.]

(i) The facilities study fee may not exceed \$30,000. For a level 5 system, the Cooperative fee shall not exceed \$50,000. [This is because Cooperatives will likely need to engage up to two separate external engineering firms and the process will involve an affected system.]

(3) The initial fees caps listed in subrule (2) of this rule, and any fixed fees subject to the initial fee caps charged by the electric utility, must be displayed prominently on the electric utility's interconnection website.

(4) An electric utility that expects to incur costs greater than the initial fee caps listed in subrule (2) of this rule in the evaluation of an interconnection application may file a request for a waiver pursuant to R 460.910.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **1. GENERAL**

#### **A. Purpose**

This manual sets forth the procedures the Cooperative will follow to process requests for interconnection from qualified third parties or from member/customers (Applicant). The procedures require coordination with the Cooperative's supplier of generation.

#### **B. Relief From Procedures**

The Cooperative may suspend the deadlines for fairly processing applications in instances in which the number of applications exceed the capacity of the Cooperative and its generation and transmission service provider to timely meet the deadlines in these rules. In such an event, the Cooperative will process applications in the order they are received as reasonably soon as possible.

The Cooperative shall notify the commission and all applicants that have in process applications when timelines are being extended due to catastrophic conditions as defined in R 460.702(f). The Cooperative shall also notify the commission and all applicants that have in-process applications when application processing resumes.

#### **C. Definitions**

Definitions used in this manual are set forth in appendix A.

#### **D. Interconnection Types**

There are four types of interconnection request to be processed. The types are:

**Simplified Track** – (R460.040) See [procedure 5] for specific steps to process.  
**Non-Export Track** - (R460.042) See [procedure 6] for specific steps to process.  
**Study Track** – Individual Study (R460.952) (Individual and Batch) See [procedure 8] for specific steps to process.  
**Fast Track** – (R460.946) See [procedure 7] for specific steps to process.

After an application for interconnection and fee are received, the Cooperative will identify the interconnection type and follow the procedures specific to that type of interconnection. Upon receipt of a completed application and fee, the Cooperative shall:

- (a) On the first business day of receipt, date-stamp the application.
- (b) Within 3 business days of the date-stamp, notify the applicant of receipt.
- (c) Within 10 business days of the date-stamp, notify the applicant that the application is complete and accepted or incomplete. If the application is complete and accepted, the notice shall specify the track by which the application will be processed.

#### **E. Communications**

(1) The Cooperative shall designate 1 or more interconnection coordinators. The telephone number and e-mail address of the interconnection coordinator or coordinators must be made available on the Cooperative's website. The interconnection coordinator or coordinators must be available to provide reasonable assistance to the applicant or interconnection customer but is not responsible to directly answer or resolve all of the issues that may arise in the interconnection process.

(2) An applicant may designate an application agent. An application agent may serve as the single point of contact for the applicant and may coordinate with the Cooperative on the applicant's behalf. Designation of an application agent does not absolve the applicant from signing interconnection documents or from complying with the requirements in these rules and the interconnection agreement.

(3) The Cooperative must be indemnified by the applicant and its application agent with respect to assistance provided by an interconnection coordinator or coordinators.

## **F. Interconnection List**

(1) The Cooperative shall maintain a public interconnection list, which is available in a sortable spreadsheet format, and provide it to the public upon request. If the Cooperative has received not less than 100 complete interconnection applications in a year, the Cooperative shall publish this list on its website. The public interconnection list must be updated monthly unless no changes to the spreadsheet have occurred in that month. The date of the most recent update must be clearly indicated.

(2) The public interconnection list must include all of the following:

(a) An application identifier.

(b) The date that the Cooperative received the application.

(c) The date that the Cooperative considered the application to be complete and conforming.

(d) Whether the application is on the simplified track, non-export track, fast track, or study track.

(e) The proposed DER nameplate capacity.

(f) The proposed DER interconnection size level.

(g) The DER technology type.

(h) The county and township in which the proposed point of common coupling will be located.

(i) The current status of the application's progress in the interconnection process.

(j) The labels, names, or identifiers of the distribution circuit and substation.



## **2. PRE-APPLICATION REPORT REQUEST**

### **A. Pre-Application Request Forms**

(1) An applicant shall submit a completed pre-application report request form and the required \$300 fee for a pre-application report on a proposed level 4 or level 5 DER.

(2) The pre-application report request form must include all of the following information:

(a) Project contact information, including name, address, phone number, and email address.

(b) Project location, as accurately as can be identified, which may be given by any of the following:

(i) Street address with nearby cross streets and town.

(ii) An aerial map with location clearly marked.

(iii) GPS coordinates.

(c) Account number, meter number, structure number, or other equivalent information identifying the proposed point of common coupling, if available.

(d) Whether the DER is any of the following:

(i) Solar.

(ii) Wind.

(iii) Cogeneration.

(iv) Storage.

(v) Solar with storage.

(vi) Other type of DER.

(e) Nameplate capacity of the DER types in alternating current kW.

(f) Whether the DER configuration is single or 3-phase.

(g) Whether the DER will be a stand-alone generator, meaning no onsite load other than station service.

(h) Whether new service is requested. If there is existing service, the customer account number and site minimum and maximum current or proposed electric loads in kW, if available, must be included, and how the load is expected to change must be specified.

(i) Whether the location is new construction.

## **B. Pre-Application Report**

(1) Using the information provided in the pre-application report request form described above the Cooperative, in coordination with its generation and transmission service provider, shall identify the substation bus, bank, or circuit most likely to serve the point of common coupling. This identification by the Cooperative and its generation/transmission supplier does not necessarily indicate that this would be the circuit to which the project ultimately connects.

(2) An applicant may request additional pre-application reports if information about multiple points of common coupling is requested. No more than 10 pre-application report requests may be submitted by an applicant and its affiliates during a 1-week period. The cooperative utility may reject additional pre-application report requests.

(3) The pre-application report must include all of the following information:

(a) Total capacity, in MW, of substation bus, bank, or circuit based on normal or operating ratings likely to serve the proposed point of common coupling.

(b) Existing aggregate generation capacity, in MW, interconnected to a substation bus, bank, or circuit likely to serve the proposed point of common coupling.

(c) Aggregate capacity, in MW, of generation not yet built but found in previously accepted interconnection applications, for a substation bus, bank, or circuit likely to serve the proposed point of common coupling.

(d) Available capacity, in MW, of substation bus, bank, or circuit likely to serve the proposed point of common coupling.

(e) Substation nominal distribution voltage.

(f) Nominal distribution circuit voltage at the proposed point of common coupling.

(g) Label, name, or identifier of the distribution circuit on which the proposed point of common coupling is located.

(h) Approximate circuit distance between the proposed point of common coupling and the substation.

(i) The actual or estimated peak load and minimum load data at any relevant line section or sections, including daytime minimum load and absolute minimum load, when available. If not readily available, the report must indicate whether the generator is expected to exceed minimum load on the circuit.

- (j) Whether the point of common coupling is located behind a line voltage regulator and whether the substation has a load tap changer.
- (k) Limiting conductor ratings from the proposed point of common coupling to the distribution substation.
- (l) Number of phases available at the primary voltage level at the proposed point of common coupling, and, if a single phase, distance from the 3-phase circuit.
- (m) Whether the point of common coupling is located on a spot network, area network, grid network, radial supply, or secondary network.
- (n) Based on the proposed point of common coupling, the report must indicate whether power quality issues may be present on the circuit.
- (o) Whether or not the area has been identified as having a prior affected system.
- (p) Whether or not the site will require a system impact study for high voltage distribution based on size, location, and existing system configuration.

(4) The pre-application report may include only existing and readily available data.

A request for a pre-application report does not obligate a Cooperative to conduct a study or other analysis of the proposed DER if data is not readily available. The pre-application report must also indicate any information listed in this procedure above that is not readily available. A Cooperative may, at its discretion, return any portion of the pre-application report fee because some or all information does not exist.

(5) Pre-application report requests must be processed in the order in which the Cooperative received the requests.

(6) A Cooperative shall provide the data required in the pre-application report to the applicant **within 25 business days of receipt** of the completed request form and payment of the fee. The pre-application report produced by the Cooperative is non-binding and does not confer any rights on the applicant.

### **3. INTERCONNECTION APPLICATIONS**

(1) The Cooperative shall provide an interconnection application for an applicant to complete, including for those applicants whose DERs will be configured to be non-exporting.

(2) All documents required for a complete interconnection application must be listed on the interconnection application. For level 4 and 5 interconnection applications, the list of required documents must include a completed pre-application report.

(3) For interconnection applications with proposed DERs that fall into level 1, an applicant shall provide a 1-line diagram and a site diagram.

(4) For interconnection applications with proposed DERs that fall into levels 2 and 3, an applicant shall provide a 1-line diagram that is either sealed by a professional engineer licensed in this state or signed by an electrical contractor who is licensed in this state with the electrical contractor's license number noted on the diagram. An applicant shall also provide a site diagram.

(5) For interconnection applications with proposed DERs that fall into levels 4 and above, an applicant shall provide a 1-line diagram that is sealed by a professional engineer who is licensed in this state. An applicant shall also provide a site diagram.

#### **A. Site Control**

(1) Documentation of site control must be submitted with the application by the applicant.

(2) For level 3, 4, or 5 DERs, site control may be demonstrated by providing documentation that shows any of the following:

- (a) Ownership of, a leasehold interest in, or a right to develop a site for the purpose of constructing and operating the DER.
- (b) An enforceable option to purchase or acquire a leasehold site for this purpose.
- (c) A legally binding agreement transferring a present real property right to specified real property along with the right to construct and operate a DER on the specified real property for a period of time not less than 5 years.

(3) For level 1 or 2 DERs, proof of site control may be demonstrated by the site owner's signature on the application.

(4) An applicant may redact commercially sensitive information from site control documents.

### **B. Order of Processing Applications**

(1) Applications shall be reviewed to assess whether they are complete and conforming in the order in which they were received. An application is considered received when the Cooperative receives the application, the application's attachments, and the application fee. **The application must be date-stamped for the first business day when the Cooperative has received** the interconnection application, the application attachments, and payment of the application fee. **The Cooperative shall notify the applicant of receipt of the application by the end of the third business day following the date of the date stamp.**

### **C. Notification Regarding Applications**

The Cooperative shall notify the applicant that the interconnection application is either complete and conforming, or incomplete, or non-conforming, **within 10 business days of the date stamp.**

- (1) Complete applications.

If an interconnection application is determined to be complete and conforming by the Cooperative, the applicant must be notified that the interconnection application is accepted. The Cooperative shall also indicate whether the interconnection application will be processed using the simplified track, non-export track, fast track, or study track.

(2) Incomplete applications.

If the application is incomplete or non-conforming, the Cooperative shall provide to the applicant a written list of all deficiencies with the notification. The applicant shall have **60 business days from the date of Cooperative notification** to submit the necessary information and may provide up to 2 submissions during this time period. After each submission of information, the **Cooperative shall have 10 business days to notify the applicant** that the interconnection application is either accepted or rejected due to continuing deficiencies. If the applicant does not meet the timelines required by this rule, the utility may withdraw the application.

**D. Modification of the Interconnection Application**

(1) At any point after an interconnection application is considered accepted but before the signing of an interconnection agreement, the applicant, the Cooperative, or the affected system owner may propose modifications to the interconnection application that may improve the costs and benefits of the interconnection, or that improve the ability of the Cooperative to accommodate the interconnection. The applicant shall submit to the Cooperative, in writing, all proposed modifications to any information provided in the interconnection application and the Cooperative shall perform a cursory evaluation to determine whether the proposed modification is a material modification and provide the results to the applicant **within 10 business days**.

(2) The Cooperative shall not be required to accept or implement a modification to the Cooperative's distribution system or generation assets that is proposed by an applicant or affected system operator.

(3) Neither the Cooperative nor the affected system operator may unilaterally modify an accepted interconnection application. If the Cooperative evaluates DERs using individual studies, the timelines specific to that interconnection application must be suspended while the proposed modification is being evaluated by the Cooperative.

(4) For a proposed modification which the Cooperative has determined is a material modification, the applicant may request a material modification review to determine whether the material modification is an acceptable material modification or an unacceptable material modification. The Cooperative shall complete the material modification review and determine which of the following options are available to the applicant:

(a) If the modification is an unacceptable material modification, the applicant may withdraw the modification or withdraw the application.

(b) If the modification is an acceptable material modification and requires minimal or no restudy, the application study activities will resume with the modification and no change to the timing.

(c) If the modification is an acceptable material modification but requires restudy, the Cooperative shall expedite the restudy. The applicant shall pay any required fee for the expedited restudy.

(5) The applicant may request a 1-hour consultation to discuss the results of the material modification review.

(6) The applicant shall notify the Cooperative of its selection pursuant to the above procedure (4) **within 10 business days** of receiving the Cooperative's notification of the results or the modification may be considered withdrawn.

(7) If the proposed modification is determined not to be a material modification or is determined to be an acceptable material modification, the Cooperative shall notify the applicant that the proposed modification has been accepted.

(8) If the modification is considered an unacceptable material modification, the applicant shall withdraw the proposed modification, or initiate mediation pursuant to R 460.904 or R 460.906, or file a complaint pursuant to R 792.10439 to R 792.10446 **within 10 business days of receipt** of the decision, or proceed with a new interconnection application for this modification. If the applicant does not provide its determination **within the 10 business days**, the Cooperative may consider the interconnection application withdrawn.

(9) Any modification to the interconnection application or to the DER that could affect the operation of the distribution system, including but not limited to, changes to machine data, equipment configuration, or the interconnection site of the DER, not agreed to in writing by the Cooperative and the applicant may be treated by the Cooperative as a withdrawal of the interconnection application requiring submission of a new interconnection application.

(10) At any point prior to the execution of an interconnection agreement, changes to ownership will cause the interconnection application to be put on hold until the new owner signs all necessary agreements and documents. An Cooperative may not be found in violation of the Commission's interconnection rules related to the processing of the interconnection application during such a transfer of ownership.

(11) Replacing a component with another component that has near-identical characteristics does not constitute a material modification.



(12) The Cooperative's interconnection procedures must provide examples of modification that are not material modifications, acceptable material modifications, and unacceptable material modifications.

#### **E. Capacity of the Existing DER**

(1) If the interconnection application requests a decrease in capacity for an existing DER, the Cooperative shall evaluate the application based on the new nameplate capacity of the DER. The maximum capacity of a DER is the aggregate nameplate capacity or may be limited as described in the Cooperative's interconnection procedures. Any increase in capacity for an existing DER or material modification, shall be processed as a new application.

(2) An interconnection application for a DER that includes single or multiple types of DERs at a site for which the applicant seeks a single point of common coupling must be evaluated as described in the Cooperative's interconnection procedures.

(3) The Cooperative's interconnection procedures must describe acceptable methods for power limited export DER including, but not limited to, reverse power protection and utilizing inverters or control systems so that the DER capacity considered by the Cooperative for reviewing the interconnection application is only the amount capable of being exported. At a minimum, a power limited export DER must provide relay intercommunications with the Cooperative and other protections which may be required based on the specific location of the DER relative to the Cooperative's distribution system.

## **F. Updating Applications Forms**

The Cooperative shall review and update interconnection applications periodically to reflect new information required to properly review DERs, subject to commission review and approval.

## **G. Initial Minimal Load Screen For All Tracks And Applications**

(1) If the total or aggregate DER connected to the feeder is rated at more than 50% of the feeder's minimum loading, or more than the minimum substation loading, it becomes more likely the DER will continue to energize the feeder during system events or back feed the transmission system. Therefore, if the total or aggregate DER does not pass the minimum load screen below, proceed to the Study Track to ensure a System Impact Study can be completed by the Cooperative, and that Facility Studies can be completed by both the Cooperative and the G&T or Transmission provider due to affected substation and transmission facilities.

(2) Minimum load screen.

Where 12 months of line section and substation minimum load data, including onsite load but not station service load served by the proposed DER, are available, can be calculated, can be estimated from existing data, or can be determined from a power flow model, the aggregate DER capacity on the line section must be less than both 1) 50% of the minimum feeder load, and 2) 100% of the minimum substation load, for all line sections bounded by automatic sectionalizing devices upstream of the proposed DER. If minimum load data are not available, or cannot be calculated, estimated, or determined, an Cooperative shall include the reason or reasons that it is unable to calculate, estimate, or determine minimum load in its supplemental review results notification under subrules

(7) and (8) of the Supplemental Review rule. All of the following must be applied by the Cooperative:

- (a) The type of generation used by the proposed DER will be considered when calculating, estimating, or determining circuit or line section minimum load relevant for the application of the minimum load screen specified in this subdivision. Solar photovoltaic generation systems with no battery storage must use daytime minimum load. All other generation must use absolute minimum load unless an operating schedule is provided.
- (b) When this screen is being applied to a DER that serves some station service load, only the net injection of electric energy into the Cooperative's distribution system may be considered as part of the aggregate generation.
- (c) The Cooperative shall not consider as part of the aggregate generation, for purposes of this supplemental screen, DER capacity known to be already reflected in the minimum load data.

#### **4. ONLINE APPLICATIONS AND ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION**

(1) The Cooperative shall allow pre-application report requests, interconnection applications, and interconnection agreements to be submitted electronically, such as, through the Cooperative's website or via email.

(2) The Cooperative shall dedicate a page on its website or direct customers to a linked website with information on these rules. The relevant information available to an applicant or interconnection customer via a website must include all of the following:

- (a) These rules and interconnection procedures in an electronically searchable format.
- (b) The Cooperative's applications and all associated forms in a format that allows for electronic entry of data.
- (c) Sample documents including, at a minimum, a 1-line diagram with required labels.
- (d) Contact information for the Cooperative's DER interconnection coordinator, including an email address and a phone number.
- (e) Directions for the submission of applications.

## **5. SIMPLIFIED TRACK REVIEW**

(1) Level 1 and 2 applications, including applications that include an energy storage device so the export of power meets the requirements of level 1 or level 2, will be processed using the simplified track.

(2) **Within 10 business days after notifying an applicant** that the application had been accepted, the Cooperative shall perform a review by using up to all of the initial review screens specified in the Cooperative's interconnection procedures and notify the applicant if any interconnection facilities, distribution upgrades, further study, or application modifications are required for safe and reliable interconnection to the Cooperative's distribution system or for tariff compliance. If an Cooperative chooses to perform a review by using a subset of the initial review screens, the exclusion of 1 or more screens may not be the only basis for the Cooperative to require application modification or further study.

(3) If the Cooperative review notification indicates that no further study or application modifications are required, the applicant shall proceed under to an interconnection agreement.

(4) If application modification is offered by the Cooperative the applicant shall either withdraw the interconnection application or provide a modified application **within 60 business days from the date of Cooperative's notification**, with up to 2 resubmissions during this time period to provide a modified application. After each submission of information, the Cooperative shall **notify the applicant within 10 business days** that the interconnection application is either accepted or rejected due to continuing deficiencies. If the applicant does not meet the timelines required by this

subrule, the Cooperative may withdraw the application. When the applicant provides a modified application, the Cooperative shall follow the procedure specified in above paragraph (2).

(5) If further study is required, the Cooperative and the applicant shall decide whether to proceed to a supplemental review under or the study track under, or to withdraw the application. The **applicant shall have 20 business days to decide** on a course of action and to notify the Cooperative. In the absence of this notification, the Cooperative may withdraw the application.

## **6. NON-EXPORT TRACK REVIEW**

(1) Interconnection applications for DERs that will not inject electric energy into the Cooperative's distribution system are eligible for evaluation under the nonexport track. Non-export eligibility requires an existing electrical service at the applicant's premise.

(2) Subject to review and approval by the commission, the Cooperative may limit the eligibility of the non-export track in its interconnection procedures based on the characteristics of its distribution system. Non-export track eligibility shall be limited to DERs which are either (1) no greater than the average daily load of the of the DER host location, (2) no greater than 80% of the average demand at the DER host location, or (3) 50% of the line load on the Cooperative's distribution system at the point of interconnection.

(3) Before submitting an interconnection application, a non-export track applicant may contact the Cooperative for assistance in determining whether a non-export track review will be sufficient or the study track is necessary. The Cooperative shall provide the applicant assistance based on available information. If the applicant chooses to proceed, an interconnection application shall be submitted pursuant to the general application procedures.

(4) **Within 20 business days after being notified** that the application was accepted, the Cooperative shall perform an initial review by using some or all of the initial review screens specified in the Cooperative's interconnection procedures and notify the applicant of the results. If the Cooperative chooses to perform a review using a subset of the initial review screens, the exclusion of 1 or more screens may not be the only basis for the Cooperative to require interconnection facilities, distribution upgrades, further study, or application modifications.

(a) If the notification indicates that no interconnection facilities, distribution upgrades, further study, or application modifications are required, the Cooperative shall provide specifications for any equipment the applicant will be required to install **within 10 business days of the applicant being notified. Within 10 business days of receiving the equipment specifications**, the applicant shall notify the Cooperative whether it will proceed under the Fast Track review to an interconnection agreement or will withdraw the application. The applicant's failure to notify the Cooperative within the required time period shall result in the interconnection application being withdrawn by the Cooperative.

(b) If application modification is offered by the Cooperative, the applicant shall either withdraw the interconnection application or provide a modified application **within 60 business days** from the date of Cooperative notification, with up to 2 resubmissions during this time period to provide a modified application. After each submission of information, the Cooperative shall notify the applicant **within 10 business day** that the interconnection application is either accepted or rejected due to continuing deficiencies. If the applicant does not meet the timelines required by this paragraph, the Cooperative may withdraw the application. When the applicant provides a modified application, the Cooperative shall follow the procedure specified in this paragraph.

(5) If further study is required, the Cooperative shall present options and the applicant shall decide whether to proceed to a supplemental review, or to the study track, or to withdraw the application. The applicant shall **have 20 business days to decide** on a course of action and notify the Cooperative. In the absence of this notification, the Cooperative may withdraw the application within the required time period.

(6) When an applicant changes from a non-exporting system to an exporting system, the applicant shall submit a new interconnection application.



## **7. FAST TRACK**

### **A. Applicability**

(1) Level 3 and level 4 applications in which the DER is not proposing to interconnect with the Cooperative's high voltage distribution system are eligible for the fast track. These level 3 and level 4 applications may include applications that provide for the use of an energy storage device so the export of power meets the requirements of level 3 or level 4. A Cooperative's high voltage distribution system will be any voltage at or above 30kv.

(2) An applicant that is eligible for the fast track may forgo the fast track and proceed directly to the study track.

(3) An applicant with an application that is outside the limitations specified in above subparagraph (1) may petition the Cooperative to have its application evaluated under fast track. The Cooperative may approve or reject this request at its discretion.

(4) In determining fast track eligibility, the Cooperative may aggregate all proposed new generation on a site regardless of the existence of a shared point of common coupling or multiple points of common coupling.

### **B. Initial Review**

(1) An Cooperative shall list in its interconnection procedures the initial review screens specified in below paragraph (5). An Cooperative may add additional details to each of these screens in the interconnection procedures.

(2) An Cooperative may include additional initial review screens in its interconnection procedures. In its application requesting approval of interconnection procedures, the Cooperative shall provide a detailed technical rationale for including each

additional screen. If an additional screen conflicts with or undermines any of the initial review screens specified in below paragraph (5) explanation of how it does so.

(3) The Cooperative may waive application of 1, some, or all of the initial review screens.

(4) **Within 20 business days** after an Cooperative receives a complete and conforming application and associated payment, the Cooperative shall perform an initial review and notify the applicant of the results. The initial review must consist of applying the initial review screens selected by the Cooperative to the proposed DER. The Cooperative shall not require a supplemental review or a system impact study if the DER passes the applied initial review screens.

(5) The initial review screens are all of the following:

(a) The entire proposed DER, including all aggregated site generation and point or points of interconnection, must be located within the Cooperative's service territory.

(b) For interconnection of a proposed DER to a radial distribution circuit, the aggregated generation, including the proposed DER, on the circuit may not exceed 15% of the line section annual peak load as most recently measured or calculated if measured data is not available. A line section is that portion of an Cooperative's distribution system connected to a customer bounded by automatic sectionalizing devices or the end of the distribution line. The Cooperative may consider 100% of applicable loading, if available, instead of 15% of line section peak load.

(c) For interconnection of a proposed DER to the load side of network protectors, the proposed DER must utilize an inverter-based equipment package and, together with the aggregated other inverter-based DERs, may not exceed the smaller of 5% of a network's maximum load or 50 kWac.

(d) The proposed DER, in aggregation with other DERs on the distribution circuit, may not contribute more than 10% to the distribution circuit's maximum fault current at the point on the primary voltage nearest the proposed point of common coupling.

(e) The proposed DER, in aggregate with other DERs on the distribution circuit, may not cause any distribution protective devices and equipment or interconnection customer equipment on the system to exceed 87.5% of the short circuit interrupting capability. An interconnection may not be proposed for a circuit that already exceeds 87.5% of the short circuit interrupting capability. Distribution protective devices and equipment include, but are not limited to, substation breakers, fuse cutouts, and line reclosers.

(f) The initial review screen determines the type of interconnection to a primary distribution line for the proposed DER, according to the requirements specified in the table in this subdivision. This screen includes a review of the type of electrical service provided to the applicant, including line configuration and the transformer connection to limit the potential for creating over-voltages on the Cooperative's distribution system due to a loss of ground during the operating time of any anti-islanding function.

(g) If the proposed DER is to be interconnected on single-phase shared secondary, the aggregate generation capacity on the shared secondary, including the proposed DER, may not exceed 65% of the transformer nameplate rating and may not cause service voltages to exceed service requirements.

(h) If the proposed DER is single-phase and is to be interconnected on a center tap neutral of a 240 volt service, its addition may not create an imbalance between the 2 sides of the 240 volt service of more than 20% of the nameplate rating of the service transformer.

(i) If the proposed DER is single-phase and is to be interconnected to a 3-phase service, its nameplate rating may not exceed 10% of the service transformer nameplate rating.

(j) If the proposed DER's point of common coupling is behind a line voltage regulator, the DER's nameplate rating must be less than 250 kWac. This screen does not include substation voltage regulators.

(6) If the proposed interconnection passes the initial review screens, or if the proposed interconnection fails the screens but the Cooperative determines that the DER may be interconnected consistent with safety, reliability, and power quality standards, the Cooperative shall notify the applicant. If a facilities study is not required, the interconnection application must proceed under this track to an interconnection agreement. If a facilities study is required, the interconnection agreement must proceed under R 460.962 a facilities study.

(7) If the proposed interconnection fails any of the initial review screens, and the Cooperative does not or cannot determine that the DER may be interconnected consistent with safety, reliability, and power quality standards, the Cooperative shall notify the applicant, provide the applicant with the results of the application of the initial review screens, and offer all of the following options:

(a) Attend a customer options meeting, as described in R 460.948.

(b) Proceed to supplemental review under R 460.950.

(c) **Submit within 60 business days** from the date of the Cooperative notification, with up to 2 submissions during this time period, a complete and conforming revised interconnection application that includes application modifications offered or required by the Cooperative. The application modifications must mitigate or eliminate the factors that caused the interconnection application to fail 1 or more of the initial review screens. After each submission of information, the **Cooperative has 10 business days to notify** the applicant that the interconnection application is either accepted or rejected due to continuing deficiencies. If the applicant does not meet the timelines required by this subrule, the Cooperative may withdraw the application. After the Cooperative determines the application is accepted, the revised interconnection application must proceed under subrule (4) of this rule.

(d) Withdraw the interconnection application.

(8) If the applicant does not select a course of action under subrule (7) of this rule **within 10 business days of notice** from the Cooperative, the Cooperative shall withdraw the interconnection application.

### **C. Customer Options Meeting**

(1) Upon an applicant's request, the Cooperative and the applicant shall schedule a customer options meeting between the Cooperative and the applicant to review possible facility modifications, screen analysis, and related results to determine what further steps are needed to permit the DER to be connected safely and reliably to the distribution system. The customer options **meeting must take place within 30 business days of the date of notification** pursuant to R 460.946(7).

(2) At the customer options meeting, the Cooperative shall offer all of the following options:

(a) Proceed to a supplemental review.

(b) Continue evaluating the interconnection application under the study track.

(c) Submit **within 60 business days from the date of the customer options meeting**, with up to 2 submissions during this time period, a complete and conforming revised interconnection application that includes application modifications offered or required by the Cooperative, which mitigates or eliminates the factors that caused the interconnection application to fail 1 or more of the initial review screens. After each submission of information, **the Cooperative has 10 business days to notify** the applicant that the interconnection application is either accepted or rejected due to continuing deficiencies. If the applicant does not meet the timelines required by this subrule, the Cooperative may withdraw the application. After the Cooperative accepts the revised interconnection application, it must proceed under Fast Track procedures.

(d) Withdraw the interconnection application.

(3) Following the customer options meeting, the applicant has up to **20 business days to** decide on a course of action and notify the Cooperative. In the absence of this notification within the required time, the Cooperative shall withdraw the application.

(4) The customer options meeting may take place in person or via telecommunications.

#### **D. Supplemental Review**

(1) The Cooperative shall list in its interconnection procedures the supplemental review screens specified in below paragraph (6). The Cooperative may add additional details to each of these screens in the interconnection procedures.

(2) The Cooperative may include additional supplemental review screens in its interconnection procedures. In its application requesting approval of interconnection procedures, the Cooperative shall provide a detailed technical rationale for the inclusion of each supplemental review screen. If an additional screen negates or undermines any

of the supplemental review screens specified in below paragraph (6), the rationale must include an explanation of the technical justification for the additional screen.

(3) The Cooperative may waive application of 1, some, or all of the supplemental review screens.

(4) To receive a supplemental review, an applicant shall submit payment of the supplemental review fee **within 20 business days** of agreeing to a supplemental review. If payment of the fee has not been received by the Cooperative **within 25 business days**, the Cooperative shall withdraw the interconnection application.

(5) **Within 30 business days** after the applicant pays the applicable supplemental review fee or fees, the Cooperative shall perform a supplemental review and notify the applicant of the results. The supplemental review must consist of applying the initial review screens selected by the Cooperative to the proposed DER. The Cooperative shall not require a system impact study if the DER passes the applied supplemental review screens.

(6) The supplemental review screens must include all of the following:

(a) Voltage and power quality screen. In aggregate with existing generation on the line section, all of the following conditions must be met:

(i) The voltage regulation on the line section can be maintained in compliance with relevant requirements under all system conditions.

(ii) The voltage fluctuation is within acceptable limits as defined by the IEEE Standard 1453-2015, IEEE Recommended Practice for the Analysis of Fluctuating Installations on Power Systems.

(b) Safety and reliability screen. The location of the proposed DER and the aggregate generation capacity on the line section may not create impacts to safety or reliability that require application of the study track to address. An Cooperative shall consider all of the following when determining potential impacts to safety and reliability in applying this screen:

- (i) Whether the line section has significant minimum loading levels dominated by a small number of customers, such as several large commercial customers.
- (ii) Whether the loading along the line section is uniform.
- (iii) Whether the proposed DER is located less than 0.5 electrical circuit miles for less than 5 kV or less than 2.5 electrical circuit miles for greater than 5 kV from the substation. In addition, whether the line section from the substation to the point of common coupling is a mainline rated for normal and emergency ampacity.
- (iv) Whether the proposed DER incorporates a time delay function to prevent reconnection of the DER to the distribution system until distribution system voltage and frequency are within normal limits for a prescribed time.
- (v) Whether operational flexibility is reduced by the proposed DER, such that transfer of the line section or sections of the DER to a neighboring distribution circuit or substation may trigger overloads, power quality issues, or voltage issues.
- (vi) Whether the proposed DER employs equipment or systems certified by a recognized standards organization to address technical issues including, but not limited to, islanding, reverse power flow, or voltage quality.

(7) If the proposed interconnection passes the supplemental review, or if the proposed interconnection fails the review but the Cooperative determines that the DER may be interconnected consistent with safety, reliability, and power quality standards, the Cooperative shall notify the applicant and the interconnection application must proceed pursuant to both of the following:

- (a) If the proposed interconnection requires a facilities study, the interconnection application must proceed under Facilities Study process below. If the proposed interconnection does not require further study, the interconnection application must proceed to an interconnection agreement.

(8) If the proposed interconnection fails any of the supplemental review screens or the electrical utility is unable to perform a supplemental review screen, and the Cooperative does not or cannot determine that the DER may be interconnected consistent with safety, reliability, and power quality standards, the Cooperative shall notify

the applicant, provide the applicant with the results of the application of the supplemental review screens, and offer both of the following options:

(a) Stop the supplemental review and continue evaluating the proposed interconnection under the study track.

(b) Withdraw the interconnection application.

(9) For above paragraphs (7) and (8), if an applicant does not select a course of action **within 10 business days of notice** from the Cooperative, the Cooperative shall withdraw the interconnection application.



## 8. STUDY TRACK

(1) The Cooperative shall use the study track to evaluate an interconnection application that has been accepted if 1 or more of the following conditions is met:

(a) The DER is not eligible for the simplified track, the non-export track, or fast track.

(b) The DER did not pass the initial review screens as part of the fast track and the applicant selected the study track option in the customer options meeting.

(c) The DER did not pass 1 or more supplemental review screens.

(d) The DER was evaluated under the simplified track or the non-export track and further study is required.

(e) The DER is eligible for the fast track, but the applicant elected the study track.

(f) The DER did not pass the initial minimum load screen.

(2) If the interconnection application must be evaluated under the study track because it meets the criteria of subrule (1)(a) of this rule, **within 10 business days** after the Cooperative notifies the applicant that the interconnection application has been accepted pursuant to R 460.936, the Cooperative shall provide an individual study agreement or a batch study agreement to the applicant, whichever is applicable under below paragraph (4).

(3) If the interconnection application must be evaluated under the study track because it meets the criteria of above paragraphs (1)(b), (c), (d), (e) or (f), **within 10 business days after the applicant** has notified the Cooperative to proceed to the study track, the Cooperative shall provide an individual study agreement or a batch study agreement to the applicant, whichever is applicable under below paragraph (4) e.

(4) The Cooperative shall study all interconnection applications that qualify for study track either individually or in a batch study process. The Cooperative shall not study

1 or more applications individually and at the same time study 1 or more different applications as part of a batch.

(5) The Cooperative's interconnection procedures may include a provision for determining appropriate milestone payments to include with the system impact study fee and facilities impact study fee.

#### **A. Individual Study**

(1) A Cooperative that is evaluating DERs in the study track individually shall process the interconnection applications in the order in which the applications were placed into the study track, taking into account withdrawn interconnection applications and electrically remote DERs. An electrically remote DER in an individual study may be studied on an expedited schedule relative to electrically coincident DERs. Electrically remote DERs must be studied in the order the interconnection applications were considered complete.

(2) When an interconnection application is delayed due to an affected system issue, informal mediation pursuant to R 460.904, formal mediation pursuant to R 460.906, or a complaint pursuant to R 792.10439 to R 792.10446, other interconnection applications that were placed into the study track on a later date may progress in the order in which the interconnection applications were placed into the study track.

(3) An individual study process must consist of a system impact study pursuant to R 460.960 and a facilities study pursuant to R 460.962. The Cooperative may waive 1 or both studies for a particular interconnection application. The Cooperative may specify additional studies it may perform on an interconnection application in its interconnection

procedures, provided the Cooperative is able to meet all applicable timelines associated with an individual study process.

(4) Interconnection applications that meet all of the following requirements must be admitted into an individual study:

- (a) The Cooperative has elected to study all interconnection applications that qualify for study track individually.
- (b) The Cooperative determined the application to be complete and conforming.
- (c) The application qualifies for study track.
- (d) The interconnection application has a pre-application report.
- (e) An applicant has paid all required fees.
- (f) An applicant has signed and returned an individual study agreement.

(5) If the Cooperative anticipated that it would use a batch study process but received only 1 interconnection application that qualified for the study track, the Cooperative shall consider the first day of what would have been the batch study process to be the day the application was determined to be complete and conforming and shall use the individual study process to evaluate the application with all applicable timelines.

#### **B. Batch Study Process**

(1) This process applies only when the Cooperative has elected to study DERs that qualify for study track in a batch process.

(2) A batch consists of 2 or more interconnection applications that will be studied as a group by the Cooperative. One or more DERs in the batch that are electrically remote may be studied on an expedited schedule, but expedited scheduling of 1 or more DERs may not cause unreasonable delays in the evaluation of the other DERs in the same batch.

(3) An Cooperative shall process at least 1 batch per year. The start and end dates for each batch study must be published on the Cooperative's public website **not less than 60 days prior** to the start of the batch.

(4) Interconnection applications that meet all of the following requirements must be admitted into a batch study:

- (a) The Cooperative elected to study all interconnection applications that qualify for study track in a batch study process.
- (b) The Cooperative considered the application complete and conforming within a 1- year period immediately before the batch study commences.
- (c) The accepted application qualifies for study track.
- (d) The interconnection application has a pre-application report.
- (e) The applicant has paid all required fees including any milestone payments as described in the Cooperative's interconnection procedures.
- (f) The applicant has signed a batch study agreement.

(5 )The Cooperative shall offer to hold a scoping meeting, either in-person or via telecommunications, with every applicant in a batch. The scoping meetings and the Cooperative must meet all of the following requirements:

- (a) All meetings must, to the extent feasible, take place **within 30 days of the batch start date**.
- (b) The Cooperative shall not begin studies within a batch until it has held a scoping meeting with every applicant who agreed to participate in a meeting. An Cooperative may begin the batch study if an applicant is unreasonably delaying a meeting.
- (c) Scoping meetings are limited to 1 hour per application. Multiple applications by the same applicant may be addressed in the same meeting. An Cooperative may meet with multiple applicants in the same meeting if agreed to by the Cooperative and all the applicants that will attend the meeting.
- (d) During the scoping meeting, the Cooperative shall identify and communicate to each applicant the studies it plans to perform and estimate the cost of the batch study, using either the fees that comply with R 460.926, or, if interconnection procedures have been approved by the commission, fees that comply with the interconnection procedures. The cost estimate must assume that all applicants will stay in the batch throughout the batch study.

(6) The batch process must consist of a system impact study pursuant to R 460.960 and a facilities study pursuant to R 460.962. The Cooperative may specify additional studies it may perform on a batch study in its interconnection procedures.

(7) Interconnection applications within a batch must be considered to have equal priority with each other.

(8) The Cooperative shall follow R 460.960(1) and (2) when conducting a system impact study.

(9) The Cooperative shall follow R 460.962(1) when conducting a facilities study.

(10) The Cooperative shall provide written study results to each applicant at the completion of each study during the batch study. An Cooperative shall offer to hold a conference call with each batch applicant at the completion of each study phase, with the Cooperative making reasonable efforts to accommodate applicants' availability when scheduling the call. An Cooperative may choose to group the consultation of multiple projects by the applicant and its affiliates into the same conference call. The conference call must provide a summary of outcomes and answer questions from applicant. All conferences regarding the study results should be held **within 30 business days following completion of each study phase.**

(11) **Within 45 business days** following the completion of each study phase, the applicant shall choose to either continue to the next study phase of the batch study or withdraw. The fee for the next study phase in the batch study is due **by the end of the 45 business days**, unless extended by the Cooperative. An applicant that withdraws from the study may reapply with a new interconnection application.

(12) Applicants may reduce the capacity of the DER by up to 20% during the decision period between study phases until the conclusion of the system impact study. If the applicant wants to increase the capacity of the DER, the Cooperative may require the applicant to submit a new interconnection application and pay the appropriate fees.

(13) **Within 45 business days** of the applicant receiving the final batch study report from the Cooperative, the applicant shall notify the Cooperative of its plan to proceed to R 460.964 for an interconnection agreement or withdraw its interconnection application. If the applicant fails to notify the Cooperative **within 45 business days**, the Cooperative may withdraw the interconnection application.

(14) If an interconnection application is delayed due to an affected system issue, informal mediation pursuant to R 460.904, formal mediation pursuant to R 460.906, or a complaint pursuant to R 792.10439 to R 792.10446, the other interconnection applications in the batch must continue to progress through the batch study process. If feasible, considering the status of the batch study, the delayed interconnection application may rejoin the batch study after the affected system issue is resolved. An interconnection application that is the subject of informal mediation pursuant to R 460.904, formal mediation pursuant to R 460.906, or a complaint pursuant to R 792.10439 to R 792.10446, may rejoin the batch study at a later date, if feasible, considering the status of the batch study.

(15) **A batch study is considered complete 45 business days after all batch applicants**, except those applicants whose DERs are either causing unresolved affected system issues, pursuing informal mediation pursuant to R 460.904, pursuing formal mediation under R 460.906, or pursuing a complaint under R 792.10439 to R 792.10446,

have withdrawn, voluntarily or otherwise, or have received the final study results from the Cooperative.

### **C. Scoping Meeting For Interconnection Applications That Are To Be Studied Individually**

(1) This procedure applies only to those Cooperative that have elected to individually study DERs that qualify for study track.

(2) Upon request of the applicant, the Cooperative and the applicant shall schedule a scoping meeting between the Cooperative and the applicant to discuss the interconnection application and review existing fast track results, if any. The scoping meeting must take place **within 20 business days** after the interconnection application is considered complete by the Cooperative or, if applicable, the fast track has been completed and the applicant has elected to continue with the system impact study or facilities study.

(3) Scoping meetings are limited to 1 hour per application. Multiple applications by the same applicant may be addressed in the same meeting.

(4) The scoping meeting may occur in-person or via telecommunications.

(5) During the scoping meeting, the Cooperative shall identify and communicate to the applicant whether the applicant must proceed to a system impact study, a facilities study, or an interconnection agreement and the basis for that decision, and 1 of the following must occur:

(a) If a system impact study must be performed, the interconnection application proceeds to R 460.960.

(b) If a facilities study must be performed, the interconnection application proceeds to R 460.962.

(c) The interconnection application must proceed to R 460.964 for an interconnection agreement.



#### **D. System Impact Study Agreement, Scope, Procedure, And Review Meeting**

(1) For all DERs being studied individually or as part of a batch, all of the following apply:

(a) The Cooperative shall provide the applicant a system impact study agreement **within 5 business days** of proceeding to this rule.

(b) A system impact study agreement must include all of the following:

(i) An outline of the scope of the study.

(ii) The applicable fee.

(iii) If necessary, a list of any additional and reasonable technical data needed from the applicant to perform the system impact study.

(iv) A timeline for completion of the system impact study.

(v) A list of the information that must be provided to the applicant in the system impact study report.

(c) An applicant who has requested a system impact study shall return the completed system impact study agreement, provide any additional technical data requested by the Cooperative, and pay the required **fee within 20 business days**. An Cooperative may consider the application withdrawn if the system impact study agreement, payment, and required technical data are not returned **within 20 business days**.

(d) A system impact study must identify and describe the electric system impacts that would result if the proposed DER was interconnected without electric system modifications. A system impact study must provide a non-binding good faith list of facilities that are required as a result of the application and non-binding estimates of costs and time to construct these facilities.

(e) The Cooperative shall explain in its interconnection procedures the process for conducting system impact studies on DERs when there is an affected system issue.

(2) For DERs being studied as part of a batch, an Cooperative may request reasonable additional data from the applicant during the system impact study. The Cooperative and the applicant shall work together to resolve the additional data request so that the Cooperative will be able to complete the batch study within the 1-year timeframe specified in R 460.956. An Cooperative may not be found in violation of these

rules when 1 or more applicants impede the batch study process through applicant delays, demands, complaints, litigation, objections, or other similar actions.

(3) For DERs being studied individually, all of the following shall apply:

(a) The Cooperative shall complete the system impact study and the system impact study report. If necessary, the Cooperative shall transmit a facilities study agreement to the **applicant within 60 business days** of receipt of the signed system impact study agreement, payment of all applicable fees, and any necessary technical data.

(b) The Cooperative may request reasonable additional data from the applicant **within 20 business days** of beginning the system impact study. The Cooperative and the applicant shall work together to resolve the additional data request so that the Cooperative will be able to complete the system impact study within 60 business days as specified in subdivision (a) of this subrule.

(c) **Within 15 business days** of receiving the system impact study report, the applicant shall notify the Cooperative that it plans to pursue a system impact study review meeting, proceed to a facilities study pursuant to R 460.962, or withdraw the application. If the applicant fails to notify the Cooperative **within 15 business days**, the Cooperative may consider the application to be withdrawn.

(d) Upon request by the applicant pursuant to subdivision (c) of this subrule, the Cooperative and the applicant shall schedule a system impact study review meeting between the Cooperative and the applicant to review system impact study results and determine what further steps are needed to permit the DER to be connected safely and reliably to the distribution system. The system impact study review meeting must take place **within 25 business days** of the Cooperative receiving notification that the applicant plans to attend a system impact study review meeting.

(e) At the system impact study review meeting, the Cooperative shall offer the applicant all of the following options:

(i) Proceed to a facilities study pursuant to R 460.962.

(ii) Proceed directly to R 460.964 for an interconnection agreement.

(iii) Withdraw the interconnection application.

(f) Following the meeting, the applicant has **not more than 45 business days** to decide on a course of action. If an applicant fails to notify the Cooperative **within 45 business days**, the Cooperative may consider the application to be withdrawn.

(g) The system impact study review meeting may occur in-person or via telecommunications.

## **E. Facilities Study Agreement, Scope, Procedure; Review Meeting**

(1) For DERs being studied individually or as part of a batch, all of the following apply:

(a) If construction of facilities is required to provide interconnection and interoperability of the DER with the Cooperative's distribution system, the Cooperative shall provide the applicant a facilities study agreement and the results of the applicant's system impact study pursuant to R 460.960, if applicable. If no system impact study was performed, the Cooperative shall provide a facilities study agreement **within 10 business days of proceeding** to this rule.

(b) The facilities study agreement must include the following:

(i) An outline of the scope of the study.

(ii) The applicable fee.

(iii) A timeline for completion of the facilities study.

(iv) A list of the information that will be provided to the applicant in the facilities study report.

(c) The applicant shall return the signed facilities study agreement and pay the required facilities study fee **within 20 business days**. The Cooperative may withdraw the application if the facilities study agreement and payment are not returned **within 20 business days**.

(d) A facilities study must specify and estimate the cost of the required equipment, engineering, procurement, and construction work, including overheads, needed to interconnect the DER, and an estimated timeline for the completion of construction. The Cooperative shall provide cost estimates that are detailed and itemized.

(e) The Cooperative shall explain in its interconnection procedures the process for conducting facilities studies on DERs while there is an affected system issue.

(2) For DERs being studied individually, all of the following are required:

(a) The Cooperative shall complete the facilities study and transmit a facilities study report to the applicant **within 80 business days** of the receipt of the signed facilities study agreement and payment of the facilities study fee. The 80 business day time frame may be affected by the Cooperative needing to notify its Generation and Transmission service providers who in turn may require studies and payment of study fees. If the DER did not pass the minimum load screen, upgrades may be required for substation or transmission facilities. The Cooperative shall request a Facilities Study be complete by the G&T or transmission provider. G&T or transmission provider shall submit a report back to the Cooperative within 120 business days of receipt of study pre-payment its fees.

(b) **Within 10 business days** of receiving a facilities study report from the Cooperative, the applicant shall select 1 option from the following options:

(i) Request a facilities study review meeting with the Cooperative.

(ii) Proceed to an interconnection agreement pursuant to R 460.964.

(iii) Withdraw the interconnection application. If the applicant fails to inform the Cooperative **within 10 business days** of its chosen course of action, the Cooperative may consider the application withdrawn.

(c) Upon request by the applicant pursuant to subdivision (b)(i) of this subrule, the Cooperative and the applicant shall schedule a facilities study review to review the facilities study results and determine what further steps are needed to permit the DER to be connected safely and reliably to the distribution system. The facilities study review meeting must take place **within 25 business days** of the Cooperative receiving notification that the applicant will attend a facilities study review meeting.

(d) At the facilities study review meeting, the Cooperative shall offer both of the following options:

(i) Proceed to an interconnection agreement pursuant to R 460.964.

(ii) Withdraw the interconnection application.

(e) Following the meeting, the applicant has **no more than 20 business days** to decide on a course of action and notify the Cooperative of this course of action. If the applicant fails to notify the Cooperative **within 20 business days**, the Cooperative may withdraw the application.

(f) The facilities study review meeting may be conducted in-person or via telecommunications.

## 9. INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

(1) For level 1, 2, or 3 interconnection applications, where no construction of interconnection facilities or distribution upgrades is required, an Cooperative shall provide its standard level 1, 2, and 3 interconnection agreement to an applicant **within 3 business days** of reaching this stage.

(2) For level 1, 2, or 3 interconnection applications, where construction of interconnection facilities or distribution upgrades is required, an Cooperative shall provide its standard level 1, 2, and 3 interconnection agreement with modifications to address required construction activities, construction milestone timing, and cost to an applicant

**within 5 business days** of reaching this stage. The applicant and Cooperative shall mutually agree on the timing of construction milestones.

(3) For an applicant with level 1, 2, or 3 interconnection applications, the applicant shall sign and return the standard level 1, 2, and 3 interconnection agreement with payment, if applicable, within **20 business days** of receiving the agreement.

(a) If the applicant did not sign and return the standard level 1, 2, and 3 interconnection agreement and payment, if applicable, within **20 business days**, the Cooperative shall notify the applicant of the missed deadline and grant **an extension of 15 business days**. If the Cooperative did not receive the signed standard level 1, 2, and 3 interconnection agreement and any applicable payment **during the 15-business-day extension**, the Cooperative may consider the interconnection application withdrawn subject to subdivision (b) of this subrule.

(b) If the applicant begins either the informal mediation pursuant to R 460.904, the formal mediation pursuant to R 460.906, or the complaint process pursuant to R 792.10439 to R 792.**10446** **within the 20 business days**, the outcome of that process must establish a time frame for the applicant to return the signed interconnection agreement and any applicable payment.

(4) For level 1, 2, or 3 projects, the Cooperative shall countersign and provide a completed copy of the standard level 1, 2, and 3 interconnection agreement **within 10 business days** of the applicant returning the signed standard level 1, 2, and 3 interconnection agreement.

(5) For level 4 or 5 projects, the Cooperative shall provide its level 4 and 5 interconnection agreement **within 10 business days** of reaching this stage. When construction of interconnection facilities or distribution upgrades is necessary, the level 4 and 5 interconnection agreement must contain either timelines for completion of activities and estimates of construction costs or a timetable when these requirements can be determined. The interconnection agreement must include a payment schedule that corresponds to the milestones established and must require the Cooperative to refund any unspent and unobligated funds if the agreement is terminated.

(6) For an applicant with level 4 or 5 DERs, the applicant shall sign and return with payment, if applicable, a level 4 and 5 interconnection agreement **within 30 business days**.

(a) If the applicant does not sign and return the level 4 and 5 interconnection agreement with payment **within 30 business days**, an Cooperative shall notify the applicant of the missed deadline and grant an **extension of 15 business days**. If the Cooperative does not receive the signed level 4 and 5 interconnection agreement and payment, if applicable, **during the 15-business-day extension**, the Cooperative may consider the interconnection application withdrawn, subject to subdivision (b) of this subrule.

(b) If the applicant begins either the informal mediation pursuant to R 460.904, formal mediation pursuant to R 460.906, or the complaint process pursuant to R 792.10439 to R 792.10446 **within 30 business days**, the outcome of that process must establish a time frame for the applicant to return the signed interconnection agreement and applicable payment. There is a rebuttable presumption in the complaint proceeding that the Cooperative's standard construction, procurement, installation, design, and cost practices are lawful, reasonable, and prudent.

(i) For study track interconnection applications filed with an Cooperative conducting batch studies, if either informal mediation pursuant to R 460.904, formal mediation pursuant to R 460.906, or the complaint process pursuant to R 792.10439 to R 792.10446 does not result in the applicant returning a signed interconnection agreement with any applicable payment prior to the Cooperative beginning the study phase of the next batch study pursuant to R 460.956, the Cooperative may not include the interconnection application in the system baseline for conducting the next batch study. If the interconnection application is electrically coincident with other interconnection applications in the next batch study, the Cooperative may require the withdrawal of the interconnection application.

(ii) For study track interconnection applications filed with an Cooperative conducting individual studies, electrically coincident applications filed after the interconnection application must be placed on hold for **not more than 60 business days**. If either informal mediation pursuant to R 460.904, formal mediation pursuant to R 460.906, or the complaint process pursuant to R 792.10439 to R 792.10446 does not result in the applicant returning a signed interconnection agreement with any applicable payment **within 60 business days** and there are electrically coincident interconnection applications in progress behind this application, the Cooperative may require the withdrawal of the interconnection application.

(7) For level 4 or 5 projects, an Cooperative shall countersign and provide a completed copy of the level 4 and 5 interconnection agreement **within 10 business days** of the applicant returning a mutually agreed-upon and signed level 4 and 5 interconnection agreement.

(8) An applicant shall pay the actual cost of the interconnection facilities and distribution upgrades. The cost to the applicant for interconnection facilities and distribution upgrades may not exceed 110% of the estimate without an itemized summary and explanation of cost increases being provided to the applicant prior to being incurred. The cost may not exceed 125% of the estimate without the consent of the applicant prior to the costs being incurred.

(9) A party's obligations under the interconnection agreement may be extended by agreement. If a party anticipates that it will be unable to meet a milestone for any reason other than an unforeseen event, the party shall do all of the following:

- (a) Immediately notify the other party of the reason or reasons for not meeting the milestone.
- (b) Propose the earliest alternate date when it can attain this and future milestones.
- (c) Request amendments to the interconnection agreement, if needed to address the changed milestones.

(10) The party affected by the failure to meet a milestone shall not withhold agreement to any amendments proposed in subrule (9)(c) of this rule unless 1 of the following applies:

- (a) The party affected will suffer significant uncompensated economic or operational harm from the amendment or amendments.
- (b) The milestone under question has been previously delayed.
- (c) The affected party has reason to believe that the delay in meeting the milestone is intentional or unwarranted notwithstanding the circumstances explained by the party proposing the amendment.

(11) If the party affected by the failure to meet a milestone disputes the proposed extension, the affected party may pursue either informal mediation pursuant to R 460.904, formal mediation pursuant to R 460.906, or the complaint process pursuant to R 792.10439 to R 792.10446.

(12) The Cooperative shall provide the applicant with a final accounting report of any difference between costs charged to the applicant and previous payments to the Cooperative for interconnection facilities or distribution upgrades. Both of the following apply regarding the final accounting:

(a) If the costs charged to the applicant exceed its previous aggregate payments, the Cooperative shall bill the applicant for the amount due and the applicant shall make a payment to the Cooperative **within 20 business days** of the final accounting report. The applicant may dispute the invoice pursuant to either informal mediation pursuant to R 460.904, formal mediation pursuant to R 460.906, or the complaint process pursuant to R 792.10439 to R 792.10446. If there is a dispute, the applicant shall make payment **within 30 business days** of final resolution of the dispute. Failure by the applicant to pay its costs is cause for disconnection of the applicant's DER.

(b) If the applicant's previous aggregate payments exceed its costs under the construction agreement, the Cooperative shall refund to the applicant an amount equal to the difference **within 20 business days** of the final accounting report.

(13) The Cooperative is responsible for specifying requirements in interconnection agreements to support independent system operator regulations or regional transmission operator regulations.

(14) The Cooperative may propose to the commission that a signed interconnection agreement be modified to require compliance with changes to an independent system operator, a regional transmission operator, or the state's regulations, provided that these modifications do not alter the rights or obligations of the interconnection customer.



## 10. INSPECTION, TESTING, AND COMMISSIONING

(1) If the interconnection application requires telecommunications, cybersecurity, data exchange or remote controls operation, successful testing and certification of these items must be completed prior to or during testing. The Cooperative's interconnection procedures must describe the technical requirements of these items. The Cooperative will rely upon its own telecommunications, cybersecurity, data exchange or remote controls.

(2) An applicant shall notify the Cooperative when installation of a DER and any required local code inspection and approval is complete. The applicant shall provide any test reports or configuration documents as defined in the standard level 1, 2, and 3 interconnection agreement or level 4 and 5 interconnection agreement.

(3) The Cooperative shall review the applicant's inspection, test reports, or configuration documents, and communicate its intent to perform a witness or commissioning test, or waive its right to perform a witness test and commissioning test **within 10 business days**.

(4) If the Cooperative intends to witness or perform commissioning tests required to comply with the interconnection agreement or the interconnection procedures and inspect the DER, the Cooperative shall witness or perform the commissioning tests and inspect the DER within either of the following:

(a) **Ten business days of receiving** the notification from the applicant pursuant to subrule (2) of this rule, for level 1, 2, and 3 applications.

(b) A mutually-agreed upon timeframe after receiving the notification from the applicant pursuant to subrule (2) of this rule for level 4 and 5 applications.

(5) The Cooperative may waive its right to visit the site and inspect the DER or perform the commissioning tests. If the Cooperative waives this right, both of the following apply:

(a) It shall provide a written waiver to the applicant **within 10 business days** from receiving the notification from the applicant pursuant to subrule (2) of this rule.

(b) The applicant shall provide the Cooperative with the completed commissioning test report **within 20 business days** of receipt of the Cooperative's written waiver.

(6) If the Cooperative attempts to conduct the inspection and testing pursuant to subrule (4) of this rule at the arranged time and is unable to access the DER or complete the testing, the DER must remain disconnected until the applicant and the Cooperative can complete the inspection and testing.

(7) If the Cooperative witnessed or performed commissioning tests and inspected the DER pursuant to subrule (4) of this rule, **within 5 business days** of the receipt of the completed commissioning test report, the Cooperative shall notify the applicant whether it has accepted or rejected the commissioning test report and found the site to be satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

(a) If the commissioning test report is accepted and the site was found satisfactory, the Cooperative shall provide the notification of acceptance in writing, and the interconnection application proceeds to R 460.968.

(b) If the Cooperative rejects the commissioning test report or did not find the site satisfactory, the Cooperative shall provide its reasons for doing so in writing and the applicant has not less than **20 business days** to implement corrections. The applicant, after taking corrective action, shall request the Cooperative to reconsider its findings. The applicant may be billed the actual cost of any re-inspections.

(8) If the Cooperative waived its right to witness or perform commissioning tests and inspect the DER pursuant to subrule (5) of this rule, **within 5 business days** of the receipt of the completed commissioning test report, the Cooperative shall notify the applicant whether it has accepted or rejected the commissioning test report as follows:

(a) If the commissioning test report is accepted, the Cooperative shall provide notification of acceptance, and the interconnection application proceeds to R 460.968.

(b) If the Cooperative rejects the commissioning test report, the Cooperative shall provide its reasons for doing so in writing and the applicant has not less than 20 business days to implement corrections. The applicant, after taking corrective action, may then request the Cooperative to reconsider its findings.

(9) If the applicant does not notify the Cooperative that the DER is installed and ready to test pursuant to above paragraph (2), the Cooperative may, in writing, query the status of the interconnection. If the applicant does not provide a written response **within 10 business days** or no progress is evident, the Cooperative may consider the interconnection application withdrawn.

## **11. MODIFICATIONS TO THE DER**

After the execution of the interconnection agreement, the applicant shall notify the Cooperative of any plans to modify the DER. The Cooperative shall review the proposed modification to determine if the modification is considered a material modification. If the Cooperative determines that the modification is a material modification, the Cooperative shall notify the applicant, in writing of its determination and the applicant shall submit a new application and application fee along with all supporting materials that are reasonably requested by the Cooperative. The applicant may not begin any material modification to the DER until the Cooperative has accepted the new interconnection application and completed at least one of the following:

- (a) An initial review.
- (b) A supplemental review.
- (c) A system impact study.
- (d) A facilities study.

## **12. COOPERATIVE-OWNED DERS**

(1) The Cooperative shall comply with, R 460.911 to R 460.992, and its interconnection procedures when interconnecting DERs that it owns and operates onto its distribution system, with the exception of temporary DERs.

(2) The Cooperative shall use the same process when processing and studying interconnection applications from all applicants, whether the DER is owned or operated by the Cooperative, its subsidiaries or affiliates, or others, with the exception of temporary DERs.