

**MICHIGAN ELECTRIC UTILITY**  
**Generator Interconnection Procedures**

**Level 4 & 5  
Projects with  
DER Capacity  
Greater Than 550 kWac**

*April 7, 2022*

# INTRODUCTION

## Level 4 & 5

This Generator Interconnection Procedure document outlines the process & requirements used to install or modify generation projects with aggregate generator output capacity ratings greater than 550 kWac designed to operate in parallel with the Consumers Energy Company (Consumers Energy or the Company) electric system. Technical requirements (data, equipment, relaying, telemetry, metering) are defined according to generation type, location of the interconnection, and mode of operation (Export or Non-Export). The process is designed to provide an expeditious interconnection to the Consumers Energy electric system that is both safe and reliable.

This document has been filed with the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) and complies with rules established for the interconnection of parallel generation to the Consumers Energy electric system in the MPSC Order in Case No. XXXXX

The term "Project" will be used throughout this document to refer to electric generating equipment and associated facilities that are not owned or operated by Consumers Energy. The term "Applicant" means a person or entity submitting an interconnection application, a legacy net metering program application, or a distributed generation program application. An applicant is not required to be an existing customer of an electric utility. An electric utility is considered an applicant when it submits an interconnection application for a DER that is not a temporary DER.

This document does not address other Project concerns such as environmental permitting, local ordinances, or fuel supply. Nor does it address agreements that may be required with Consumers Energy and/or the transmission provider, or state or federal licensing, to market the Project's energy. An interconnection request does not constitute a request for transmission service.

It may be possible for Consumers Energy to adjust requirements stated herein on a case-by-case basis. The review necessary to support such adjustments, however, may be extensive and may exceed the costs and timeframes established by the MPSC and addressed in these procedures. Therefore, if requested by the Applicant, adjustments to these procedures will only be considered if the Applicant agrees in advance to compensate Consumers Energy for the added costs of the necessary additional reviews and to also allow Consumers Energy additional time for the additional reviews.

Consumers Energy may apply for a technical waiver from one or more provisions of these rules and the MPSC may grant a waiver upon a showing of good cause.

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# INTERCONNECTION PROCEDURES

## INTERCONNECTION PROCESS

### Customer Project Planning Phase

An Applicant may contact Consumers Energy before or during the application process regarding the project. Consumers Energy can be reached by phone, e-mail, or by the external website to access information, forms, rates, and agreements. Consumers Energy requires a pre-application report to be completed for Level 4 or greater projects.

*An interconnection process flow diagram can be found in Appendix A.*

Interconnection fees and timelines can be found in **Appendix B**. Procedure definitions can be found in **Appendix C**.

### Pre-Application Report

An Applicant shall submit a completed pre-application report form (**Appendix J**) for any proposed level 4 or 5 project. A pre-application report fee will be required (**Appendix B**). Consumers Energy provides the following in its pre-application reports:

1. The substation bus, bank, or circuit most likely to serve the proposed point of common coupling (PCC). This identification does not necessarily indicate that this would be the circuit to which the project would ultimately connect.
2. The total capacity, in MWac, of the substation bus, bank, or circuit based on normal or operating ratings likely to serve the proposed PCC.
3. The existing aggregate generation capacity, in MWac, interconnected to a substation bus, bank, or circuit likely to serve the proposed PCC.
4. The aggregate capacity, in MWac, of generation not yet built, but found in previously accepted interconnection applications, for a substation bus, bank, or circuit likely to serve the proposed PCC.
5. The available capacity, in MWac, of the substation bus, bank, or circuit likely to serve the proposed PCC.
6. The substation nominal distribution voltage.
7. The nominal distribution circuit voltage as the proposed PCC.
8. The label, name, or identifier of the distribution circuit on which the proposed PCC is located.
9. The approximate circuit distance between the proposed PCC and the substation.
10. 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.
11. Whether the point of common coupling is located behind a line voltage regulator and whether the substation has a load tap changer.
12. Limiting conductor ratings from the proposed point of common coupling to the distribution substation.

13. 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.
14. Whether the point of common coupling is located on a spot network, area network, grid network, radial supply, or secondary network.
15. Based on the proposed PCC, whether power quality issues may be present on the circuit.
16. Whether or not the area has been identified as having a prior affected system.
17. Whether or not the site will require a system impact study for high voltage distribution based on size, location, and existing system configuration.

Consumers Energy will process pre-application report requests in the order in which they are received. Pre-application reports will be provided within 25 business days of receipt of the completed request form and payment of the fee. Any pre-application reports produced by Consumers Energy are non-binding and do not confer any rights on the applicant.

An applicant may request additional pre-application reports, including different proposed PCCs for the same project. No more than 10 pre-application reports may be submitted by an applicant and its affiliates during a 1-week period.

### **Application Review & Track Assignment**

The Applicant must first submit an Interconnection Application (**Appendix D**) to Consumers Energy. A separate application is required for each Project, or Project site. If a single Project contains multiple types of DER, include all DER in a single application form. An applicant shall complete a submittal of required interconnection application and interconnection filing fee per the table in Appendix B. Consumers Energy will notify the Applicant within 10 business days of receipt of an Interconnection Application. If any portion of the Interconnection Application, data submittal (site plan and one-line diagrams), or filing fee is incomplete and/or missing; Consumers Energy will return the application and data to the Applicant with explanations. The Applicant will need to resubmit the application with all the missing items. Once Consumers Energy has accepted the application, Consumers Energy will notify the Applicant that the application is complete and whether the Project will be processed following the simplified track, non-export track, fast track, or study track.

### **Non-Export Track**

The non-export track is available to projects under 2 MWac requesting to connect to the low voltage distribution system. In order to be eligible for the non-export study process the Project is required to have reverse power (32) relaying as defined within these interconnection procedures. Within 20 business days of providing notice of an approved application, Consumers Energy will perform a study using the initial review screens in Appendix H to determine the suitability of the interconnection equipment and provide the results.

If the results indicate that no interconnection facilities, distribution upgrades, further study, or Project modifications are required, Consumers Energy will provide specifications within 10 business days for any equipment required to be installed to the Applicant. Within 10 business days of receiving the equipment specifications, the Applicant shall notify Consumers Energy whether it will proceed to an Interconnection and Operating Agreement or will withdraw the application. The failure of the Applicant to notify Consumers Energy within the required time period shall result in the application being withdrawn.

If a Project modification is offered by Consumers Energy, the Applicant shall either withdraw the interconnection application or provide a modified application within 60 business days from the date the Applicant was notified by Consumers Energy, with up to 2 resubmissions during this time period to provide a modified application. After each submission of information, Consumers Energy will 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, the application may be withdrawn.

If the results indicate further study is required, Consumers Energy will present options and the Applicant shall decide whether to proceed to a supplemental review under the fast track process, the study track, or to withdraw the application. The Applicant shall have 20 business days to decide on a course of action and notify Consumers Energy, otherwise the application may be withdrawn.

When an Applicant changes from a non-exporting system to an exporting system, the Applicant shall submit a new interconnection application.

### **Fast Track**

The fast track is available to projects up to 5 MWac requesting to connect to the low voltage distribution system. These applications may include applications that provide for the use of an energy storage device so the export of power does not exceed 5 MWac. An Applicant may choose to forgo the fast track for an eligible project and proceed directly to the study track. Consumers Energy may aggregate all existing and proposed generation on a site in determining fast track eligibility.

Within 20 business days of providing notice of an approved application, Consumers Energy will perform a study using the initial review screens in Appendix H to determine the suitability of the interconnection equipment and provide the results. This timeline is reduced to within 10 business days for level 1 and level 2 projects.

If the proposed interconnection passes the initial review screens, or if the proposed interconnection fails the screens but Consumers Energy determines that the DER may be interconnected consistent with safety, reliability, and power quality standards, Consumers Energy shall notify the Applicant and inform the Applicant whether the Project will proceed to Facilities Study or directly to Interconnection and Operating Agreement.

If the proposed interconnection fails any of the initial review screens, and Consumers Energy does not or cannot determine that the DER may be interconnected consistent with safety, reliability, and power quality standards, Consumers Energy shall notify the Applicant and provide the Applicant with the results of the application of the initial review screens. Consumers Energy shall provide the Applicant with the options to attend a customer options meeting, proceed to Supplemental Review, submit a project modification, or withdraw the application. The Applicant shall have 10 business days to decide on a course of action and notify Consumers Energy, otherwise the application shall be withdrawn.

Upon the Applicant's request, Consumers Energy and the Applicant shall schedule a customer options meeting between Consumers Energy 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. Consumers Energy shall provide the Applicant with the options of proceeding to Supplemental Review, proceeding to the Study Track, submitting a project modification, or withdrawing the application. The Applicant shall have 20 business days to decide on a course of action and notify Consumers Energy, otherwise the application shall be withdrawn. The customer options meeting may take place in person or via telecommunications.

If a Project modification is offered by Consumers Energy, the Applicant shall provide a modified application within 60 business days from the date the Applicant was notified by Consumers Energy, with up to 2 resubmissions during this time period to provide a modified application. 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, Consumers Energy will 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, the application may be withdrawn. After the application is accepted, the initial review screen process will be repeated.

### **Supplemental Review**

An applicant shall submit payment of the supplemental review fee (Appendix B) within 20 business days of agreeing to a supplemental review. If payment of the fee has not been received by Consumers Energy within 25 business days, the application shall be withdrawn.

Within 30 business days after the applicant pays the applicable supplemental review fee, Consumers Energy will perform a study using the supplemental review screens in Appendix I and notify the applicant of the results.

If the proposed interconnection passes the supplemental review screens, or if the proposed interconnection fails the screens but Consumers Energy determines that the DER may be interconnected consistent with safety, reliability, and power quality standards, Consumers Energy shall notify the Applicant and inform the Applicant whether the Project will proceed to Facilities Study or directly to Interconnection and Operating Agreement.

If the proposed interconnection fails any of the supplemental review screens, and Consumers Energy does not or cannot determine that the DER may be interconnected consistent with safety, reliability, and power quality standards, Consumers Energy shall notify the Applicant and provide the Applicant with the results of the application of the supplemental review screens. Consumers Energy shall provide the Applicant with the options to proceed to the Study Track or withdraw the application. The Applicant shall have 10 business days to decide on a course of action and notify Consumers Energy, otherwise the application shall be withdrawn.

### **Study Track**

The study track is available to all Projects that are not eligible for the simplified track, the non-export track, or the fast track. Projects that do not pass the initial review screens or supplemental review screens or are otherwise identified to require further study while proceeding through another track may also be evaluated in the study track. A Project that is eligible for the fast track may also elect to be evaluated in the study track.

If a project is ineligible for any other study track, Consumers Energy shall provide either an individual study agreement or a batch study agreement to the Applicant, whichever is applicable



as identified below, within 10 business days after the interconnection application has been accepted.

If a project begins in another track and is moved to the study track for any other reason listed above, within 10 business days after the Applicant has notified Consumers Energy to proceed to the study track, Consumers Energy shall provide either an individual study agreement or a batch study agreement to the Applicant, whichever is applicable as identified below

Consumers Energy will study all Projects that qualify for study track through either the Individual Study Process or the Batch Study Process. Consumers Energy shall not study one or more Projects individually and at the same time study one or more different Projects as part of a batch.

### **Individual Study Process**

Should Consumers Energy elect to use an individual study process, it will proceed to study each Project in the order in which the Projects were placed into the study track, taking into account withdrawn interconnection applications and electrically remote Projects. An electrically remote Project in an individual study may be studied on an expedited schedule relative to electrically coincident DERs. Electrically remote DERs will be studied in the order the interconnection applications were deemed complete.

Upon request of the Applicant, a scoping meeting shall be scheduled 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 electric utility or, if applicable, the fast track has been completed and the Applicant has elected to continue with the system impact study or facilities study

If a Project in an individual study is delayed due to an affected system issue, other Projects that were placed into the study track on a later date may continue to progress.

An individual study will begin in the System Impact Study section and proceed to Facilities Study.

Should Consumers Energy elect to use a batch study process but receive only one interconnection application that qualified for the study track, the Project will be evaluated using the individual study process considering the first day of what would have been the batch process as the day the application was determined to be complete.

### **Potential Batch Study Process**

Should Consumers Energy elect to use a batch study process, the start and end dates for the batch will be published not less than 60 days prior to the start of a batch, and the Company shall process at least one batch per year. The start of a batch shall be considered to be the start of the first study period and the end of a batch shall be considered to be the end of the 45-day Applicant decision period following the date upon which all Applicants in the batch receive the final batch study report from Consumers Energy.

The different phases of the batch study process are shown below with typical time durations shown in business days. Time durations of application and study phases may need to change

based on number of applications, Consumers Energy resources, etc. Phase durations or changes to phase durations will be communicated by Consumers Energy to all Applicants.

#### Application Phase (duration can vary)

- Consumers Energy shall post start and end dates of the batch study at least 60 days prior to batch study start on its website. An application complete cut off date will also be communicated.
- During this phase each Applicant will submit applications per the Application Review section of these procedures and must receive an application complete response from Consumers Energy prior to the application cut-off date in order to be included in the batch study.
- Once an application is deemed complete, a System Impact Study agreement will be provided by Consumers Energy and the Applicant will have the sign, return, and pay the fee for the System Impact Study section of these Procedures.
- Consumers Energy will also offer to hold a scoping meeting, which to the extent feasible would occur within 30 days of the batch start. Scoping meetings are limited to 1 hour per Project. Multiple projects by the same Applicant can be addressed in the same meeting. Consumers Energy may meet with multiple Applicants in the same meeting if agreed to by Consumers Energy and all the Applicants that will attend the meeting. During the scoping meeting, Consumers Energy will communicate to each Applicant the studies that will be performed and the estimated cost of the batch study.

#### Batch Stabilization Phase (25 business days)

- This phase allows the allotted time for an application deemed complete at the end of the application phase to execute and pay the fee for a System Impact Study agreement.
- During this phase Consumers Energy will confirm all eligible Projects for the batch study, including Projects from previous study cycles that need to be included in the base study conditions for the upcoming batch study

#### System Impact Study Phase (Typically 75 Business Days)

- The start of this phase is considered the start of the batch.
- Consumers Energy will perform the System Impact Study during this phase and provide written results to each Applicant at the completion of this phase along with a Facilities Study agreement for the next study phase of the batch.
- Consumers Energy shall also offer to hold a conference call with each Applicant to discuss the written results, to occur within 30 days of the end of the study phase to the extent feasible.

#### First Decision Phase (45 Business Days)

- During this phase the Applicant shall choose to either continue to the next phase of the batch or withdraw.
- The execution of the payment for the Facilities Study agreement for each Applicant choosing to continue to the next phase is due by the end of this 45 business day period. If the Facilities Study agreement and payment is not received by the end of this 45 business day period the application shall be withdrawn and removed from the batch.

- An Applicant that withdraws from the study may reapply with a new interconnection application.

#### Facilities Study Phase (Typically 75 Business Days)

- Consumers Energy will perform the Facilities Study during this phase and provide written results to each Applicant at the completion of this phase.
- Consumers Energy shall also offer to hold a conference call with each Applicant to discuss the written results, to occur within 30 days of the end of the study phase to the extent feasible.

#### Second Decision Phase (45 Business Days)

- The end of this phase is considered the end of the batch.
- During this phase the Applicant shall choose to proceed with execution of interconnection agreements or withdraw.
- The notice from the Applicant to proceed with execution of interconnection agreement is due by the end of this 45 business day period. If notice is not received by the end of this 45 business day period the application may be withdrawn by Consumers Energy.

If a Project in a batch study is delayed due to an affected system issue, the rest of the batch study will continue to progress. If feasible, the Project with the affected system study can rejoin the batch once the affected system study is complete. If not, the results of the study will be provided to the applicant once the affected system issue is resolved and incorporated into the study. See the Affected System Study Process section.

Applicants may reduce the capacity of the Project 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 Project, Consumers Energy requires the submission of a new interconnection application and appropriate fees.

If any shared interconnection facilities or shared distribution upgrades are identified during the batch study the cost allocation methodology below will be used to allocate the costs.

### **System Impact Study**

Consumers Energy will provide the Applicant with a system impact study agreement within five business days of entering the study track either directly after an application is deemed complete or after a Project moves to the study track from another track. The Applicant shall return the completed system impact study agreement, provide any technical data requested by Consumers Energy, and pay the required fee (Appendix B) within 20 business days. Consumers Energy may consider the application withdrawn if the system impact study agreement, payment, and required technical data are not returned within 20 business days.

The system impact study report will identify and describe the electric system impacts that would result if the proposed Project was interconnected without electric system modifications. It will also 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.

Consumers Energy will complete the system impact study and provide both a system impact study and, if necessary, a facilities study agreement within 60 business days of receipt of the

signed system impact study agreement, payment of all applicable fees, and any necessary technical data.

For Projects being studied individually, Consumers Energy may request reasonable additional data from the Applicant within 20 business days of beginning the system impact study. Consumers Energy and the Applicant shall work together to resolve the additional data request so that Consumers Energy will be able to complete the system impact study within the aforementioned 60 business day period.

For Projects being studied as part of a batch, Consumers Energy may request reasonable additional data from the Applicant during the system impact study. Consumers Energy and the Applicant shall work together to resolve the additional data request so that Consumers Energy will be able to complete the batch study within one year.

Within 15 business days of receiving the system impact study report, the Applicant shall notify Consumers Energy whether it elects to pursue a system impact study review meeting, proceed to Facilities Study, or withdraw the application. If the Applicant fails to notify Consumers Energy within 15 business days, Consumers Energy may consider the application to be withdrawn.

Upon request by Applicant, a system impact study review meeting shall be scheduled to review system impact study results and determine what further steps are needed to permit the Project to connected safely and reliably to the distribution system. The system impact study review meeting must take place within 25 business days of Consumers Energy receiving notification that the Applicant plans to attend a system impact study review meeting. At the meeting Consumers Energy will offer the Applicant to proceed to Facilities Study, proceed directly to Interconnection & Operating Agreement, or withdraw the application. If an applicant fails to notify Consumers Energy of its selection within 45 business days of the meeting, Consumers Energy may consider the application to be withdrawn.

### **Facilities Study**

If a Project received a system impact study, Consumers Energy will provide the Applicant with a facilities study agreement with the system impact study report. If no system impact study was performed, Consumers Energy will provide a facilities study agreement within 10 business days of proceeding to Facilities Study. The Applicant shall return the signed facilities study agreement and pay the required facilities study fee (Appendix B) within 20 business days. Consumers Energy may withdraw the application if the facilities study agreement and payment are not returned within 20 business days.

The facilities study report will specify and estimate the cost of the required equipment, engineering, procurement, and construction work, including overheads, needed to interconnect the Project, and an estimated timeline for the completion of construction.

Consumers Energy will complete the facilities study and provide 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.

Within 10 business days of receiving a facilities study report from Consumers Energy, the Applicant shall notify Consumers Energy whether it elects to pursue a facilities study review meeting, proceed to a Interconnection & Operating Agreement, or withdraw the application. If

the Applicant fails to notify Consumers Energy within 10 business days, Consumers Energy may consider the application to be withdrawn.

Upon request by Applicant, a facilities study review meeting shall be scheduled to review facilities study results and determine what further steps are needed to permit the Project to connected safely and reliably to the distribution system. The facilities study review meeting must take place within 25 business days of Consumers Energy receiving notification that the Applicant plans to attend a facilities study review meeting. At the meeting Consumers Energy will offer the Applicant to proceed to Interconnection & Operating Agreement or withdraw the application. If an applicant fails to notify Consumers Energy of its selection within 20 business days of the meeting, Consumers Energy may withdraw the application.

### Cost Allocation Methodology

Per the Interconnection and Distributed Generation Standards established in Case No. XXXXX:

*Rule 70. Costs for interconnection facilities and distribution upgrades must be classified into one of the following categories:*

*(a) Site-specific costs, which include, but are not limited to, costs of interconnection facilities and distribution upgrades that are caused by one DER, whether that DER is electrically co-incident with other DERs. These costs must be assigned to the cost-causing applicant.*

*(b) Shared interconnection facilities costs, which are costs caused by DERs which together necessitate the construction of interconnection facilities. The interconnection facilities costs that should be shared must be allocated to each applicant based on a methodology described in the electric utility's interconnection procedures.*

*(c) Shared distribution upgrade costs, which are costs caused by electrically co-incident DERs that together necessitate a distribution upgrade. The distribution upgrade costs that should be shared must be allocated to each applicant based on a methodology described in the electric utility's interconnection procedures.*

Shared interconnection facilities shall be split equally amongst Applicants whose Projects necessitate the shared interconnection facilities. Once an Applicant's Project interconnection facilities are in service, the upfront original cost to install those interconnection facilities can no longer be shared by future Applicants. Costs of ongoing ownership, maintenance, and future repair/replacement can still be shared by future applicants that share the interconnection facilities in accordance with interconnection agreements.

Shared distribution upgrade costs shall be allocated according to the impact of each applicant's generator on the limits exceeded for the shared distribution facilities. A simple example is shown below for a thermal constraint and the same methodology would be used for voltage, interrupting capability, or other constraints.

Limit Exceeded	Distribution Upgrade Cost	Impact of Project A	Impact or Project B
Loading on line X exceeded limit by 5 MVA	line X upgrade (\$1M)	3 MVA	2 MVA
Cost Allocation		$=(3/5*\$1M)=\$0.6M$	$=(2/5*\$1M)=\$0.4M$

Distribution upgrade costs for higher queued or previous batch study Applicants that have agreed to proceed to interconnection agreements will not be considered for cost allocation to

lower queued or current batch study applicants, unless requested and agreed to by all applicants affected.

Distribution upgrade costs and allocations of costs are subject to change due to the potential for an Applicant to withdraw up until an Applicant's Project is in service and costs are reconciled per the interconnection agreements. Consumers Energy shall endeavor to notify an Applicant as soon as possible after the it becomes aware that an Applicant's cost for distribution upgrades changes due to any other Applicant withdrawing a Project or Projects.

### **Affected System Study Process**

If during a System Impact Study or a Facilities Study Consumers Energy determines that another utility's system may be affected by a proposed interconnection project, Consumers Energy shall notify the applicant of such and place the Project in an on hold status in regards to all interconnection study timelines while an affected system study is completed. Consumers Energy shall send notification and information on the project to the affected system owner and request that an affected system study be completed and scope, costs, and lead times of any upgrades required on the affected system be provided. Once Consumers Energy receives the affected system study results from the affected system owner, the results will be incorporated into the Consumers Energy study report, and the hold will be removed from the Project and the interconnection timelines will resume. If the Project is part of a batch study, the rest of the batch study will continue to progress even if a Project is in on hold status due to an affected system study. If feasible the Project with the affected system study can rejoin the batch once the affected system study is complete.

### **Interconnection and Operating Agreement**

A level 1, 2, and 3 interconnection agreement or a level 4 and 5 interconnection agreement will be provided to the Applicant in this stage dependent on Project level. An Applicant shall pay the actual cost of the interconnection facilities and distribution upgrades, subject to R 460.964 (8).

### **Level 1, 2, or 3 Projects Only**

For level 1, 2, or 3 Projects, where no construction of interconnection facilities or distribution upgrades is required, Consumers Energy will provide its standard level 1, 2 and 3 interconnection agreement to the Applicant within 3 business days of reaching this stage. If construction of interconnection facilities or distribution upgrades is required, Consumers Energy will provide its standard level 1, 2 and 3 interconnection agreement with modifications to address required construction activities, construction milestone timing, and cost to the Applicant within 5 business days of reaching this stage. The Applicant and Consumers Energy will mutually agree on the timing of construction milestones.

The applicant shall sign and return the interconnection agreement with payment, if applicable, within 20 business days of receiving the agreement. If this deadline is missed, the Applicant will be informed of the missed deadline and granted an extension of 15 business days. If the interconnection agreement and payment are not received during the 15-business-day extension, Consumers Energy may consider the interconnection application withdrawn.

Consumers Energy will countersign and provided a completed copy of the interconnection agreement within 10 business days of the Applicant returning the signed interconnection agreement.

#### **Level 4 or 5 Projects Only**

For level 4 or 5 projects, Consumers Energy will provide its level 4 and 5 interconnection agreement within 10 business days of reaching this stage. When construction interconnection facilities or distribution upgrades is necessary, the level 4 and 5 interconnection agreement will contain either timelines for completion of activities and estimates of construction costs or a timetable when these requirements can be determined. The interconnection agreement will include a payment schedule that corresponds to the milestones established.

The Applicant shall sign and return the interconnection agreement with payment, if applicable, within 30 business days of receiving the agreement. If this deadline is missed, the Applicant will be informed of the missed deadline and granted an extension of 15 business days. If the interconnection agreement and payment are not received during the 15-business-day extension, Consumers Energy may consider the interconnection application withdrawn.

Consumers Energy will countersign and provided a completed copy of the interconnection agreement within 10 business days of the Applicant returning a mutually agreed-upon and signed interconnection agreement.

#### **Inspection, Testing, and Commissioning**

The Applicant is required to notify Consumers Energy when the installation of a Project and any required local code inspection and approval is complete. The Applicant is also required to 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.

Consumers Energy will review the Applicant's inspection, test reports, or configuration documents and communicate its intent to perform a witness or commissioning test, or waive its rights to perform a witness test and commissioning test, within 10 business days.

If Consumers Energy intends to witness or perform commissioning test, it must do so within ten business days of receiving the notification from the Applicant for level 1, 2, and 3 projects. For level 4 and 5 projects, the tests must be performed within a mutually agreed upon timeline.

If Consumers Energy waives its right to visit the site and inspect the Project or perform the commissioning tests, it will provide a written waiver to the Applicant within 10 days of receiving notice. The Applicant shall provide Consumers Energy with the completed commissioning test report within 20 business days of receipt of this waiver.

If Consumers Energy attempts to conduct the inspection and testing at the arranged time and is unable to access the Project or complete the testing, the Project must remain disconnected until the Applicant and Consumers Energy can complete the inspection and testing.

If Consumers Energy witnessed or performed commissioning tests and inspected the Project, within 5 business days of receipt of the completed commissioning test report, Consumers Energy will notify the Applicant it has accepted or rejected the commissioning test report and if it

has found the site to be satisfactory. If the commissioning test is accepted and the site is found satisfactory, Consumers Energy will notify the Applicant, and the Project will proceed to Authorization to Operate in Parallel.

If Consumers Energy waived its right to witness or perform commissioning tests and inspect the Project, within 5 business days of receipt of the completed commissioning test report, Consumers Energy will notify the Applicant it has accepted or rejected the commissioning test report. If the commissioning test is accepted, Consumers Energy will notify the Applicant, and the Project will proceed to Authorization to Operate in Parallel.

If Consumers Energy rejects a commissioning test or finds a site unsatisfactory, it will provide its reasons for doing so in writing, and the Applicant has 20 business days to implement corrections. The Applicant, after taking corrective action, shall request Consumers Energy to reconsider its findings. Do note that the Applicant may be billed the actual cost of any re-inspections.

If the Applicant does not notify Consumers Energy that the Project is installed and ready to test, Consumers Energy may, in writing, query the status of the Project. If the Applicant does not provide a written response within 10 business days or no progress is evident, Consumers Energy may consider the Project withdrawn.

### **Authorization to Operate in Parallel**

Consumers Energy will provide the Applicant with written authorization to operate in parallel with Consumers Energy within five business days of all of the following conditions being met:

- Consumers Energy notified the Applicant that the commissioning test and inspection, where applicable, are accepted.
- The Applicant complied with all applicable parallel operation requirements as set forth in these procedures and the applicable interconnection agreement.
- The Applicant complied with all applicable local, state, and federal requirements.
- Consumers Energy has received payment in full for all outstanding bills.

With this written authorization, the Project is considered approved for parallel operation, the Project may begin operating, and the Applicant is considered an interconnection customer.

The Applicant shall not operate its Project in parallel with Consumers Energy's distribution system without prior written permission to operate from Consumers Energy. Subject to reasonable timing and other conditions, including completion of conditions in the applicable interconnection agreement or these procedures, Consumers Energy will allow for reasonable, but limited, testing before written authorization has occurred.

### **Material Modification Process**

In the event of a change to the Project design any time after receiving notification by Consumers Energy of a complete interconnection application, the Applicant will be required to submit a revised interconnection application, including the associated fee, detailing the proposed changes to Consumers Energy for review. The Application Review section above details the process by which Consumers Energy will review this application. At such a time when the revised interconnection is deemed complete by Consumers Energy, Consumers Energy will



determine whether the proposed changes constitute a Material Modification and, if so, whether any further restudy is required. If further restudy is required, the Applicant shall notify Consumers Energy whether it will withdraw the proposed changes or continue with the restudy, at the associated fee, within 10 business days of being notified of the determination or Consumers Energy may withdraw the application.

A Material Modification is a modification to the DER nameplate rating, electrical size of components, bill of materials, machine data, equipment configuration, or the interconnection site of the DER at any time after receiving notification by the electric utility of a complete interconnection application. Examples of modifications that are not material would be like-for-like equipment changes including inverters with the same nameplate rating and electrical characteristics.

All Material Modifications need to be reviewed by Consumers Energy to determine if they are acceptable without further or additional study as written above. Each Material Modification must be reviewed by Consumers Energy on a case-by-case basis. A non-exhaustive list of example Material Modifications that may or may not require additional study are listed below.

Material Modifications that would be acceptable and typically would not require re-study:

- Inverter Changes
  - o DER Capacity remains unchanged (a small change in total output may be allowed depending on connection type and/or previous study results)
  - o The number of inverters changes, but the total DER Capacity remains the same
  - o A small change in total DER Capacity may be allowed depending on connection type and/or previous study results)
- Small Transformer Changes (base rating remains unchanged)
  - o Minor Impedance change (evaluated on a case by case basis, dependent on connection type and/or previous study results)
  - o X/R Ratio change only
- Changes to collector system cable lengths (conductor type/size remains unchanged)
  - o Small change in lengths (evaluated on a case by case basis, dependent on connection type and/or previous study results)
- Small relocation of the point of interconnection (evaluated on a case by case basis)

Material Modifications that would typically require re-study to determine acceptability:

- Inverter Changes (other than above)
- Collector System Re-Design
  - o System Voltage Change
  - o Number of Transformation Levels change
- Transformer base rating or impedance change (other than above)
- Collector system cable changes (other than above)
- Relocation of the point of interconnection (other than above)

If a Project must be restudied as a result of a Material Modification, and the Project can remain in the same track, all screens and studies that may need to be re-performed will be completed on an expedited basis where possible.

If a Project in a batch study submits a request for a Material Modification review prior to the conclusion of the system impact study, the rest of the batch study will continue to progress, and Consumers Energy will expedite any required restudy to incorporate the Material Modification to the Project. If the request for a Material Modification review occurs after the conclusion of the

system impact study, and further restudy is required, Consumers Energy may require that the project be moved to the next batch or an individual study as appropriate.

## **OPERATIONAL PROVISIONS**

If a Contact List (Appendix G) is required, the Applicant is required to notify Consumers Energy prior to synchronizing to and prior to scheduled disconnection from the electric system.

The Project may not commence parallel operation until approval has been given by Consumers Energy. The completed installation is subject to inspection by Consumers Energy prior to approval. Preceding this inspection, all contractual agreements must be executed by the Applicant.

### **Disconnection**

Consumers Energy may refuse to connect, or may disconnect, a project from the electric system if any of the following conditions apply:

- a. Lack of written authorization from Consumers Energy to interconnect or fully executed Generator Interconnection and Operating Agreement
- b. Termination of interconnection by mutual agreement
- c. Noncompliance with technical or contractual requirements in the Generator Interconnection and Operating Agreement, after 30 business days of notification is provided to the Applicant of the technical or contractual deficiency that does not degrade the reliability of the distribution system, electric utility equipment, and electric customers' equipment or presents a safety hazard.
- d. Electric distribution system emergency
- e. Routine maintenance, repairs, and modifications is required and performed in a reasonable time with prior notice.
- f. Other material noncompliance with technical or contractual requirements in the Generator Interconnection and Operating Agreement.

Consumer Energy may require disconnection of a Project from the distribution system for the above conditions, which may include but is not limited to the following examples:

- a. When public safety is being jeopardized.
- b. During voltage, frequency, or loading problems.
- c. When abnormal sectionalizing or circuit configuration occurs on the Consumers Energy system.
- d. During scheduled shutdown of Consumers Energy equipment that are necessary to facilitate maintenance or repairs.
- e. In the event there is demonstrated electrical interference (i.e. Voltage Flicker, Harmonic Distortion, etc.) to Consumers Energy customers, suspected to be caused by the Project, and such interference exceeds then current system standards, Consumers Energy reserves the right to install special test equipment as may be required to perform a disturbance analysis and monitor the operation and control of the Project to evaluate

the quality of power produced by the Project. If no standards exist, then the applicable tariffs and rules governing electric service shall apply. If the Project is the source of the interference, and that interference exceeds Consumers Energy standards or generally accepted industry standards, then it shall be the responsibility of the Applicant to eliminate the interference problem.

- f. When either the Project or its associated synchronizing and protective equipment fails or is demonstrated by Consumers Energy to be improperly maintained, so as to present a hazard to the Consumers Energy system or its customers.
- g. Whenever the Project is operating isolated (islanded) with other Consumers Energy customers, for whatever reason.

Consumers Energy may disconnect electric service in order to disconnect a Project from the electric system, pursuant to R 460.136.

### **Maintenance and Testing**

Consumers Energy reserves the right to test the relaying and control equipment that involves protection of the Consumers Energy electric system whenever Consumers Energy determines a reasonable need for such testing exists.

The Applicant is solely responsible for conducting and documenting periodic maintenance on the generating equipment and its associated control, protective equipment, interrupting devices, and main isolation device, per manufacturer recommendations.

If protective relaying is required per the technical requirements, the Applicant is responsible for conducting and documenting periodic maintenance and testing every 4 years on relays and the associated interrupting devices, control schemes, and batteries, unless a written extension is provided by Consumers Energy. If testing is required, it shall be conducted in accordance with the test procedures provided by Consumers Energy as part of inspection testing.

Consumers Energy reserves the right to witness the testing. The Applicant is responsible for maintaining written reports for the above tests for a period of four years. These written reports shall be made available to Consumers Energy upon request.

### **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The following discussion details the technical requirements for interconnection of Level 5 Projects greater than 1 MWac of generation. Many of these requirements will vary based on the capacity rating of the Project, generation type, voltage level, and mode of operation (Export or Non-Export). A few of the requirements will vary based on location of the interconnection (isolated load and available fault current).

Certain major component, as specified in this document, must be met to provide compatibility between the Project equipment and the Consumers Energy electric system, and to ensure that the safety and reliability of the electric system is not degraded by the interconnection. Consumers Energy reserves the right to evaluate and apply newly developed protection and/or operation schemes at its discretion. All protective schemes and functions are evaluated for compliance to IEEE 1547-2018. In addition, Consumers Energy reserves the right to evaluate

Projects on an ongoing basis as system conditions change, such as circuit loading, additional generation placed online, etc.

### **Major Component Design Requirements**

The data requested for all major equipment and relaying proposed by the Applicant, must be submitted as part of the initial interconnection application for review and approval by Consumers Energy. Consumers Energy may request additional data be submitted during the interconnection process to clarify the operation of the Project facilities.

Once installed, the interconnection equipment must be reviewed and approved by Consumers Energy prior to being connected to the Consumers Energy electric system, and before parallel operation is allowed.

### **Data**

The data that Consumers Energy requires to evaluate the proposed interconnection is documented on the generator interconnection application (Appendix D). A site plan and one-line diagram with details of the interconnection protection system, are required as part of the application data. The one-line diagram must be sealed by a professional engineer licensed in the state of Michigan. The generator manufacturer data package should also be supplied.

The Applicant may request Consumers Energy study the Project at a reduced power output (Net Capacity) below the DER Capacity. The Applicant must provide the net capacity and method used to reduce the power output as part of the application data for review and approval by Consumers Energy. Consumers Energy requires limited export relaying to trip the Project if the net capacity is exceeded.

### **Isolating Transformers**

If a transformer is utilized, the transformer shall meet the following requirements.

- The transformer shall comply with the current ANSI Standard C57.12.
- The transformer shall have voltage taps on the high and/or low voltage windings sufficient to assure satisfactory generator operation over the range of voltage variation expected on the Consumers Energy electric system.
- The proper selection and specification of transformer impedance is important relative to enabling the proposed Project to meet Consumers Energy’s reactive power requirements (see “Reactive Power Capability and Voltage Control”).
- The transformer utility and Project side winding connections shall be selected using the following table. The transformer may have multiple project side windings.

PCC Voltage	System Configuration	Transformer Winding Connection		Special Requirements
		Utility Side	Project Side	
46 kV	Grounded Wye	Delta	No Preference	

		Grounded Wye	Delta	See Note 1
Below 46 kV	Grounded Wye	Grounded Wye	Ungrounded Wye	See Note 2
			Grounded Wye	See Note 3
	Delta	Delta	No Preference	

Table – Three Phase Transformer Winding Connections

Note 1: Requires the Project to be connected to its own line exit.

Note 2: Additional transformers connected to the Project side transformer winding cannot in combination with each other be a source of zero sequence current. For example, an ungrounded wye to delta transformer with the neutrals of both ungrounded wye transformer windings connected. The connection of the neutrals would cause the series combination of the grounded wye to ungrounded wye transformer and the ungrounded wye to delta transformer to mimic a grounded wye to delta transformer which is a source of zero sequence current.

Note 3: Additional transformers connected to the Project side transformer winding cannot be a source of zero sequence current. For example, the transformer may not be connected Grounded Wye (utility side) – Delta (Project side).

### Interrupting Device

A three-phase interrupting device is required between the Project and Consumers Energy. The interrupting device may be required to be located at the PCC depending on protective and operational requirements of the area. If required, the interrupting device shall meet the following requirements.

- Must be a recloser, circuit switcher, or breaker.
- Must be approved for use on the Consumers Energy electric system.
- Must comply with current relevant ANSI and/or IEEE Standards.
- Must be rated for the application.
- Must have adequate interrupting capability. Consumers Energy will provide maximum short circuit currents and X/R ratios for faults at the PCC upon request.

### Isolation Device

An isolation device is required and should be placed at the PCC. It can be a pole top switch, load-break disconnect, etc., depending on the electrical system configuration. The isolation device shall meet the following requirements.

- Must be approved for use on the Consumers Energy electric system.
- Must comply with current relevant ANSI and/or IEEE Standards.
- Must have load break capability, unless used in series with a three-phase interrupting device.

- Must be rated for the application.
- Must be operable and accessible by Consumers Energy at all times (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).
- The isolation device will be used as a protective tagging point. The device must have visible open break provisions for padlocking in the open position, and it must be gang operated. If the device has automatic operation, the controls must be located remote from the device.
- Must be clearly marked to include signage per the National Electrical Code (NEC), as applicable.

### **Interconnection Facilities**

The available system voltage, as well as equipment and operational constraints influence the chosen point of interconnection. Consumers Energy has the ultimate authority to determine the acceptability of a particular PCC.

Any new interconnection facilities required to connect the Project to the Consumers Energy's electric system will be constructed by Consumers Energy at the Applicant's expense. Consumers Energy may require the new line construction to be terminated on a structure provided by the Applicant.

### **Termination Structure**

The Applicant is responsible for ensuring that structural material strengths are adequate for all requirements. Upon written request, Consumers Energy will provide maximum dead-end line tension information. The structure shall adhere to the latest edition of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) as adopted by the Commission.

Electrical clearances shall adhere to the latest edition of the NESC as adopted by the Commission and shall be coordinated with Consumers Energy.

The installation of disconnect switches, bus support insulators, and other equipment shall comply with accepted industry practices.

Surge arresters shall be selected to coordinate with the BIL rating of major equipment and rated for the application.

### **Inverters**

Certified inverter Projects must use inverter(s) that conform to the IEEE 1547-2018 standard. In order to show compliance, a certificate of compliance from an OSHA approved national recognized testing laboratory must be submitted as part of the application and the manufacturer must mark the equipment such that a field inspection can verify the certification. The certification of compliance must clearly state the inverter has been tested to UL 1741 using IEEE 1547-2018 as the functional Source Requirement Document.

The inverters shall be certified to meet the following performance Categories.

1. Normal Operating Performance – Category B
2. Abnormal Operating Performance – Category III \*

\* The manufacturer is required to mark the abnormal operating category on the equipment.

If the requirements of this section are met, the inverter is deemed “certified” as defined within Appendix C.

### ***Interconnection Protection***

The interconnection relaying design requirements are intended to assure adequate protection of the Consumers Energy electric system. Any additional relaying which may be necessary to protect equipment at the Project is solely the responsibility of the Applicant to determine, design, and apply.

The relaying requirements will vary with the capacity rating of the Project, the type of generation being used, configuration of the Project, and the mode of operation (Export or Non-Export).

All relaying proposed by the Applicant to satisfy these requirements must be submitted for review and approved by Consumers Energy.

### **Protective Relaying General Considerations**

The installation of utility grade relays are required for all Project types. All relays must be equipped with targets or other visible indicators to indicate that the relay has operated.

If the protective system uses AC power as the control voltage, it must be designed to disconnect the generation from the Consumers Energy electric system if the AC control power is lost. Consumers Energy will work with the Applicant regarding the system design for this requirement.

The protective system must be designed such that the Applicant is prevented from energizing the Consumers Energy electric system if that system is de-energized.

### **Momentary Paralleling**

For situations where the Project will only be operated in parallel with Consumers Energy electric system for 100 milliseconds or less, as in a make-before-break automatic transfer scheme, no additional relaying is required. Such momentary paralleling requires a modern integrated Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) system, which is incapable of paralleling the Project with the Consumers Energy electric system. The ATS must be tested and verified for proper operation at least every 4 years unless a written extension is provided by Consumers Energy. Consumers Energy may be present during this testing.

### **Instrument Transformer Requirements**

All relaying must be connected into instrument transformers. Consumers Energy may allow the use of Capacitive Voltage Sensors for select protective functions.

All current connections shall be connected into current transformers (CTs). All CTs shall be rated to provide no more than 5 amperes secondary current for all normal load conditions, and must be designed for relaying use, with an “accuracy class” of at least C50. Current

transformers with an accuracy class designation such as T50 are NOT acceptable. For three-phase systems, all three phases must be equipped with CTs.

All potential connections must be connected into voltage transformers (VTs). For single-phase connections, the VTs shall be provided such that the secondary voltage does not exceed 120 volts for normal operations. For three-phase connections, the VTs shall be provided such that the line-to-line voltage does not exceed 208 volts for normal operation, and both the primary and secondary of the VTs shall be connected for grounded-wye connections.

### **Direct Transfer Trip (DTT)**

Direct Transfer Trip is required to prevent sustained isolated operation of the generation for conditions where voltage and frequency protective relaying at the Project may not otherwise operate. Direct Transfer Trip is generally not required for Projects that will operate in the Non-Export Mode since a more economic reverse power relay scheme can usually meet the requirements. For Export Projects, the need for DTT is determined based on the location of the PCC and generation type.

For synchronous and induction type projects, Consumers Energy requires DTT when the total generation within a protective zone is greater than 33% of the minimum Utility load that could be isolated along with the generation. In cases where it can be shown that self-excitation of the induction generator cannot occur when isolated from the Consumers Energy system, Consumers Energy may waive the requirement.

For inverter-type Projects, Consumers Energy requires DTT when the total generation within a protective zone is greater than 50% of the minimum Utility load that could be isolated along with the generation. This prevents sustained isolated operation of the generation for conditions where the inverter anti-islanding may not otherwise trip the Project. Inverter based Projects shall be certified to comply with anti-islanding safety standards in addition to any DTT requirements.

Direct transfer trip adds to the cost and complexity of an interconnection. The Applicant will be responsible for all expenses associated with the installation, operation, and maintenance of the DTT system. A DTT transmitter, installed by Consumers Energy, is generally required for each Utility protective device whose operation could result in sustained isolated operation of the Project. At least one associated DTT receiver, that is supplied, owned, operated and maintained by Consumers Energy, is required at the Project. A data Communication Circuit is generally required at each transmitter and receiver location dependent on the DTT technology. Telemetry is required to monitor status of the DTT communication, even if telemetry would not otherwise have been required.

The Applicant shall provide a suitable location, approved by Consumers Energy, for the Applicant to install the DTT receiver and associated equipment. The Applicant shall provide the following connections and associated equipment to the location, which may include but is not limited to:

1. A 24, 48 V or 125 V DC power supply capable of providing an 8-hour backup. The Applicant shall coordinate with Consumers Energy to properly size the DC power supply.



2. A 120 V AC power supply for heating unconditioned (e.g. outdoor) locations and for use with AC/DC converters. The Applicant shall coordinate with Consumers Energy to properly size the AC power supply.
3. A control circuit or communication cable to allow the DTT receiver to trip and lockout the Project.
4. A control circuit for transferring telemetry and disturbance monitoring statuses (e.g. LOG, RTX) to the Project prior to being passed to the RTU using the Communication Interface.
5. An antenna cable for connection to an external antenna. Consumers Energy will supply the antenna cable.
6. A communication cable for connection to Communication Circuit equipment (e.g. Router/Switch).
7. A voice Communication Circuit, when cellular phone service is not available, for the commissioning and checkout of the metering, DTT, and RTU.

The above connections shall be connected to the DTT receiver by the Applicant where indicated by Consumers Energy.

#### **Reverse Power Relaying for Non-Export**

If Export Mode is not utilized, reverse power protection must be provided. The reverse power relaying will detect power flow from the Project into the Consumers Energy system, and operation of the reverse power relaying will separate the Project from the Consumers Energy system.

#### **Automatic Reclosing**

Consumers Energy employs automatic multiple-shot reclosing on most of the circuit breakers and circuit reclosers to increase the reliability of service to its customers. Automatic single-phase overhead reclosers are regularly installed on distribution circuits to isolate faulted segments of these circuits.

The Applicant is advised to consider the effects of Automatic Reclosing (both single-phase and three-phase) to assure that the Project's internal equipment will not be damaged. In addition to the risk of damage to the Project, an out-of-phase reclosing operation may also present a hazard to Consumers Energy equipment that may not be rated or built to withstand this type of reclosing.

Consumers Energy will determine relaying and control equipment (e.g. volt check relays) that needs to be installed to protect its own equipment from out-of-phase reclosing. Installation of this protection will be undertaken by Consumers Energy at the expense of the Applicant expense. Consumers Energy shall not be liable to the customer with respect to damage(s) to the Project arising as a result of Automatic Reclosing.

#### **Single-Phase Sectionalizing**

Consumers Energy also installs single-phase fuses and/or reclosers on its distribution circuits to increase the reliability of service to its customers. Three-phase generator installations may require replacement of fuses and/or single-phase reclosers with three-phase circuit breakers or circuit reclosers at the Applicant's expense.

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## Synchronous Projects

Three-phase or three single-phase over/under frequency (81O/U) relaying and under/overvoltage (27/59) relaying are required. The 27, 59 and 81O/U relays shall be connected to VTs located at the PCC, unless otherwise approved by Consumers Energy. VTs connected to the Project side of transformers without zero sequence continuity (e.g. ungrounded wye or delta winding connections) on a grounded distribution system is not allowed.

Transformers 15 MVA (self-cooled rating) or larger shall be equipped with differential (87) relaying thus requiring a three-phase interrupting device on the utility side of the isolation transformer.

Each Project must also be equipped with three-phase voltage-restrained overcurrent (51V) relays to detect faults on the Consumers Energy electric system. The (51V) shall be connected to VTs located on the generator branch or bus, unless otherwise approved by Consumers Energy. The (51V) relay shall be connected to CTs that monitor current on the generator branch, unless otherwise approved by Consumers Energy.

In order to minimize damage to both Project equipment and to the Consumers Energy electric system equipment for loss-of-synchronism (also called out-of-step), and to minimize disruptions to other Consumers Energy customers in the area, out-of-step relaying may also be required. The out-of-step relaying would usually be installed at the same location as the metering and would isolate the Project from the Consumers Energy electric system.

If the Project is connected to a grounded distribution system via one of the approved isolation transformer connections, ground fault detection for utility faults may be required at the discretion of Consumers Energy and will consist of a (59N) ground overvoltage relay or (51N) time overcurrent relay. The specific application of this relay will depend on the connection of the isolation transformer and the available ground fault current:

1. If a delta Utility side/grounded-wye Project side isolation transformer connection is used, a (59N) relay will be connected into the secondary of a set of three-phase VTs, which will be connected grounded-wye primary, with the secondary connected delta with one corner of the delta left open or grounded-wye depending on the relay input requirements. The primary windings of the VTs will be connected to the Utility side of the isolation transformer.
2. If a grounded-wye Utility side/grounded-wye Project side isolation transformer connection is used, a (51N) relay will be connected into either a CT located on the Utility side isolation transformer neutral or three phase CTs located on the Utility side of the isolation transformer depending on the relay input requirements. A (59N) relay will be required, in place of the (51N) relay, if the Project does not provide an adequate quantity of ground fault current as determined by Consumers Energy. The (59N) relay will be connected into the secondary of a set of three-phase VTs, which will be connected grounded-wye primary, with the secondary connected delta with one corner of the delta left open or grounded-wye depending on the relay input requirements. The primary windings of the VTs will be connected to the Utility side of the isolation transformer.
3. If a grounded-wye Utility side/delta Project side isolation transformer connection is used, a (51N) relay will be connected into either a CT located on the Utility side isolation transformer neutral connection or three phase CTs located on the Utility side of the isolation transformer depending on the relay input requirements.

In some instances, additional (51N) or (59N) relaying maybe required for situations where Consumers Energy owns an isolation transformer.

For a sample One-Line Diagram of this type of facility, see Appendix D.



## Induction Projects

Three-phase or three single-phase over/under frequency (81O/U) relaying and under/overvoltage (27/59) relaying are required. The 27, 59 and 81O/U relays shall be connected to VTs located at the PCC, unless otherwise approved by Consumers Energy. VTs connected to the Project side of transformers without zero sequence continuity (e.g. ungrounded wye or delta winding connections) on a grounded distribution system is not allowed.

If the Project is connected to a grounded distribution system via one of the approved isolation transformer connections specified above, ground fault detection for utility faults may be required at the discretion of Consumers Energy, and will consist of a (59N) ground overvoltage relay.

Transformers 15 MVA (self-cooled rating) or larger shall be equipped with differential (87) relaying thus requiring a three-phase interrupting device on the utility side of the isolation transformer.

Communication based protection, like line differential (87L) relaying, is required to detect phase and ground faults on the Consumers Energy electric system. In cases where it can be shown that self-excitation of the induction generator cannot occur when isolated from the Consumers Energy system, Consumers Energy may waive this requirement. The relaying shall be connected to CTs and VTS located at the PCC, unless otherwise specified by Consumers Energy.

If the Project is connected to a grounded distribution system via one of the approved isolation transformer connections, ground fault detection for utility faults may be required at the discretion of Consumers Energy and will consist of a (59N) ground overvoltage relay or (51N) time overcurrent relay. In cases where it can be shown that self-excitation of the induction generator cannot occur when isolated from the Consumers Energy system, Consumers Energy may waive the requirement. The specific application of this relay will depend on the connection of the isolation transformer and the available ground fault current.

1. If a delta Utility side/grounded-wye Project side isolation transformer connection is used, a (59N) relay will be connected into the secondary of a set of three-phase VTs, which will be connected grounded-wye primary, with the secondary connected delta with one corner of the delta left open or grounded-wye depending on the relay input requirements. The primary windings of the VTs will be connected to the Utility side of the isolation transformer.
2. If a grounded-wye Utility side/grounded-wye Project side isolation transformer connection is used, a (51N) relay will be connected into either a CT located on the Utility side isolation transformer neutral or three phase CTs located on the Utility side of the isolation transformer depending on the relay input requirements. A (59N) relay will be required, in place of the (51N) relay, if the Project does not provide an adequate quantity of ground fault current as determined by Consumers Energy. The (59N) relay will be connected into the secondary of a set of three-phase VTs, which will be connected grounded-wye primary, with the secondary connected delta with one corner of the delta left open or grounded-wye depending on the relay input requirements. The primary windings of the VTs will be connected to the Utility side of the isolation transformer.
3. If a grounded-wye Utility side/delta Project side isolation transformer connection is used, a (51N) relay will be connected into either a CT located on the Utility side isolation transformer

neutral connection or three phase CTs located on the Utility side of the isolation transformer depending on the relay input requirements.

In some instances, additional (51N) or (59N) relaying maybe required for situations where Consumers Energy owns an isolation transformer.

For a sample One-Line Diagram of this type of facility, see Appendix D.

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## Inverter Projects

Three-phase or three single-phase over/under frequency (81O/U) relaying and under/overvoltage (27/59) relaying are required. The 27, 59 and 81O/U relays shall be connected to VTs located at the PCC, unless otherwise approved by Consumers Energy. VTs connected to the Project side of transformers without zero sequence continuity (e.g. ungrounded wye or delta winding connections) on a grounded distribution system is not allowed.

Transformers 15 MVA (self-cooled rating) or larger shall be equipped with differential (87) relaying thus requiring a three-phase interrupting device on the utility side of the isolation transformer.

If the Project is connected to a grounded distribution system, ground fault detection for utility faults is required and will consist of a (59N) ground overvoltage relay. The (59N) relay will be connected into the secondary of a set of three-phase VTs, which will be connected grounded-wye primary, with the secondary connected delta with one corner of the delta left open or grounded-wye depending on the relay input requirements. The 59N relay shall be connected to VTs located at the PCC, unless otherwise approved by Consumers Energy. VTs connected to the Project side of transformers without zero sequence continuity (e.g. ungrounded wye or delta winding connections) is not allowed.

In some instances, additional (59N) relaying maybe required for situations where Consumers Energy owns an isolation transformer.

For a sample One-Line Diagram of this type of facility, see Appendix D.

## ***Interconnection Protection Settings***

### **Relay Setting Criteria**

The relay settings as detailed in this section will apply in the vast majority of applications. Consumers Energy will issue relay settings for each individual Project that will address the settings for these protective functions. All voltages will be adjusted for the specific VT ratio, and all currents will be adjusted for the specific CT ratio. The trip times and thresholds of the over/under voltage and frequency relays may vary depending on Ride Through requirements.

#### ***Undervoltage Relays***

Two steps of undervoltage relaying are required when Ride Through is enabled. For the first overvoltage set point, the undervoltage relays will normally be set to trip at 88% of the nominal primary voltage at the relay location, and must reset from a trip condition if the voltage increases to 90% of the nominal primary voltage at the relay location. In order to accommodate variations in this criterion, the trip point of the relays shall be adjustable over a range of 70% of the nominal voltage to 90% of the nominal voltage. The trip time shall not exceed 1.0 seconds at 90% of the relay setting. When Ride Through is enabled, the trip time shall be 5.0 seconds at 90% of the relay setting.

For the second undervoltage set point, the undervoltage relays will normally be set to trip at 70% of the nominal primary voltage at the relay location and must reset from a trip condition if the voltage increases to 72% of the nominal primary voltage at the relay location. In order to accommodate variations in this criterion, the trip point of the relays shall be adjustable over a range of 50% of the nominal voltage to 90% of the nominal voltage. The trip time shall be 1.0 second at 90% of the relay setting.

#### ***Overvoltage Relays***

Two steps of overvoltage relaying are required. For the first overvoltage set point, the overvoltage relays will normally be set to trip at 110% of the nominal primary voltage at the relay location, and must reset from a trip condition if the voltage decreases to 108% of the nominal primary voltage at the relay location. In order to accommodate variations in this criterion, the trip point of the relays shall be adjustable over a range of 105% of the nominal voltage to 120% of the nominal voltage. The trip time shall not exceed 1.0 seconds at 110% of the relay setting.

For the second overvoltage set point, the overvoltage relays will normally be set to trip at 120% of the nominal primary voltage at the relay location, and must reset from a trip condition if the voltage decreases to 118% of the nominal primary voltage at the relay location. In order to accommodate variations in this criterion, the trip point of the relays shall be adjustable over a range of 115% of the nominal voltage to 140% of the nominal voltage. The trip time shall be instantaneous (relay operating time not to exceed 0.02 seconds at 110% of the trip setting).

#### ***Underfrequency Relays***

Two steps of underfrequency relaying are required when Ride Through is enabled. For the first underfrequency setpoint, the underfrequency relay will normally be set for a trip point of 58.5 Hz and must trip instantaneously within 0.2 seconds. When Ride Through is enabled, the trip time shall be 300 seconds. Relays with an inverse time characteristic (where the trip time changes



with respect to the applied frequency) are not acceptable. These relays must respond reliably for applied source voltages as low as 70% of the nominal voltage.

For the second underfrequency set point, the underfrequency relays will normally be set for a trip point of 57.0 Hz and must trip instantaneously within 0.2 seconds. Relays with an inverse time characteristic (where the trip time changes with respect to the applied frequency) are not acceptable. These relays must respond reliably for applied source voltages as low as 70% of the nominal voltage.

#### *Overfrequency Relays*

Two steps of overfrequency relaying are required when Ride Through is enabled. For the first overfrequency set point, the overfrequency relay will normally be set for a trip point of 60.5 Hz, and must trip instantaneously within 0.2 seconds. When Ride Through is enabled, the trip time shall be 300 seconds. Relays with an inverse time characteristic are not acceptable. These relays must respond reliably for applied source voltages as low as 70% of the nominal voltage.

For the second overfrequency set point, the overfrequency relay will normally be set for a trip point of 62.0 Hz and must trip instantaneously within 0.2 seconds. Relays with an inverse time characteristic are not acceptable. These relays must respond reliably for applied source voltages as low as 70% of the nominal voltage.

#### *51V Relays – Voltage Restrained Overcurrent Relays*

For synchronous Project applications, the (51V) relays must be set to detect any phase faults that may occur between the Project and the nearest three-phase fault clearing device on the Consumers Energy system. Since these faults may take up to 1-second to detect and isolate, the appropriate saturated direct-axis reactance of the Project will be used depending on its time constants. The CT ratios and specific relay settings will be determined via a fault study performed by Consumers Energy. The settings of this device will consider the relay manufacturer's recommended practice for the type of Project and prime mover (mechanical energy source) and will be determined by Consumers Energy for the specific system application.

#### *59N Relay – Ground Fault Detection*

This relay will be applied to detect ground faults on the Consumers Energy system when the Project is connected to a grounded Utility system and not capable of providing an adequate quantity of ground fault current for a 51N relay. This relay will be set for a 10% shift (10 multiples of pickup) in the apparent power system neutral. For an ungrounded-wye transformer winding with a single 120 V secondary VT, the setting will usually be 12 Volts. For a delta transformer winding with broken delta 120 V secondary VTs, the setting will usually be 20 Volts. The time delay will normally be 1 second.

#### *51N Relay – Ground Fault Detection*

This relay will be applied to detect ground faults on the Consumers Energy system when the Project is connected to a grounded Utility system and capable of providing an adequate quantity of ground fault current. This relay will be set to detect faults on the directly connected Utility system, and the timing will be set to comply with Utility practice for overcurrent relay

coordination. The CT ratio and specific relay setting will be determined via a fault study performed by Consumers Energy.

### *32 Relay – Reverse Power*

This relay will be applied to Non-Export projects. The reverse power relay must be selected such that it can detect a power flow into the Consumers Energy system of a small fraction of the overall Project capacity. The relay will normally be set near its minimum (most sensitive) setting and will trip after a 1 second time delay. The delay will avoid unnecessary tripping for momentary conditions.

This relay will be applied to limited export projects. The reverse power relay must be selected such that it can detect a power flow into the Consumers Energy system above the maximum Project export. The relay will normally be set to have 102% of the maximum export Project capacity and will trip after a 5 second time delay. The delay will avoid unnecessary tripping for momentary conditions.

### **Inverter Setting Criteria**

Consumers Energy will provide inverter settings to the Project Developer. The Project Developer will be responsible for setting the inverters. The settings may include but are not limited to the following:

- Protective Functions – Under/Over Frequency and Voltage Functions
- Voltage and Frequency Ride Through – Operational Ranges and Modes
- Dynamic Voltage Support – Ranges, Behavior (e.g., reactive-current injection)
- Voltage and Frequency Support – SPF, Volt-Var, Watt-War, Volt-Watt, etc.
- Frequency Control – Frequency-droop (Freq-Watt)

Consumers Energy may request changes to settings, that impact the safety and reliability of the distribution electric system. Consumers Energy and the Project shall work together to implement any proposed setting changes.

### **Installation Approval**

The Applicant must provide Consumers Energy with 10 business days of advanced written notice of when the Project will be ready for inspection, testing and approval.

Prior to final approval for Parallel Operation, Consumers Energy specified relay calibration settings shall be applied, and a commissioning test must be performed on the Project relaying and control equipment that involves the protection of the Consumers Energy electric system. The commissioning test must be witnessed by Consumers Energy and can be performed by Consumers Energy at the Applicant's request. Within 5 business days from receipt of the completed commissioning test report, Consumers Energy will notify the Applicant of its approval or disapproval of the interconnection. If Consumers Energy does not approve the interconnection, Consumers Energy will notify the Applicant of the necessary corrective actions required for approval. The Applicant, after taking corrective action, may request Consumers Energy to reconsider the interconnection request.

In the event that revisions are necessary to the Applicant's submitted design and the Applicant submits revised design drawings to Consumers Energy, Consumers Energy shall either approve, in writing, the Applicant's revised design drawings as resubmitted, or return them to the Applicant with a clear statement as to why they were not approved. Where appropriate, Consumers Energy will indicate required changes on the engineering drawings.

In the event the Applicant proposes a revision to Consumers Energy's approved relaying and control equipment used to protect the Consumers Energy electric system and submits a description and engineering design drawings of the proposed changes, Consumers Energy shall either approve the Applicant's amended design drawings or return them to the Applicant with a clear statement as to why they were not approved. Where appropriate, Consumers Energy will indicate required changes on the engineering drawings.

### ***Telemetry, Disturbance and Power Quality Monitoring Requirements***

Telemetry, disturbance and power quality monitoring is required in all cases for Projects that will operate in the Export Mode or when DTT is required. For Projects that will operate in the Non-Export Mode, the requirement for telemetry, disturbance, and power quality monitoring will be determined on a case-by-case basis as part of the study process.

When required, telemetry, disturbance monitoring, and power quality monitoring will be provided at the Applicant's expense. In addition to other telemetry costs, a one-time charge will be assessed to the Applicant for equipment and software installed at the Consumers Energy System Control Center to process the data signals.

#### **Telemetry**

Telemetry enables Consumers Energy to operate the electric system safely and reliably under both normal and emergency conditions. Consumers Energy measures its internal load plus losses (generation) on a real time basis via an extensive telemetry system. This system sums all energy flowing into the Consumers Energy electric system from Projects interconnected to the system and from interconnections with other utilities. During system disturbances when portions of the electrical systems are out of service, it is essential to know if a Project is online or offline to determine the proper action to correct the problem. Time saved during restoration activities translates to fewer outages and outages of shorter duration for the Consumers Energy customers.

#### **Disturbance Monitoring**

Disturbance monitoring allows Consumers Energy to evaluate the performance of the overall protective system for all faults on the electric system. It is critical that sufficient monitoring of the protective system is in place to determine its response.

#### **Remote Terminal Unit (RTU)**

Telemetry and disturbance monitoring require the installation of a Remote Terminal Unit (RTU), that is supplied, owned, operated, and maintained by Consumers Energy. A data Communication Circuit is required for Consumers Energy to remotely communicate with the RTU. The Applicant shall provide a suitable location, approved by Consumers Energy, for the Applicant to install the RTU and associated equipment. The Applicant shall provide the

following external connections and associated equipment to the RTU location, which may include but is not limited to:

1. A 24, 48 V or 125 V DC power supply capable of providing an 8-hour backup. The Applicant shall coordinate with Consumers Energy to properly size the DC power supply.
2. A 120 V AC power supply for heating unconditioned (e.g. outdoor) locations and for use with AC/DC converters. The Applicant shall coordinate with Consumers Energy to properly size the AC power supply.
3. A control circuit or Communication Interface cable for receiving telemetry and disturbance monitoring statuses.
4. A control circuit or Communication Interface cable to allow the RTU to remotely trip the Project, when remote tripping is required by Consumers Energy.
5. An antenna cable for connection to an external antenna. Consumers Energy will supply the antenna cable.
6. A communication cable for connection to the Communication Circuit equipment (e.g. Router/Switch).
7. A communication cable for receiving telemetry from Consumers Energy metering at the PCC.
8. A voice Communication Circuit, when cellular phone service is not available, for the commissioning and checkout of the metering, DTT and RTU.

The above connections shall be connected to the RTU by the Applicant where indicated by Consumers Energy. See "Typical Meter and RTU Installation Where Telemetry is Required" in the Generator Interconnection Supplement.

When telemetry is required, the following telemetry values will be monitored on the RTU, unless otherwise specified by Consumers Energy:

1. Real and reactive power flow, voltage, etc. from the Consumers Energy metering at the PCC.
2. The status (normal/fail) of protective relay Communication Channels. A status indication of "FAIL" indicates the Communication Channel used for relaying is unable to perform its protective function. For example, the direct transfer trip receiver loss of guard (LOG) auxiliary relay.
3. The status (open/closed) of each main interrupting device, each generating interrupting device, and each tie/transfer device used to change the configuration of the Project.
4. If the Project is composed of multiple inverters, a single logical (OR) status of the individual inverter "On/Off" states, indicating all inverters are offline or any one or more inverters are online, is permissible). An "On" status would be indicated if any individual inverter is online.

5. The status indicating battery failure of the DC uninterruptible power supplies providing power to the DTT and RTU equipment.
6. The status of the Consumers Energy relays indicating under voltage of the 120V AC power supplies providing power to the DTT and RTU equipment.

The RTU will be equipped with “sequence of events” recording when disturbance monitoring is required. The Applicant shall provide the following disturbance monitoring statuses, unless otherwise specified, to be monitored on the RTU:

1. The trip status of an instantaneous relay to act as a ground fault detector for faults on the Consumers Energy electric system. This relay shall be connected into the same sensing source as the ground fault protective relay required by Consumers Energy.
2. The status of each interrupting device, which is initiated by the interconnection relaying schemes required by Consumers Energy.
3. The status indicating operation of the over/under voltage (27/59) relays.
4. The status indicating operation of the under/over frequency (81O/U) relays.
5. The status indicating operation of the ground fault detection (59N and/or 51N) relays.
6. The status indicating operation of voltage restrained overcurrent (51V) relays.
7. The status indicating operation of the reverse power (32R) relays.
8. The status of the following relays, associated to each individual Direct Transfer Trip receiver, which may include but is not limited to:
  - i. Loss-of-guard relay (LOG).
  - ii. Receive-trip relay (RTX).
  - iii. Lockout relay.

The statuses indicated in the above telemetry items 2 through 5 and disturbance monitoring items shall be provided by the Applicant using one of the following methods specified by Consumers Energy:

1. Wiring individual contacts directly to a terminal block near the RTU, or
2. Using a Communication Interface to exchange data with the RTU, or
3. Other communication provisions, acceptable to Consumers Energy, to remotely access the multi-functional device such that the operation of the individual functions may be evaluated separately.

### **Power Quality Monitoring**

Power quality monitoring allows Consumers Energy to evaluate the quality of power produced by the Project during events that cause an electrical disturbance to Consumers Energy customers. The power quality monitoring shall be connected to the Consumers Energy

metering CTs and VTs located at the PCC. A data Communication Circuit is required for remote access to the power quality monitoring equipment. The Applicant shall provide a suitable location, unless otherwise specified by Consumers Energy, located within five feet from the PCC metering, for Consumers Energy to install the utility owned, operated and maintained power quality monitoring equipment. Consumers Energy will connect the CT and VT circuits from the PCC metering to the power quality monitoring equipment.

### ***Miscellaneous Operational Requirements***

Miscellaneous requirements include synchronizing, ramp rates, reclose blocking, remote trip capability, reactive power capability and voltage control, frequency control, standby power, and system stability limitations.

### **Operating in Parallel**

The Applicant will be solely responsible for the required synchronizing equipment and for properly synchronizing the Project with the Consumers Energy electric system. Voltage fluctuation at the PCC during synchronizing shall be limited per IEEE 1547-2018.

The Project must be capable of controlling the output of active power (ramp rates) after synchronization to avoid issues on the Consumers Energy system, which includes but is not limited to voltage fluctuations, harmonics, or oscillations. The Project shall, upon request by Consumers Energy, modify the active power output characteristics to prevent such issues after synchronization. Inverter based Projects connected to the Consumers Energy system shall be certified, to be capable of normal and soft ramp rates.

The Project must be designed to prevent the Project from energizing into a de-energized Utility line. The Project's circuit breaker or contactor must be blocked from closing in on a de-energized circuit.

If the Project has shown an unsatisfactory response to requests to separate the generation from the Consumers Energy electric system, Consumers Energy reserves the right to disconnect the Project. For Projects where telemetry is required, the Applicant shall provide Consumers Energy the capability to remotely disconnect the Project. To provide this functionality, the Project may be required to provide a Communication Interface as defined within these requirements.

### **Voltage and Frequency Ride Through**

Voltage and frequency ride through are generally not required for synchronous and induction Projects. Certified inverter based Projects are required to meet ride through requirements by implementing the inverter setting criteria defined within these procedures. Non-certified inverter Projects will be reviewed on a case by case basis depending on the available ride through capability.

For inverter based Projects where telemetry is required, the Applicant shall provide Consumers Energy the capability to remotely issue ride through settings, including the ability to read information required to manage ride through settings. To provide the functionality, the Applicant shall provide a Communication Interface as defined within these requirements.

All under/over voltage and under/over frequency protective functions installed by the Applicant or Consumers Energy are required to coordinate with ride through requirements.

## Reactive Power Capability and Voltage Control

The Project shall be designed to be capable of maintaining a continuous rated power output for the Export portion of the Project, at a power factor within the range of 0.9 (inject) to 0.97 (absorb) for synchronous, non-synchronous and induction Projects and 0.9 (inject) to 0.9 (absorb) for inverter based Projects. This power factor range standard shall be dynamic and can be met using, for example, power electronics designed to supply this level of reactive capability (considering any limitations due to voltage level, real power output, etc.).

Projects that interconnect within customer-owned facilities must be designed to maintain the above dynamic power factor range for the Export portion of the power delivery.

The Applicant shall control voltage at the PCC in accordance with instructions (e.g. voltage or reactive power schedule) provided by Consumers Energy. Inverter based Projects shall be certified, to be capable of controlling the voltage level at the Export portion of the Project using the control modes specified in the following table. The Applicant may request measurement data from the Consumers Energy metering in order to control the voltage at the PCC.

Control Mode
Specified Power Factor (SPF)
Voltage-Reactive Power (Volt-VAr)
Active Power- Reactive Power (Watt-Var)
Constant Reactive Power
Voltage-Active Power (Volt-Watt)

For inverter based Projects where telemetry is required, the Project shall provide Consumers Energy the capability to remotely issue instructions for voltage control, including the ability to read information required to operate the Project. To provide the functionality, the Applicant shall provide a Communication Interface as defined within these requirements. For non-inverter based projects, the need will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Consumers Energy existing rate schedules, incorporated herein by reference, contain power factor adjustments based on the power factor of the metered load at these facilities.

## Frequency Control

Inverter based Projects shall be certified, to be capable of controlling frequency using the control mode(s) specified in the following table. Non-Export projects are subject to the requirement.

Control Mode
Frequency-Watt

The control modes shall respond to frequency measurements at the inverter terminals. Consumers Energy shall provide and specify the control modes and settings applicable to the inverter based Project.

For inverter based Projects where telemetry is required, the Project shall provide Consumers Energy the capability to remotely issue instructions for frequency control, including the ability to read information required to operate the Project. To provide the functionality, the Applicant shall

provide a Communication Interface as defined within these requirements. For non-inverter based projects, the need will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

### **Standby Power**

Standby power will be provided under the terms of an approved rate set forth in Consumers Energy Standard Rules and Regulations. The Applicant should be aware that to qualify for Standby Rates, a separate meter must be installed at the generator.

If outside of the Consumers Energy franchise area, it will be the Applicant's responsibility to arrange contractually and technically for the supply of its facility's standby, maintenance, and any supplemental power needs.

### **System Stability and Site Limitations**

The Stiffness Ratio is the combined three-phase short circuit capability of the Project and the utility system divided by the short circuit capability of the Project measured at the PCC. A stability study may be required for Projects with a Stiffness Ratio of less than 40. Five times the generator rated kVA will be used as a proxy for short circuit current contribution for induction generators. For synchronous Projects, with a Stiffness Ratio of less than 40, Consumers Energy requires special generator trip schemes or loss of synchronism (out-of-step) relay protection. If the apparent voltage flicker from a loss-of-synchronism condition exceeds 5%, an out-of-step relay will be required. This type of protection is typically applied at the PCC and trips the entire Project off-line, if instability is detected, to protect the Consumers Energy electric system and its customers. If the Applicant chooses not to provide for mitigation of unacceptable voltage flicker (above five percent), Consumers Energy may disallow the interconnection of the Project or require a new dedicated interconnection at the Applicant's expense.

The Applicant is responsible for evaluating the consequences of unstable generator operation or voltage transients on Project equipment and determining, designing, and applying any relaying which may be necessary to protect that equipment. This type of protection is typically applied on individual generators to protect the Project facilities.

Consumers Energy will determine if operation of the Project will create objectionable voltage flicker and/or disturbances to other Consumers Energy customers and develop any required mitigation measures at the Applicant's expense.

### ***Revenue Metering Requirements***

Consumers Energy will own, operate, and maintain the billing metering equipment at the Applicant's expense.

### **Non-Export Projects**

A Consumers Energy meter will be installed that only records energy deliveries to the Project.

### **Export Projects**

The billing metering may need to be replaced. A dedicated data Communication Circuit is required to allow remote access to the billing meter by Consumers Energy. If telemetry is required, the billing metering will be connected to the RTU as part of the installation.



The Applicant shall provide a suitable location, approved by Consumers Energy, for Consumers Energy's owned, operated, and maintained billing metering. The Applicant shall provide Consumers Energy access to the premises at all times to install, turn on, disconnect, inspect, test, read, repair, or remove the metering equipment. The Applicant may, at its option, have a representative witness this work.

The metering installations shall be constructed in accordance with the practices, which normally apply to the construction of metering installations for commercial, industrial, or other customers with demand recording equipment. At a minimum two meters will be required; one at the PCC, and one at the generator. For Projects with multiple generators, metering of each generator may be required. When practical, multiple generators may be metered at a common point provided the metered quantity represents only the gross generator output.

Consumers Energy shall supply to the Applicant all required metering equipment and the standard detailed specifications and requirements relating to the location, construction, and access of the metering installation and will provide consultation pertaining to the meter installation as required. Consumers Energy will endeavor to coordinate the delivery of these materials with the Applicant's installation schedule during normal scheduled business hours.

The Applicant shall provide a mounting surface for the meters, recorders, connection cabinets, a housing for the instrument transformers, a conduit for the conductors between the instrument transformer secondary windings and the meter connection cabinets, and a conduit for the communication links, if required. All of this equipment must meet Consumers Energy specifications and requirements.

The responsibility for the installation of the equipment is shared between Consumers Energy and the Applicant, with the Applicant generally installing all of the equipment on its side of the PCC, including instrument transformers, cabinets, conduits, and mounting surfaces. Consumers Energy shall install the meters, recorders, and communication circuits. Consumers Energy will endeavor to coordinate the installation of these items with the Applicant's schedule during normal scheduled business hours.

Where applicable, separate metering of station power may be required to accurately meter the generation facility load when the Project is off-line.

### ***Communication Requirements***

#### **Communication Interface**

A Communication Interface allows for the exchange of data between the Consumers Energy RTU (or alternate) and the Project interface equipment. The data may include but is not limited to generator monitoring and control points, disturbance monitoring, and telemetry. When required, the Applicant shall provide an interface capable of exchanging data with the Consumers Energy RTU over one of the following protocols using the associated transports and physical layers, as defined by Consumers Energy on a case-by-case basis. The Project shall provide a single communication cable to a location near the RTU panel.

<b>Protocol</b>	<b>Transport</b>	<b>Physical Layer</b>
IEEE Std 2030.5 (SEP2)	TCP/IP	Ethernet

IEEE Std 1815 (DNP3)	TCP/IP	Ethernet
	N/A	RS-232 RS-485
Sunspec Modbus	TCP/IP	Ethernet
	N/A	RS-485

Table - Approved Protocols / Transport / Physical Layer

Consumers Energy will provide the necessary interface information (e.g. data mapping) containing the required monitoring and control functionality. The Applicant and Consumers Energy shall work together to implement the Communication Interface.

### Communication Circuits

Data Communication Circuits allow for the remote exchange of data between Consumers Energy and equipment located at the Project. Telemetry, disturbance monitoring, power quality monitoring, DTT, metering and pilot relaying generally require the use of data Communication Circuits. The Applicant is responsible for all costs including but not limited to materials, installation, operating, telecommunication, maintenance, cancellation fees and monthly charges for the data Communication Circuits.

Consumers Energy will determine the quantity and type (e.g. cellular, fiber, copper, radio) of the data Communication Circuits required for the application. Consumers Energy is responsible for ordering and acquiring any leased data Communication Circuits required for the Project. In some cases, the Applicant may be required by Consumers Energy to order and acquire the leased data Communication Circuits. Consumers Energy will provide information (e.g. costs, availability) regarding leased data Communication Circuits once made available by the telecommunication provider. Consumers Energy is not responsible for any delays caused by the telecommunication provider in providing such information or increased interconnection costs.

Data Communication Circuits require the installation of equipment at the Project that is accessible to Consumers Energy and the telecommunication provider. The Applicant shall provide a suitable location, approved by Consumers Energy, for the Applicant and/or telecommunication provider to install any necessary Communication Circuit equipment. A review of each installation shall be made to determine the location and space requirements most agreeable to Consumers Energy and the Applicant. Consumers Energy will provide the utility information necessary for proper installation of the equipment. The required equipment will vary based on the type of Communication Circuit. For wireless applications, the required equipment may include but is not limited to coaxial cables, antennas, surge arresters, cabinets, and mounting structures. Wired connections may require the Applicant to install equipment that may include but is not limited to backboards, splice boxes, patch panels, wire, fiber, AC and DC power sources, interface converters, cabinets, and mounting structures. The Applicant and Consumers Energy shall work together to install the data Communication Circuit.

Consumers Energy personnel require the use of cellular phone service while performing checkout of the metering, DTT, RTU, and relaying. The Applicant must provide an alternative voice communication method, approved by Consumers Energy, when cellular phone service is not available.

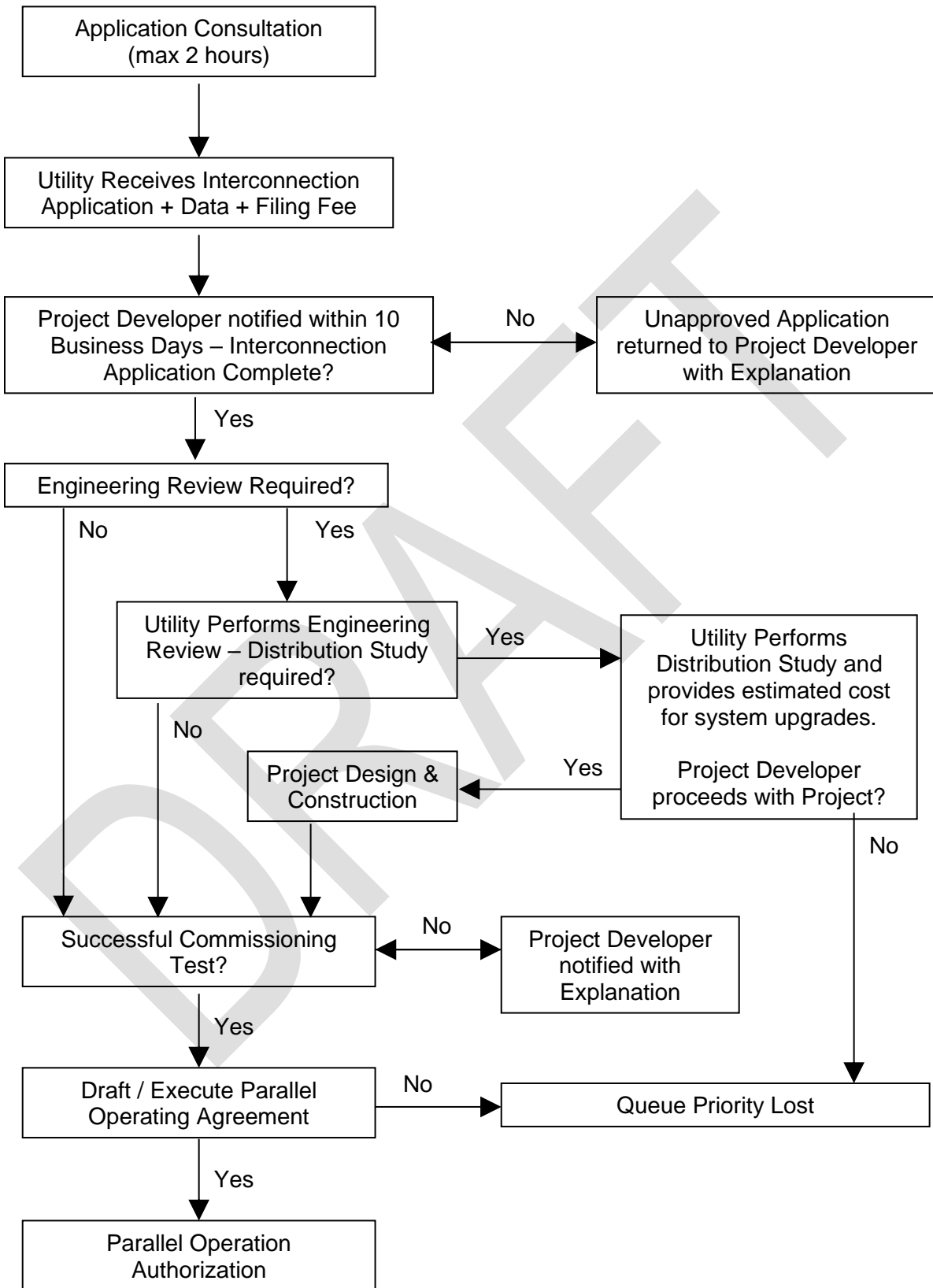
All copper and fiber Communication Circuits must be properly protected as detailed in IEEE Std. 487 and IEEE Std 1590, respectively.

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**APPENDIX A**  
**INTERCONNECTION PROCESS FLOW DIAGRAM**

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## Interconnection Process Flow Diagram



**APPENDIX B**  
**COSTS**

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**Interconnection Table – Applicant Costs**

	Pre-Application Review	Application Review	Supplemental Review	System Impact Study	Facilities Study
Simplified Track	\$300	\$50	As necessary*	As necessary**	As necessary**
Non-Export Track (certified)	\$300	\$100 + \$1/kWac	\$5,000	As necessary**	As necessary**
Non-Export Track (non-certified)	\$300	\$100 + \$2/kWac	\$5,000	As necessary**	As necessary**
Fast Track (certified)	\$300	\$100 + \$1/kWac	\$5,000	As necessary**	As necessary**
Fast Track (non-certified)	\$300	\$100 + \$2/kWac	\$5,000	As necessary**	As necessary**
Study Track	\$300	\$300*	N/A	\$1,200 (LVD) \$4,500 (HVD)	\$5,000***

\* When Supplemental Review is required for Simplified Track applications, it will follow the same cost as Fast Track (certified) row.

\*\* When System Impact Study or Facilities Study are necessary for Simplified, Non-Export, or Fast Track projects, the studies will follow the respective costs in the Study Track row.

\*\*\* An additional charge of \$1,000 may be required for a cellular study.

**APPENDIX C**  
**PROCEDURE DEFINITIONS**



**Affected System:**

**AC:** means alternating current at 60 Hertz.

**Alternative electric supplier (AES):** as defined in section 10g of 1939 PA 3, MCL 460.10g.

**Alternative electric supplier distributed generation program plan:** document supplied by an AES supplier that provides detailed information to an applicant about the AES's distributed generation program.

**Alternative electric supplier legacy net metering program plan:** document supplied by an AES that provides detailed information to an applicant about the AES's legacy net metering program.

**Applicant:** Legally responsible person applying to an electric utility to interconnect a project with the electric utility's distribution system or a person applying for a legacy net metering program or distributed generation program. An applicant is not required to be an existing customer of an electric utility. An electric utility is considered an applicant when it submits an interconnection application for a DER that is not a temporary DER.

**Application Review:** Review by the electric utility of the completed application for interconnection to determine if an engineering review is required.

**Area Network:** A location on the distribution system served by multiple transformers interconnected in an electrical network circuit.

**Business days:** Monday through Friday, starting at 12:00:00 a.m. and ending at 11:59:59 p.m., excluding the following electric utility holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve, and any day in which electric service is interrupted for 10% or more of an electric utility's customers.

**Level 1:** A certified project of 20kW AC or less.

**Level 2:** A certified project of greater than 20 kW AC and not more than 150 kW AC.

**Level 3:** A non-certified project 150 kW AC or less or a project of greater than 150 kW AC and not more than 550 kW AC.

**Level 4:** A project of greater than 550 kW AC and not more than 1 MW AC.

**Level 5:** A project of greater than 1 MW AC.

**Certified:** An inverter-based system has met acceptable safety and reliability standards by a nationally recognized testing laboratory in conformance with IEEE 1547.1-2020 and the UL 1741 2020 edition.

**Commission:** The Michigan Public Service Commission

**Commissioning test:** The procedure, performed in compliance with IEEE 1547.1, for documenting and verifying the performance of a project to confirm that the project operates in conformity with its design specifications.

**Customer:** A person who receives electric service from an electric utility's distribution system or a person who participates in a legacy net metering program or distributed generation program through an AES or electric utility.

**Customer-generator:** A person that uses a project on-site that is interconnected to an electric utility distribution system.

**DER Capacity:** The aggregate capacity of the site in real power (W) using the nameplate rating in AC.

**Site:** A contiguous site, regardless of the number of meters at that site. A site that would be contiguous but for the presence of a street, road, or highway is considered to be contiguous for the purposes of these rules.

**Distribution system:** The structures, equipment, and facilities operated by an electric utility to deliver electricity to end users, not including transmission facilities that are subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**Distribution system study:** A study to determine if a distribution system upgrade is needed to accommodate the proposed project and to determine the cost of an upgrade if required.

**Electric provider:** Any person or entity whose rates are regulated by the commission for selling electricity to retail customers in the state.

**Electric utility:** Term as defined in section 2 of 1995 PA 30, MCL 460.562.

**Eligible electric generator:** A methane digester or renewable energy system with a generation capacity limited to the customer's electrical need and that does not exceed the following:

- 150 kWac of aggregate generation at a single site for a renewable energy system
- 550 kWac of aggregate generation at a single site for a methane digester

**Engineering Review:** A study to determine the suitability of the interconnection equipment including any safety and reliability complications arising from equipment saturation, multiple technologies, and proximity to synchronous motor loads.

**Full retail rate:** The power supply and distribution components of the cost of electric service. Full retail rate does not include system access charge, service charge, or other charge that is assessed on a per meter basis.

**High Voltage Distribution:** The distribution system that operates at a voltage of 25,000 Volts or greater, not including transmission facilities.

**IEEE:** Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

**IEEE 1547:** IEEE "Standard for Interconnection and Interoperability of Distributed Energy Resources with Associated Electric Power Systems Interfaces".

**IEEE 1547.1:** IEEE “Standard Conformance Test Procedures for Interconnecting Distributed Energy Resources with Electric Power Systems Interfaces”.

**Interconnection:** The process undertaken by an electric utility to construct the electrical facilities necessary to connect a project with a distribution system so that parallel operation can occur.

**Interconnection procedures:** The requirements that govern project interconnection adopted by each electric utility and approved by the commission.

**kW:** kilowatt

**kWh:** kilowatt-hours

**Low Voltage Distribution:** The distribution system that operates at a voltage of 2,400 Volts or greater but less than 25,000 Volts.

**Material modification:** A modification to the DER nameplate rating, electrical size of components, bill of materials, machine data, equipment configuration, or the interconnection site of the DER at any time after receiving notification by the electric utility of a complete interconnection application. For the proposed modification to be considered material, it shall have been reviewed and been determined to have or anticipated to have a material impact on 1 or more of the following:

- (i) The cost, timing, or design of any equipment located between the point of common coupling and the DER.
- (ii) The cost, timing, or design of any other application.
- (iii) The electric utility’s distribution system or an affected system.
- (iv) The safety or reliability of the distribution system.

**Methane digester:** A renewable energy system that uses animal or agricultural waste for the production of fuel gas that can be burned for the generation of electricity or steam.

**Modified net metering:** A utility billing method that applies the power supply component of the full retail rate to the net of the bidirectional flow of kWh across the customer interconnection with the utility distribution system during a billing period or time-of-use pricing period.

**MW:** megawatt

**Nameplate rating:** The manufacturer rating at which a DER is capable of sustained operation, including nominal voltage (V), current (A), maximum real power (W), apparent power (VA), and reactive power (VAr). The nameplate rating may not be de-rated using protection or control systems.

**Nationally recognized testing laboratory:** Any testing laboratory recognized by the accreditation program of the U.S. department of labor occupational safety and health administration.

**Non-Export:** An installed electric generation project which operates in parallel with the electric utility with a relay protection scheme and isolating device preventing energy flow back to the utility.

**Parallel operation:** The operation, for longer than 100 milliseconds, of a project while connected to the energized distribution system.

**Project:** Electrical generating equipment and associated facilities that are not owned or operated by an electric utility.

**Renewable energy credit ( REC ):** A credit granted pursuant to the commission's renewable energy credit certification and tracking program in section 41 of 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1041.

**Renewable energy resource:** Term as defined in section 11(i) of 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1011(i)

**Renewable energy system:** Term as defined in section 11(k) of 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1011(k).

**Site:** Means a contiguous site, regardless of the number of meters at that site. A site that would be contiguous but for the presence of a street, road, or highway is considered to be contiguous.

**Spot network:** A location on the distribution system that uses 2 or more inter-tied transformers to supply an electrical network circuit.

**UL:** Underwriters Laboratory

**UL 1741:** The "Standard for Safety of Inverters, Converters, Controllers and Interconnection System Equipment for Use With Distributed Energy Resources".

*APPENDIX D*

**INTERCONNECTION APPLICATION**

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*[INSERT APPLICATION]*

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**APPENDIX E**

**SYSTEM IMPACT STUDY AND FACILITIES  
STUDY AGREEMENTS**

Consumers Energy  
[Project]  
[Engineering Review] [Distribution Study] Agreement for  
Generator Interconnection Project

WHEREAS, proposals to construct or upgrade a Project which will be operated in parallel with and interconnected with Consumers Energy ("Consumers") electric system must be reviewed by Consumers to determine how it will impact Consumers' electric system.

WHEREAS, on \_\_\_\_\_ Consumers received from \_\_\_\_\_ ("Project Developer") a Generator Interconnection Application.

Project Number		Project Size	
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WHEREAS Consumers has determined that [an Engineering Review] [a Distribution Study] is necessary to determine whether Consumers' electric system can accommodate the requested interconnection.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein set forth, Consumers and the Project Developer agree as follows:

1. Consumers shall complete [an Engineering Review] [a Distribution Study] in accordance with Consumers' Generator Interconnection Procedures and this Agreement.
2. Consumers is permitted by the Michigan Public Service Commission to charge the Project Developer \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the [Engineering Review] [Distribution Study].
3. The Project Developer is to return this executed [Engineering Review] [Distribution Study] Agreement and payment to Consumers. The interconnection process will not proceed until the fully executed [Engineering Review] [Distribution Study] Agreement and payment is received.
4. Consumers shall supply a copy of the completed [Engineering Review] [Distribution Study] to the Project Developer.
5. Any notice or request made to or by either Party regarding this Agreement shall be made to the representative of the other Party, or its designated agent, as indicated below.



Consumers Energy

Project Developer

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address 2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this [Engineering Review] [Distribution Study] Agreement to be executed by their respective authorized officials.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

(Typewritten or Printed Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Typewritten or Printed Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **APPENDIX F**

# **INTERCONNECTION AND PARALLEL OPERATING AGREEMENT**

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*[INSERT INTERCONNECTION AND PARALLEL  
OPERATING AGREEMENT]*

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**APPENDIX G**

**CONTACT LIST**

**(Example)**

**[PROJECT NAME]**  
**CONTACT LIST**  
**Normal Operations and Emergency Switching**

**GENERAL**

Switching and clearance procedures for Consumers Energy Company ("Consumers") and the *Company Name (INIT)* provide important documentation to ensure safe working conditions and orderly and reliable service when work is required on the Interconnection Facilities.

**PROCEDURE**

1. **Emergency Switching Procedure:**

Operating Authority for the *(INIT)* will be handled by the following "Priority Contact List."

NAC Contact List

Name	Facility	Contact Number
a. <u>Contact Name 1 (Work)</u>	<u>(INIT)</u>	(XXX) XXX-XXXX
b. <u>Contact Name 1 (Cell)</u>	<u>(INIT)</u>	(XXX) XXX-XXXX
c. <u>Contact Name 2 (Work)</u>	<u>(INIT)</u>	(XXX) XXX-XXXX
d. <u>Contact Name 2 (Cell)</u>	<u>(INIT)</u>	(XXX) XXX-XXXX

Operating Authority for Consumers will be the System Controller located in Jackson, Michigan. Contact the CE SCC Outage Scheduler at [email].

2. **Tag Points:**

Normal points of separation between the Consumers and *(INIT)* Systems will be the Consumers 277/480 Volt Metering Potential Secondary fuses or knife switch and the Substation Name, high side switching device.

NOTE: Consumers work may require the use of Consumers Energy Workers Protection Tags and Consumers locks on points of separation tag points as can be installed.

3. **Scheduled Outage Procedure:**

Request initiated by the *(INIT)*.

*(INIT)* personnel from the *(INIT)* Contact List will contact the Consumers System Control Scheduler to make the necessary arrangements and to agree on the switching procedures.

Request initiated by Consumers.

Scheduling Authority for Consumers will be the System Control Scheduler located in Jackson, Michigan. Contact numbers are either (XXX) XXX - XXXX or (XXX) XXX - XXXX.

The Consumers System Control Scheduler will contact *(INIT)* Contact List Personnel to make necessary arrangements and to agree on switching procedures.

NOTE: Each authority will attempt to provide a minimum of 10 workday's notice on scheduled outage requests. Emergent or imminent equipment failure outages will be handled on an as needed basis.

4. **Connection/Reconnect Procedure**

*(INIT)* personnel from the *(INIT)* Contact List shall contact the Consumers Control Center to receive permission prior to connecting generation with Consumers Energy system. Generation facilities may

not be permitted to connect when the Consumers Energy system is in an abnormal condition due to unscheduled outages.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date identified below.

OFFICIAL COMPANY NAME

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**APPENDIX H**  
**INITIAL REVIEW SCREENS**

DRAFT

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 electric utility'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 electric utility's distribution system connected to a customer bounded by automatic sectionalizing devices or the end of the distribution line. The electric utility 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 electric utility's distribution system due to a loss of ground during the operating time of any anti-islanding function.

Primary Distribution Line Type	Type of Interconnection to Primary Distribution Line	Result
3-phase, 3 wire	3-phase or single phase, phase-to-phase	Pass screen
3-phase, 4 wire	Effectively-grounded 3- phase or single-phase, line-to-neutral	Pass screen

(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 20 kWac or 65% of the transformer nameplate rating.

(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.



**APPENDIX I**  
**SUPPLEMENTAL REVIEW SCREENS**

DRAFT

The supplemental review screens are all of the following:

(a) Minimum load screen. Where 12 months of line section 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 100% of the minimum 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 electric utility 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 this rule. All of the following must be applied by the electric utility:

(i) 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.

(ii) When this screen is being applied to a DER that serves some station service load, only the net injection of electric energy into the electric utility's distribution system may be considered as part of the aggregate generation.

(iii) The electric utility 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.

(b) 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.

(c) 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 electric utility 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.

**APPENDIX J**  
**PRE-APPLICATION REPORT FORM**

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