

PSC NO: 220 ELECTRICITY
NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION
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GENERAL INFORMATION

53. STANDARDIZED INTERCONNECTION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCESS FOR NEW DISTRIBUTED GENERATORS 2 MW OR LESS CONNECTED IN PARALLEL TO UTILITY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS (Continued)

A. Introduction

This section provides a framework for processing applications to:

- interconnect new distributed generation facilities with a nameplate rating of 2 MW or less [aggregated on the customer side of the point of common coupling (PCC)], and
- review any modifications affecting the interface at the PCC to existing distributed generation facilities with a nameplate rating of 2 MW or less (aggregated on the customer side of the PCC) that have been interconnected to the utility distribution system and where an existing contract between the applicant and the utility is in place.

Generation neither designed to operate, nor operating, in parallel with the utility's electrical system is not subject to these requirements. This section will ensure that applicants are aware of the technical interconnection requirements and utility interconnection policies and practices. This section will also provide applicants with an understanding of the process and information required to allow utilities to review and accept the applicants' equipment for interconnection in a reasonable and expeditious manner.

The time required to complete the process will reflect the complexity of the proposed project. Projects using previously submitted designs certified per the requirements of Section II.H will move through the process more quickly, and several steps may be satisfied with an initial application depending on the detail and completeness of the application and supporting documentation submitted by the applicant. Applicants submitting systems utilizing certified equipment however, are not exempt from providing utilities with complete design packages necessary for the utilities to verify the electrical characteristics of the generator systems, the interconnecting facilities, and the impacts of the applicants' equipment on the utilities' systems.

The application process and the attendant services must be offered on a non-discriminatory basis. The utilities must clearly identify their costs related to the applicants' interconnections, specifically those costs the utilities would not have incurred but for the applicants' interconnections. The utilities will keep a log of all applications, milestones met, and justifications for application-specific requirements. The applicants are to be responsible for payment of the utilities' costs, as provided for herein.

Staff of the Department of Public Service (Staff) will monitor the application process to ensure that applications are addressed in a timely manner. To perform this monitoring function, Staff will meet periodically with utility and applicant representatives.

Issued by Kenneth D. Daly, President, Syracuse, NY