

32.4 Provisions that Apply to All Interconnection Requests

32.4.1 Reasonable Efforts

The NYISO, in consultation with the Connecting Transmission Owner, shall make reasonable efforts to meet all time frames provided in these procedures unless the NYISO, Connecting Transmission Owner and Interconnection Customer agree to a different schedule. If either the NYISO or Connecting Transmission Owner cannot meet a deadline provided herein, it shall notify the Interconnection Customer, explain the reason for the failure to meet the deadline, and provide an estimated time by which it will complete the applicable interconnection procedure in the process.

32.4.2 Disputes

32.4.2.1 The NYISO, Connecting Transmission Owner and Interconnection Customer agree to attempt to resolve all disputes arising out of the interconnection process according to the provisions of this article.

32.4.2.2 In the event of a dispute, the Parties will first attempt to promptly resolve it on an informal basis. If the Parties cannot promptly resolve the dispute on an informal basis, then any Party shall provide the other Parties with a written Notice of Dispute. Such Notice shall describe in detail the nature of the dispute.

32.4.2.3 If the dispute has not been resolved within two Business Days after receipt of the Notice, any Party may contact FERC's Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) for assistance in resolving the dispute.

32.4.2.4 The DRS will assist the Parties in either resolving their dispute or in selecting an appropriate dispute resolution venue (*e.g.*, mediation, settlement judge, early neutral evaluation, or technical expert) to assist the Parties in resolving their dispute. The result

of this dispute resolution process will be binding only if the Parties agree in advance.

DRS can be reached at 1-877-337-2237 or via the internet at

<http://www.ferc.gov/legal/adr.asp>.

32.4.2.5 Each Party agrees to conduct all negotiations in good faith and will be responsible for one-third of any costs paid to neutral third-parties.

32.4.2.6 If no Party elects to seek assistance from the DRS, or if the attempted dispute resolution fails, then any Party may exercise whatever rights and remedies it may have in equity or law consistent with the terms of these procedures.

32.4.3 Interconnection Metering

Any metering necessitated by the use of the Small Generating Facility shall be installed at the Interconnection Customer's expense in accordance with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, state, or local regulatory requirements or the Connecting Transmission Owner's specifications.

32.4.4 Commissioning

Commissioning tests of the Interconnection Customer's installed equipment shall be performed pursuant to applicable codes and standards. The NYISO and Connecting Transmission Owner must be given at least five Business Days written notice, or as otherwise mutually agreed to by the Parties, of the tests and may be present to witness the commissioning tests.

32.4.5 Confidentiality

32.4.5.1 Certain information exchanged by the Parties during the administration of these procedures shall constitute confidential information ("Confidential Information") and shall be subject to this Section 32.4.5. Confidential Information shall mean any confidential and/or proprietary information provided by one Party to another Party or

Parties that is clearly marked or otherwise designated "Confidential." For purposes of these procedures, all design, operating specifications, and metering data provided by the Interconnection Customer shall be deemed Confidential Information regardless of whether it is clearly marked or otherwise designated as such. Confidential Information shall include, without limitation, information designated as such by the NYISO Code of Conduct contained in Attachment F to the NYISO OATT.

32.4.5.2 Confidential Information does not include information previously in the public domain, required to be publicly submitted to or divulged by Governmental Authorities (after notice to the other Parties and after exhausting any opportunity to oppose such publication or release), or necessary to be divulged in an action to enforce an interconnection agreement entered into pursuant to these procedures. Each Party receiving Confidential Information shall hold such information in confidence and shall not disclose it to any third party nor to the public without the prior written authorization from the Party providing that information, except to fulfill obligations under these procedures, or to fulfill legal or regulatory requirements.

32.4.5.2.1. Each Party shall employ at least the same standard of care to protect Confidential Information obtained from the other Parties as it employs to protect its own Confidential Information.

32.4.5.2.2. Each Party is entitled to equitable relief, by injunction or otherwise, to enforce its rights under this provision to prevent the release of Confidential Information without bond or proof of damages, and may seek other remedies available at law or in equity for breach of this provision.

32.4.5.3 Notwithstanding anything in this Section 32.4.5 to the contrary, and pursuant to 18 CFR § 1b.20, if FERC, during the course of an investigation or otherwise, requests information from one of the Parties that is otherwise required to be maintained in confidence pursuant to this Section 32.4.5, the Party shall provide the requested information to FERC, within the time provided for in the request for information. In providing the information to FERC, the Party may, consistent with 18 CFR § 388.112, request that the information be treated as confidential and non-public by FERC and that the information be withheld from public disclosure. Each Party is prohibited from notifying the other Parties prior to the release of the Confidential Information to FERC. The Party shall notify the other Parties when it is notified by FERC that a request to release Confidential Information has been received by FERC, at which time any of the Parties may respond before such information would be made public, pursuant to 18 CFR § 388.112. Requests from a state regulatory body conducting a confidential investigation shall be treated in a similar manner if consistent with the applicable state rules and regulations.

32.4.6 Comparability

The NYISO shall receive, process and analyze all Interconnection Requests in a timely manner as set forth in this document. The NYISO and Connecting Transmission Owner shall use the same reasonable efforts in processing and analyzing Interconnection Requests from all Interconnection Customers, whether the Small Generating Facility is owned or operated by the Connecting Transmission Owner, its subsidiaries or affiliates, or others.

32.4.7 Record Retention

The NYISO and Connecting Transmission Owner shall maintain for three years records, subject to audit, of all Interconnection Requests received under these procedures, the times required to complete Interconnection Request approvals and disapprovals, and justification for the actions taken on the Interconnection Requests.

32.4.8 Interconnection Agreement

After receiving an interconnection agreement, the Interconnection Customer shall have 30 Business Days or another mutually agreeable timeframe to sign and return the interconnection agreement, or request that the NYISO file, or cause to be filed, an unexecuted interconnection agreement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. If the Interconnection Customer does not sign the interconnection agreement, or ask that it be filed unexecuted within 30 Business Days, the Interconnection Request shall be deemed withdrawn. After the interconnection agreement is signed by the Parties, the interconnection of the Small Generating Facility shall proceed under the provisions of the interconnection agreement.

32.4.9 Coordination with Affected Systems

The NYISO shall coordinate the conduct of any studies required to determine the impact of the Interconnection Request on Affected Systems with Affected System operators and, if possible, include those results (if available) in its applicable interconnection study within the time frame specified in these procedures. The NYISO will include such Affected System operators in all meetings held with the Interconnection Customer as required by these procedures. The Interconnection Customer will cooperate with the NYISO and Connecting Transmission Owner in all matters related to the conduct of studies and the determination of modifications to Affected Systems. Each Affected System Operator and/or Affected System shall cooperate with the NYISO and Connecting Transmission Owner with whom

interconnection has been requested in all matters related to the conduct of studies and the determination of modifications to Affected Systems. The Parties to this Agreement shall cooperate in good faith to provide each other, Affected System Operators and Affected Systems the information necessary to carry out the terms of the SGIP and the SGIA.

32.4.10 Capacity of the Small Generating Facility

32.4.10.1 If the Interconnection Request is for an increase in capacity for an existing Small Generating Facility, the Interconnection Request shall be evaluated on the basis of the new total capacity of the Small Generating Facility. The reliability impact of all increases in the capacity of an existing Small Generating Facility will be evaluated by applying the NYISO Minimum Interconnection Standard. An existing Small Generating Facility interconnected with Capacity Resource Interconnection Service may, over the life of the facility, increase its capacity by a total of 2 MW above its originally established Capacity Resource Interconnection Service capacity value without having the deliverability of that 2 MW increase evaluated. The deliverability impact of all increase greater than 2 MW over the life of the facility will be evaluated by applying the NYISO Deliverability Interconnection Standard in accordance with the SGIP and Attachment S to the ISO OATT.

32.4.10.2 If the Interconnection Request is for a Small Generating Facility that includes multiple energy production devices at a site for which the Interconnection Customer seeks a single Point of Interconnection, the Interconnection Request shall be evaluated on the basis of the aggregate capacity of the multiple devices.

32.4.10.3 The Interconnection Request shall be evaluated using the maximum rated capacity of the Small Generating Facility.