

## **40.24 Miscellaneous**

### **40.24.1 Confidentiality**

Certain information exchanged by the Parties during the administration of these Standard Interconnection Procedures shall constitute confidential information (“Confidential Information”) and shall be subject to this Section 40.24.1.

The following shall constitute Confidential Information: (1) any non-public information that is treated as confidential by the disclosing Party and which the disclosing Party identifies as Confidential Information in writing at the time, or promptly after the time, of disclosure; or (2) information designated as Confidential Information by the ISO Code of Conduct contained in Attachment F to the ISO OATT.

If requested by either Party receiving information, the Party supplying information shall provide in writing, the basis for asserting that the information referred to in this Article warrants confidential treatment, and the requesting Party may disclose such writing to the appropriate Governmental Authority. Each Party shall be responsible for the costs associated with affording confidential treatment to its information.

#### **40.24.1.1 Scope**

Confidential Information shall not include information that the receiving Party can demonstrate: (1) is generally available to the public other than as a result of a disclosure by the receiving Party; (2) was in the lawful possession of the receiving Party on a non-confidential basis before receiving it from the disclosing Party; (3) was supplied to the receiving Party without restriction by a third party, who, to the knowledge of the receiving Party after due inquiry, was under no obligation to the disclosing Party to keep such information confidential; (4) was independently developed by the receiving Party without reference to Confidential

Information of the disclosing Party; (5) is, or becomes, publicly known, through no wrongful act or omission of the receiving Party or Breach of the Standard Interconnection Agreement; or (6) is required, in accordance with Section 40.24.1.6, Order of Disclosure, to be disclosed by any Governmental Authority or is otherwise required to be disclosed by law or subpoena, or is necessary in any legal proceeding establishing rights and obligations under the Standard Interconnection Agreement. Information designated as Confidential Information will no longer be deemed confidential if the Party that designated the information as confidential notifies the other Party that it no longer is confidential.

#### **40.24.1.2 Release of Confidential Information**

No Party shall release or disclose Confidential Information to any other person, except to its Affiliates (limited by FERC Standards of Conduct requirements), employees, consultants, or to parties who may be or considering providing financing to or equity participation with Interconnection Customer, or to potential purchasers or assignees of Interconnection Customer, on a need-to-know basis in connection with these procedures, unless such person has first been advised of the confidentiality provisions of this Section 40.24.1 and has agreed to comply with such provisions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Party providing Confidential Information to any person shall remain primarily responsible for any release of Confidential Information in contravention of this Section 40.24.1.

#### **40.24.1.3 Rights**

Each Party retains all rights, title, and interest in the Confidential Information that each Party discloses to another Party. The disclosure by each Party to the other Parties of Confidential Information shall not be deemed a waiver by any Party or any other person or entity of the right to protect the Confidential Information from public disclosure.

#### **40.24.1.4 No Warranties**

By providing Confidential Information, no Party makes any warranties or representations as to its accuracy or completeness. In addition, by supplying Confidential Information, no Party obligates itself to provide any particular information or Confidential Information to the other Parties nor to enter into any further agreements or proceed with any other relationship or joint venture.

#### **40.24.1.5 Standard of Care**

Each Party shall use at least the same standard of care to protect Confidential Information it receives as it uses to protect its own Confidential Information from unauthorized disclosure, publication or dissemination. Each Party may use Confidential Information solely to fulfill its obligations to the other Parties under these procedures or its regulatory requirements, including the ISO OATT and ISO Services Tariff. The ISO shall, in all cases, treat the information it receives in accordance with the requirements of Attachment F to the ISO OATT.

#### **40.24.1.6 Order of Disclosure**

If a court or a Government Authority or entity with the right, power, and apparent authority to do so requests or requires any Party, by subpoena, oral deposition, interrogatories, requests for production of documents, administrative order, or otherwise, to disclose Confidential Information, that Party shall provide the other Parties with prompt notice of such request(s) or requirement(s) so that the other Parties may seek an appropriate protective order or waive compliance with the terms of the Standard Interconnection Agreement. Notwithstanding the absence of a protective order or waiver, the Party may disclose such Confidential Information which, in the opinion of its counsel, the Party is legally compelled to disclose. Each Party will

use Reasonable Efforts to obtain reliable assurance that confidential treatment will be accorded any Confidential Information so furnished.

#### **40.24.1.7 Remedies**

The Parties agree that monetary damages would be inadequate to compensate a Party for another Party's breach of its obligations under this Section 40.24.1. Each Party accordingly agrees that the other Parties shall be entitled to equitable relief, by way of injunction or otherwise, if the first Party breaches or threatens to breach its obligations under this Section 40.24.1, which equitable relief shall be granted without bond or proof of damages, and the receiving Party shall not plead in defense that there would be an adequate remedy at law. Such remedy shall not be deemed an exclusive remedy for the breach of this Section 40.24.1, but shall be in addition to all other remedies available at law or in equity. The Parties further acknowledge and agree that the covenants contained herein are necessary for the protection of legitimate business interests and are reasonable in scope. No Party, however, shall be liable for indirect, incidental, or consequential or punitive damages of any nature or kind resulting from or arising in connection with this Section 40.24.1.

#### **40.24.1.8 Disclosure to FERC, its Staff, or a State**

Notwithstanding anything in this Section 40.24.1 to the contrary, and pursuant to 18 C.F.R. section 1b.20, if FERC or its staff, 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 these Standard Interconnection Procedures or the ISO OATT, the Party shall provide the requested information to FERC or its staff, within the time provided for in the request for information. In providing the information to FERC or its staff, the Party must, consistent with 18 C.F.R. section 388.112, request that the information be treated as confidential

and non-public by FERC and its staff and that the information be withheld from public disclosure. Parties are prohibited from notifying the other Parties prior to the release of the Confidential Information to the Commission or its staff. The Party shall notify the other Parties to the Standard Interconnection Agreement when it is notified by FERC or its staff that a request to release Confidential Information has been received by FERC, at which time either of the Parties may respond before such information would be made public, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. section 388.112. Requests from a state regulatory body conducting a confidential investigation shall be treated in a similar manner consistent with applicable state rules or regulations. A Party shall not be liable for any losses, consequential or otherwise, resulting from that Party divulging Confidential Information pursuant to a FERC or state regulatory body request under this paragraph.

40.24.1.9 Subject to the exception in Section 40.24.1.8 of these Standard Interconnection Procedures, no Party shall disclose Confidential Information to any person not employed or retained by the Party possessing the Confidential Information, except to the extent disclosure is (i) required by law; (ii) reasonably deemed by the disclosing Party to be required to be disclosed in connection with a dispute between or among the Parties, or the defense of litigation or dispute; (iii) otherwise permitted by consent of the supplying Party, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld; or (iv) necessary to fulfill its obligations under these Standard Interconnection Procedures, the ISO OATT or ISO Services Tariff. Prior to any disclosures of a Party's Confidential Information under this subparagraph, or if any third party or Governmental Authority makes any request or demand for any of the information described in this subparagraph, the

disclosing Party agrees to promptly notify the other Parties in writing and agrees to assert confidentiality and cooperate with the other Parties in seeking to protect the Confidential Information from public disclosure by confidentiality agreement, protective order or other reasonable measures.

40.24.1.10 This provision shall not apply to any information that was or is hereafter in the public domain (except as a result of a breach of this provision).

40.24.1.11 The ISO and Connecting Transmission Owner shall, at Interconnection Customer's election, destroy, in a confidential manner, or return the Confidential Information provided at the time of Confidential Information is no longer needed.

#### **40.24.2 Delegation of Responsibility**

The ISO may use the services of subcontractors as it deems appropriate to perform its obligations under these Standard Interconnection Procedures. The ISO shall remain primarily liable to the Interconnection Customer for the performance of such subcontractors and compliance with its obligations under these Standard Interconnection Procedures. The subcontractor shall keep all information provided confidential and shall use such information solely for the performance of such obligation for which it was provided and no other purpose.

#### **40.24.3 Payments and Invoicing**

##### **40.24.3.1 Obligation to Pay Costs under Standard Interconnection Procedures**

40.24.3.1.1 The ISO shall charge and Interconnection Customer shall pay the actual costs of the study work of the Cluster Study Process incurred by the ISO and Transmission Owner under these Standard Interconnection Procedures, after the Interconnection Customer has submitted its Interconnection Request or CRIS-

Only Request. In the event an Interconnection Customer withdraws its Interconnection Request or CRIS-Only Request, or its Interconnection Request or CRIS-Only Request is deemed withdrawn by the ISO, prior to the commencement of the Phase 1 Study, Interconnection Customer must pay the ISO the actual costs of processing its Interconnection Request or CRIS-Only Request.

40.24.3.1.2 The ISO shall charge and Interconnection Customer shall pay the actual costs of the study work of an Expedited Deliverability Study performed pursuant to Section 40.19, an Affected System Study performed pursuant to Section 40.8.3, a Fast Track Process supplemental review performed pursuant to Section 40.23.4, or review of a Facility Modification Request pursuant to Section 40.6.3.2, which costs are incurred by the ISO and Transmission Owners under these Standard Interconnection Procedures.

#### **40.24.3.2 Study Cost Allocation**

##### **40.24.3.2.1 Cluster Study Process Cost Allocation**

40.24.3.2.1.1 Cluster Study Projects shall be responsible for Cluster Study costs in the following manner: (1) each Cluster Study Project shall pay the actual cost of studying the Attachment Facilities and Distribution Upgrades for its own facility; (2) each Cluster Study Project shall pay the actual cost of studying Local System Upgrade Facilities for its own facility; and (3) each Cluster Study Project shall pay an equal share of all other Cluster Study costs (i.e., those not related to Attachment Facilities, Distribution Upgrades or Local System Upgrade Facilities).

40.24.3.2.1.2 With respect to the costs of studying the Attachment Facilities and Distribution Upgrades referenced above, if more than one Cluster

Study Project contributes to the need for particular Attachment Facilities or Distribution Upgrades, those Cluster Study Projects shall share equally in the cost to study those Attachment Facilities or Distribution Upgrades.

40.24.3.2.1.3 With respect to the costs of studying the Local System Upgrade Facilities referenced above, if more than one Cluster Study Project contributes to the need for particular Local System Upgrade Facilities, those Cluster Study Projects shall share equally in the cost to study those Local System Upgrade Facilities.

40.24.3.2.1.4 Notwithstanding the above study cost allocation requirements, no Interconnection Customer electing to be evaluated only for ERIIS shall be responsible for any cost of any CRIS evaluation in the Cluster Study, and any Cluster Study Project that elects, pursuant to Section 40.6.4.1, to withdraw from the Cluster Study, withdraw its CRIS request, or elect to have no System Deliverability Upgrade identified to make the project deliverable at its level of requested CRIS, shall not be responsible for the costs of any additional detailed studies required for System Deliverability Upgrades.

#### **40.24.3.2.2 Expedited Deliverability Study Process Cost Allocation**

Each project participating in an Expedited Deliverability Study shall pay an equal share of the study costs for the study.

#### **40.24.3.2.3 Affected System Study Process Cost Allocation**

Each project participating in an Affected System Study shall pay an equal share of the Affected System Study costs required for the identification of the need for any Affected Network Upgrade Facilities. With respect to the costs of



identifying any Affected System Network Upgrades, if more than one project contributes to the need for particular Affected System Network Upgrade, those projects shall share equally in the cost to study the Affected System Network Upgrade.

#### **40.24.3.2.4 Fast Track Process Supplemental Review**

The entity for which the ISO performs a supplemental review under the Fast Track Process in accordance with Section 40.23.4 shall be responsible for the study costs concerning the supplemental review.

#### **40.24.3.2.5 Facility Modification Request Study**

The entity for which the ISO performs a study in response to its Facility Modification Request in accordance with Section 40.6.3.2 shall be responsible for the study costs concerning the Facility Modification Request.

#### **40.24.3.3 Obligation to Pay Withdrawal Penalties and Application of Withdrawal Penalties**

40.24.3.3.1 The ISO shall charge, and Interconnection Customer shall pay, any Withdrawal Penalty assessed under Sections 40.6.5, 40.7.6, 40.10.9, and 40.15.5. Any Withdrawal Penalty is in addition to the Interconnection Customer's responsibility to pay for costs described in Section 40.24.3.1.

40.24.3.3.2 A Withdrawal Penalty that is calculated as a percentage of a Study Deposit amount will be calculated using the initial Study Deposit amount provided by the Interconnection Customer with its Interconnection Request or CRIS-Only Request, regardless of whether the ISO has had to draw on the Study Deposit to recover any study costs that Interconnection Customer has not paid.

40.24.3.3.3 The ISO shall apply the collected Withdrawal Penalty Funds pursuant to Section 40.6.5.

40.24.3.3.4 The ISO shall not be liable for unpaid Withdrawal Penalties and may not collect them from other Interconnection Customers or Transmission Customers.

#### **40.24.3.4 Invoicing and Payment**

40.24.3.4.1 The ISO shall invoice the Interconnection Customer monthly for the costs described in Section 40.24.3.1. The ISO shall invoice for Withdrawal Penalties after they are assessed.

40.24.3.4.2 The Interconnection Customer shall pay the invoiced amount to the ISO within thirty (30) calendar days of the ISO's issuance of the invoice. Except as otherwise provided in Section 40.24.3.4.5, if the Interconnection Customer does not pay its invoice within the timeframe described above, it shall be subject to withdrawal pursuant to Section 40.6.4 to this Attachment HH.

40.24.3.4.3 This section applies to deposits provided under this Attachment HH with the exception of Site Control Deposits. The ISO shall hold deposits provided by Interconnection Customer until settlement of the final invoices. If Interconnection Customer has not paid all invoices, including invoices for Withdrawal Penalties, the NYISO shall (i) recover any unpaid costs described in Section 40.24.3.1 from Interconnection Customer's deposits and then (ii) recover any Withdrawal Penalties from Interconnection Customer's deposits. After the ISO has recovered all unpaid costs and penalties, if any, from Interconnection Customer's deposits, the ISO will (i) refund to the Interconnection Customer any remaining refundable cash portion of its deposits, and (ii) provide written

authorization for Interconnection Customer to request that the bank cancel any remaining letter of credit or surety bond provided as a deposit.

40.24.3.4.4 Any invoices for the Cluster Study must be submitted to the ISO within sixty (60) days of completion of the subject Interconnection Study and shall include a detailed and itemized accounting of the incurred cost of the study work for the Cluster Study. After the conclusion of the Cluster Study Process or if, prior to the conclusion of the Cluster Study Process, the Interconnection Customer withdraws or is withdrawn by the ISO from the Queue, the ISO shall issue a final invoice to Interconnection Customer, which Interconnection Customer shall pay within the timeframe set forth in Section 40.24.3.4.2.

40.24.3.4.5 In the event of an Interconnection Customer's dispute over invoiced amounts, the Interconnection Customer shall: (i) timely pay any undisputed amounts to the ISO, and (ii) pay into an independent escrow account the portion of the invoice in dispute, pending resolution of such dispute. If the Interconnection Customer fails to meet these two requirements, then the ISO shall not be obligated to perform or continue to perform any study work on behalf of the Interconnection Customer's Interconnection Request, CRIS-Only Request, or other study request under this Attachment HH. Disputes arising under this section shall be addressed through the Dispute Resolution Procedures set forth in Section 40.24.5 to this Attachment HH. Within thirty (30) Calendar Days after resolution of the dispute, the Interconnection Customer will pay the ISO any amounts due with interest actually earned on such amounts.

40.24.3.4.6 Neither the ISO nor Transmission Owner shall be obligated to perform or continue to perform any study work on behalf of an Interconnection Customer's Interconnection Request, CRIS-Only Request, or other study request under this Attachment HH unless Interconnection Customer has paid all undisputed amounts in compliance with Section 40.24.3.4.5.

#### **40.24.4 Third Parties Conducting Studies**

The ISO, Connecting Transmission Owner, Affected Transmission Owner, and Affected System Operator may utilize a Transmission Owner or other third party to perform its respective obligations under the Cluster Study Process. In all cases, use of a third party shall be in accord with Article 26 of the Standard Interconnection Agreement (Subcontractors), limited to situations where the ISO determines that doing so will help maintain or accelerate the Cluster Study, and the relevant ISO OATT procedures and protocols as would apply if the ISO were to conduct the Cluster Study and shall use the information provided to it solely for purposes of performing such services and for no other purposes.

#### **40.24.5 Disputes**

##### **40.24.5.1 Submission**

In the event any Party has a dispute, or asserts a claim, that arises out of or in connection with the Standard Interconnection Agreement, these Standard Interconnection Procedures, or their performance (a "Dispute"), such Party shall provide the other Parties with written notice of the Dispute ("Notice of Dispute"). If the ISO is not identified as a party to the Dispute, the Party providing the Notice of Dispute shall also provide this notice to the ISO for the ISO to participate solely for purposes of assisting the other Parties in resolving the claim or dispute. Such Dispute shall be referred to a designated senior representative of each Party for resolution

on an informal basis as promptly as practicable after receipt of the Notice of Dispute by the other Parties. In the event the designated representatives are unable to resolve the claim or dispute through unassisted or assisted negotiations within thirty (30) Calendar Days of the other Parties' receipt of the Notice of Dispute, such Dispute may, upon mutual agreement of the Parties, be submitted to arbitration and resolved in accordance with the arbitration procedures set forth below. In the event the Parties do not agree to submit such Dispute to arbitration, each Party may exercise whatever rights and remedies it may have in equity or at law consistent with the terms of the Standard Interconnection Agreement.

#### **40.24.5.2 External Arbitration Procedures**

Any arbitration initiated under these procedures shall be conducted before a single neutral arbitrator appointed by the Parties. If the Parties fail to agree upon a single arbitrator within ten (10) Calendar Days of the submission of the Dispute to arbitration, each Party shall choose one arbitrator who shall sit on a three-member arbitration panel. The arbitrators so chosen shall within twenty (20) Calendar Days select one of them to chair the arbitration panel. In each case, the arbitrators shall be knowledgeable in electric utility matters, including electric transmission and bulk power issues, and shall not have any current or past substantial business or financial relationships with any party to the arbitration (except prior arbitration). The arbitrator(s) shall provide each of the Parties an opportunity to be heard and, except as otherwise provided herein, shall conduct the arbitration in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association ("Arbitration Rules") and any applicable FERC regulations or RTO rules; *provided, however*, that in the event of a conflict between the Arbitration Rules and the terms of this Section 40.24.5, the terms of this Section 40.24.5 shall prevail.

#### **40.24.5.3 Arbitration Decisions**

Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the arbitrator(s) shall render a decision within ninety (90) Calendar Days of appointment and shall notify the Parties in writing of such decision and the reasons therefor. The arbitrator(s) shall be authorized only to interpret and apply the provisions of the Standard Interconnection Agreement and Standard Interconnection Procedures and shall have no power to modify or change any provision of the Standard Interconnection Agreement and Standard Interconnection Procedures in any manner. The decision of the arbitrator(s) shall be final and binding upon the Parties, and judgment on the award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction. The decision of the arbitrator(s) may be appealed solely on the grounds that the conduct of the arbitrator(s), or the decision itself, violated the standards set forth in the Federal Arbitration Act or the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act. The final decision of the arbitrator must also be filed with FERC if it affects jurisdictional rates, terms and conditions of service, Attachment Facilities, Distribution Upgrades, System Upgrade Facilities, or System Deliverability Upgrades.

#### **40.24.5.4 Costs**

Each Party shall be responsible for its own costs incurred during the arbitration process and for the following costs, if applicable: (1) the cost of the arbitrator chosen by the Party to sit on the three member panel; or (2) one-third the cost of the single arbitrator jointly chosen by the Parties.

#### **40.24.5.5 Non-Binding Dispute Resolution Procedures**

If a Party has submitted a Notice of Dispute pursuant to Section 40.24.5.1 and the Parties are unable to resolve the claim or dispute through unassisted or assisted negotiations within the thirty (30) Calendar Days provided in that section, and the Parties cannot reach mutual

agreement to pursue the Section 40.24.5 arbitration process, a Party may request that the ISO engage in non-binding Dispute Resolution pursuant to this section by providing written notice to the ISO ("Request for Non-Binding Dispute Resolution"). Such Request for Non-Binding Disputes Resolution shall contain: (i) the name of the Party making the request, (ii) an indication of the Interconnection Customer, Connecting Transmission Owner, Affected Transmission Owner, and/or other potentially affected parties, to the extent known, (iii) a description of the dispute with sufficient detail to apprise the ISO, Interconnection Customer, Connecting Transmission Owner, Affected Transmission Owner, and/or other potentially affected parties the nature of the claim, (iv) copies of any materials that the Interconnection Customer has relied on to support its initial Notice of Dispute pursuant to Section 40.24.5.1, if applicable, and (v) citations to the ISO Tariffs and other relevant materials upon which the Party's dispute relies. Conversely, any Party may file a Request for Non-Binding Dispute Resolution pursuant to this section without first seeking mutual agreement to pursue the Section 40.24.5 arbitration process. The process in Section 40.24.5.5 shall serve as an alternative to, and not a replacement of, the Section 40.24.5 arbitration process. Pursuant to this process, the ISO must within thirty (30) Calendar Days of receipt of the Request for Non-Binding Dispute Resolution appoint a neutral decision-maker that is an independent subcontractor that shall not have any current or past substantial business or financial relationships with either Party. Any individual appointed as a neutral decision-maker shall make known to the disputing parties any such disqualifying relationship or interest and a new neutral decision-maker shall be appointed, unless express written consent is provided by each Party to the dispute.

Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the neutral decision-maker shall render a decision within sixty (60) Calendar Days of appointment and shall notify the Parties in writing of such

decision and reasons therefore. This neutral decision-maker shall be authorized only to interpret and apply the provisions of the Standard Interconnection Procedures and Standard Interconnection Agreement and shall have no power to modify or change any provision of the Standard Interconnection Procedures and Standard Interconnection Agreement in any manner. The result reached in this process is not binding, but, unless otherwise agreed, the Parties may cite the record and decision in the non-binding dispute resolution process in future dispute resolution processes, including in a Section 40.24.5 arbitration, or in a Federal Power Act section 206 complaint. Each Party shall be responsible for its own costs incurred during the process and the cost of the neutral decision-maker shall be divided equally among each Party to the dispute.

#### **40.24.6 Local Furnishing Bonds and Other Tax-Exempt Financing**

##### **40.24.6.1 Connecting Transmission Owners and Affected Transmission Owner(s) that Own Facilities Financed by Local Furnishing Bonds or Other Tax-Exempt Bonds**

This provision is applicable only to a Connecting Transmission Owner or Affected Transmission Owner(s) that has financed facilities with tax-exempt bonds including, but not limited to, Local Furnishing Bonds (“Tax-Exempt Bonds”). Notwithstanding any other provision of this Standard Interconnection Agreement and Standard Interconnection Procedures, neither the ISO nor Connecting Transmission Owner shall be required to provide interconnection service to Interconnection Customer, nor shall any Connecting Transmission Owner or Affected Transmission Owner be required to construct System Upgrade Facilities or System Deliverability Upgrades, pursuant to this Standard Interconnection Agreement and Standard Interconnection Procedures, if the provision of such interconnection service or such construction would jeopardize the tax-exempt status of any Tax-Exempt Bonds or impair the ability of Connecting Transmission Owner or Affected Transmission Owner(s) to issue future tax-exempt obligations.



For purposes of this provision, Tax-Exempt Bonds shall include the obligations of the Long Island Power Authority, NYPA and Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc., the interest on which is not included in gross income under the Internal Revenue Code.

#### **40.24.6.2 Alternate Procedures for Requesting Interconnection Service**

If a Connecting Transmission Owner or Affected Transmission Owner(s) determines that the provision of interconnection service requested by an Interconnection Customer would jeopardize the tax-exempt status of any Tax-Exempt Bond(s) used to finance its facilities that would be used in providing such interconnection service, or impair its ability to issue future tax-exempt obligations, Connecting Transmission Owner or Affected Transmission Owner(s) shall advise the Interconnection Customer and the ISO within thirty (30) Calendar days of receipt of the Interconnection Request.

The Interconnection Customer thereafter may renew its request for interconnection using the process specified in Section 40.5 of the ISO OATT.