

## **Section 2. Simplified Process**

### **2.1 Applicability**

- 2.1.1 For Certified, inverter-based DERs with a DER Capacity of 20 kW ac or less: The Area EPS Operator shall comport with the Simplified Process, including the time frames described in that process. Simplified Process eligibility does not imply or indicate that a DER will pass the Initial Review Screens, failure to pass the screens will route the application to the Fast Track Process.
- 2.1.2 Certified Equipment – UL 1741 listing is a common form of DER inverter certification. See Attachment 4: Certification Codes and Standards and Attachment 5: Certification of Distributed Energy Resource Equipment.

### **2.2 Simplified Process Application Review Process**

- 2.2.1 The Interconnection Customer with an eligible DER shall complete the Simplified Process Application and submit it and the application processing fee to the Area EPS Operator. A

Simplified Process Application template is provided in Attachment 2: Simplified Application Form.

- 2.2.2 Within ten (10) Business Days of receipt of the Simplified Process Application, the Area EPS Operator shall acknowledge to the Interconnection Customer receipt of the Simplified Application, evaluate the Simplified Process Application for completeness, and notify the Interconnection Customer whether the Simplified Process Application is or is not complete, and, if not, identify what material is missing. The Area EPS Operator shall to the best of its ability identify all missing material and other errors or omissions at this time. The Interconnection Customer shall submit any additional material within five (5) Business Days of the Area EPS Operator's notice. The Area EPS Operator shall have an additional five (5) Business Days to review the additional material and notify the Interconnection Customer that the Simplified Process Application is complete.
- 2.2.3 The Area EPS Operator shall determine if the DER can be interconnected safely and reliably using the Initial Review Screens contained in the Fast Track Process at 3.2.1, and without construction of facilities by the Area EPS Operator. The Area EPS Operator has twenty (20) Business Days from receipt of a complete Simplified Process Application to complete this process and inform the Interconnection Customer of the results.

Unless the Area EPS Operator determines and demonstrates that the DER cannot be interconnected safely and reliably or requires construction of facilities by the Area EPS Operator, the Area EPS Operator approves the Application and provides the Interconnection Customer an executable Uniform Statewide Contract or MN DIA within five (5) days as described in sections 1.1.5.1 and 5.1.1.

If the Area EPS Operator determines the DER can be connected safely and reliably only with construction of facilities by the Area EPS Operator, the Area EPS Operator shall follow the procedures set forth in Section 3.2.2.

If the Area EPS Operator does not or cannot determine that the DER may be interconnected safely and reliably unless the Interconnection Customer is willing to consider minor modifications or further study, the Area EPS Operator shall follow the procedures set forth in Section 3.2.3.

### 2.3 Simplified Interconnection

- 2.3.1 The Interconnection Customer shall sign and return the Interconnection Agreement within thirty (30) Business Days<sup>7</sup> or may request an extension as described in Section 5.12 and 5.2. The Interconnection Customer must submit to the Area EPS Operator either 1) a signed copy of the Uniform Statewide Contract, if applicable, which serves as both the power purchase agreement and Interconnection Agreement; or 2) the Interconnection Customer must submit a signed Uniform Statewide Contract, if applicable, and a separate MN DIA as described in section 1.1.5.

- 2.3.1.1 Upon receipt of the signed Interconnection Agreement, and then after fully executing it as provided for in Section 5.1.2, the Area EPS Operator shall schedule and execute appropriate construction of facilities, if necessary, which shall be completed prior to the Interconnection Customer returning the Certificate of Completion. If construction of facilities is required by the Area

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<sup>7</sup> The 30-day timeframe in this step originates from Section 5.1.2 and does not represent a new step or timeframe.

EPS Operator, the Area EPS Operator shall notify the customer upon completion of construction.

- 2.3.2 After installation, the Interconnection Customer returns the Certificate of Completion to the Area EPS Operator. Prior to parallel operation, and consistent with the MN DIP, the Area EPS Operator may inspect the DER for compliance with standards, which may include a witness test, and may schedule appropriate metering replacement, if necessary. The Area EPS Operator is obligated to complete the witness test, if required, within ten (10) Business Days of the receipt of the Certificate of Completion. If the Area EPS Operator does not inspect within ten (10) Business Days, the witness test is deemed waived.
- 2.3.3 Within three (3) Business Days of inspection or waiver of inspection, the Area EPS Operator shall notify the Interconnection Customer in writing that interconnection of the DER has permission to operate. If the witness test is not satisfactory, the Area EPS Operator has the right to disconnect the DER. The Interconnection Customer has no right to operate in parallel, except for optional testing not to exceed two hours, until permission to operate is granted by the Area EPS Operator.