

## Section 3. Fast Track Process

### 3.1 Applicability

- 3.1.1 The Fast Track Process is available to an Interconnection Customer proposing to interconnect a DER with the Area EPS Operator's Distribution System if the DER capacity does not exceed the size limits identified in this Section, including the table below and does not qualify for the Section 2 Simplified Process. Fast Track eligibility does not imply or indicate that a DER will pass the Fast Track Initial Review Screens in 3.2.1 or the Supplemental Review screens in 3.4 below.

Fast Track eligibility for DERs is determined based upon the generator type, the size of the generator, voltage of the line, and the location of and the type of line at the Point of Common Coupling. All synchronous and induction machines must be no larger than 2 MW to be eligible for Fast Track Process consideration. The Fast Track Process size limits are included in the table below.

Fast Track Eligibility for Distributed Energy Resources		
Line Voltage	Fast Track Eligibility <sup>8</sup> Regardless of Location	Fast Track Eligibility for certified, inverter-based DER on a Mainline <sup>9</sup> and $\leq 2.5$ Electrical Circuit Miles from Substation <sup>10</sup>
$< 5$ kV	$\leq 500$ kW	$\leq 500$ kW
$\geq 5$ kV and $< 15$ kV	$\leq 1$ MW	$\leq 2$ MW
$\geq 15$ kV and $< 30$ kV	$\leq 3$ MW	$\leq 4$ MW
$\geq 30$ kV and $\leq 69$ kV	$\leq 4$ MW	$\leq 5$ MW

<sup>8</sup> Synchronous and induction machines eligibility is limited to no more than 2MW even when line voltage is greater than 15 kV.

<sup>9</sup> For purposes of this table, a Mainline is the three-phase backbone of a circuit. It will typically constitute lines with wire sizes of 4/0 American wire gauge, 266 kcmil, 336.4 kcmil, 397.5 kcmil, 477 kcmil and 795 kcmil.

<sup>10</sup> An Interconnection Customer can determine this information about its proposed interconnection location in advance by requesting a pre-application report pursuant to section 1.4.

3.1.2 In addition to the size threshold, the Interconnection Customer’s proposed DER must meet the codes, standards, and certification requirements of Attachment 4 and Attachment 5 of these procedures, or the Area EPS Operator has reviewed the design or tested the proposed DER and is satisfied that it is safe to operate.

### 3.2 Initial Review

Within 15 Business Days after the Area EPS Operator notifies the Interconnection Customer it has received a complete Interconnection Application, the Area EPS Operator shall perform an initial review using the screens set forth below, notify the Interconnection Customer of the results; including copies of the analysis and data underlying the Area EPS Operator’s determinations under the screens.

The technical screens listed in this section shall not preclude the Area EPS Operator from seeking approval of tools that perform screening functions using different methodology given that the analysis is aimed at preventing the same voltage, thermal and protection limitations as the initial and supplemental review screens described below.

#### 3.2.1 Initial Review Screens

- 3.2.1.1 The proposed DER’s Point of Common Coupling must be on a portion of the Area EPS Operator’s Distribution System.
- 3.2.1.2 For interconnection of a proposed DER to a radial distribution circuit, the aggregated generation, including the proposed DER, on the circuit shall not exceed 15% of the line section annual peak load as most recently measured. A line section is that portion of an Area EPS Operator’s electric system connected to a customer bounded by automatic sectionalizing devices or the end of the distribution line. The Area EPS Operator may consider 100% of applicable loading (i.e. daytime minimum load for solar), if available, instead of 15% of line section peak load.
- 3.2.1.3 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, shall not exceed the smaller of 5% of a network’s maximum load or 50 kW.<sup>11</sup>
- 3.2.1.4 The proposed DER, in aggregation with other DERs on the distribution circuit, shall not contribute more than 10% to the distribution circuit’s maximum fault current at the point on the high voltage (primary) level nearest the proposed Point of Common Coupling.
- 3.2.1.5 The proposed DER in aggregate with other Distributed Energy Resources on the distribution circuit, shall not cause any distribution protective devices and equipment (including, but not limited to, substation breakers, fuse cutouts, and line reclosers), or Interconnection Customer equipment on the system to exceed 87.5% of the short circuit interrupting capability; nor shall the interconnection

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<sup>11</sup> Network protectors are protective devices used on secondary networks (spot and grid networks) to automatically disconnect its associated transformer when reverse power flow occurs. Secondary networks are most often used in densely populated downtown areas.

be proposed for a circuit that already exceeds 87.5% of the short circuit interrupting capability.

- 3.2.1.6 Using the table below, determine the type of interconnection to a primary distribution line. This screen includes a review of the type of electrical service provided to the Interconnecting Customer, including line configuration and the transformer connection to limit the potential for creating over-voltages on the Area EPS Operator’s electric power system due to a loss of ground during the operating time of any anti-islanding function.

<b>Primary Distribution Line Type</b>	<b>Type of Interconnection to Primary Distribution Line</b>	<b>Result/Criteria</b>
Three-phase, three wire	3-phase or single phase, phase-to-phase	Pass screen
Three-phase, four wire	Effectively-grounded 3 phase or Single-phase, line-to-neutral	Pass screen

- 3.2.1.7 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, shall not exceed 20 kW or 65% of the transformer nameplate rating.

- 3.2.1.8 If the proposed DER is single-phase and is to be interconnected on a center tap neutral of a 240 volt service, its addition shall not create an imbalance between the two sides of the 240 volt service of more than 20% of the nameplate rating of the service transformer.

- 3.2.1.9 If the proposed DER is single-phase and is to be interconnected to a three-phase service, its Nameplate Rating shall not exceed 10% of the service transformer nameplate rating.

- 3.2.1.10 If the DER’s Point of Common Coupling is behind a line voltage regulator<sup>12</sup>, the DER’s Nameplate Rating shall be less than 250 kW.

3.2.2 If the proposed interconnection passes the screens, or if the proposed interconnection fails the screens, but the Area EPS Operator determines that the DER may nevertheless be interconnected consistent with safety, reliability, and power quality standards, the Interconnection Application shall proceed as follows:

- 3.2.2.1 If the proposed interconnection requires no construction of facilities by the Area EPS Operator on its own system, the Area EPS Operator shall provide the Interconnection Customer an executed Interconnection Agreement within five (5) Business Days after the determination.

- 3.2.2.2 If the proposed interconnection requires construction of any facilities, the Area EPS Operator shall notify the Interconnection Customer of such requirement when it provides the Initial Review results and copies of the analysis and data underlying the Area EPS Operator’s determinations under the screens and either: 1) provide a good faith cost estimate; or 2) require a facilities study

<sup>12</sup> This screen does not include substation voltage regulators.  
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pursuant to 4.4.1. Within five (5) Business Days, the Interconnection Customer shall inform the Area EPS Operator if the Interconnection Customer elects to proceed with the proposed interconnection. If the Interconnection Customer makes such an election, the Area EPS Operator shall either provide: i) an Interconnection Agreement, along with a non-binding good faith cost estimate and construction schedule for such upgrades, within twenty (20) Business Days after the Area EPS Operator receives such an election or ii) a facilities study agreement pursuant to section 4.4.

- 3.2.3 If the proposed interconnection fails the screens, and the Area EPS Operator does not or cannot determine from the Initial Review that the DER may nevertheless be interconnected consistent with safety, reliability, and power quality standards unless the Interconnection Customer is willing to consider minor modifications or further study, the Area EPS Operator shall provide the Interconnection Customer the opportunity to attend a customer options meeting.

### 3.3 Customer Options Meeting

If the Area EPS Operator determines the Interconnection Application cannot be approved without either 1) supplemental review, other additional studies or actions; or 2) incurring significant cost to address safety, reliability, or power quality problems, the Area EPS Operator shall notify the Interconnection Customer of that determination and provide copies of all directly pertinent data and analyses underlying its conclusion, subject to confidentiality provisions in Section 5.9 and where applicable limited by privacy rules. Within ten (10) Business Days of the Area EPS Operator's determination, unless mutual agreement, the Area EPS Operator and Interconnection Customer shall schedule a customer options meeting with the Interconnection Customer 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. At the time of notification of the Area EPS Operator's determination, or at the customer options meeting, the Area EPS Operator shall

- 3.3.1 Offer to perform a supplemental review in accordance with section 3.4 and provide a non-binding good faith estimate of the costs of such review; or
- 3.3.2 Obtain the Interconnection Customer's agreement to continue evaluating the Interconnection Application under the Section 4 Study Process.

### 3.4 Supplemental Review

- 3.4.1 To accept the offer of a supplemental review, the Interconnection Customer shall agree in writing and submit a deposit for the estimated costs of the supplemental review in the amount of the Area EPS Operator's good faith estimate of the costs of such review, both within fifteen (15) Business Days of the offer. If the written agreement and deposit have not been received by the Area EPS Operator within that timeframe, the Interconnection Application shall continue to be evaluated under the Section 4 Study Process unless it is withdrawn by the Interconnection Customer.
- 3.4.2 The Interconnection Customer may specify with the written agreement and deposit the order in which the Area EPS Operator will complete the supplemental review screens. The order specified shall be at the level of sections 3.4.4.1, 3.4.4.2, and 3.4.4.3.
- 3.4.3 The Interconnection Customer shall be responsible for the Area EPS Operator's actual costs for conducting the supplemental review. The Interconnection Customer shall pay any review costs that exceed the deposit within twenty (20) Business Days of receipt of the invoice or resolution of

any dispute. If the deposit exceeds the invoiced costs, the Area EPS Operator will return such excess within twenty (20) Business Days of the invoice without interest.

3.4.4 Within thirty (30) Business Days following receipt of the deposit for a supplemental review, the Area EPS Operator shall: 1) perform a supplemental review using the screens set forth below; 2) notify in writing the Interconnection Customer of the results; and 3) include with the notification copies of the analysis and data underlying the Area EPS Operator's determinations under the screens. Unless the Interconnection Customer provided instructions for how to respond to the failure of any of the supplemental review screens below at the time the Interconnection Customer accepted the offer of supplemental review, the Area EPS Operator shall notify the Interconnection Customer following the failure of any of the screens, or if it is unable to perform the screen in this section within two (2) Business Days of making such determination to obtain the Interconnection Customer's permission to: 1) continue evaluating the proposed interconnection under this section 3.4.4; 2) terminate the supplemental review and continue evaluating the DER under Section 4 Study Process; or 3) terminate the supplemental review upon withdrawal of the Interconnection Application by the Interconnection Customer. The Interconnection Customer shall respond with its choice within five (5) Business Days of notification from the Area EPS Operator.

3.4.4.1 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 determined from a power flow model, the aggregate DER capacity on the line section is 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 is not available, or cannot be calculated, estimated or determined, the Area EPS Operator shall include the reason(s) that it is unable to calculate, estimate or determine minimum load in its supplemental review results notification under section 3.4.4.

3.4.4.1.1 The type of generation used by the proposed DER will be taken into account when calculating, estimating, or determining circuit or line section minimum load relevant for the application of screen 3.4.4.1. Solar photovoltaic (PV) generation systems with no battery storage use daytime minimum load (i.e., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for fixed panel systems and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for PV systems utilizing tracking systems), while all other generation uses absolute minimum load.

3.4.4.1.2 When this screen is being applied to a DER that serves some station service load, only the net injection into the Area EPS Operator's electric system will be considered as part of the aggregate generation.

3.4.4.1.3 Area EPS Operator will not consider as part of the aggregate generation for purposes of this screen DER capacity known to be already reflected in the minimum load data.

3.4.4.2 Voltage and Power Quality Screen: In aggregate with existing generation on the line section: (1) the voltage regulation on the line section can be maintained in compliance with relevant requirements under all system conditions; (2) the voltage fluctuation is within acceptable limits as defined by Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Standard 1453, or utility practice

similar to IEEE Standard 1453; and (3) the harmonic levels meet IEEE Standard 519 limits.

- 3.4.4.3 Safety and Reliability Screen: The location of the proposed DER and the aggregate generation capacity on the line section do not create impacts to safety or reliability that cannot be adequately addressed without application of the Study Process. The Area EPS Operator shall give due consideration to the following and other factors in determining potential impacts to safety and reliability in applying this screen.
  - 3.4.4.3.1 Whether the line section has significant minimum loading levels dominated by a small number of customers (e.g., several large commercial customers).
  - 3.4.4.3.2 Whether the loading along the line section is uniform or even.
  - 3.4.4.3.3 Whether the proposed DER is located in close proximity to the substation (i.e., less than 2.5 electrical circuit miles), and whether the line section from the substation to the Point of Common Coupling is a Main line rated for normal and emergency ampacity.
  - 3.4.4.3.4 Whether the proposed DER incorporates a time delay function to prevent reconnection of the generator to the system until system voltage and frequency are within normal limits for a prescribed time.
  - 3.4.4.3.5 Whether operational flexibility is reduced by the proposed DER, such that transfer of the line section(s) of the DER to a neighboring distribution circuit/substation may trigger overloads or voltage issues.
  - 3.4.4.3.6 Whether the proposed DER employs equipment or systems certified by a recognized standards organization to address technical issues such as, but not limited to, islanding, reverse power flow, or voltage quality.
- 3.4.5 If the proposed interconnection passes the supplemental screens in sections 3.4.4.1, 3.4.4.2, and 3.4.4.3 above, or if the proposed interconnection fails the screens, but the Area EPS Operator determines that the DER may nevertheless be interconnected consistent with safety, reliability, and power quality standards, the interconnection shall proceed as follows:
  - 3.4.5.1 If the proposed interconnection passes the supplemental screens in sections 3.4.4.1, 3.4.4.2, and 3.4.4.3 above and does not require construction of facilities by the Area EPS Operator on its own system, the Area EPS Operator shall provide the Interconnection Customer an executable Interconnection Agreement within five (5) Business Days.
  - 3.4.5.2 If the proposed interconnection requires construction of any facilities, the Area EPS Operator shall notify the Interconnection Customer of such requirement when it provides the supplemental review results and either: 1) provide a good faith cost estimate; or 2) require a facilities study pursuant to 4.4.1. Within five (5) Business Days, the Interconnection Customer shall inform the Area EPS

Operator if the Interconnection Customer elects to proceed with the proposed interconnection. If the Interconnection Customer makes such an election, the Area EPS Operator shall either provide: i) an Interconnection Agreement, along with a non-binding good faith cost estimate and construction schedule for such upgrades, within twenty (20) Business Days after the Area EPS Operator receives such an election or ii) a facilities study agreement pursuant to section 4.4.

- 3.4.6 If the proposed interconnection fails the screens, and the Area EPS Operator does not or cannot determine that the DER may nevertheless be interconnected consistent with safety, reliability, and power quality standards unless the Interconnection Customer is willing to consider minor modifications or further study, the Area EPS Operator shall provide the Interconnection Customer the option of commencing the Section 4 Study Process. If the Interconnection Customer wishes to proceed it shall notify the Area EPS Operator within fifteen (15) Business Days to retain its queue position.