
STANDARDS FOR INTERCONNECTION OF DISTRIBUTED GENERATION

all necessary leased telephone lines (or other Company approved communication means) and any necessary protection for leased lines and shall furthermore be responsible for all communication required by ISO-NE, or by ISO-NE's designated satellite. The Interconnecting Customer shall maintain all communication and transducer equipment at the Facility in accordance with ISO-NE criteria, rules and standards. The Company will purchase, own and maintain all communication equipment located on the Interconnecting Customer's Facilities, if the Interconnecting Customer desires, at the Interconnecting Customer's expense. The Interconnecting Customer shall provide, install and own Company-approved or Company-specified test switches in the transducer circuits.

- In addition, Facilities which are 5 MW or greater are required by NEPOOL Operating Procedure No. 18 to provide communication equipment and to supply accurate and reliable information to system operators regarding metered values for MW, MVAR, volt, amp, frequency, breaker status and all other information deemed necessary by ISO-NE and the NEPOOL Satellite (REMVEC).

8.2 Additional Monitoring and Communication requirements

As the amount of distributed generation on the Company EPS grows significantly, additional monitoring and communication may be required by the Department pursuant to a future proceeding.

9.0 DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

The Dispute Resolution Process is a multi-stage process described below, beginning with negotiation, then mediation, followed by non-binding arbitration and then adjudication. All days in this Section are calendar days.

9.1 Good Faith Negotiation

- a) One party submits a request in writing to the other party for initiation of Step 9.1 of the Dispute Resolution Process. The Parties will elevate the dispute to a Vice President or senior management with sufficient authority to make a decision.
- b) If, after 8 days, the dispute is still not resolved, one or both Parties may initiate Section 9.2(a).

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9.2 Mediation/Non-binding Arbitration

- a) One party to the dispute requests dispute resolution assistance by submitting a written request to the Department, with a summary of the situation. The other party may also submit a summary.
- b) The Parties will meet with a Department hearing officer or other Department staff person within 14 days to convene the Dispute Resolution Process. During that meeting, the Department staff person may assist the Parties in attempting to resolve outstanding differences.
- c) If the differences are not resolved in Step 9.2(b), the Department will provide a list of qualified neutrals and manage the selection of individual neutrals for the case. The Department will use a list of pre-qualified neutrals maintained at the Department and, the Parties will select a mutually agreeable mediator pursuant to a reverse-strike-out process² or another mutually-agreeable method. If either party requests a technical expert, both a mediator and a technical expert will be selected, and the technical expert will be selected using the same strike out process or another mutually-agreeable method as that used for selection of the mediator.
- d) Parties will complete the neutral selection process with the Department within seven days. This timetable will only be possible if the Department has, during the initial 14 days, identified mediators and technical experts who have the time available to assist the Parties in a timely manner.
- e) The Department will arrange for the selected mediator to contact Parties.
- f) The Parties will contract with neutrals for services, splitting the fees 50/50.
- g) The mediator begins by discussing the case with the disputing Parties to assess the scope of issues and understand the Parties' positions and interests. The mediator and Parties will establish a schedule for completion of mediation within 30 days. Ten days after the 30-day time period begins, the Department will issue a public

² A "reverse strike out process" involves each party eliminating the least desirable mediator until one is left standing.

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notice of the proceeding and will schedule a pre-hearing conference for Section 9.3. The mediator will assist the Parties in developing a scope of work for the technical expert if one is needed. The mediator will also assist the Parties in estimating the Dispute Resolution Process costs and addressing any concerns about those costs.

- h) Mediation meeting or meetings are held.
- i) If the Parties reach agreement, the Dispute Resolution Process ends here.
- j) If the Parties do not reach a mediated agreement, the neutral(s) will issue a brief recommended solution or decision.
- k) If the Parties accept the neutral's recommendation, the dispute resolution process ends here.
- l) If one or both Parties do not accept the neutral recommendation and there is still no agreement, the dispute proceeds to Step 9.3.

9.3 Department Adjudicatory Hearing

The goal of this Step is an adjudicatory hearing at the Department, with witnesses, evidence, etc. that results in a binding precedential decision, appealable to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

- a) In the event a party does not accept the recommendation in Step 9.2, it may request, in writing, a Department adjudication.
- b) The Department holds a pre-hearing conference for which notice has been provided in accordance with Section 9.2(g). The Parties, to the extent desirable and feasible, exchange information and establish an expedited schedule during the pre-hearing conference.
- c) The Department and the Parties engage in pre-hearing discovery, as needed in the specific case, building on the information developed in Step 9.2, including the mediator's recommendation.
- d) The Department conducts a hearing.

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- e) The Parties file briefs, if one or both desire to do so or the Department requests they do so. The Parties and the Department will complete Step 9.3(b) through 9.3(e) in 90 days.
- f) The Department issues its order within 20 days. If it is unable to do so, it will notify the Parties and provide a revised decision date.

The Department will appoint a hearing officer or other Department staff person familiar with the DG interconnection process in Massachusetts to oversee the selection of private neutrals and otherwise serve as a resource for DG cases.

Disputes subject to the Dispute Resolution Process on these issues are not meant to be considered as Interconnecting Customer complaints as part of the Companies' service quality plans. The docket number for the Company's service quality plan is D.T.E 01-71A. This does not preclude the Interconnecting Customer from filing Interconnecting Customer complaints for which they are otherwise eligible.

10.0 CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

Information including identifying information and specific Facility information may be shared with the Department. A list of all executed DG Interconnection Service Agreements will be submitted to the Department annually. Interconnecting Customers may elect to petition the Department to maintain confidentiality with their information; however, the Department is under no obligation to grant this confidentiality.

In an ongoing effort to improve the interconnection process for Interconnecting Customer-owned Facilities, the information provided by Interconnecting Customers and the results of the application process will be aggregated with the information of other applicants, i.e. Interconnecting Customers, and periodically reviewed by a DG Collaborative authorized by the Department consisting of industry participants. The aggregation process will not reveal specific details for any one Interconnecting Customer. In addition to this process, Interconnecting Customers may choose to allow non-identifying information specific to their applications to be shared with the Collaborative by answering "Yes" to the Confidentiality Statement question on the first page of the application form.

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