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Proposed Revisions to Standards for Connecting Distributed Generation

Presentation for the DG Board

February 25, 2015

Reasons for Changes

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RI PUC November 14, 2014 order:

- National Grid will convene a working group of parties interested in providing input into possible revisions to the Distributed Generation Interconnection Tariff (R.I.P.U.C. No. 2078). By December 1, 2014, the Company will file proposed tariff revisions resulting from the working group, including an explanation of any unresolved issues. The proposed revisions may also include recent changes to ISO-NE rules or operating procedures and the Renewable Energy Growth (REG) Program law.
- The PUC granted the Company's Motion for an Extension of Time (45 days) to submit its proposed tariff revisions, which were filed January 15, 2015.

Process

- Solicited feedback on the tariff
  - As part of two DG seminars (April 3, November 18)
  - Three workshops (November 24, December 12, January 6)
  - One webinar (January 13)
- Numerous parties were involved
  - Commerce RI, RI OER, Newport Solar, RGC Energy, Megawatt Energy Solutions, Nexamp, KJA Developers, ISM Solar, Tecta Solar, E2Solutions, WED, and others

Changes for Small Projects

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- Simplified process
  - Now allows up to 15 kW single phase, up from the original 10 kW single phase
  - Raised screen 2 from 7.5% of feeder load to 15% of feeder load
  - In the rare case, due to a significant amount of DG in a small area that requires minor system modifications, it is now allowed in the process
- Application modified to allow “one-stop” shopping so customers can also apply for REG enrollment

Changes for Larger Projects

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- Provides for a Pre-application report
  - This report provides valuable information to prospective customers regarding the “condition” of the electric distribution system in the location for proposed DG and enables customers to better understand the impact of their proposed project prior to submitting an application
- Allows projects that pass all expedited screens to not have to pay for an Impact Study for Renewable DG (ISRDG) and receive an executable Interconnection Service Agreement (ISA) quicker

Changes for Larger Projects

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- Requires interval metering for all projects over 25 kW
  - Allows Company to set up assets less than 5 MW at ISO-NE as settlement only generators to receive wholesale energy revenues to offset costs of programs (net metering, REG)
- Clarifies language about separating out system improvement costs paid for by the Company in estimates for system modifications interconnection customers pay
  - Provides for refund language in the event a customer pays for an upgrade that a subsequent customer takes advantage of

Changes for Larger Projects

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- Clarifies certain ISO-NE requirements
  - Specifically in OP14 where projects totaling 5 MW or more fed from a common line are required to be a “modeled generator” to set up the required wholesale energy asset
    - This requires more ISO-NE studies, a 24/7 contact for operational dispatch by the ISO-NE, and real time telemetry back to the ISO-NE
- Added a number of questions to the application to determine whether project could end up being Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) jurisdictional
  - Company is required to file certain ISAs with FERC