

Summary

DERs Connection Review (EB-2019-0207)

Working Group

Tranche 4 Recommendations

As Concluded on Meeting of October 4, 2022

Summary of Working Group Tranche 4 Recommendations:

1. The Working Group recommends that existing requirements in Reporting & Record Keeping Requirements (RRR) s. 2.1.14 be amended to collect additional information related to the type of DER, as follows:

A distributor shall provide, annually by April 30, the following net metering and embedded generation information for the preceding calendar year (*material changes underlined*):

- a) For net metered generators:
 - i. Number of generators by renewable energy source;
 - ii. Total installed capacity (kW) by renewable energy source; and
 - iii. Total installed capacity (kW) of storage devices used by net metered generators by renewable energy source;
- b) For embedded generation facilities excluding net metered generators:
 - iv. Number of generators by facility type (solar, wind, water, biomass, fossil fuel, exporting storage, non-exporting storage, other);
 - v. Total installed capacity (kW) by facility type (solar, wind, water, biomass, fossil fuel, exporting storage, non-exporting storage, other);

A distributor association noted that the OEB may consider alternative means of collecting this information, outside of RRR, if it wished to avoid adding additional RRR. The distributor association also expressed that, although it did not oppose the recommendation from the Working Group, the RRR recommendation appeared to be in anticipation of a future need rather than to address a current need; other Working Group members indicated that they felt the RRR recommendation was responsive to present industry needs.

2. The Working Group acknowledged the Process Subgroup's report back that it does not recommend a RRR requirement related to reporting of the type of net metered customers, since this can be obtained through other avenues and may not be needed on a recurring basis.
 3. The Working Group acknowledged the Process Subgroup's report back that it does not
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see a need to recommend an additional RRR requirement on “installed capacity of DER” since this is captured in RRR section 2.1.14.

4. The Working Group recommends the removal of the “Capacity Allocation Exempt” designation in the DSC. The Working Group noted that this may require changes in utility’s Conditions of Service and fee schedules for Connection Impact Assessments (CIAs).
5. The Working Group recommends the removal of the DSC requirement for the distributor to collect a capacity deposit from a DER applicant. A distributor noted that, while it supported the recommended removal, its support was based on the understanding that other related provisions that deter “queue squatting” are not at the same time being proposed to be removed.
6. The Working Group endorsed the issues list established by the Technical Subgroup for uni-directional EV charger connection issues, which included the following:
 - a. Related to Data:
 - i. Utilities may not have visibility on all EV deployments in a given area.
 - b. Related to Connection Costs:
 - i. Utility-side costs required to enable panel upgrades (e.g. to 200 amps) needed for EV chargers may raise fairness and cost allocation issues, result in unnecessary transaction costs, and may be applied differently between utilities.
 - ii. There may be opportunities to have EV energy management e.g., load control to avoid service upgrades.
7. The Working Group endorsed a bi-directional EV charger connection issues list amendment from the Technical Subgroup that, when reviewing issues associated with the micro threshold for DERs, it may also consider whether there should be separate limits for exporting and non-exporting portions of a DER installation.
8. The Working Group acknowledged the progress update related to the Risk Framework, including the development of the draft Preliminary Consultation Information Request (PCIR) and Preliminary Consultation Report (PCR) templates, and supported ongoing work for this topic area. The Working Group expects to review the PCIR and PCR templates in greater detail once they are finalized by the Technical Subgroup.
9. The Working Group recommended that DSC section 6.2 be revised to reflect the following new proposed requirements for connection deposit refund timelines:
 - a. Outstanding connection scope of work (if applicable) to be listed by the distributor at time that authorization to generate is granted (Day 0).
 - b. Preliminary connection cost report to be issued by the distributor by Day 60.
 - c. Excess deposit refund to be issued by the distributor:
 - i. By Day 180 for cases without a host distributor.
 - ii. By Day 210 for cases with a host distributor.

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- d. For cases where there was outstanding scope at the time authorization to generate was granted, the excess deposit refund would be issued:
- e. By later of Day 180 or 90 days after completion of full connection scope for cases without a host distributor.
- f. By later of Day 210 or 120 days after completion of full connection scope for cases with a host distributor.

The Working Group supported the Process Subgroup's detailed text for DSC Amendments, with the acknowledgement that the specific language would be revised and refined by OEB Staff prior to implementation, if this recommendation moves forward to a proposed DSC Amendment.

10. The Working Group acknowledged that the connection cost estimating topic area would be reviewed outside the Working Group (through discussions between OEB Staff and the distributor that generates the connection cost estimates that stakeholders wished to see refined). A proposal that may be brought forward would be presented before the Working Group when it is available.