

Dear DG Applicant,

NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource”) is processing your application to interconnect your proposed distributed generation (“DG”) project pursuant to its Massachusetts Standards for Interconnection of Distributed Generation tariff. Eversource’s transmission staff, in coordination with ISO-New England (“ISO-NE”), is currently in progress with transmission studies evaluating the impact of previously filed applications totaling almost 600 MW of new generation in Eversource’s Massachusetts service area in the Greater Boston, Upper Southeastern Massachusetts (“SEMA”), Cape, Springfield and Pittsfield regions. The affected system operator (ASO) transmission studies that are still underway are anticipated to be completed in the August 2021 timeframe for the Upper SEMA and Cape regions. ASO studies in the Western Massachusetts and Greater Boston areas were completed in February 2021. Upon completion of each geographic area study, new applicants that have come into queue since October 2019 in that area will be reviewed for their required transmission study level (level 0/1 or level 3) in coordination with ISO-NE.

Your project will require some level of transmission analysis in the future after the ASO studies in progress are completed and the results are known. The analysis for your project may be in the form of an ASO study or an independent transmission study, which will be determined in early 2021. Currently there are 360 MW of applicants who have opted out of the ASO study currently underway in addition to new applications that have been submitted. Eversource anticipates the same 5 regions being studied in the ASO underway would be a part of a future potential ASO study, based on the consistent amount of applications that have come into the queue that require a transmission analysis in these areas. These 5 regions are Greater Boston, Upper SEMA, Cape, Pittsfield and Springfield.

ISO-NE policies require transmission analyses to determine whether the interconnection of DG, including your project(s), impacts the transmission system and/or the electric power systems of neighboring distribution companies. ISO-NE will make its recommendation regarding the need for, and scope of, a transmission study for your project based on capacity in the area of your project and projects from other developers with applications to interconnect in the area of your project that may affect the larger grid. Eversource will receive feedback from ISO-NE as to the type and scope of study needed for your project, if any. If a transmission analysis associated with your project is required, it will be performed by Eversource’s transmission staff, in consultation with other affected system operators, including ISO-NE. Ultimately, a transmission study associated with your project will be presented to ISO-NE for review and approval.

We know timing of a potential ASO study is important to you, unfortunately, at this stage it is not possible to predict details of a potential future ASO timeline and associated costs until the current transmission studies underway are completed. We will share that information with you as soon as it is available.

We will notify you of any further information we need. Examples of what may be requested are: PSCAD models, executed study agreements, additional fees and other additional potential technical information as necessary based on the level of study required.

We are committed to:

- Keeping you informed as you move through this process by communicating in a timely manner
- Ensuring the reliability of the grid for all
- Developing a sustainable distributed generation market for New England

Please note, your project will still require a distribution level system impact study. Eversource's distribution staff will determine the timing and scope of a distribution system impact study for your project once the application is deemed complete in the screening process. Eversource intends to continue executing Impact Studies in the sequence they are Deemed Complete, unless it determines there are enough projects to form and offer customers a Distribution Group Study.

Our goal will be to have these studies executed in an efficient manner, which could include groups of applicants to help move yours and all other impacted projects along as quickly as possible. We welcome your feedback and suggestions for process improvements. Please continue to reach out to your DG Account Executive and monitor our FAQ tile on our website:

<https://www.eversource.com/content/ema-c/about/about-us/doing-business-with-us/builders-contractors/interconnections/massachusetts-application-to-connect/affected-system-operator-studies>