

Dear DG Applicant,

NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource”) is processing the interconnection of 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”), has determined that projects totaling almost 250 MW in Eversource’s Massachusetts service area in the Springfield and Pittsfield regions will require a transmission analysis. 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. To the extent that transmission system modifications are required to mitigate impacts to maintain safe and reliable operation of the transmission system and neighboring electric power systems, your project could share in the cost of such system modifications. The transmission analysis is being performed by Eversource’s transmission staff, consulting with other affected system operators, including ISO-NE. The transmission analysis results are required to be approved by ISO-NE.

Based on factors such as the size of a generator and/or operating voltage level and connection with a transmission line, various levels of analysis may be required. Recognizing that your project is between 1.01-4.99MW, we are notifying you that your project requires a Level 1 Transmission Study. This level of study involves a transfer analysis that will indicate whether or not grid capacity and reliability will be impacted by interconnecting your project. A transfer study is required to ensure there is no degradation of transfer limits on key ISO-NE transmission interfaces. These studies are needed due to the high level of saturation on circuits that have risk to impact transmission reliability. Attached for your reference is a comprehensive map illustrating the western MA affected system operator (“ASO”) study areas and all DG projects (online, in queue, PPA approved, in study, no study).

Eversource has grouped interconnection requests into 5 ASO study areas: Springfield, Pittsfield, Greater Boston, Upper Southeastern Massachusetts (Upper SEMA) and Cape. For the ASO studies, there are currently 34 applicants totaling 130MW that will require a Level 0/1 study.

Eversource has worked with ISO-NE to determine the initial level of transmission study needed. If during the Level 1 study it is determined that a more detailed Level 3 study is required, Eversource should be provided with that information from ISO-NE within approximately 3-6 months from the time the study commences. A Level 3 study involves a steady state load flow, stability simulation, short circuit analysis and/or model validation to determine how your project impacts the transmission system.

Our goal is to communicate timing and keep you informed on the final determination and next steps, including changes to cost and schedule. If a Level 3 study is required, we will notify you again and let you know if any further additional information is needed. Examples of what may be needed are: PSS/E models, PSCAD models, executed study agreements, additional fees and other additional potential technical information as needed based on the level of study required. Your approval to remain in the study, as well as the other projects included, is also needed before the study can commence.

We know timing of the transmission study is important to you, but unfortunately, at this stage it’s not possible to predict exact details of your project’s timeline and costs. For planning purposes, Level 1 studies typically take about 3 months and costs are approximately \$500/MW. This is the current cost range and could change with additional applicants being added to the identified ASO study areas and/or if the composition of the study changes pending applicants who wish to drop out.

The next step will be to hold a joint scoping meeting with you, ISO-NE and Eversource Transmission and we will reach out to you for scheduling this meeting accordingly. Throughout this process, 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

Thank you, and we look forward to continuing to work with you on your project.

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For Billing Inquires Please Call 800-340-9822