

# Eversource-NH Interconnection & Net Metering Queue Position Policy

April 2015

## What is an Interconnection Queue?

The interconnection queue (“the Queue”) is a ranking process that indicates the order in which valid requests to interconnect a generator to the Eversource system have been received.

The Queue establishes a priority order in which requests will be processed (i.e. reviews and engineering studies). That can be important, not just in terms of fair and efficient processing, but because electrical distribution circuits do not have an unlimited capacity to host generation resources. By establishing a queue, Eversource can allocate limited capacity and also can determine which resource has triggered the need for circuit upgrades. This determines cost responsibility for any required circuit modifications. This queue is relevant for both net metered and non-net metered requests to interconnect.

## What is the Net Metering program Capacity Limit?

The NH law that authorizes utilities to offer Net Metering (RSA 362-A:9) provides a maximum limit on the capacity of generation resources that can take advantage of this incentive program. In Eversource territory, the limit per PUC Rule 903.02(b) is 36,550 kW. The Queue provides a way to determine the order in which projects have reserved a place in the Net Metering program. This process is also known as “reserving cap space” in the Net Metering program.

Note: It is possible to be in the Queue but not have reserved space in the Net Metering program. For example, the following conditions could result in a project with a valid position in the Queue not having space reserved in the Net Metering program.

- Group Host projects without a valid NHPUC Group Host Authorization (GHA)
- Projects Greater than 1,000 kW in Capacity
- Projects that do not utilize eligible technologies (e.g. generation resources using non-renewable fuel)

A reservation in the Net Metering program will not be granted until all requirements for net metering are verified and in place. In many cases, the final requirement will be the NHPUC Group Host Authorization (GHA). In these cases, the date of the GHA will serve as the reservation date for the Net Metering program.

A project cannot reserve space in the Net Metering program without a valid and active position in the Queue. Further, any project that is removed from the Queue will also forfeit any previously acquired space in the Net Metering program. Eversource will periodically provide the NHPUC with a list of valid projects in the Queue.

## Projects Using the Simplified Application Form (Inverter-based <= 100 kW)

The date the completed application was first received shall be used to indicate the queue position. For applications received via email or fax, the date of the email or fax will be used. For hard copy application received via regular

mail or in person delivery, the date will be the post-marked date or the hand delivery date. Note: if the customer or developer voluntarily submits a Pre-Application form, the queue process is not changed, i.e. the Pre-Application submittal date will not be used to determine the position in the Queue.

During the review process, if the original application is determined to be incomplete (e.g. missing a site diagram, missing a signature, etc.) or contains inaccurate or ambiguous information, the applicant will receive a notice via email to provide the required information. If complete information is received within 10 business days of the notice, the original submittal date will be used as the "Application Received" date. Otherwise, the date will be advanced to the date of the completed submittal. The notice of missing information will detail the Queue date and the consequences of not providing the required information within 10 business days. Between issuance of the notice and return of the missing information, the project status will be changed to "Incomplete Application" in the Eversource queue tracking database. Projects with that status will not be considered to be in the queue.

Simplified applications will be reviewed for completeness within 5 business days. If deemed complete, an "Application Received" email will be issued noting the date received and describing the next step in the review process (technical review). If deemed incomplete, an "Incomplete Application" email will be issued requesting the missing information. Both email notices will include the DG tracking number (e.g. N3521) and ask applicants to refer to it throughout the process.

When the DG application technical review is completed, the "Application Approved" email notice to the applicant will contain a statement of Queue date.

Applications that require a Supplemental Review will be notified of the Queue date when the Supplemental Review Agreement is provided for signature and deposit. That notice will also explain the 15 business day time limit (see "Withdrawal from the Queue", below)

#### Projects Using the Standard Interconnection Request Form (Inverter-based > 100 kW and all non-inverter-based)

As of January 1, 2015, each project must submit a mandatory Pre-Application Form and a non-refundable \$500 processing fee. While submitting the Pre-Application Form itself has no direct impact on queue position, it must be received (including the \$500 fee) as a pre-condition for establishing the Queue date (below). Completed Pre-Application reviews provided to the customer will indicate the DG tracking number assigned to the project and request all future correspondence refer to same.

The date the standard Generator Interconnection Requests ("IR") was first received shall be used to indicate the queue position, provided that date is no earlier than the date the Pre-Application and \$500 fee was received. For IRs received via email or fax, the date of the email or fax will be used. For hard copy application received via regular mail or in person delivery, the date will be the post-marked date or the hand delivery date.

DG will review the IR for completeness within 10 business days of receipt. During the review process, if the original IR is determined to be incomplete or contains inaccurate or ambiguous information, the applicant will be contacted via an "Incomplete Application" email to provide the required information. Notice will also be issued if the IR is received prior to the Pre-Application. If the complete information is received within 10 business days of the notice, the original submittal date will be used as the "Application Received" date. Otherwise, the date will be advanced to the date of the completed submittal. The notice of missing information will detail the Queue date and the consequences of not providing the required information within 10 business days. Between issuance of the

notice and return of the missing information, the project status will be changed to “Incomplete Application” in the Eversource queue tracking database. Projects with that status will not be considered to be in the queue.

Once an IR has been found to be complete, either via the original submittal or following the response to a notice of missing information, the applicant will be provided with an email notice of “Application Received” and a statement of the Queue date and DG project tracking number. Either the “Incomplete Application” or “Application Received” notice will be provided within 10 business days.

#### Group Net Metering (GNM) Host Applications

For purposes of interconnection review, a Group Host application will be treated identically to a traditional customer-sited and/or stand-alone DG interconnection request. However, for purposes of reserving cap space in the Net Metering program, a Group Host project will not be considered in the queue unless and until a Group Host Registration is authorized by the NHPUC. An existing generator (i.e. one with a valid Interconnection Agreement) seeking to be a Group Host will be reserved cap space following registration by the NHPUC.

#### Withdrawal from the Queue

The list below provides the number of business days that an applicant has to take action during various stages of the interconnection process. When a time limit is exceeded, the applicant shall be provided email notice and given 10 business days to provide a cure. Absent a cure, the project will be removed from the queue and a notice of removal will be forwarded to the applicant.

<b>Action Required by Applicant</b>	<b>Time Limit (business days)</b>
Supplemental Review Agreement – execute and provide deposit	15
Study Agreement – execute and provide deposit	15
Interconnection Agreement – execute and provide deposit	30
Complete Construction (see Notes)	12 months following an approved Simplified Application (see PUC 904.05(l)) or an executed Interconnection Agreement

Note – During the initial roll-out of this policy (April 2015), projects that are already authorized to interconnect via the simplified application process will be provided 18 months (rather than 12) to complete construction.