

DRAFT QUEUE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL
July 6, 2016

Preparatory Activities

Utilities, representatives from the solar industry, and the State Ombudsmen will continue their efforts to clear the pre-April 29, 2016 inventory through voluntary withdrawals and application of the 12-month limit in the prior version of the SIR.

Queue Reset for Pre-4/29 Applications

~~Notice of the upcoming interconnection queue reset for pre-4/29 applications will be given 20 business days before the consensus proposal is triggered ("start date"). At the point in time when the consensus proposal is triggered ("start date", the queue of interconnection applications submitted before 4/29/16, at whatever part of the process they are in, will be reset will need to meet the applicable below requirements in the allowed timeframes. The first requirement applies to all applications and the other requirements are based on where the application is in the process. P-and inactive projects that fail to meet the requirements will be removed from the queue. The reset will be accomplished by taking the following steps:~~

Commented [Office1]: We have added the additional timeline of notification before the interconnection queue management start date here, which was discussed and had consensus at the meeting.

- ~~1) All applications~~ will be required to provide the utilities with proof of landowner consent ~~and a three line diagram~~ within 10 business days of the start date. Landowner consent may take the form of a signed statewide standard landowner consent form (in which the landowner acknowledges that he/she is working exclusively with that developer so only one application for that land can be submitted at any one time), ~~a~~ signed option agreement ~~to lease or purchase the land~~, an executed land lease, or an executed purchase contract. Applications that do not meet this requirement will be dropped from the queue.
- ~~2) The utilities will then update the interconnection queue and publish the revised queue following completion of this step~~ within 30 business days from the end of the landowner consent verification period ~~(i.e. completion of the 10 business days specified above)~~. The utilities will ~~thereafter~~ publish the updated queue ~~monthly~~.
- ~~3) After the end of the utility queue update period (i.e. completion of the 30 business days specified above), the below~~Exact timelines ~~and/or~~ required payments based on the ~~current-new~~ SIR will be applied to the remaining applications as follows:
 - a. **Category A:** A developer who has received only a Preliminary Review by the start date will have 30 business days from the end of the utility queue update period ~~publication of the reset queue~~ to respond to the receipt of that Preliminary Review from the utility and notify the utility of their next step (i.e. full CESIR study or withdrawing the Interconnection Request). ~~This 30 business-~~ day notification timeline will be applied to each application located on a same circuit in a sequential order. Specifically, the 30 business day notification timeline will start for the first application on every circuit immediately at the end of the utility queue update period, and then the timeline for each sequential application on that circuit will start 2 business days after the one prior to it. The

order and progress of each application's decision on whether to proceed with a CESIR must be updated daily by the utilities and visible to developers. If the developer decides to move forward with a CESIR, they then have 30 business days from that notification to provide the CESIR fees or other information requested, make payment for a CESIR or withdraw the Interconnection Request, and providing the CESIR fee means proof of check or electronic transfer delivery. Checks must clear for this delivery to count. Projects for which CESIR payment is not received that do not meet the above deadlines will be removed from the queue. The 30 business day timeline will be applied to each application located on a same circuit in a sequential order. The utilities will also identify opportunities for clustering projects on the same circuit for CESIR studies. Developers may also cooperate to identify clustering opportunities. These opportunities will be optional.

b. **Category B:** A developer who has already received a CESIR study by the start date will have 30 business days to execute the New York Standardized Interconnection Contract and make an advance payment of 25% of the estimated utility costs. [Note: A 60 day after receipt of the completed CESIR requirement for the developer to decide whether to move forward with the upgrades, to pay 25% of the expected upgrade cost, and execute the interconnection contract with the utility (as in the new SIR) is desired, but no consensus has yet been reached due to additional issues the parties feel need to be addressed simultaneously in order for this requirement to be practical]

b.c. Study Schedule and Construction

Each utility will publish a schedule for the completion of CESIRs and will update it monthly/quarterly. The schedule will show, at a minimum, the start and completion dates for each study. Each individual CESIR will be completed within 60 business days of the start date established for it in the schedule. After receiving a completed CESIR, the developer will have 30 business days to execute the New York Standardized Interconnection Contract and make an advance payment of 25% of the estimated utility costs. Utilities will provide construction schedules back to the developer within 30 business days of receipt of the advance payment. Developers may arrange to pay additional funds to utilities to cover the costs of long lead-time items.

Post April 29 Applications

In addition to complying with all of the timelines of the new SIR, new applications will be required to show landowner consent as defined above in order to be submitted and enter the interconnection queue. Developers will also be required to demonstrate site control to begin a CESIR study, and this will be required in the same timeframe as the CESIR payment as proscribed by the new SIR. Site control will be able to be demonstrated via a signed option to lease or purchase agreement, an executed land lease, or an executed purchase contract. Post April 29 applications in this group that proceed to CESIR will be added to the study schedule behind with all pre-April 29 projects that proceed, and applications and will be given study start dates based on that schedule their date of CESIR payment. Payment of CESIR study fees

Commented [Office2]: We understood the consensus at the meeting to be that it would be best if these two 30 day timelines would not start at once for all applications on a circuit at the publication of the revised queue. Developers made the case that for applications further back in the queue on a circuit it would be helpful to know how many projects in front of them were moving forward with a CESIR before they decided whether it made sense to make that investment. Normally this is not an issue going forward as CESIR decisions will naturally be staggered. Thus, it was suggested that these timelines should "waterfall" or stagger a bit, while remaining simple. We would suggest that these timelines start immediately as described for the first project queued on a circuit, and every additional project on that circuit has 3 additional business days beyond those timelines and must be able to see whether the projects in front of them have moved forward with a CESIR in making their decision.

Commented [Office3]: We have added the two 30 day timelines here to be consistent with the new SIR as was discussed by the group. Also it wasn't worked out in detail, but the solar industry requested some language about what "providing the CESIR fees" will mean and how it can be verified. This is not defined in the new SIR. We would recommend that "providing the CESIR fee" mean proof of check or electronic transfer delivery, or utility confirmation of payment which must be given within 3 business days after delivery.

Commented [Office4]: We understood that the timeline on this item should be 60 days to match the new SIR, but this timeline was also the one where no consensus within the solar industry or with the utilities was yet reached and thus that it should not yet be presented as a worked out part of this consensus proposal. Instead, we would recommend that a note just be placed in this section that this 60 day/25% payment timeline is desired but how to make it feasible is being worked on. NYSEIA is convening the industry group to work on a concrete proposed solution that reflects the need for a binding 60 day timeline, but the simultaneous need to address cost sharing, and potentially permitting delays and the lack of +/- 25% cost certainty to it reasonable and doable for many projects and developers

Commented [Office5]: See above comment on "Category B"

Commented [Office6]: See above comment on "Category B"

and proof of site control will be required no later than 10 days before the designated study start date. Projects that do not meet these requirements ~~on time or any of the other required timelines in the new SIR~~ will be removed from the queue.

Commented [Office7]: We don't believe this was discussed extensively at the meeting but based on the conversation, we would recommend this as a fair way to order applications for studies.