



**Public Service
Commission**

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Rory M. Christian, Chair

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26076/ 24-E-0621; 24-E-0415

PSC Adopts Improvements to Interconnection Process for Distributed Energy Resources

Increased Transparency Will Strengthen the Distributed Renewable Market and Enable Deployment of More Clean Energy Facilities

ALBANY – The Public Service Commission (Commission) today directed the major investor-owned electric utilities to file tariff amendments to improve the transparency of interconnection requirements for distributed energy resources. The modifications adopted will enhance clarity around cost transparency, cost certainty, and process requirements related to the Standard Interconnection Requirements (SIRs). The modifications also refine the application process for new distributed generators and storage systems 5 megawatts (MW) or less connected to the utility distribution system. Evaluation of these considerations by Department of Public Service (DPS) Staff and the Commission are in response to issues raised by stakeholders as well as requirements that were enacted in recent legislation.

Public Service Commission Chair and CEO Rory Christian said, “Distributed energy resources serve as critical and strategic tools to preserve the reliability of the state’s electric grid, advance the state’s climate targets, and support energy affordability. I look forward to seeing how clearer information and additional standardization will support developers in planning projects.”

In 2024, the Renewable Action through Project Interconnection and Deployment Act (RAPID Act) directed the Commission to consider establishing metrics related to the timely interconnection of distributed generation resources into the grid. In 2024, as part of conversations in the Interconnection Policy Working Group (IPWG) and Interconnection Technical Working Groups (ITWG), stakeholders raised issues regarding increases to the utilities’ interconnection cost estimates, the accuracy of such cost estimates, and the actual costs of completed distribution system upgrades.

The Accelerate Solar for Affordable Power (ASAP) Act, enacted as part of the FY 2026-27 Executive Budget, contained several provisions to strengthen the interconnection process. These provisions included directing the Commission to undertake a proceeding to examine the cost of necessary electric system upgrades to interconnect new distributed energy resources. The Commission, through its examination of the interconnection process, generally found that the utilities

completed projects' interconnection cost studies in a timely manner and that, on average, projects' actual interconnection costs were similar to or lower than their estimated costs.

The Commission recognizes the benefit of increased transparency to the distributed energy resource interconnection process and therefore directed the utilities to file tariff amendments that will take effect by October 1, 2026. The amendments will include requirements to report on interconnection study timelines and update interconnection cost information in consultation with the ITWG. The Commission also directed the utilities to share data comparing current costs and cost estimates to those in prior years as well as file proposals for improved cost estimation.

All filings and related issues will continue to be considered within Case 24-E-0621, and Case 24-E-0415 is closed.

Documents regarding this proceeding may be obtained by going to the Search section of the Commission's Web site at www.dps.ny.gov, under 'Commission Files', and entering Case Number 24-E-0621 or Case 24-E-0415 in the input box labeled "Search by Case Number". Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission documents may also be obtained from the Commission's Files Office, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500). If you have difficulty understanding English, please call us at 1-800-342-3377 for free language assistance services regarding this press release. For more information, you may also visit your service provider's website.