

Nova Scotia Power Incorporated

Overview of Distribution Generator Interconnection Process (For Systems with Capacity ≥ 101 kW)

Including Class 2 Net Metering Service and COMFIT Projects

Revised: July 8, 2011

Applicability: These procedures apply to generators greater than or equal to 101 kW connected to Distribution Systems rated 26,400 volts and under. For generators up to 100 kW, please see NSPI's "Interconnection Guideline for Customer Generation Capacity Not Exceeding 100 kW".

1 Making an Interconnection Request

Interconnection Request Requirements are:

- 1.1 Completed Distribution Generator Interconnection Request Form including Attachments available on NSPI's OASIS website:

[Click here for link to NSPI OASIS](#)

- 1.2 \$750 fee
- 1.3 A map showing the project location
- 1.4 A basic 1-line diagram of the proposed installation.

The \$750 fee is non-refundable and is used to perform a Preliminary Assessment of the request. Payment must be in the form of a certified cheque. All forms, fees, and supporting documentation are to be sent to the following address:

**Nova Scotia Power Inc.,
5 Long lake Drive
Ragged Lake Business Park
Halifax, NS
B3S 1N8
Attention: Interconnection Engineer**

The Interconnection Engineer is the point of contact through the interconnection process. The Interconnection Engineer will coordinate the activities of NSPI personnel required to assess the interconnection of the generating facility to the distribution system.

2 Preliminary Assessment of the Project

- 2.1 NSPI acknowledges receipt of the application and once all required information has been provided assigns an initial queue position.
- 2.2 NSPI performs a Preliminary Assessment of the project, considering the size, type and location of the proposed generation equipment and the existing NSPI facilities in place.
- 2.3 The Preliminary Assessment is a high level review of system thermal limits, power quality issues (flicker/voltage levels), peak and minimum load levels, available fault levels, existing generation and other Interconnection Requests in the area. The Preliminary Assessment also provides an order-of-magnitude cost estimate of required system additions and upgrades to accommodate the Generating Facility.
- 2.4 The Preliminary Assessment report is provided to the Interconnection Customer (the applicant). The customer can remain at this stage until they are ready to proceed to the Distribution System Impact Study (DSIS) by meeting the defined progression milestones and submitting a DSIS Study Agreement.

3 Distribution System Impact Study (DSIS)

- 3.1 NSPI provides the Interconnection Customer with a scope and estimate of the cost to perform the DSIS.
- 3.2 When the Interconnection Customer meets the progression milestones (including confirmation of an existing contract for sale of energy from the Generating Facility for at least 50% of the project capacity, or Enhanced Net Meter Certification, or COMFIT project approval) they become eligible for inclusion in the Distribution System Impact Study stage, and their queue position is advanced.
- 3.3 An initial study deposit of \$10,000 (certified cheque) is required to initiate the DSIS along with detailed project technical and location information. The information required includes project capacity in MW, generator data, a one-line diagram of the Generating Facility and confirmation of the point of interconnection.
- 3.4 NSPI completes the DSIS based on the information provided with the Interconnection Request and develops specific interconnection requirements and cost estimates for any required system

additions/upgrades. The DSIS is then provided to the Interconnection Customer for review.

4 Standard Small Generator Interconnection Agreement (SSGIA)

- 4.1 Based on the DSIS findings, NSPI and the Interconnection Customer develop the project specific terms of the SSGIA.
- 4.2 The Interconnection Customer and NSPI execute the SSGIA.
- 4.3 The Interconnection Customer provides payment of the required system addition and upgrade costs.
- 4.4 Engineering, procurement and construction of required facilities commences.
- 4.5 Prior to commercial operation, NSPI & the Interconnection Customer perform and/or witness commissioning and testing of facilities.
- 4.6 Final reconciliation of actual interconnection costs incurred by NSPI will determine final refunds to, or payments by, the Interconnection Customer.

5 Time Required for Applications/Assessments/Studies

- 5.1 NSPI will acknowledge receipt of the Interconnection Request within five (5) business days.
- 5.2 NSPI will review and validate the Interconnection Request, and will complete the Preliminary Assessment. The objective for completion of the preliminary Assessment is 30 Calendar Days after receipt of a valid Interconnection Request.
- 5.3 A DSIS is normally completed within 90 Calendar Days of the Distribution System Impact Study commencement date. Actual times required may vary with the volume of studies in progress.
- 5.4 Any consultants used for these assessments / studies will work under contract to NSPI. The Interconnection Customer will be responsible for all NSPI costs incurred which will include the cost paid to the consultants and the cost for NSPI supervision of the consultants.

6 Priority of Generation Projects

- 6.1 Preliminary Assessments will be performed based on the order of the date/time the valid interconnection request was received.
- 6.2 Distribution System Impacts Studies will be given Queue priority based on the date the final progression milestone is demonstrated to be complete by the Interconnection Customer.

7 Interconnection Costs

- 7.1 The Interconnection Customer must pay all costs associated with system studies and connecting the generator to NSPI's system. These fees are as follows:
- 7.2 Interconnection Request fee - \$750 per interconnection request (Fixed cost to conduct a Preliminary Assessment.)
- 7.3 Distribution System Impact Study – \$10,000 refundable deposit. Any remaining amount will be refunded or outstanding balance will be invoiced to the Interconnection Customer.
- 7.4 System additions and Upgrade costs – these are estimated in the DSIS and vary depending on the project size and location.
- 7.5 The fees and deposits should be made payable to Nova Scotia Power Inc. Payments must be in the form of certified cheques.