

Frequently Asked Questions for SCE’s Wholesale Generation Interconnection

(Not applicable for Rule 21 or CAISO projects)

Southern California Edison (SCE) offers these guidelines to help you understand our Generator Interconnection Procedures. However, in the case of discrepancies, SCE’s tariffs and interconnection documents prevail.

Note: The answers shown below were developed from the information found in the SCE’S Wholesale Access Distribution Tariff (WDAT) located at [Grid Interconnections with Solar for Business | SCE](#)

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A. Contact Us for Additional Assistance

We have created this document to provide you with background information that may be helpful to you.

If you have additional questions, technical or otherwise, after reading the Frequently Asked Questions, please feel free to contact us through any of the following methods:

Email: InterconnectionQA@sce.com

Phone: (909) 274-1106

Mail: Grid Contract Development & Management
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Ave
PO Box 945
Rosemead, CA 91770

B. Getting Started

Note: WDAT Interconnection Requests (“IR”) submitted on or after August 15, 2024 are subject to the Resource Interconnection Procedures (“RIP”), which is Attachment M to the WDAT. Independent Study Process IRs are no longer accepted as of August 15, 2024.

1. I am a new customer with a proposed generation project. What do I need to do?

Response

To get started and learn more about the different options available for interconnecting a generation project, please visit the “Generation Project Types” heading on our [Grid Interconnections](#) webpage. The following links are available:

- [GIPT](#) (Grid Interconnection Processing Tool). All new WDAT Interconnection Requests will be processed through GIPT.
- [Generating Power for Sales](#) (start here if you plan to export your power for sale)
- [Programs for Self-Generation at Home or Business](#) (start here if you plan to generate power for use at the generating facility site)
- [Backup Systems](#) (start here if you are installing a backup system)

2. Should a developer contact the CAISO or SCE for wholesale generation interconnections?

Response

If you are unsure whether to apply with the CAISO or SCE, please forward your questions to InterconnectionQA@sce.com. Please include your proposed project size (in MW) and your proposed Point of Interconnection. Alternatively, you may call the SCE Grid Interconnection helpline at: (909) 274-1106.

3. Before completing and submitting an application, how would I get some basic information about the viability of developing a generation facility at a specified site, and where to interconnect?

Response

Technical information about your project will be evaluated during the interconnection process. For some preliminary data, please see the [Distribution Resources Plan External Portal \(DRPEP\)](#)

Disclaimer: *The DRPEP maps are updated on a monthly basis. While Southern California Edison makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of DRPEP, the data provided is for information only. Southern California Edison makes no guarantee, expressly or implied, for the outcome of an interconnection request.*

Additional information may be provided by requesting an optional “Pre-Application Report”. This is an optional report that is described in Section 3.1 of the [WDAT RIP](#)

The WDAT optional Pre-Application Report Request, containing fee payment instructions, is available at the following link:

[WDAT Pre-Application Report Request](#)

4. What is distribution service? Will my project need it? If so, when will I need to submit a distribution service request? How much is the deposit?

Response

Projects connecting to SCE’s distribution system (either through the WDAT or the Rule 21), are required to obtain “distribution service” with SCE. “Distribution service” allows the customer to be able to use SCE’s distribution system to “transport” their energy from the Point of Interconnection within SCE’s electric system to the CAISO system (where most power sales are expected to be delivered and settled in accordance with the CAISO market rules).

An Interconnection Customer requesting interconnection of a generating facility (Resource) shall concurrently request Distribution Service in accordance with WDAT Section 15.2 and Section 10 of the Interconnection Request Form (Appendix 1 to RIP).

A new request for interconnection of a Wholesale Load must provide a deposit pursuant to WDAT Section 15.2. Please submit a Distribution Service Request Form. ([Wholesale Distribution Service Request Form](#)).

5. What's the difference between applying under the WDAT vs. Rule 21 Tariff? What's the right tariff for my project?

Response

The WDAT is a FERC jurisdictional tariff and Rule 21 is under the CPUC jurisdiction. There are some differences in the study processes under the two tariffs. Please refer to SCE's WDAT and SCE's Rule 21 for each tariff's applicability.

Prior to applying for interconnection service under any of the tariffs above, consult with the entity you are negotiating a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with to identify any requirements that may affect the selection of the interconnection process.

6. What documents must be submitted with a WDAT Interconnection Request?

Response

In order to begin processing your WDAT Interconnection Request, we need the following:

- Application form: [Appendix 1 - Interconnection Request for a Generating Facility](#).
- A single-line drawing; [sample drawings](#) are available
- Site/plot plan drawing
- Confirmation of payment of the application fee and Study Deposit
- Submittal of security instrument for Commercial Readiness Deposit by the close of the Customer Engagement Window.
- Demonstration of 90% Site Control pursuant to RIP Section 4.3.1 or a Site Control Deposit in lieu of demonstrating [Site Control](#) due to a regulatory limitation
- Diagrams, manufacturer's data, and written descriptions of the generating facilities

Please refer to the WDAT for the specific application forms and requirements at the following links:

- [WDAT Interconnection Request Application Form](#)
- [Wholesale Distribution Service Request Form](#)

7. Is there a limit on the number of Interconnection Requests submitted by the same entity?

Response

No, there is no limit on the number of Interconnection Requests that can be submitted.

8. When can we submit an Interconnection Request?

Response

For projects submitting an Interconnection Request under the Cluster Study Process, there is one Cluster Request Window per year (generally, September 11-25). The next Cluster Request Window (QC16) will open on September 11, 2026.

Projects submitting an interconnection request under the Fast Track can do so at any time throughout the year.

For additional requirements for both WDAT and Rule 21, please visit our Grid Interconnections web page located at:

<https://www.sce.com/business/smart-energy-solar/solar-for-business/grid-interconnections>

9. How do I size my project for a particular location?

Response

It is the customer's decision to propose the size of the generating facility. SCE will conduct studies based on the technical specifications provided in your Interconnection Request. The studies will identify any facilities necessary for such a project to interconnect to SCE's distribution system. Please refer to Question 3 above for further details about maps and optional Pre-Application reports.

10. Can you provide more information about upgrade costs?

Response

SCE's unit cost guide is available on the CAISO website at the following link:

[CAISO PTO Per Unit Costs Process](#)

11. Can SCE provide a referral to consultants/engineers that understand the interconnection process and that can assist us with the documentation?

Response

SCE does not provide referrals for consultants/engineering firms.

12. Does SCE provide training for single line drawings?

Response

SCE provides information and examples of single line drawings in SCE's [Electrical Service Requirements](#) (ESR) Handbook.

13. Can I submit a completed Interconnection Request (IR) package, if the single line drawing does not have a professional engineering stamp?

Response

The tariff requires the single line diagram to be stamped by a professional engineer in order to be deemed complete. If your single line does not have a professional engineer stamp, it will be considered a deficiency and must be cured in order to be deemed complete.

14. Where do I find more general information about meters or switchboards?

Response

SCE’s [Electrical Service Requirements](#) (ESR) Handbook provides guidance and instructions pertaining to electrical service connections and includes information about meters and switchboards. The purpose of the ESR is to assist electrical contractors, engineers, architects, and manufacturers engaged in the installation of electrical service wiring and equipment.

In many cases, your local Service Planning Office may also be of further assistance. A list of locations and phone numbers is available on Table 1-2 of the ESR.

C. Interconnection Queue

1. When will we know where we are positioned in the interconnection queue after applying?

Response

The queue position date for each project (which determines its cost responsibility for upgrades) is established once the Interconnection Request is deemed complete (in accordance with the requirements of the WDAT). All Interconnection Request submitted in a single Cluster Request Window and validated in the Customer Engagement Window shall be considered equally queued. The Queue Position for a Fast Track project shall be assigned per RIP Section 6.2.

SCE publishes the interconnection queue (updated monthly) for public viewing at the following link:

[Grid Interconnections with Solar for Business | SCE](#)

(scroll down the page under the Additional Information section select “Interconnection Queue”)

D. Fast Track, review for eligibility

1. What is the Fast Track process?

Response

The “Fast Track” process is an expedited process to evaluate a request to interconnect eligible new generation to SCE’s electric system. The Fast Track process is intended for projects up to 5 MW for interconnection requests under SCE’s WDAT. The application can be completed at any time of the year and allows an *eligible* facility to bypass some interconnection studies *if* it meets a series of “screens”.

The Fast Track Process is intended for projects that can be interconnected without system upgrades: it allows for a faster review of an Interconnection Request against a set of predefined screens to determine whether the project can interconnect without the need for detailed engineering studies or upgrades to SCE’s electric system. The Fast Track Process is described thoroughly in Section 6 of the RIP.

To learn more about SCE’s WDAT Fast Track process please visit:

[Attachment M, WDAT Resource Interconnection Procedures](#)

2. What are the Fast Track eligibility requirements?

Response

Fast Track eligibility is determined based upon the generator type, generator size, line voltage and the Point of Interconnection.

Fast Track eligibility requirements are described in Section 6.1.1 of the RIP. To learn more about SCE’s WDAT Fast Track process please visit:

[Attachment M, WDAT Resource Interconnection Procedures](#)

3. What is the difference between an Initial Review and Supplemental Review? Does every project need both?

Response

The Initial Review and Supplemental Review are both parts of the Fast Track process. All Fast Track Applications will undergo the Initial Review process, which essentially is a high-level assessment of whether or not the project may cause any potential issues to SCE’s existing system (with the existing queue of generators). An initial review consists of 10 screens. When the engineers have completed the initial review, the results will be forwarded to you.

If required, your project may need a Supplemental Review. A Supplemental Review includes 3 additional screens. These screens may indicate that your project may be interconnected

under the Fast Track process when only minor modifications are needed. The Supplemental Review could also reveal that additional study is needed. It takes 20 business days after you provide a \$2500 deposit. Projects that successfully pass initial review screens will be allowed to interconnect without a supplemental review.

Projects that pass the supplemental review will be allowed to interconnect without further engineering studies. Failure to pass Fast Track screens (after the initial review and the supplemental review have been performed) means that the project needs further review (or study) before it can interconnect to SCE’s electric system. It does not mean that the project cannot be interconnected.

To learn more about SCE’S WDAT Fast Track process please visit:

[Wholesale Distribution Access Tariff \(WDAT\)](#)

(Scroll down and “Fast Track Process Under The RIP”)

E. Study Process

1. Is there any way for a project that uses the Fast Track Process to attain Full or Partial Capacity Deliverability Status?

Response

Yes. Fast Track projects are initially studied as “Energy-Only” projects.

CAISO conducts the annual Distributed Generation Deliverability process to allocate deliverability currently supported by existing transmission capacity. Please refer to the CAISO website to learn more about this process. Please visit the following site for more information:

[California Independent System Operator \(CAISO\) with Solar for Business | SCE](#)

2. Does SCE have to perform the interconnection studies or can the developer (or its contractor) perform the interconnection studies and have SCE review and approve the results?

Response

The WDAT RIP provides that SCE performs all interconnection studies.

3. In instances where more than one project affects the grid in such a way that Network Upgrades or Distribution Upgrades are required, how are the costs allocated?

Response

Cost allocation is described in Attachment M to the WDAT (RIP).

Generally, for projects studied together under the Cluster Study Process:

- Reliability Network Upgrades costs are allocated per MW for all generation in the cluster that requires the upgrades.
- Delivery Network Upgrades costs are allocated based on the flow impact of each generating project requesting deliverability.
- Distribution upgrades costs are allocated pro-rata per MW.

The responsibility to finance Network Upgrades is subject to a cap. Please refer to the WDAT for additional information.

For projects studied individually, they are 100% responsible for the costs they trigger. Generally, Interconnection Facilities costs are allocated 100% to the generating facility that requires the facilities.

4. Is there an additional interconnection study deposit required for the Cluster Study of the Cluster Study Process?

Response

For projects studied under the Cluster Study Process, there is a one-time Study Deposit made at the time the Interconnection Request is submitted. However, you will be responsible for the actual costs to perform these studies. If your Interconnection Study costs exceed your deposit, you will be billed for the difference following the completion of the studies.

5. Will the allocations increase over time if some developers in a cluster drop out once they see their upgrade allocations?

Response

A non-binding "maximum financial responsibility" for Network Upgrades will be provided in the Cluster Study Report, pursuant to RIP Section 4.8.3. The Cluster Study will also preliminarily identify Distribution Upgrades and Interconnection Facilities. The Interconnection Facilities Study shall specify the binding "maximum financial responsibility" cost responsibility for Network Upgrades, pursuant to RIP Section 4.10.7.3. Distribution Upgrades and Interconnection Facilities are based on actual costs.

6. Is one of the results of the Cluster Study the granting of Full Capacity Deliverability Status for projects in that cluster?

Response

Yes, to the extent the Interconnection Customer requests Full Capacity or Partial Capacity Deliverability Status on its Interconnection Request and the CAISO determines deliverability can be granted to that request.

7. Are there any additional requirements to proceed from the Cluster Study to the Cluster Restudy and from the Cluster Restudy to the Interconnection Facilities Study in the Cluster Study Process (i.e., what might stop a project proceeding after the Cluster Study)?

Response

The requirements to proceed to a Cluster Restudy are set forth in Section 4.9.2 of the WDAT RIP. These include: posting the required additional Commercial Readiness Deposit (if applicable), demonstration of continued Site Control. The requirements to proceed to an Interconnection Facilities Study are set forth in Section 4.10.1 of the WDAT RIP. These include demonstration of 100% Site Control and an additional Commercial Readiness Deposit (if applicable).

F. Material Modification Assessment

1. Can I modify my Interconnection Request after I submit it?

Response

For projects that have submitted an Interconnection Request in the Cluster Study Process certain modifications may be allowed if agreed upon and acceptable to SCE and CAISO as applicable, and the Interconnection Customer. The tariff describes permitted modifications in RIP Section 4.8.6.2.

Please note that similar modifications are not permitted in the Fast Track process under the WDAT (although some minor modifications may be permitted).

In addition, Material Modifications are those modifications that have a material impact on the cost or timing of any Interconnection Request with an equal or later Queue Position date. If your proposed changes are considered to be a "Material Modification" you will be required to withdraw the modification or the Interconnection Request.

For additional details, please reference the WDAT RIP, Section 4.8.6.2.4.

G. Interconnection Agreement

1. At what point in time is the money spent on Network Upgrades refunded back to the entity that paid for them?

Response

Section 10.4 of the RIP describes the funding of Network Upgrades. Section 10.4.1.1 further describes the repayment to the Interconnection Customer upon the Commercial Operation Date of the Generating Facility, in accordance with the methodology set forth in Article 11.4 of the Cluster Generator Interconnection Agreement (GIA), for the Interconnection Customer's contribution to the cost of (a) Reliability Network Upgrades up to a maximum

amount established in Section 14.3.2.1 of Appendix KK to the CAISO Tariff, and (b) Local Delivery Network Upgrades, with some exceptions. The money collected from the customer for Network Upgrades refunds (plus interest) are typically made on a straight-line basis over the five years after achieving commercial operation. There may be some additional exceptions as outlined in the project's Interconnection Agreement.

2. Can I see a copy of the WDAT GIA?

Response

The currently effective pro forma GIA for the Cluster Study Process is found in Appendix 4 to the WDAT RIP and the pro forma GIA for the Fast Track Process is found in Appendix 5 to the WDAT RIP. The appendices (which are blank) will be developed and completed after completion of the last study.