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Witness: Warren R. Boutin and Andrew C. Belden
Request from: Interconnection Customer Coalition

Question:

In a narrative response, describe the Eversource process for interconnecting a generation project in Connecticut, in the following categories:

a. Residential Inverter-Based Generators 50 kW or less;

b. Fast Track: Residential Inverters greater than 50 kW;

c. Commercial & Industrial less than or equal to 2 MW; and

d. Study Process: Complex projects greater than 2 MW.

Include relevant Eversource business units that must review/sign off/be consulted, describe approvals to move on to the next stage, and required timelines or deadlines that must be met.

Response:

Connecticut interconnection is administered under PURA-approved Guidelines. The EDCs may consider case-specific exemptions; these may include, but are not limited to, applicant redesign, supplemental review, or movement between Fast Track and Study. In addition, ISO-NE transmission and Proposed Plan Application ("PPA") steps sit outside the state Guidelines and can control the critical path even for state-jurisdictional distribution interconnections. More information on the ISO review process is outlined below. The Eversource process for interconnecting a generation project in Connecticut can be found using the following link:

Connecticut Application to Connect

The interconnection process, in a narrative response, is administered using the following documents:

- Guidelines for the Interconnection of Residential Single Phase Certified Inverter-Based Generating Facilities of 50 kW (AC) or Less (April 11, 2025)

- Guidelines for Generator Interconnection — Agile Fast Track and Study Processes (September 1, 2026), which exclude residential inverter-based projects 50 kW or less

The timeframes below are Guideline timeframes. The EDCs make reasonable efforts to meet them unless the parties agree otherwise.

ISO-NE review for projects greater than 1 MW:

Independent of the state Guidelines and of whether the interconnection is state-jurisdictional, any Generating Facility greater than 1 MW must comply with ISO-NE rules, including Tariff Section I.3.9 and Planning Procedure 5 (PPA). Projects 5 MW or greater generally require a PPA supported by Level III Transmission study. Projects greater than 1 MW and less than 5 MW are screened by ISO-NE; a Generator Notification Form may suffice, or ISO-NE may require further analysis, including a transmission system impact study. Transmission Planning Engineering coordinates this review with ISO-NE. These ISO-NE steps sit outside the Eversource/UI Guidelines. The duration and outcomes are not controlled by the Guideline timelines below and may extend the overall interconnection timeline, including the date an executable Interconnection Agreement can be issued. The EDC cannot issue an executable Interconnection Agreement until applicable ISO-NE requirements are met.

Residential inverter-based generators 50 kW or less:

These projects follow the 50 kW-or-less Guidelines and are processed in PowerClerk.

After submission of an application and all applicable fees, the Company acknowledges receipt within 3 business days.

Completeness review occurs within 10 business days of acknowledgment. Incomplete applications are placed on hold. If missing material is not provided within 15 business days, the application may be deemed withdrawn.

If applicable, tariff-compliance review is completed as an initial step and the project then proceeds to technical screening. If technical screens are passed, Contingent Approval is issued within 15 business days. Screens include transformer nameplate versus aggregate generation, shared-secondary ampacity, the 120 V / 4 kW limit, and voltage-change limits consistent with PURA Docket 03-01-15RE04 and Conn. Agencies Regs. §16-11-115(a).

A screen failure does not automatically start a study. The Applicant is given options to redesign the system to pass the screens or is directed to the Agile Fast Track and Study Process Guidelines, unless the EDC waives that path. Area-network interconnections may also be directed to Fast Track/Study unless waived.

After municipal electrical inspection, the EDC may request a commissioning/witness test and metering work within 10 business days. Parallel operation is not allowed until the EDC issues approval to operate.

Primary coordination is between Customer Care and Distribution Planning Engineering for screens. Meter Engineering is typically involved in commissioning and service upgrades. Design Engineering, Protection and Control, and Substation Engineering are consulted only if a screen failure or a network/service issue requires it.

Guidelines for Generator Interconnection Agile Fast Track and Study Processes September 1, 2026:

Both categories use Section 3 — Agile Fast Track Process of the September 1, 2026 Guidelines. Fast Track also applies to certified residential inverter projects 50 kW or less that failed the Level 1 screens.

Agile Fast Track Process:

The Applicant submits the application along with applicable fees. Receipt is acknowledged within 3 business days. Completeness notice is issued within 10 business days. The Applicant has 15 business days to cure incompleteness.

The Facilitator may hold an initial project meeting to set process expectations, the requested in-service date, and milestones.

Initial technical review occurs within 10 to 15 business days after the application is deemed complete (Section 3.2 screens; hosting-capacity map data may be used in lieu of screens at EDC discretion).

If the screens pass and no supplemental review is requested or required, the EDC provides an executable Interconnection Agreement, subject to any applicable ISO-NE approvals.

If screens fail or more details are needed, a Customer Options Meeting may be held, followed by optional or required Supplemental Review. The Supplemental Review Agreement is issued within 10 business days; the Applicant has 10 business days to execute and pay.

Additional technical review (metering, service, protection, SCADA, or a site visit) may follow.

If Fast Track or Supplemental Review cannot confirm a safe, reliable interconnection, the project proceeds to the Study Process (Section 4).

Projects greater than 1 MW require compliance with ISO-NE rules as described in the ISO-NE note above. That review is coordinated by Transmission Planning Engineering and may affect the Guideline timelines. The Company issues an executable Interconnection Agreement only after required distribution review is complete, any needed internal approvals are obtained, and applicable ISO-NE requirements are satisfied. The Generator generally has 30 business days to execute the agreement.

Business units involved vary with complexity: Customer Care (Facilitator), Distribution Planning Engineering (screens and supplemental review), Meter Engineering, Design Engineering, Protection and Control, and Substation Engineering as needed; Transmission Planning Engineering and ISO-NE when transmission or PPA issues arise; Legal if the agreement or dispute path requires it.

Study Process:

Section 4 applies to Generating Facilities greater than 2 MW, facilities 2 MW or less that are not certified, or certified facilities 2 MW or less that did not pass Fast Track.

Application intake follows the same completeness timelines as Fast Track. The application fee is paid; study fees are at actual cost. Initial application review is targeted within 15 business days.

A scoping meeting may be held, to decide whether to perform a Feasibility Study or proceed directly to a System Impact Study, a Facility Study, or an Interconnection Agreement, and whether an ISO-NE System Impact Study is needed. If a Feasibility Study is selected, the Feasibility Study Agreement is issued.

The Generator has 30 business days to execute each study agreement and pay the estimated cost and provide any additional information requested in the milestones.

Distribution studies (Feasibility, Distribution System Impact) typically take about 30 to 60 business days each after the agreement is executed and milestones are met. A Facility Study is usually conducted when significant EPS upgrades are identified, unless the Generator waives it.

After each study, results and upgrade costs are provided. An optional results meeting may be held. Internal EDC approval of identified work is obtained as needed.

Transmission and ISO-NE studies, if required, including all projects greater than 1 MW under ISO-NE rules as described above under ISO-NE procedures (PP5, Schedules 22/23, and Section I.3.9), not under the state Guideline clocks. Those steps can extend the study schedule. The EDC files the PPA for non-Governance Participant generators and supports the process; the Generator remains responsible for data accuracy and study and upgrading costs. It is worth noting that a Level III Transmission study can take up to 18 months to complete.

After all required distribution and ISO-NE steps and any needed internal approvals, the EDC issues an executable Interconnection Agreement. The Generator has 30 business days to sign and must meet the payment and all milestones in the agreement.

Municipal approval and a commissioning/witness test follow. The EDC aims to schedule the witness test within 10 business days of municipal approval, then issue written authorization to interconnect. Costs are trued up, generally within six months.

Coordination is led jointly by Customer Care (Facilitator) and Distribution Planning Engineering, with Design Engineering, Protection and Control, Meter Engineering, Substation Engineering, Distribution System Planning, Transmission Planning Engineering (ISO-NE), and Legal engagement as the project requires.