UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Review of Generator Interconnection Agreements and Procedures	Docket No. RM16-12-000
American Wind Energy Association	Docket No. RM15-21-000

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

(April 13, 2016)

As announced in the Notice of Technical Conference issued on March 29, 2016 in the above-captioned proceedings,[1] Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) staff will hold a technical conference on May 13, 2016 to discuss select issues related to a petition for rulemaking submitted by the American Wind Energy Association (Docket No. RM15-21-000).[2] In addition, the conference will explore other generator interconnection issues, including interconnection of electric storage resources. The conference will be held from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm (EDT) in the Commission Meeting Room at Commission headquarters, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426. Members of the Commission may attend the conference, which will also be open for the public to attend. Advance registration is not required, but is encouraged. Attendees may register at the following webpage: https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/05-13-16-form.asp

Attached to this supplemental notice is a list of interconnection queue topics considered for discussion at the technical conference. Questions that speakers should be prepared to discuss are grouped by topic below. Please note that this organization does not necessarily reflect the individual panels that will take place at the technical

[1] Review of Generator Interconnection Agreements and Procedures, Docket Nos. RM16-12-000 and American Wind Energy Association, Docket No. RM15-21-000 (Mar. 29, 2016) (Notice of Technical Conference).

[2] The comments filed in Docket No. RM15-21-000 will be incorporated into Docket No. RM16-12-000.

conference. A final agenda will be provided in a subsequent supplemental notice of technical conference. Those interested in speaking at the technical conference should notify the Commission by **April 20, 2016**, by completing the online form at the following webpage: https://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/registration/05-13-16-speaker-form.asp. On this form, speakers can provide biographical information and indicate preferred topics to address. Due to time constraints, it may not be possible to accommodate all those interested in speaking. Selected speakers will be notified as soon as possible.

Discussions at the conference may involve issues raised in proceedings that are currently pending before the Commission. These proceedings include, but are not limited to:

E.ON Climate & Renewables North America LLC, Pioneer Trail Wind Farm, LLC, Settlers Trail Wind Farm, LLC v. Northern Indiana Public Service Company, Docket No. EL14-66-002;

Entergy Arkansas, Inc., Docket No. ER14-671-000;

Internal MISO Generators v. Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., Docket No. EL15-99-000;

Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., Docket No. ER16-675-000;

California Independent System Operator Corporation, Docket No. ER16-693-000;

ISO New England, Inc., Docket No. ER16-946-000;

Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., Docket No. ER16-1120-000; and

Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., Docket No. ER16-1211-000.

The conference will be transcribed and webcast. A link to the webcast of this event will be available in the Commission Calendar of Events at http://www.ferc.gov. Transcripts of the technical conference will be available for a fee from Ace-Reporting (202- 347-3700). The Capitol Connection provides technical support for the webcasts and offers the option of listening to the conferences via phone-bridge for a fee. For additional information, visit www.CapitolConnection.org or call (703) 993-3100.

Commission conferences are accessible under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For accessibility accommodations, please send an email to accessibility@ferc.gov or call toll free (866) 208-3372 (voice) or (202) 502-8659 (TTY), or send a FAX to (202) 208-2106 with the required accommodations.

For more information about the technical conference, please contact Tony Dobbins (Tony.Dobbins@ferc.gov; 202-502-6630) or Adam Pan (Adam.Pan@ferc.gov; 202-502-6023). For information related to logistics, please contact Sarah McKinley (Sarah.Mckinley@ferc.gov; 202-502-8368).

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

Review of Generator Interconnection Agreements and Procedures Technical Conference
Docket Nos. RM16-12-000 and RM15-21-000
May 13, 2016, Washington, DC

Topics for Discussion

The Current State of Generator Interconnection Queues

Speakers should be prepared to discuss the following topics:

1. How well generator interconnection queues are working, the metrics that are used to evaluate queue performance, and whether there are clear areas in which improvement is needed.
2. Whether projects in the queue contributing most significantly to queue backlogs are geographically dispersed or concentrated. Whether there are queue solutions that might adequately account for the geographic characteristics of projects contributing to queue congestion.
3. Queue management practices and whether there are best practices that should be incorporated across regions.
4. The extent to which regions have pursued changes to the generator interconnection process that could be implemented without requiring tariff changes, as noted by the Commission in the 2008 Order on Technical Conference.[3]
5. The primary considerations that should be taken into account when developing solutions for each region's individual interconnection queue issues.

Transparency and Timing in the Generator Interconnection Study Process

Speakers should be prepared to discuss the following topics:

1. The length of time it takes to complete the interconnection process, causes of variances in receiving study results, causes of variances in length of time in the

[3] *Interconnection Queueing Practices, 1*22 FERC ¶ 61,252, at PP 10 (2008). As guidance in this order, the Commission stated that reforms made without tariff changes could include: increasing the staff available to work on interconnection studies; adopting more efficient modeling for feasibility studies or system impact studies; and performing a single system impact study for a cluster of interconnection requests.

queue, and how delays (and their causes) are reported to interconnection customers.

2. How study costs are determined, how consistent these costs are between markets and regions, whether (and how) interconnection customers are made aware of study costs in advance of requesting interconnection service.
3. The information (models, assumptions, cost estimates, etc.) interconnection customers currently have access to and the stage in the interconnection process such access is provided (pre-request, study stage, etc.). Whether additional information (historical and/or projected curtailment or pricing information, etc.) should be available to interconnection customers to assist them in planning projects, and the challenges and/or barriers to providing this information.
4. How the capacity factor used for variable generation modeling is determined (in general terms) and shared with interconnection customers.
5. The triggers for restudy, how they are determined, and whether they are stated in the tariff. The possible effect that limiting the number of restudies would have on reliability or cost estimates, allocations, or assignments.

Certainty in Cost Estimates and Construction Time

Speakers should be prepared to discuss the following topics:

1. The manner in which disputes regarding interconnection configurations or direct assignment and network upgrade costs are typically resolved and how such disputes could be avoided. The frequency of such disputes.
2. When cost and construction schedule estimates are provided to interconnection customers and the accuracy of these estimates compared to actual results. Whether early cost estimates are sufficient to allow customers to make decisions whether to move forward with a project. The process changes necessary to provide more accurate estimates earlier to interconnection customers.
3. The factors that affect accuracy of cost and schedule estimates and how estimate variances can be reduced.
4. How other queued facilities that may impact an interconnection customer's request are identified and when interconnection customers made aware of such facilities e.g., a lower-queued project being informed that the withdrawal of a specific higher-queued project may affect it. The challenges of identifying those facilities that may impact an interconnection request.

Other Interconnection Queue Coordination and Management Issues

Speakers should be prepared to discuss the following topics:

1. Coordinating interconnection requests with affected systems[4] and the challenges associated with affected system coordination and areas for improvement.

[4] As defined in the *pro forma* LGIA & LGIP, Affected System shall mean an electric system other than the transmission provider's transmission system that may be affected

2. The types of changes to a project that should be allowed without changing the project's position in the queue, i.e., determining an appropriate threshold for modifications to a project before it should lose its place in the queue.
3. How to manage the effects of project withdrawals from the interconnection queue and possible best practices to keep the queue moving despite project withdrawal. The appropriate balance between attempts to prevent speculative projects from entering the queue and the recognition that the study process is designed to iteratively provide information that project developers will use to decide whether to proceed or withdraw (possibly causing restudies).
4. How transmission providers, transmission owners, and interconnection customers coordinate during the interconnection process, and possible areas for improvement.
5. Technologies, tools, or administrative processes that could improve the accuracy of cost and time estimates, reduce the processing time, or increase the efficiency of the interconnection queue process.

Interconnection of Electric Storage Resources

Speakers should be prepared to discuss the following topics:

1. Whether existing interconnection rules and *pro forma* interconnection agreements support the interconnection of electric storage resources of any size.
2. Potential improvements to interconnection procedures or interconnection agreements that may better facilitate the interconnection of both stand-alone electric storage and electric storage combined with generation.
3. The appropriate level of interconnection service for combined electric storage and generation facilities.
4. Requirements that trigger a new interconnection request if electric storage is added to existing generation facilities.
5. Interconnection of distribution-level and aggregated electric storage resources that participate in the RTO and ISO markets.
6. The modeling of electric storage resources for interconnection studies and potential improvements to current modeling practices, including whether electric storage assets should be modeled as load, generation, or both.

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by the proposed interconnection. Order No. 2003-A, FERC Stats. & Regs. 31,160, App. 6 (Standard Large Generator Interconnection Agreement), art. 1 (2004).