



FAQ's - Generation Interconnections to Transmission Facilities Under the ISO Operational Control

a. Is there an old and new process for determining interconnection priority?

Answer: Yes. Under the old process, interconnection requests were processed sequentially in the order of the Queue (see <http://www.caiso.com/docs/2002/06/11/2002061110300427214.html>). Under the new process, requests are processed together in clusters. Cluster studies begin every six months around the beginning and the middle of the calendar year. Please see the section 3.3 of the *ISO Tariff Appendix GG*, “Large Generator Interconnection Procedures (LGIP) for Interconnection Requests in a Queue Cluster Window”:
<http://www.caiso.com/pubinfo/tariffs/index.html>

Once the interconnection studies are done, there is no fundamental difference in priority or type of interconnection service that is provided between the old and the new process. The following is a link to the current documents related to the new Generation Interconnection Process Reform (GIPR) process:

<http://www.caiso.com/1f42/1f42c00d28c30.html>

i. Which one do I fall under?

Answer: All requests received after June 2, 2008 will be processed in clusters. All requests received prior to that date should have their studies completed or very close to completion. Changes to a project submitted under the old process may cause it to move to the new process. For further detail see section 25.1 of the *ISO Tariff*: <http://www.caiso.com/pubinfo/tariffs/index.html>

ii. How does the priority change between the two?

Answer: See above.

iii. Does the type of generation influence the priority (e.g. renewable versus thermal)?

Answer: No.

b. What did the Generation Interconnection Process Reform (GIPR) accomplish?

Answer: It streamlined the study process and allowed the ISO to efficiently clear the huge backlog of projects that were piling up in the serial process. It also removed delays associated with the need to restudy later queued projects, which could arise when an earlier queued project withdrew from the queue and thereby changed assumptions about interconnection.



FAQ's - Generation Interconnections to Transmission Facilities Under the ISO Operational Control

c. How do I start the process?

Answer: By submitting a formal interconnection request as described in “Whom do I speak to?” below.

i. Whom do I speak to?

Answer: The process is started by submitting a complete application for interconnection request. The applicable forms are located on the ISO web site at the following web page sections titled “Generator Interconnection Application for Generators Over 20 MW” and in section titled “Generator Interconnection Application for Generators 20 MW or Less.”:
<http://www.caiso.com/docs/2002/06/11/2002061110300427214.html>. After the ISO receives the application, the assigned ISO project manager will contact you.

ii. Does the megawatt size of the project determine what process to follow?

Answer: Yes. Projects that are 20 MW or less in size can choose the Small Generator Interconnection Process (SGIP). The SGIP is an expedited process. Projects that are larger than 20 MW will need to follow the Large Generator Interconnection Process (LGIP). Find descriptions for both processes at www.caiso.com/docs/2002/06/11/2002061110300427214.html

iii. If I put in a request for application today, what is the soonest possible date I could connect my new generator to the grid?

Answer: This is a nearly impossible question to answer because there are many circumstances outside of the ISO's control that a generator must comply with, such as environmental requirements, land acquisition, equipment availability and permits. Typical time lines and calendar days for the application process activities can be found in the latest “GIPR Proposal” on the ISO web site at: <http://www.caiso.com/1f42/1f42c00d28c30.html>



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d. What is the Resource Interconnection Management System (RIMS) and how is it used with the generator interconnection process?

Answer: RIMS is a software application that the ISO uses to track and provide status reports for generator interconnection projects. The original interconnection request application is sent by the applicant to the ISO (<http://www.caiso.com/docs/2002/06/11/2002061110300427214.html>) which enters the information into RIMS after the interconnection request is received. The ISO recommends that each of the applicants request access to RIMS early in the process so that the applicant can track the progress of the project directly. The assigned ISO project manager will help provide this access and instructions on how to use the application.

e. What is the average cost of interconnection that a generator can expect to pay in addition to the cost of the generating facility?

Answer: Interconnection costs can range from a few hundred thousand dollars to hundreds of millions of dollars, depending on the interconnection point and size of the generation project. However, most of these costs tend to be Network Upgrades, and Network Upgrades costs are paid back to the interconnection customer over a five year period following commercial operating date as described in the Large Generator Interconnection Agreement (LGIA).

i. Do the costs for interconnecting to ISO operationally controlled transmission assets change according to the owner of those facilities?

Answer: No.

f. How are the estimated costs determined?

Answer: See section 6.4 of the *ISO Tariff Appendix GG*.
<http://www.caiso.com/201c/201cc1ea20600.pdf>

g. What is considered in determining the estimated interconnection costs of a new generator and what assumptions are made?

Answer: See section 6.2 of the *ISO Tariff Appendix GG*
<http://www.caiso.com/pubinfo/tariffs/index.html>

h. Once my project is approved and/or in commercial operation do I have to do anything for minor changes in the ratings?

Answer: Yes. Reductions in the rating should be reported to the ISO (e.g. to ensure that the Net Qualifying Capacity for resource adequacy counting



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purposes is accurate). Increases in the rating would require a new interconnection request for the incremental amount of the increase.

FAQ's - Generation Interconnections to Transmission Facilities Under the ISO Operational Control

- i. **Do I have to submit all proposed new facilities, up-rated facilities, and/or transmission facilities through the ISO's Request Window Procedures?**

Answer: Yes. See the *ISO Tariff Appendix GG*
(<http://www.caiso.com/pubinfo/tariffs/index.html>).

- j. **How do I determine where to connect my generator to the grid?**

Answer: This is one of the purposes of the scoping meeting described in Section 5 of the *ISO Tariff Appendix GG*
(<http://www.caiso.com/pubinfo/tariffs/index.html>).

- k. **What are the market indicators to determine best location for generator interconnection?**

Answer: See the ISO OASIS web-page: <http://oasis.caiso.com/>

- l. **What is the process for submitting a project seeking trunkline treatment?**

Answer: The requirements for submitting a Location Constrained Resource Interconnection Facility (LCRIF) (also called trunkline) are set forth in detail in 24.1.3 of the *California ISO Tariff Appendix EE*:
(<http://www.caiso.com/pubinfo/tariffs/index.html>).