

News Release

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California ISO board takes action to improve interconnection process Enhancements designed to help generation and storage projects come online

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) Board of Governors today approved policy changes aimed at clearing the path for generation and storage projects as they move through the electric grid interconnection process.

These enhancements will ultimately help California meet public policy goals in the midst of a quickly changing energy environment.

With 288 active generation and storage projects currently in its interconnection queue, the ISO developed policy changes designed to smooth the process for getting projects online. The enhancements are the culmination of a yearlong stakeholder initiative process, and are intended to improve efficiency, transparency, and financial risk-sharing of the interconnection process.

In an effort to better serve transmission owners and interconnection customers, the board approved actions in three areas:

- Network upgrade definitions and cost responsibility – this enhancement would add definitions to the ISO tariff to clarify which network upgrades impact interconnection costs, and how the costs are calculated. The tariff changes would make clear the method of figuring costs and assigning financial responsibility, and give terms strict definitions, to avoid ambiguity and customer confusion.
- Minimum acceptance criteria for interconnection requests – this will establish specific parameters for what must be included in an interconnection request by the close of the application window, which will prevent time delays due to missing information.
- Validation procedures for interconnection requests – this change would extend the interconnection validation period and allow flexibility in meeting deadlines. Currently, transmission owners and the ISO have found meeting the validation timelines challenging, because of a higher volume of requests, the increased complexity of power plants, and multiple reliability requirements to meet.

If approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the new network upgrade definitions and clarifications on cost responsibility are expected to take effect



this summer. The minimum acceptance criteria and validation procedures for interconnection requests are expected to take effect in April.

In other business, ISO President and CEO Steve Berberich welcomed new board members Severin Borenstein and Mary Leslie, recently appointed by Gov. Gavin Newsom. Newsom also reappointed David Olsen to the board.

To view the board agenda, learn more about the interconnection process enhancements, and read biographies on the board members, go to the ISO's [Board of Governors](#) webpage.

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<p>The California ISO provides open and non-discriminatory access to one of the largest power grids in the world. The vast network of high-voltage transmission power lines is supported by a competitive energy market and comprehensive grid planning. Partnering with about a hundred clients, the nonprofit public benefit corporation is dedicated to the continual development and reliable operation of a modern grid that operates for the benefit of consumers. Recognizing the importance of the global climate challenge, the ISO is at the forefront of integrating renewable power and advanced technologies that will help meet a sustainable energy future efficiently and cleanly.</p>	