## **Stakeholder Comments Template**

# **Subject: Modifications to the Small Generator Interconnection Procedures Issues Paper and**

Submitted by	Company	Date Submitted
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## Meeting

This template was created to help stakeholders submit written comments on topics related to the April 1, 2010 Modifications to the Small Generator Interconnection Procedures Issue Paper and April 12, 2010 Small Generator Interconnection Procedures Stakeholder Meeting. Please submit comments and thoughts (in MS Word) to <a href="mailto:dkirrene@caiso.com">dkirrene@caiso.com</a> no later than the close of business on April 27, 2010.

The ISO is interested in knowing the importance and urgency of the issues identified through this stakeholder process. The issues identified below are further described in the Issues Paper. Please rate the importance of each issue as high, medium or low by checking the check box. In addition, please identify the urgency for getting each of the identified issues resolved. Check the urgent check box for issues that should be resolved in a FERC filing this year. Check the not urgent check box if the issue could be resolved beyond year-end. The information provided will assist the ISO in determining the scope of this stakeholder effort.

Study Process Issues							
	Importance	Urgency					
2.1.1 Time required for the SGIP study process	high medium low	urgent not urgent					
2.1.2 SGIP serial study process coordination with the studies under the large generation interconnection procedures (LGIP)	high medium low	urgent not urgent					
2.1.3 Avoiding delays caused by the increasing volume of SGIP projects	high medium low	urgent not urgent					
2.1.4 Detail and necessity	☐ high medium☐ low	urgent not urgent					

of the feasibility s	study					
2.1.5 Interconnec	ction	high medium low	urgent	not urgent		
request data requ	uirements					
2.1.6 Should the	SGIP	high medium low	urgent	not urgent		
accommodate re	-studies?					
2.1.7 Availability		high medium low	urgent	not urgent		
current base case						
use by project de			_			
2.1.8 Delays and		high medium low	urgent	not urgent		
uncertainty in stu	•					
caused by project	ts that					
withdraw						
Comments:	work under requests, of study serial delays in still is hamperial renewable reformed L SGIP proceduncertainties.  Application high for the concerns earlier reforms/en	des: SCE believes strongly that current SGIP timelines don't ider the environment created by the high volume of SGIP is, creating the imperative for modifications. The inability to be rial SGIPs in relation to clustered LGIPs leads to inevitable in study completion adds to the uncertainty that generators say be ring their ability to interconnect generation, particularly ble generation. Generators have expressed concern that the rocess will only lengthen further and create further inties to generators.  Atton fee: SCE is wary of raising the application \$ amount too the SGIP, being sensitive to small business and competitive is expressed by stakeholders. However, /enhancements to the "fast track" screening process should to help those projects that clearly have no or minimal impacts				
	for or performent. A development of the system unimportary comprehers the reforment of the reforment of the stakeholder the reforment of the stakeholder of the stakeholder of the reforment of the stakeholder of	form all 3 interconnection studies. As was stated in the form process, if provided sufficient base case information, veloper should be able to perform (or have a consultant a feasibility study prior to submitting an application. Many is seek to waive the feasibility study and proceed directly the impact study, which in SCE's view shows the relative ance of the feasibility study to the generators. A more rensive study, similar to the Phase I or Phase II study found and LGIP is proving much more informative for all lers.  The Facilities Study (or equivalently, the Phase II study to the last word for the network upgrades, but this is not the any distribution system upgrades. There needs to be the revisit the distribution system upgrades, as they are non-				

refundable.

**Transparency of WDAT:** SCE publishes its WDAT queue on its Open Access website and regularly updates it. SCE is willing to discuss with stakeholders additional measures that are reasonably feasible and that may improve transparency of the WDAT interconnection process.

**Viability of projects:** SCE does not agree that PTOs should be responsible for assessing the viability of projects that are proposed to interconnect. Any viability screening is purview of the developers, and any criteria for establishing criteria would necessarily be subjective and lead to protracted and unnecessary disputes.

#### Solution Ideas:

Timelines and Study Process: SCE proposes that the best approach to solve the disconnection between SGIP and LGIP is to bring both processes into a single unified study process. One possible solution is to re-examine the need for two Phase I studies in the LGIP in a given year, as well as the length of the Phase II study process. Experience thus far with the Transition Cluster leads SCE to believe that the LGIP study process could be shortened and the SGIP study process lengthened slightly in order to better synch the two processes. SCE understands the rationale behind having the two LGIP Phase I studies in a given year was driven by the procurement process. However, if the extra Phase I study, in experience, is outliving its usefulness due to the delay it engenders, perhaps the playing field has changed and the second Phase I study is expendable. In the long run, SCE believes that only a fully-integrated study process (integrating SGIP and LGIP) will be the best solution to address stakeholder concerns regarding the timing of the study process, the interaction between LGIP and SGIP, and the reduction of uncertainty as to timing and cost of required network upgrades and interconnection facilities.

SCE is concerned whether FERC would allow an integrated LGIP and SGIP. SCE believes that FERC instituted separate processes under pressure from small generation developers, and under the perception that small generation requests should have fewer impacts to the transmission system, and therefore could move faster through the study process. However, given the change in technology in recent years, and the creation of business plans based on an arbitrary 20 MW limit, SCE believes that the rationale for keeping LGIP and SGIP as separate processes has passed. The surge in the number of SGIP requests supports this view.

Perhaps the two processes could stay separate, but operate in

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parallel, with the same timeframes. Or alternatively, the MW threshold could be lowered so that most of the current SGIP interconnection requests will be converted to LGIP requests and proceed under the reformed LGIP process. SCE envisions lowering the MW threshold for SGIP to something like 3-5 MW (subject to stakeholder input). Interconnection requests between 3-5 MW and 20 MW might have lower application fees than the LGIP >20MW, etc., but would be required to pass thru the clustering LGIP study process.

**Application Fee:** Perhaps raising the application fee slightly (not of the magnitude seen in the LGIP reform), or tiering the application fee, such as in SCE's proposal above for lower application fees for the "SGIP but studied under LGIP" type of projects, might provide some relief. In addition, providing a mechanism (and enforcing it) that would re-package multiple applications by the same developer in a certain region could also play a role in reducing the sheer volume of requests.

Application and Feasibility Study: SCE believes that the SGIP application should contain the same level of detail as is found in the application for the reformed LGIP. This is one area where due diligence at the outset could end up saving a developer, CAISO, and the PTOs both time and \$ in placing the most/latest information in its application. Since SCE's experience is that many generators prefer to waive the feasibility study, it should be eliminated. Better information sharing upfront (base cases, etc.) and scoping meetings should be able to assist generators in making good decisions on where to develop generation.

**Restudies:** As distribution upgrades are non-refundable, SCE proposes that any reform include the ability to re-open the plan of service (like a true-up) after the final interconnection study for distribution upgrades.

### **Deliverability Issues Related to Interconnecting Small Generation**

2.2.1 Should SGIP have an	high medium low	urgent	not urgent
option for deliverability?			
2.2.2 Should there be an	☐ high☐ medium low	urgent	not urgent
opportunity to have "partial			
deliverability"?			
2.2.3 Should there be a	☐ high☐ medium low	urgent	not urgent
later opportunity to change			
deliverability status after			
generator is commercially			
operational?			

2.2.4 How would a change		☐ high☐ medium☐ low	☐urgent ■ not urgent						
in policy affect existing									
generation and/c									
projects in the qu									
Comments:	Deliverabite SGIP general evaluation. However, Some would be deliverability provision with the cost of would the generators of the cost of would the generator of the cost of the cost of the cost of would the generator of the cost of would be deliverability.	bility and Partial Deliverability: SCE believes strongly that heration resources should qualify for Resource Adequacy in through a CAISO-administered deliverability assessment. SCE is not sure what "partial deliverability" means, how it defined, what benefit it would provide a generator, and how he eventually cured into "full deliverability". As partial deliverability is not an option under the reformed LGIP, if such a were to be added to the SGIP, there may need to be further about partial deliverability under the LGIP (further reason is not supportive of partial deliverability). Another reason all deliverability makes little sense to SCE, is that if the resought later to achieve "full deliverability" and was allocated of delivery network upgrades to make it fully deliverable, how a generator be allocated the financial responsibility for those network upgrades (assuming the generator has already commercial operation)? Likewise, would the upgrades be refund (likely), and would credits be paid within five years evement of "full deliverability"? This topic seems to create estions than answers.  WDAT Deliverability: SCE sees no good reason to keep regarding deliverability different between the TO and WDAT							
Solution ideas:	Deliverability and Partial Deliverability: SCE does not believe partial deliverability creates any benefit to a small generator, the option should be full deliverability, with the associated requirement to finance delivery network upgrades, or energy only; with nothing in between.								
Issues relating to Cost Certainty									
2.3.1 Developers	2.3.1 Developers desire high medium low urgent not urgen								
2.3.2 How to min	imize the	high medium low	urgent not urgent						
impacts caused I									
that drop out of t	• • •								
2.3.3 Accuracy o		☐ high medium☐ low	☐urgent not urgent						
unit construction	•	<u> </u>							
estimates	estimates								

2.3.4 Effects of a	dding cost	high_	] medium_	low	urgent	not urgent		
certainty measures to the								
	overall SGIP timeline							
Comments:	SCE understands developers' desire for cost certainty. However, SCE's experience has shown that speed and accuracy of cost information are mutually exclusive. If generators prefer accuracy over speed, then the process will, of necessity, take longer.  Clustering of interconnection requests for study purposes has been shown to be the best way to minimize the impacts caused by projects that drop out of the interconnection process.  Unit costs: The primary purpose/benefit of using unit costs in interconnection studies is speed. The secondary purpose/benefit is consistency. Just like buying a new suit off the rack, unit costs do not provide a custom fit for each individual interconnection request. In an era where a large number of generators are seeking interconnection, unit costs are the only method to achieve an acceptable level of accuracy given the time constraints involved in the interconnection							
	studies.							
Solution Ideas:								
Columnia lucas.	Unit costs: SCE recommends using the same unit costs developed under the LGIP for Phase I cost estimates for any future Phase I-type estimates for SGIP. SCE is not willing to create separate unit cost estimates that are subject to the Phase I cost cap, and ones that are not. Stakeholder objections as to the magnitude of the unit costs have been noted, but are only relevant after a complete cycle of estimates, construction, and true-ups, to see whether the unit costs are truly excessive as some stakeholders claim.							
Issues related to Eligibility Criteria								
2.4.1 LGIP projects	SGIP	high_	] medium[	low	urgent	not urgent		
2.4.2 Real vs. Sp	oeculative	high_	medium	low	urgent	not urgent		
projects	projects							
2.4.3 Generation MW size		high	medium	low	urgent	not urgent		
					not urgent			
existing projects  2.4.5 Site Control high medium low urgent not urgent						not urgent		
Comments:		<u> </u>	j modium_	_ 10 W	ı <mark>—</mark> urgent	not digent		
30								
Solution Ideas:								

Issues related to application and study fees							
2.5.1 Appropriateness of amount		high medium low		urgent	not urgent		
Comments:	SCE believes the current \$1,000 application fee is an appropriate amount for entry into the SGIP and is reasonable.						
Solution Ideas:	Of course, if the desire is to move more in parallel with the LGIP, and have the generator pay for all study costs upfront, then the cost of the study deposit would be additive to the application fee, resulting in a higher upfront deposit. Also SCE would recommend applying the same refundability provisions to this new higher study deposit as found in the reformed LGIP.						
Sma	II Genera	tor Inter	connectio	n Agre	ement Issu	ies	
2.6.1 Pace of SG completion		high_	] medium	low	urgent	not urgent	
2.6.2 Detail of the		<pre>high_</pre>	medium	low	urgent	not urgent	
Comments:	<b>Pro-forma SGIA:</b> In today's environment with hundreds of SGIP requests and clogged interconnection process, the SGIA needs to be updated with a similar amount of detail as found in the reformed proforma LGIA.						
Solution Ideas:							
Miscellaneous SGIP tariff issues							
2.7.1 Detail of the tariff	e SGIP	high	medium	low	urgent	not urgent	
2.7.2 Clarity of Some		high	medium_	low	urgent	not urgent	
Comments:	All definitions should be consistent between the reformed LGIP/A and the to-be reformed SGIP/A.						
Solution Ideas:  All definitions pertinent to a cluster study approach and other mechanisms found in the reformed LGIA should apply to any amendments to the pro-forma SGIA. In particular, the distinction between distribution upgrades, network upgrades, and interconnection facilities are key to ensure proper allocation of costs and financing responsibility between the parties. Additionally, a clear definition between "full capacity delivery" and "energy only" would be very helpful.							
Additional Issues that should be considered							

Please include ada	litional	high_	] medium[	low	urgent	not urgent
issues here.						
Comments:	interconne and Local the numbe which tap t and study. these types For examp no more ro Rule 21 re- for addition	ction proto Governme r of reques he same o SCE is events of interco le, an SPS om for ado quest. In to	cols, such nt Net Metosts for these distribution ven seeing onnection rost that has builtional noohis case, these to remediate the seed on the color of the color	as Rule 2 ering. SC e intercon engineering the impace equests or standar les for either enext redy the situation.	E is seeing lanection method in a collection a collection the transmord a finite set ther an LGIP, equest would	CHIP/WATER, arge increase in nods, each of sofor evaluation etive basis of ission system. of nodes, and a SGIP, or a trigger the needing to a Rule 21
Solution Ideas:						

#### Do you have any additional comments that you would like to provide?

Waiver of final interconnection posting for network upgrades that PTOs have selected to upfront finance. While stakeholders are in the process of developing another potential amendment to the LGIP, SCE would like to raise the issue with stakeholders surrounding the final interconnection financial security (IFS) posting, which per the reformed LGIP is set at 100% of the interconnection customer's financing responsibility for network upgrades and interconnection facilities, due at the start of construction activities. SCE proposes implementing this waiver in the pro-forma LGIA, whereby the final (100%) IFS for the network upgrades would be waived if the PTO elects to upfront finance network upgrades.

The benefit of this waiver is eliminating excessive financing requirements, including the carrying charges of that financing, for instances where the PTO has committed to upfront finance network upgrades. SCE does not see the utility of generators incurring the credit responsibility, or the LOC carrying charges that could total potentially millions of dollars a year for credit facilities that will never be drawn upon (assuming the PTO provides the upfront financing). Or, alternatively stated, SCE does not see the benefit of having both PTO financing and generator IFS covering the same network upgrades, when only one source of financing will be ultimately drawn upon to fund the construction of the network upgrades.

Certainly this waiver provision will also require a provision whereby, in the case that the PTO first commits to upfront finance, but due to inability to secure

sufficient cost recovery assurances or generator default under the terms of the LGIA, chooses to no longer provide upfront financing, that the financial responsibility would return to the generator and financial security would have to be provided within a set time period.

SCE welcomes the opportunity to discuss this provision in future stakeholder and work group meetings.





