

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 2021-AD-19

**IN RE: ORDER ESTABLISHING DOCKET TO REVIEW THE
EFFICACY AND FAIRNESS OF THE NET METERING AND
INTERCONNECTION RULES**

ORDER AMENDING RULES POST-REHEARING

COMES NOW, the Mississippi Public Service Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to its authority under the Mississippi Public Utility Act and applicable regulations and issues this Post-Rehearing Order amending the Mississippi Renewable Energy Net Metering Rule and the Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection Rule. For the reasons that follow, the Commission hereby adopts as final the additional changes to the Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection and Distributed Generation Rules reflected in the attached Exhibit “A” (hereinafter referred to collectively as “Distributed Generation Rules”).

I. PROCEDURAL BACKDROP

The Commission incorporates and fully reasserts herein by reference the Procedural Backdrop section provided in the Commission’s July 12, 2022 Final Order Amending Rules.¹ Following the entry of the Commission’s July 12, 2022 Final Order, Entergy Mississippi, LLC (EML) and Mississippi Power Company (Mississippi Power), collectively “the utilities,” each filed Motions for Rehearing on

¹ See Final Order Amending Rules at pp. 1-4, Docket No. 2021-AD-19 (July 12, 2022).

August 11, 2022.² That same day, Mississippi Power also filed a Notice of Stay pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. §§ 77-3-61 and 77-3-65, staying the effectiveness of the revised Distributed Generation Rule pending the outcome of rehearing.

In support of rehearing, both EML and Mississippi Power primarily argued that the July 12, 2022 changes to the Distributed Generation Rule “unduly discriminate against those customers who choose not to, or are unable to, participate by increasing their rates in an effort to incentivize others to adopt small-scale solar systems.”³ In addition, EML and Mississippi Power each noted that the Inflation Reduction Act⁴ represented “a significant change in facts regarding renewable generation, including rooftop solar,”⁵ which may propel some of the Commission’s stated policy goals while avoiding the rate impacts that could stem from the July 12, 2022 Rule changes.

On August 17, 2022, the Sierra Club and seven (7) other parties this docket submitted a consolidated written response⁶ in which they strongly opposed rehearing on the grounds that “The Commission’s final order reflects careful consideration of all the evidence and reflects a balance of the comments from all

² See Mot. of Entergy, Miss., LLC for Reh’g, Docket No. 2021-AD-19 (Aug. 11, 2022); Miss. Power Co. Mot. To Rescind or, in the Alternative, for Reh’g, Docket No. 2021-AD-19 (Aug. 11, 2022).

³ See Mot. of Entergy, Miss., LLC for Reh’g at p. 14, Docket No. 2021-AD-19 (Aug. 11, 2022); Miss. Power Co. Mot. to Rescind or, in the Alternative, for Reh’g at pp. 8-9, Docket No. 2021-AD-19 (Aug. 11, 2022) (“[T]he Commission’s version of net metering ... is unjustly discriminatory and unduly preferential in favor of a small minority of customers that are able to participate.”).

⁴ This federal legislation was approved on August 7, 2022, roughly three and one-half weeks following the Commission’s July 12, 2022 Final Order in this docket.

⁵ See Mot. of Entergy Miss., LLC for Reh’g at p. 4, Docket No. 2021-AD-19 (Aug. 11, 2022); *see also* Miss. Power Co. Mot. to Rescind or, in the Alternative, for Reh’g at p. 4, Docket No. 2021-AD-19 (Aug. 11, 2022) (“The IRA touches and concerns many of the economic factors that inspired the Commission to issue the Final Order Amending Rules at issue in this proceeding.”).

⁶ See Sierra Club, Audubon Delta & Other Parties’ Resp. to Entergy’s and Miss. Power Co.’s Motions to Rescind or for Reh’g, Docket No. 2021-AD-19 (Aug. 17, 2022).

parties in the proceedings.”⁷ The responding parties further argued that the Commission’s measured approach benefits the public interest and contains safeguards for future review “if ever negative consequences emerge.”⁸

After reviewing and considering the written positions of all parties, the Commission entered an Order Granting Motions for Rehearing on August 30, 2022. Rehearing itself was conducted publicly on September 27, 2022, at which time the Commission heard comments from a total of seventeen (17) interested parties. At the conclusion of the rehearing, the Commission voted to take the matter under advisement.⁹

II. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

At this point, the procedural record in this matter has been fully exhausted. After carefully considering all comments, written and oral, that have been filed or submitted over the past twenty-one (21) months, the Commission finds that the following final changes to the Mississippi Distributed Generation Rule are in order:

1. Following rehearing, the Commission has determined that the July 2022 rule revisions permitting aggregation of meters by a single customer should be removed from the Distributed Generation Rule. As previously drafted, customers with multiple meters located in a single EU service territory would be permitted to aggregate those meters and offset their total usage. After thoughtful reconsideration, the Commission shares the utilities’ concerns that the effect of such

⁷ See Sierra Club, Audubon Delta & Other Parties’ Resp. to Entergy’s and Miss. Power Co’s Mot. to Rescind or for Reh’g at p. 1, Docket No. 2021-AD-19 (Aug. 17, 2022).

⁸ See *id.* at p. 6.

⁹ See Sept. 2022 Meeting Minutes at Sept. 27, 2022 Hearing Agenda.

a meter aggregation provision “is that it allows customers to distribute energy over ... distribution lines for long distances without paying their share in the costs to operate and maintain the distribution system.”¹⁰ Such an outcome could run afoul of the Commission’s express intention that these Rules “strik[e] a balance between the interests of participating and non-participating customers,” and “increase access to distributed generation while avoiding excessive shifting of fixed costs.”¹¹ Accordingly, all provisions permitting meter aggregation have been struck.

2. Next, the Commission finds that the three percent (3%) participation caps contained in the original Mississippi Renewable Energy Net Metering Rule should be reinserted into the Distributed Generation Rule. The utilities argue that removing the participation caps eliminated an important safeguard against cost-shifting for non-participating customers. Moreover, as nothing precludes the Commission from increasing the participation caps at a later date, wisdom and prudence support reestablishing the caps at this point in time.

3. Rehearing has also convinced the Commission that distributed generation system capacity limits should continue to be measured in terms of direct current (DC) rather than alternating current (AC) as revised in July 2022. Furthermore, eligible system size shall now be measured as “the lesser of 110% of the customer’s annual peak demand,” or 20 kW for residential customers and 2 MW for nonresidential customers. These changes not only provide clarity for all parties,

¹⁰ Mot. of Entergy Miss., LLC for Reh’g at pp. 12-13, Docket No. 2021-AD-19 (Aug. 11, 2022).

¹¹ See Final Order Amending Rules at p. 19, Docket No. 2021-AD-19 (July 12, 2022).

they safeguard against valid consumer protection concerns that may arise in what is a new and emerging market in Mississippi.¹²

4. Relatedly, consumer protection provisions, including specific registration requirements for solar developers and installers, have been added to the Distributed Generation Rule. Such requirements serve to offer DG customers a level of protection by ensuring that the developers and installers with whom they deal have been authorized to conduct business in Mississippi, have attested to the accuracy of their marketing materials, and have provided necessary contact information to the State in the event problems or complaints arise.

5. Next, the “Low-Income Benefits Adder” has been renamed the “Low-to-Moderate Income Benefits Adder,” and eligibility for the adder has been modified to include customers with annual household incomes of up to 225% of the federal poverty level. This terminology change simply provides a more accurate characterization of the customers who may receive this additional 2 cents per kWh hour adder. Additionally, by slightly adjusting eligibility to 225% from 250% of the federal poverty level, the Commission incrementally increases access for means of self-service, while still safeguarding nonparticipating customers against cost shifting.

6. Additionally, in light of the Commission’s replacement of the three percent (3%) participation caps, the Reopener provision of the Rule has been revised

¹² See Final Order Amending Rules at p. 12, Docket No. 2021-AD-19 (Jul. 12, 2022) (quoting utilities’ objection that “changing the metric to ‘alternating current’ could allow the customer to be sold a large solar array with insufficient inverter capacity”).

to simply state that the Commission may revisit the Rule within five (5) years of its effective date.

7. Finally, the Commission's July 2022 Order directed EML and Mississippi Power to make tariff filings establishing distributed energy facility incentive programs and Solar for Schools offerings. After considering both the written and oral comments in this proceeding, the Commission finds that the directives outlined in "Exhibit B" to this Order shall replace and supersede the previously outlined directives.

III. CONCLUSION

The final revisions to the Mississippi Distributed Generation Rule identified herein and reflected in the attached Exhibit "A" are the product of countless hours of meticulous review, discussion, analysis and careful consideration by the Commission and every party to this docket. These final revisions to the Distributed Generation Rule provide fair regulation in the interest of the public, within the scope of the Commission's jurisdiction, and strike a balance between the interests of participating and non-participating net generation customers.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the attached Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection Rule and Mississippi Distributed Generation Rule are hereby adopted as modified. The revisions to these rules shall be included in the next publication of Title 39 of the Mississippi Administrative Code. The Executive Secretary is directed to transmit a copy of this Order Amending Rules Post-Hearing and any other necessary documents to the Secretary of State's Office in accordance

with the Mississippi Administrative Procedures Act. The Executive Secretary is also directed to transmit a copy of this Order Amending Rules Post-Hearing to any known parties of interest and shall publish notice of same to the extent required by applicable law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order and the attached Rules shall become effective thirty (30) days after filing and approval with the Secretary of State's Office and shall be deemed issued on the day it is served upon the intervening parties of record by the Executive Secretary of the Commission who shall note the service date in the file of this Docket.

COMMISSION VOTE

Chairman Dane Maxwell voted

Aye _____ Nay X

Commissioner Brent Bailey voted

Aye X Nay _____

Commissioner Brandon Presley voted

Aye X Nay _____

SO ORDERED, this the 4th day of October, 2022.

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Dane Maxwell
DANE MAXWELL, CHAIRMAN

Brent Bailey
BRENT BAILEY, COMMISSIONER

Brandon Presley
BRANDON PRESLEY, COMMISSIONER

TITLE 39: UTILITIES

PART IV: Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection and Net Renewable Distributed Generation

Subpart I: Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection Rule

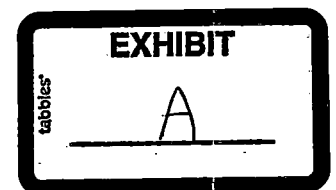
Chapter 01: Introduction

The Mississippi Distributed Generation Interconnection Rule (MDGIR) sets forth standards to establish the technical and procedural requirements for Distributed Generator Facilities (DGFs) to be interconnected and operated in Parallel with the Electric Distribution System (EDS) owned or operated by Electric Utilities (EUs) in Mississippi under the jurisdiction of the Mississippi Public Service Commission (Commission). Capitalized terms used in this rule have the meaning specified in the section titled DEFINITIONS.

Chapter 02: Definitions

When used in this chapter, the following terms and phrases shall have the following meaning:

- 100 “Adverse System Impact”** means a negative effect, due to technical or operational limits on conductors or equipment being exceeded, that compromises the safety and reliability of the EDS.
- 101 “Applicable Laws and Regulations”** means all duly promulgated and applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, rules, ordinances, codes, decrees, judgments, directives, or judicial or administrative orders, permits and other duly authorized actions of any Governmental Authority.
- 102 “Certificate of Completion”** means a certificate in a completed form approved by the Commission containing information about the Interconnection Equipment to be used, its installation and local inspections.
- 103 “Certified Interconnection Equipment” or “Certified Equipment” or “Certified”** means a designation that the Interconnection Equipment meets the following requirements:
1. The Interconnection Equipment has been tested by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) recognized by the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in accordance with the following relevant codes and standards:
 - a. IEEE 1547.1 Standard for Conformance Tests Procedures for Equipment Interconnecting Distributed Resources with Electric Power Systems; and
 - b. Underwriters Laboratories (“UL”), UL 1741 Inverters, Converters, and Controllers for Use in Independent Power Systems;



2. The Interconnection Equipment shall meet the requirements of the most current approved version of each code and standard listed above, as amended and supplemented at the time the Interconnection Request is submitted to be deemed Certified;
3. The Interconnection Equipment has been labeled and is publicly listed by such NRTL at the time of the interconnection application;
4. The Interconnection Customer verifies that the intended use of the Interconnection Equipment falls within the use or uses for which the Interconnection Equipment is labeled and is listed by the NRTL;
5. If the Interconnection Equipment is an integrated equipment package such as an inverter, then the Interconnection Customer shall show that the generator or other electric source being utilized is compatible with the Interconnection Equipment and is consistent with the testing and listing specified for this type of Interconnection Equipment;
6. If the Interconnection Equipment includes only interface components (switchgear, multi-function relays, or other interface devices), an Interconnection Customer shall demonstrate that the generator or other electric source being utilized is compatible with the Interconnection Equipment and is consistent with the testing and listing specified for this type of Interconnection Equipment; and
7. Certified Interconnection Equipment shall not require further design testing or Production Testing, as specified by IEEE Standard 1547 Sections 5.1 and 5.2, or additional Interconnection Equipment modification to meet the requirements. However, nothing herein shall preclude the need for an on-site Witness Test or operational test by the Interconnection Customer.

104 “Commission” means the Mississippi Public Service Commission.

105 “Commissioning Tests” means the tests applied to a DGF by an Interconnection Customer after construction is completed to verify that the DGF does not create Adverse System Impacts. At a minimum, the scope of the Commissioning Tests performed shall include the commissioning test specified by IEEE Standard 1547 section 5.4 “Commissioning Tests.”

106 “Distributed Generator Facility” or “DGF” means the equipment used by an Interconnection Customer to generate or store electricity that operates in Parallel with the EDS. A DGF typically includes an electric generator, prime mover, and the Interconnection Equipment required to safely interconnect with the EDS or local electric power system.

- 107 **“Distribution System Upgrade”** means a required addition or modification to the EU's EDS at or beyond the Point of Common Coupling (PCC) to accommodate the interconnection of a DGF. Distribution System Upgrades do not include Interconnection Facilities.
- 108 **“Electric Utility” or “EU”** means an electric public utility that distributes electricity to customers and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission pursuant to the provisions of Mississippi Code Annotated §§ 77-3-1, *et seq.*
- 109 **“Electric Distribution System” or “EDS”** means the facilities and equipment used to transmit electricity to ultimate usage points such as homes and industries from interchanges with higher voltage transmission networks that transport bulk power over longer distances. The voltage levels at which EDSs operate differ among areas but generally carry less than 69 kilovolts of electricity. EDS has the same meaning as the term Area EPS, as defined in 3.1.6.1 of IEEE Standard 1547.
- 110 **“Facilities Study”** means an engineering study conducted by the EU to determine the required modifications to the EU's EDS, including the cost and the time required to build and install such modifications as necessary to accommodate an Interconnection Request.
- 111 **“Fault Current”** means the electrical current that flows through a circuit during an electrical fault condition. A fault condition occurs when one or more electrical conductors contact ground or each other. Types of faults include phase to ground, double-phase to ground, three-phase to ground, phase-to-phase, and three-phase.
- 112 **“Feasibility Study”** means a study performed to identify the existence of obvious adverse impacts before additional studies are undertaken for the proposed project to continue in the process.
- 100 **“Governmental Authority”** mean any federal, state, local or other governmental regulatory or administrative agency, court, commission, department, board, or other governmental subdivision, legislature, rulemaking board, tribunal, or other governmental authority having jurisdiction over the Parties, their respective facilities, or the respective services they provide, and exercising or entitled to exercise any administrative, executive, police, or taxing authority or power; provided, however, that such term does not include the Interconnection Customer, EU or any affiliate thereof.
- 101 **“IEEE Standard 1547”** means the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) Standard 1547 (2003) "Standard for Interconnecting Distributed Resources with Electric Power Systems," as amended and supplemented at the time the Interconnection Request is submitted.
- 102 **“IEEE Standard 1547.1”** means the IEEE Standard 1547.1 (2005) "Conformance Test Procedures for Equipment Interconnecting Distributed Resources with Electric Power Systems," as amended and supplemented at the time the Interconnection Request is submitted.

- 103 **“Interconnection Agreement” or “Agreement”** means a form of interconnection agreement approved by the Commission which is applicable to Interconnection Requests pertaining to DGFs. The agreement between the Interconnection Customer and the EU governs the connection of the DGF to the EU’s EDS, as well as the ongoing operation of the DGF after it is connected to the EU’s EDS.
- 104 **“Interconnection Application” or “Application”** means a form of interconnection application approved by the Commission which is applicable to Interconnection Requests pertaining to DGFs. This application provides the information needed by the EU to review the request for interconnection. For the Level 1 review process, the Application and Agreement are part of the same document.
- 105 **“Interconnection Customer”** means an entity that submits an Interconnection Request for a DGF to an EU's EDS.
- 106 **“Interconnection Equipment”** means a group of equipment, components, or an integrated system connecting an electric generator with a local electric power system or an EDS that includes all interface equipment including switchgear, protective devices, inverters or other interface devices. Interconnection equipment may be installed as part of an integrated equipment package that includes a generator or other electric source.
- 107 **“Interconnection Facilities”** means facilities and equipment required by the EU to accommodate the interconnection of a DGF. Collectively, Interconnection Facilities include all facilities and equipment between the DGF and the PCC, including modification, additions, or upgrades that are necessary to physically and electrically interconnect the DGF to the EDS. Interconnection facilities are sole use facilities and do not include Distribution System Upgrades.
- 108 **“Interconnection Request”** means an Interconnection Customer's request, in the form of an Application approved by the Commission, requesting the interconnection of a new DGF, or to increase the capacity or modify operating characteristics of an existing approved DGF that is interconnected with the EU's EDS.
- 109 **“Line Section”** means that portion of an EU's distribution system connected to an Interconnection Customer, bounded by automatic sectionalizing devices or the end of the distribution line.
- 110 **“Local Electric Power System” or “Local EPS”** means facilities that deliver electric power to a load that are contained entirely within a single premises or group of premises. Local electric power system has the same meaning as the term local electric power system defined in 3.1.6.2 of IEEE Standard 1547.
- 111 **“Minor Equipment Modification”** means changes to the DGF that do not have a material impact on safety or reliability of the EDS.

- 112 **“Mississippi Distributed Generation Interconnection Rule (MDGIR)”** means the most current version of the procedures for interconnecting Distributed Generator Facilities adopted by the Mississippi Public Service Commission.
- 113 **“Nameplate Capacity”** means the maximum rated output of a generator, prime mover, or other electric power production equipment under specific conditions designated by the manufacturer and is usually indicated on a nameplate physically attached to the power production equipment.
- 114 **“Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory” or “NRTL”** means a qualified private organization that meets the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) regulations. NRTLs perform independent safety testing and product certification. Each NRTL shall meet the requirements as set forth by OSHA in the NRTL program.
- 115 **“Parallel Operation” or “Parallel”** means the sustained state of operation over 100 milliseconds, which occurs when a DGF is connected electrically to the EDS and thus has the ability for electricity to flow from the DGF to the EDS.
- 116 **“Point of Common Coupling” or “PCC”** means the point where the DGF is electrically connected to the EDS. Point of common coupling has the same meaning as defined in 3.1.13 of IEEE Standard 1547.
- 117 **“Primary Line”** means a distribution line rated at greater than 600 volts.
- 118 **“Production Test”** means production test as defined in IEEE Standard 1547.
- 119 **“Queue Position”** means the order of a valid Interconnection Request, relative to all other pending valid Interconnection Requests, that is established based upon the date and time of receipt of the valid Interconnection Request by the EU.
- 120 **“Radial Distribution Circuit”** means a circuit configuration where independent feeders branch out radially from a common source of supply. From the standpoint of a utility system, the area described is between the generating source or intervening substations and the customer's entrance equipment. A radial distribution system is the most common type of connection between a utility and load in which power flows in one direction from the utility to the load.
- 121 **“Scoping Meeting”** means a meeting between representatives of the Interconnection Customer and EU conducted for the purpose of discussing alternative interconnection options, exchanging information including any EDS data and earlier study evaluations that would be reasonably expected to impact interconnection options, analyzing information, and determining the potential feasible points of interconnection.
- 122 **“Secondary Line”** means a service line subsequent to the Primary Line that is rated for 600 volts or less, also referred to as the customer's service line.

- 123 **“System Impact Study”** means a study that identifies the electric system impacts that would result if the proposed DGF were interconnected without DGF modifications or EDS modifications, focusing on the Adverse System Impacts identified in the Feasibility Study.
- 124 **“UL Standard 1741”** means Underwriters Laboratories' standard titled "Inverters Converters, and Controllers for Use in Independent Power Systems," as amended and supplemented at the time the Interconnection Request is submitted.
- 125 **“Witness Test”** means verification (through on-site observation) by the EU that the installation evaluation required by IEEE Standard 1547 Section 5.3 and the Commissioning Test required by IEEE Standard 1547 Section 5.4, have been adequately performed. For Interconnection Equipment that has not been Certified, the Witness Test shall also include the verification by the EU of the on-site design tests as required by IEEE Standard 1547 Section 5.1 and verification by the EU of Production Tests required by IEEE Standard 1547 Section 5.2. All tests verified by the EU are to be performed in accordance with the applicable test procedures specified by IEEE Standard 1547.1.

Chapter 03: INTERCONNECTION REQUESTS, FEES, AND FORMS

- 100 Interconnection Customers seeking to interconnect a DGF shall submit an Interconnection Request to the EU that owns the EDS to which interconnection is sought, using an application approved by the Commission. Electronic versions of such Commission-approved Application forms shall be posted on the EU's website. The EU shall establish processes for accepting Interconnection Requests electronically, specifically through online submission. Such online submission portal should include, at a minimum, information on interconnection times and procedures, a repository of relevant forms that allow for electronic entry of text, an application status tracker, and a searchable interconnection queue that is updated on a regular basis.
- 101 When an Interconnection Customer is not currently a customer of the EU at the proposed PCC, upon request from the EU, the Interconnection Customer shall provide proof of site control evidenced by a property tax bill, deed, lease agreement, or other legally binding contract.
- 102 Interconnection fees shall be governed as follows for all Interconnection Requests and shall be published on each EU's website:
1. An EU may not charge an application, or other fee, to an applicant that requests Level 1 interconnection review. However, if an application for Level 1 interconnection review is denied because it does not meet the requirements for Level 1 interconnection review and the applicant resubmits the application under another review procedure in accordance with the MDGIR, the EU may impose a fee for the resubmitted application, consistent with this section.

2. For a Level 2 interconnection review, the EU may charge fees of up to \$50.00 plus \$1.00 per kilowatt of the customer-generator facility's capacity, plus the reasonable cost of any required minor modifications to the electric distribution system or additional review. Costs for such minor modifications or additional review will be based on the EU's non-binding, good faith estimates and the ultimate actual installed costs. Costs for engineering work done as part of any additional review will not exceed \$100.00 per hour.
 3. For a Level 3 interconnection review, the EU may charge fees of up to \$100.00 plus \$2.00 per kilowatt of the customer-generator facility's capacity, as well as charges for actual time spent on any required impact or facilities studies. Costs for engineering work done as part of an impact study or interconnection facilities study will not exceed \$100.00 per hour. If the EU must install facilities in order to accommodate the interconnection of the customer generating facility, the cost of such facilities will be the responsibility of the applicant.
- 103 When the EU determines that an Interconnection Request is complete, a modification of DGF design by the Interconnection Customer other than a Minor Equipment Modification that is not agreed to in writing by the EU shall require submission of a new Interconnection Request.

Chapter 04: INTERCONNECTION REVIEW LEVELS

- 100 The EU shall review Interconnection Requests using one of the three levels of review procedures established below. The EU shall first use the level of DGF Agreement specified by the Interconnection Customer in the Application. The EU may not impose additional requirements not specifically authorized unless the EU and the Interconnection Customer mutually agree to do so in writing.
- 101 When an Interconnection Request is for an increase in capacity for an existing DGF, the Interconnection Request shall be evaluated on the basis of the new total Nameplate Capacity of the DGF.
- 102 When an Interconnection Request is for a DGF that includes multiple energy production devices at a site for which the Interconnection Customer seeks a single PCC, the Interconnection Request shall be evaluated on the basis of the aggregate Nameplate Capacity of the multiple devices.

Chapter 05: LEVEL 1 INTERCONNECTION REVIEWS

- 100 The EU shall use Level 1 review procedures to evaluate Interconnection Requests when:
1. The DGF is inverter-based;
 2. The DGF has a Nameplate Capacity of 20 kW or less; and

3. The Interconnection Equipment proposed for the DGF is Certified.
- 101** For Level 1 Interconnection Review, the EU shall first evaluate the potential for Adverse System Impacts using the following screens, which must be satisfied:
1. For interconnection of a proposed DGF to a Line Section on a Radial Distribution Circuit, the aggregated generation on the Line Section, including the proposed DGF, shall not exceed 15% of the Line Section annual peak load.
 2. When a proposed DGF is to be interconnected to a single-phase shared Secondary Line, the aggregate generation capacity on the shared Secondary Line, including the proposed DGF, may not exceed 20 kW.
 3. When a proposed DGF is single-phase and is to be interconnected to a center tap neutral of a 240 volt service, its addition may not create an imbalance between the two sides of the 240 volt service of more than 20% of the nameplate rating of the service transformer.
 4. Construction of facilities by the EU on its own system is not required to accommodate the DGF.
- 102** The Level 1 Interconnection Review shall then be conducted in accordance with the following procedures:
1. An EU shall, within 10 business days after receipt of the Interconnection Request, inform the Interconnection Customer in writing or by electronic mail that the Interconnection Request is complete or incomplete and indicate what, if any, materials are missing.
 2. When an Interconnection Request is complete, the EU shall assign a Queue Position.
 3. The EU shall, within 15 business days after notifying a Level 1 applicant that the application is complete, indicate that the DGF equipment meets all Level 1 criteria, verify the DG can be interconnected safely and reliably using Level 1 screens, and provide a conditionally approved Level 1 Interconnection Application Form and Agreement to the Interconnection Customer.
- 103** Unless the EU determines and demonstrates to the Interconnection Customer that a DGF cannot be interconnected safely or reliably to its system and provides a letter to the Interconnection Customer explaining its reasons for denying an Interconnection Request, the EU's final approval of the Interconnection Agreement is subject to the following conditions:
1. 'The DGF has been approved by local or municipal electric code officials with jurisdiction over the interconnection;

2. The EU has received the required information on the Certificate of Completion from the Interconnection Customer. Completion of local inspections may be designated on inspection forms used by local inspecting authorities; and
 3. The EU has completed its Witness Test in accordance with the MDGIR.
- 104 Within 10 business days of the estimated commissioning date indicated on the Interconnection Request, the EU shall, upon reasonable notice and at a mutually convenient time, conduct a Witness Test of the DGF to ensure that all equipment has been appropriately installed and that all electrical connections have been made in accordance with applicable codes.
- 105 When a DGF is not approved under a Level 1 review, the Interconnection Customer may submit a new Interconnection Request for consideration under Level 2 or Level 3 procedures.

Chapter 06: LEVEL 2 INTERCONNECTION REVIEWS

- 100 The EU shall use the Level 2 Interconnection Review procedure to evaluate an Interconnection Request when:
1. The DGF has a Nameplate Capacity rating of 2 MW or less;
 2. The Interconnection Equipment proposed for the DGF is Certified; and
 3. The aggregated total of the Nameplate Capacity of all of the generators on the circuit, including the proposed DGF, is 2 MW or less.
- 101 No construction of facilities by an EU shall be required to accommodate the DGF, except as permitted by an additional review for minimal modifications of the EDS, as described in these Level 2 procedures.
- 102 For Level 2 Interconnection Review, the EU first shall evaluate the potential for Adverse System Impacts using the following screens, which must be satisfied:
1. For interconnection of a proposed DGF to a radial distribution circuit, the aggregated generation on the Line Section, including the proposed DGF, may not exceed 15% of the Line Section annual peak load.
 2. The proposed DGF, in aggregation with other generation on the distribution circuit, may not contribute more than 10% to the distribution circuit's maximum Fault Current at the point on the Primary Line nearest the Point of Common Coupling (PCC).

3. The proposed DGF, in aggregate with other generation on the distribution circuit, may not cause any distribution protective devices and equipment (including substation breakers, fuse cutouts, and line reclosers), or other customer equipment on the EDS to be exposed to Fault Currents exceeding 87.5% of the short circuit interrupting capability. The Interconnection Request may not receive approval for interconnection on a circuit that already exceeds 87.5% of the short circuit interrupting capability.
4. When a DGF is to be connected to three-phase, three-wire primary EU distribution lines, a three-phase or single-phase generator shall be connected phase-to-phase.
5. When a DGF is to be connected to three-phase, four-wire primary EU distribution lines, a three-phase or single-phase generator shall be connected line-to-neutral and shall be effectively grounded.
6. When the proposed DGF is to be interconnected on a single-phase shared Secondary Line, the aggregate generation capacity on the shared Secondary Line, including the proposed DGF, shall not exceed 20 kW.
7. When a proposed DGF is single-phase and is to be interconnected on a center tap neutral of a 240 volt service, its addition may not create an imbalance between the two sides of the 240 volt service of more than 20% of the nameplate rating of the service transformer.
8. A DGF, in aggregate with other generation interconnected to the distribution side of a substation transformer feeding the circuit where the DGF proposes to interconnect, may not exceed 10 MW in an area where there are known or posted transient stability limitations to generating units located in the general electrical vicinity.
9. No construction of facilities by an EU on its own system shall be required to accommodate the DGF.

103 The Level 2 Interconnection Review shall then be conducted in accordance with the following procedures:

1. An EU shall, within 10 business days after receipt of the Interconnection Request, inform the Interconnection Customer in writing or by electronic mail that the Interconnection Request is complete or incomplete and indicate what, if any, materials are missing. As part of this process, the EU shall assign a Queue Position. The Queue Position of the Interconnection Request shall be used to determine the potential Adverse System Impact of the DGF based on the relevant screening criteria. If there are higher queued Interconnection Requests on the same radial line circuit, the EU shall evaluate the Interconnection Requests by performing any Level 2 screens requiring aggregate capacity calculations and determine if the DGF in combination with the higher queued Interconnection Requests exceeds any of the

aggregate capacity requirements. If an aggregate capacity requirement is exceeded, the EU shall notify the Interconnection Customer and shall not be obligated to meet the timeline for reviewing the Interconnection Request until such time as the EU has completed the review of all other Interconnection Requests that have a higher Queue Position and impact the aggregate capacity calculation that has been exceeded.

2. At the time an EU determines additional information is required to complete an evaluation, the EU shall request the information. The time necessary to complete the evaluation may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties, but only to the extent of the time required for receipt of the additional information. During an extension of time to submit additional information, the EU may not alter the Interconnection Customer's Queue Position.
 3. Within 20 business days after the EU notifies the Interconnection Customer that it has received a completed Interconnection Request, the EU shall:
 - a. Evaluate the Interconnection Request using the Level 2 screening criteria;
 - b. Review any analysis provided by the Interconnection Customer, using the same criteria used by the customer; and
 - c. Provide the Interconnection Customer with the EU's evaluation, including a comparison of the results of its own analyses with those of Interconnection Customer, if applicable. When an EU does not have a record of receipt of the Interconnection Request and the Interconnection Customer can demonstrate that the original Interconnection Request was delivered, the EU shall expedite its review to complete the evaluation of the Interconnection Request within 20 business days of the Interconnection Customer's re-submittal.
- 104** The EU shall provide the Interconnection Customer a DGF Interconnection Agreement within 5 business days of its determination that the Interconnection Request passes the Level 2 screening criteria.
- 105** When a DGF has failed to meet one or more of the Level 2 screens, the EU shall offer to perform additional review for minimal modifications of the EDS to determine whether minimal modifications to the EDS would enable the interconnection to be made consistent with safety, reliability and power quality criteria. The EU shall provide the Interconnection Customer with a nonbinding, good faith estimate of the costs of additional review for minimal modifications of the EDS. The EU shall undertake the additional review for minimal modifications of the EDS or the modifications only after the Interconnection Customer consents to pay for the review and modifications.
- 106** If the DGF fails one or more of the Level 2 screening criteria but the EU determines that minimal modifications to the EDS would enable the DGF to interconnect safely and

reliably, the EU shall provide the Interconnection Customer a DGF Interconnection Agreement within 5 business days of making that determination.

- 107 If the EU finds that the DGF cannot be interconnected with minimal modifications to the EDS, the EU shall provide the Interconnection Customer a letter explaining its reasons for denying the Interconnection Request. The Interconnection Customer may submit a new Interconnection Request for consideration under a Level 3 interconnection review.
- 108 An Interconnection Customer shall have 30 business days to sign and return the Agreement. When an Interconnection Customer does not sign the DGF Interconnection Agreement within 30 business days, the Interconnection Request shall be deemed withdrawn unless the Interconnection Customer requests in writing prior to the expiration of the 30 business day period to extend the deadline. The EU may not unreasonably deny the request for extension.
- 109 The DGF Interconnection Agreement shall not become final until:
1. The milestones agreed to in the DGF Interconnection Agreement are satisfied;
 2. The DGF is approved by electric code officials with jurisdiction over the interconnection;
 3. The Interconnection Customer provides a Certificate of Completion to the EU. Completion of local inspections may be designated on inspection forms used by local inspecting authorities; and
 4. The Witness Test was successfully completed per the terms and conditions found in the Agreement.
- 110 If the DGF is not approved under a Level 2 review, the EU shall provide the Interconnection Customer a letter explaining its reasons for denying the Interconnection Request. The Interconnection Customer may submit a new Interconnection Request for consideration under a Level 3 interconnection review. The Queue Position assigned to the Level 2 Interconnection Request shall be retained provided the request is made within 15 business days of notification that the current Interconnection Request is denied.

Chapter 07: LEVEL 3 INTERCONNECTION REVIEWS

- 100 The EU shall use the Level 3 review procedure to evaluate an Interconnection Request when the Interconnection Customer requests Level 3 review.
- 101 The Level 3 review shall be conducted in accordance with the following process:
1. An EU shall, within 10 business days of receipt of an Interconnection Request, inform the Interconnection Customer in writing or by electronic means that the

Interconnection Request is complete or incomplete and indicate what, if any, materials are missing.

2. When the Interconnection Request is deemed not complete, the EU shall provide the Interconnection Customer with a written list detailing information required to complete the Interconnection Request. The Interconnection Customer shall have 10 business days to provide appropriate data in order to complete the Interconnection Request, or the Interconnection Request shall be considered withdrawn. The parties may agree to extend the time for receipt of the additional information. The Interconnection Request shall be deemed complete when the required information has been provided by the Interconnection Customer, or the parties have agreed that the Interconnection Customer may provide additional information at a later time.
3. When an Interconnection Request is complete, the EU shall assign a Queue Position. The Queue Position of an Interconnection Request shall be used to determine the cost responsibility necessary for the facilities to accommodate the interconnection. The EU shall notify the Interconnection Customer about other higher-queued Interconnection Customers that have the potential to impact the cost responsibility.
4. Level 3 Scoping Meetings shall be conducted as follows:
 - a. By mutual agreement of the parties, the Scoping Meeting, interconnection Feasibility Study, interconnection System Impact Study, or interconnection Facilities Study provided for in a Level 3 review may be waived;
 - b. If agreed to by the parties, a Scoping Meeting shall be held within 10 business days, or other mutually agreed to time, after the EU has notified the Interconnection Customer that the Interconnection Request is deemed complete. The purpose of the meeting shall be to review the Interconnection Request, existing studies relevant to the Interconnection Request, and the results of the Level 1 or Level 2 screening criteria;
 - c. When the parties agree at a Scoping Meeting that an interconnection Feasibility Study shall be performed, the EU shall provide to the Interconnection Customer, no later than 5 business days after the Scoping Meeting, an interconnection Feasibility Study agreement, including an outline of the scope of the study and a nonbinding good faith estimate of the cost to perform the study;
 - d. When the parties agree at a Scoping Meeting that an interconnection Feasibility Study is not required, the EU shall provide to the Interconnection Customer, no later than 5 business days after the Scoping Meeting, an interconnection System Impact Study agreement, including

an outline of the scope of the study and a nonbinding good faith estimate of the cost to perform the study; and

- e. When the parties agree at the Scoping Meeting that an interconnection Feasibility Study and System Impact Study are not required, the EU shall provide to the Interconnection Customer, no later than 5 business days after the Scoping Meeting, an interconnection Facilities Study agreement including an outline of the scope of the study and a nonbinding good faith estimate of the cost to perform the study.
5. Any required interconnection studies shall be carried out using the following guidelines:
- a. An interconnection Feasibility Study shall include the following analyses and conditions for the purpose of identifying and addressing potential Adverse System Impacts to the EU's EDS that would result from the interconnection:
 - b. Initial identification of any circuit breaker short circuit capability limits exceeded as a result of the interconnection;
 - c. Initial identification of any thermal overload or voltage limit violations resulting from the interconnection;
 - d. Initial review of grounding requirements and system protection;
 - e. Description and nonbinding estimated cost of facilities required to interconnect the DGF to the EU's EDS in a safe and reliable manner; and
 - f. Additional evaluations at the expense of the Interconnection Customer, when an Interconnection Customer requests that the interconnection Feasibility Study evaluate multiple potential points of interconnection.
6. An interconnection System Impact Study shall evaluate the impact of the proposed interconnection on both the safety and reliability of the EU's EDS. The study shall identify and detail the system impacts that result when the proposed DGF is interconnected without project or system modifications, focusing on the Adverse System Impacts identified in the interconnection Feasibility Study and potential impacts including those identified in the Scoping Meeting. The study shall consider all generating facilities that, on the date the interconnection System Impact Study is commenced, are directly interconnected with the EU's system, have a pending higher Queue Position to interconnect to the system, and have a signed a DGF Interconnection Agreement.
- a. An interconnection System Impact Study shall be performed when the interconnection Feasibility Study identifies a potential distribution system

Adverse System Impact. The EU shall send the Interconnection Customer an interconnection System Impact Study agreement within 5 business days of transmittal of the interconnection Feasibility Study report. The agreement shall include an outline of the scope of the study and a good faith estimate of the cost to perform the study. The System Impact Study shall include:

- i. A load flow study;
 - ii. Identification of affected systems;
 - iii. An analysis of equipment interrupting ratings;
 - iv. A protection coordination study;
 - v. Voltage drop and flicker studies;
 - vi. Protection and set point coordination studies;
 - vii. Grounding reviews; and
 - viii. Impact on system operation.
- b. An interconnection System Impact Study shall consider the following criteria:
- i. A short circuit analysis;
 - ii. A stability analysis;
 - iii. Alternatives for mitigating Adverse System Impacts on affected systems;
 - iv. Voltage drop and flicker studies;
 - v. Protection and set point coordination studies; and
 - vi. Grounding reviews.
- c. The interconnection System Impact Study shall provide the following:
- i. The underlying assumptions of the study;
 - ii. The results of the analyses;
 - iii. A list of any potential impediments to providing the requested interconnection service;
 - iv. Required Distribution System Upgrades; and
 - v. A nonbinding good faith estimate of cost and time to construct any required Distribution System Upgrades.
- d. The parties shall use an interconnection System Impact Study agreement approved by the Commission.
7. The interconnection Facilities Study shall be conducted as follows:
- a. Within 5 business days of completion of the interconnection System Impact Study, the EU shall send a report to the Interconnection Customer with an interconnection Facilities Study agreement, which includes an

outline of the scope of the study and a nonbinding good faith estimate of the cost to perform the study;

- b. The interconnection Facilities Study shall estimate the cost of the equipment, engineering, procurement and construction work including overheads needed to implement the conclusions of the interconnection Feasibility Study and the interconnection System Impact Study to interconnect the DGF. The interconnection Facilities Study shall identify:
 - i. The electrical switching configuration of the equipment, including transformer, switchgear, meters and other station equipment;
 - ii. The nature and estimated cost of the EU's Interconnection Facilities and Distribution System Upgrades necessary to accomplish the interconnection; and
 - iii. An estimate of the time required to complete the construction and installation of the facilities;
 - c. The parties may agree to permit an Interconnection Customer to separately arrange for a third party to design and construct the required Interconnection Facilities. The EU may review the design of the facilities under the interconnection Facilities Study agreement. When the parties agree to separately arrange for design and construction and to comply with security and confidentiality requirements, the EU shall make all relevant information and required specifications available to the Interconnection Customer to permit the Interconnection Customer to obtain an independent design and cost estimate for the facilities, which shall be built in accordance with the specifications;
 - d. Upon completion of the interconnection Facilities Study, and with the agreement of the Interconnection Customer to pay for the Interconnection Facilities and Distribution System Upgrades identified in the interconnection Facilities Study, the EU shall provide the Interconnection Customer with a DGF Interconnection Agreement within 5 business days; and
8. When an EU determines, as a result of the interconnection studies conducted under a Level 3 review, that it is appropriate to interconnect the DGF, the EU shall provide the Interconnection Customer with a DGF Interconnection Agreement. If the Interconnection Request is denied, the EU shall provide a written explanation setting forth the reasons for denial;
9. An Interconnection Customer shall have 30 business days from receipt of the DGF Interconnection Agreement, unless another mutually agreeable time frame is reached, to sign and return the DGF Interconnection Agreement to the EU. If an

Interconnection Customer does not sign the DGF Interconnection Agreement within 30 business days, the Interconnection Request shall be deemed withdrawn unless the Interconnection Customer requests in writing, prior to the expiration of the 30 business-day period, to extend the deadline. The EU may not unreasonably deny the request for extension. When construction is required, the interconnection of the DGF shall proceed according to milestones agreed to by the parties in the DGF Interconnection Agreement. The DGF Interconnection Agreement may not be final until:

- a. The milestones agreed to in the DGF Interconnection Agreement are satisfied;
- b. The DGF is approved by electric code officials with jurisdiction over the interconnection;
- c. The Interconnection Customer provides a Certificate of Completion to the EU. Completion of local inspections may be designated on inspection forms used by local inspecting authorities; and
- d. The Witness Test was successfully completed per the terms and conditions found in the Agreement.

102 An interconnection System Impact Study is not required when the interconnection Feasibility Study concludes there is no Adverse System Impact, or when the study identifies an Adverse System Impact, but the EU is able to identify a remedy without the need for an interconnection System Impact Study.

103 The parties shall use a form of interconnection Feasibility Study agreement approved by the Commission.

Chapter 08: TECHNICAL STANDARDS

100 The technical standard to be used in evaluating all Interconnection Requests under Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 reviews, unless otherwise provided for in these procedures, is IEEE Standard 1547. IEEE 1547.2, "Application Guide for IEEE 1547 Standard for Interconnecting Distributed Resources with Electric Power Systems," shall be used as a guide (but not a requirement) to detail and illustrate the interconnection protection requirements that are provided in IEEE 1547.

Chapter 09: POINT OF COMMON COUPLING

100 To minimize the cost of interconnecting multiple DGFs, the EU or the Interconnection Customer may propose a single PCC for multiple DGFs located at a single site. If the Interconnection Customer rejects the EU's proposal for a single PCC, the Interconnection Customer shall pay the additional cost, if any, of providing a separate PCC for each DGF. If the EU rejects the customer's proposal for a single PCC without providing a written

technical explanation, the EU shall pay the additional cost, if any, of providing a separate PCC for each DGF.

Chapter 10: RECORDS AND REPORTS

- 100** An EU shall maintain records of the following for a minimum of 3 years:
1. The total number of and the Nameplate Capacity of the Interconnection Requests received, approved and denied under Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 reviews;
 2. The number of Interconnection Requests that were not processed within the timelines established in this rule;
 3. The number of Scoping Meetings held and the number of feasibility studies, impact studies, and facility studies performed and the fees charged for these studies;
 4. The justifications for the actions taken to deny Interconnection Requests; and
- 101** An EU shall provide a report to the Commission containing the information required in paragraphs (a)-(d) above, on or before February 1st each year.

Chapter 11: INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE INTERCONNECTIONCUSTOMERS

- 100** An EU shall designate a contact person and contact information on its website and for the Commission's website for submission of all Interconnection Requests and from whom information on the Interconnection Request process and the EU's EDS can be obtained regarding a proposed DGF. The information shall include studies and other materials useful to an understanding of the feasibility of interconnecting a DGF at a particular point on the EU's EDS, except to the extent that providing the materials would violate security requirements or confidentiality agreements, or otherwise would be contrary to Mississippi or federal law and regulations. In appropriate circumstances, the EU may require execution of a confidentiality agreement prior to release of information about the EU's EDS.
- 101** When the EU determines that an Interconnection Request is complete, a modification of DGF design by the Interconnection Customer other than a Minor Equipment Modification that is not agreed to in writing by the EU shall require submission of a new Interconnection Request.

Chapter 12: ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- 100** DGFs shall be capable of being isolated from the EU. For Level 2 and Level 3 interconnection, the isolation shall be by means of a lockable, visible-break isolation device whose status is clearly indicated and is accessible by the EU. The isolation device shall be installed, owned and maintained by the owner of the DGF and located between

the DGF and the PCC. A draw-out type circuit breaker with a provision for padlocking at the draw-out position can be considered an isolation device for purposes of this requirement. A draw-out type circuit breaker has a switching device capable of making, carrying and breaking currents under normal and abnormal circuit conditions such as those of a short circuit. A draw-out circuit breaker can be physically removed from its enclosure creating a visible break in the circuit. For the purposes of these regulations, the draw-out circuit breaker shall be capable of being locked in the open, draw-out position. Level 1 interconnections do not require an external isolation device.

- 101 A Level 2 or Level 3 Interconnection Customer may elect to provide the EU access to an isolation device that is contained in a building or area that may be unoccupied and locked or not otherwise readily accessible to the EU, by installing a lockbox provided by the EU that shall provide ready access to the isolation device. The Interconnection Customer shall install the lockbox in a location that is readily accessible by the EU, and the Interconnection Customer shall permit the EU to affix a placard in a location of its choosing that provides clear instructions to EU operating personnel on access to the isolation device. In the event that the Interconnection Customer fails to comply with the terms of this subsection and the EU needs to gain access to the isolation device, the EU shall not be held liable for any damages resulting from any necessary EU action to isolate the Interconnection Customer.
- 102 Any metering necessitated by a DGF shall be installed, operated and maintained in accordance with applicable tariffs. Any such metering requirements shall be clearly identified as part of the DGF Interconnection Agreement executed by the Interconnection Customer and the EU.
- 103 The EU shall design, procure, construct, install, and own any Distribution System Upgrades. The actual cost of the Distribution System Upgrades, including overheads, shall be directly assigned to the Interconnection Customer. The Interconnection Customer may be entitled to financial contribution from any other EU customers who may in the future utilize the upgrades paid for by the Interconnection Customer. Such contributions shall be governed by the rules, regulations, and decisions of the Commission.
- 104 The Interconnection Customer shall design its DGF to maintain a composite power delivery at continuous rated power output at the Point of Common Coupling at a power factor within the power factor range required by the EU's applicable tariff for a comparable load customer. EU may also require the Interconnection Customer to follow a voltage or VAR schedule if such schedules are applicable to similarly situated generators in the control area on a comparable basis and have been approved by the Commission. The specific requirements for meeting a voltage or VAR schedule shall be clearly specified in Attachment 3 of the "Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection Rule Level 2 and Level 3 Agreement for Interconnection of Distributed Generator Facilities." Under no circumstance shall these additional requirements for voltage support or reactive power exceed the normal operating capabilities of the DGF. The requirements in this paragraph may be additional to requirements in IEEE 1547.

Chapter 13: DISPUTES

- 100** A party shall attempt to resolve all disputes regarding interconnection as provided in the MDGIR promptly, equitably, and in a good faith manner.
- 101** When a dispute arises, a party may seek immediate resolution through complaint procedures available through the Commission by providing written notice to the Commission and the other party stating the issues in dispute.
- 102** When disputes relate to the technical application of the MDGIR, the Commission may designate a technical consultant to resolve the dispute. Upon Commission designation, the parties shall use the technical consultant to resolve disputes related to interconnection. Costs for dispute resolution conducted by the technical consultant shall be established by the technical consultant and subject to review by the Commission. The EU and the Interconnection Customer shall share equally the costs of an outside arbitrator unless they mutually agree to a different payment arrangement.
- 103** Pursuit of dispute resolution shall not affect an Interconnection Customer with regard to consideration of an Interconnection Request or an Interconnection Customer's Queue Position.

TITLE 39: UTILITIES

PART IV: Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection and ~~Net Renewable~~ Distributed Generation

Subpart II: Mississippi ~~Net Renewable~~ Distributed Generation Rule

Chapter 01: Introduction

- 100 The Mississippi ~~Net Renewable~~ Distributed Generation Rule (~~MsNRG MDGR~~) sets forth technical and procedural requirements for ~~Net Renewable Generation~~ on qualified Distributed Generator Facilities (DGFs). These DGFs are also subject to the requirements of the Mississippi Distributed Generator Interconnection Rule (MDGIR).

Chapter 02: DEFINITIONS

The following capitalized terms, when used in this Rule, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. These definitions are in addition to those found in the MGDIR, which also apply to the ~~MsNRG MDGR~~.

- 100 **“Billing Period”** means the monthly billing period used by an Electric Utility (EU) to measure usage and any excess energy exported by a DGF to the EU, and to bill customers.
- 101 **“Avoided Cost of Wholesale Power”** means the cost to an EU¹ of electric energy that the EU would generate itself or purchase from another source, such as from an organized wholesale power market, but for the purchase from a ~~Renewable Energy~~ Distributed Generation Interconnection Customer (~~REDGIC~~). In essence, the avoided cost is the marginal cost to produce or purchase one more unit of electrical energy. When a ~~REDGIC~~ delivers electricity to an EU, the EU will reduce the equivalent amount of electricity that either is generated at its most expensive operating plant that is not running for reliability purposes or is purchased from an organized wholesale power market. For power generated by an EU, the cost avoided consists of the cost of fuel needed to produce that electricity and the corresponding portion of the plant’s operation and maintenance costs and shall include an appropriate average line loss adjustment. For ~~REDGICs~~ with solar PV systems, the Avoided Cost of Wholesale Power and the corresponding average line loss adjustment shall reflect the daytime energy production of a solar PV system. No capacity credit is given as part of the calculation of Avoided Cost of Wholesale Power. For an EU that is a member of a regional transmission organization (RTO), the Avoided Cost of Wholesale Power shall be the average real-time locational marginal price (LMP) calculated by the RTO for the EU’s load zone(s). Such LMP shall include an appropriate average line loss adjustment. For ~~REDGICs~~ with solar PV systems, such LMP and the corresponding average line loss adjustment shall reflect the daytime energy production of a solar PV system.

¹ An EU is an electric utility within the meaning of Miss. Code Ann. section 77-3-3(d)(i) (Supp 2014).

- 102 **“Distributed Generation Benefits Value Adder”** means an adjustment to be included in the Total ~~Benefits Value~~ Value of Distributed Generation for benefits of distributed generation that, while expected to occur, are currently non-quantifiable or difficult to quantify. The Distributed Generation ~~Benefits Value~~ Value shall be equal to 2.5 cents per kilowatt hour, unless and until modified upward or downward based on Mississippi-specific data, by separate Order of the Commission, and after full notice and hearing. To provide sufficient financial certainty to qualifying customers that install DGFs, this Distributed Generation ~~Benefits Value Adder~~ Value Adder shall remain in place for a period of twenty-five (25) years from the date the customer begins taking net ~~metering generation~~ metering generation service under the EU’s net ~~metering generation~~ metering generation tariff.
- 103 **“Low-to-Moderate Income Benefits Adder”** means an additional amount to be included in the Total ~~Benefits Value~~ Value of Distributed Generation that shall flow to qualifying customers whose household income is at or below ~~250~~225% of the federal poverty level (or similar requirement proposed by the EU to be approved by the Commission) who is approved to take service under the EU’s net ~~metering generation~~ metering generation tariff. Beginning with the effective date of this rule, the Low-to-Moderate Income Benefits Adder shall be equal to 2 cents per kilowatt hour. To provide sufficient financial certainty to qualifying low-to-moderate income customers that install DGFs, this Low-to-Moderate Income Benefits Adder shall remain in place for a period of twenty-five (25) years from the date ~~the a qualified DGIC~~ a qualified DGIC customer begins taking ~~net renewable-generation~~ net metering generation service under the EU’s net ~~metering generation~~ metering generation tariff.
- 104 **“Total Benefits Value of Distributed Generation”** means the total amount – expressed in cents per kilowatt hour - that shall be credited to EU customers as a result of excess energy exported by a DGF to the EU, which shall include the Avoided Cost of Wholesale Power plus the Distributed Generation ~~Benefits Value Adder~~ Value Adder plus, if applicable, the Low-to-Moderate Income Benefits Adder, as further outlined in this rule.
- 105 **“Exit Fee”** means a fee that is paid by a customer that reduces load by using a DGF and is intended to compensate the EU in whole or part for the loss of fixed cost contribution from that customer. Exit fees are not allowed under this rule, unless otherwise approved by the Commission.
- 106 **“Renewable Energy Distributed Generation Interconnection Customer” or “REDGIC”** is any electricity customer, such as an industrial, large commercial, residential or small commercial customer, that generates electricity on the customer’s side of the meter using a Renewable Energy source. The electricity customer must own or lease the DGF producing the Renewable Energy on the electricity customer’s side of the meter in order to qualify as a REDGIC under this ~~MsNRG MDGR~~ MDGR, unless otherwise approved by the Commission.
- 107 **“Net Generation”** means measuring the real-time kilowatt-hours supplied by the EU to the REDGIC and the kilowatt-hours produced by the REDGIC’s DGF and exported to the EU over the applicable Billing Period. Net Generation includes the real-time displacement of kilowatt-hours that otherwise would be provided by the EU by

kilowatt-hours that were generated by the REDGIC's DGF. An EU may employ a multi-channel meter for separately measuring the REDGIC's electric usage and excess energy exported to the EU. Special metering requirements are obviated with the use of advanced metering infrastructure or "smart meters."

- 108 **"Renewable Energy"** means electric energy produced from solar technologies, wind energy, geothermal technologies, wave or tidal action, hydro-power facilities, hydrogen, and biomass. Any energy derived from fossil fuels is not considered renewable and does not qualify under the MsNRG MDGR.
- 109 **"Biomass"** means a power source that is comprised of combustible solids or gases from forest products, manufacturing waste, or byproducts; products from agricultural and orchard crops; waste or co-products from livestock and poultry operations; waste or byproducts from food processing; urban wood waste; municipal liquid waste treatment operations; and landfill gas.
- 110 ~~**"Meter Aggregation"** involves a REDGIC with more than one customer account taking metered electric service from an EU, where the REDGIC elects to apply any remaining value of excess energy credit after application of excess energy credit to the bill for the customer account associated with an interconnected DGF to bill(s) for eligible additional account(s) ("Additional Meter(s)") in the priority order specified by the REDGIC.~~

Chapter 03: NET GENERATION REQUIREMENTS

- 100 This MsNRG MDGR sets forth the Net Generation requirements that apply to EUs that have customers who self-generate electricity with Renewable Energy on the customer's side of the EU's meter that wish to Net Generate, as indicated by the customer on the Standard Application. These customers are referred to as REDGICs in this rule.
- 101 All EUs shall offer Net Generation to any customer that seeks to generate electricity on the customer's side of the EU's meter using Renewable Energy sources, provided:
1. For residential customers, Net Generation nameplate alternating direct current capacity of the aggregated DGFs at the customer's premises shall be limited to the lesser of 110% of the customer's annual peak demand or 20 kW and shall meet the requirements of the MDGIR;
 2. For non-residential customers, Net Generation nameplate alternating direct current capacity for the aggregate DGFs at the customer's premises shall be limited to the lesser of 110% of the customer's annual peak demand or 2 MW and shall meet the requirements of the MDGIR.
 3. In cases where Battery Energy Storage Systems ("BESS") are paired with a DGF, the capacity of the BESS will not affect the total nameplate capacity limits of a customer's DGF under this MsNRG MDGR.

102 ~~All EUs shall offer Meter Aggregation to any REDGIC customer that seeks to generate electricity on the customer's side of the EU's meter using Renewable Energy sources, provided EUs may refuse additional net generation requests if the total net generation direct current capacity in kW, as reported through these requirements, exceeds at any time 3 percent of the EU's total system peak demand expressed in kW recorded during the prior calendar year.~~

- ~~1. For Meter Aggregation customers, nameplate alternating current capacity of the aggregate DGFs at the customer's premises shall be limited to 3 MW and shall meet the requirements of the MDGIR.~~
- ~~2. In cases where Battery Energy Storage Systems ("BESS") are paired with a DGF, the capacity of the BESS will not affect the total nameplate capacity limits of a customer's DGF under this MsNRG.~~
- ~~3. The REDGIC must notify the EU of its request for Meter Aggregation in writing and must provide a list of account numbers, in the REDGIC's preferred order of priority, to determine eligibility as an Additional Meter. The list of accounts and the priority order may not change more than once in a 12-month period.~~
- ~~4. To be eligible, each Additional Meter included in a Meter Aggregation request must be located on the same physical property or within the same EU service territory of the DGF, must be the same customer as the account associated with the DGF, and must take metered service from the EU.~~
- ~~5. The customer account physically supplied by the DGF cannot also be an Additional Meter and an Additional Meter cannot have a DGF associated with it.~~
- ~~6. Billing for all customer accounts will be subject to the Commission's MsNRG as well as provision of the applicable base rate schedules and riders. Customers participating in Meter Aggregation may not also have collective billing.~~

103 ~~EUs may seek Commission approval to refuse additional net generation requests if and when the total Net Generation alternating current capacity in kW, as reported through these requirements, exceeds at any time 4 percent of the EU's total system peak demand expressed in kW recorded during the prior calendar year.~~

103 Each EU shall develop a tariff for Net Generation and interconnection policies in concordance with this MsNRG MDGR and the MDGIR. Each EU shall make Net Generation available to eligible REDGICs on a first-come, first-served basis until such time as the aforementioned cap has been reached.

104 An EU shall provide Net Generation at non-discriminatory rates that are identical, with respect to rate structure and level, retail rate components, and any monthly fixed

charges, to the rates that a REDGIC would be charged if not a REDGIC, unless otherwise approved by the Commission.

- 105** In each Billing Period, energy supplied to the REDGIC from the EU as recorded on the EU's bi-directional ~~net~~ meter or smart meter will be billed using appropriate commission-approved rate and rider schedules. This provision means that energy self-supplied by the REDGIC, up to the amount supplied from the EU to the REDGIC (e.g., through the recording of meter Channel 1) will be credited to the REDGIC at the full retail rate (i.e., effectively displacing energy supplied from the EU). During that same Billing Period, any excess energy supplied from the REDGIC to the EU and recorded on the EU's bi-directional net meter in kWh (e.g., through meter Channel 2) will be credited on the REDGIC's bill at the applicable Total ~~Benefits Value~~ of Distributed Generation expressed in cents per kWh and shall be accounted for through the EU's fuel adjustment clause. The customer's monthly bill will be the total of billing for any usage (i.e., as recorded on meter Channel 1) subject to any customer charge and/or minimum bill provisions in the EU's rate and rider schedules less any credit due to the customer from excess energy exported to the EU (i.e., as recorded on meter Channel 2). If the sum total of the monthly bill is negative, any such amount will be carried over to the next Billing Period and applied to any charges arising during the subsequent Billing Period.
- 106** Beginning with the effective date of this rule, Total ~~Benefits Value~~ of Distributed Generation shall be equal to the Avoided Cost of Wholesale Power plus the Distributed Generation ~~Benefits Value Adder~~. Further, the Distributed Generation ~~Benefits Value Adder~~ shall be equal to 2.5 cents/kWh, unless and until modified upward or downward based on Mississippi-specific data, by separate Order of the Commission, and after full notice and hearing. ~~This amount may be modified upward or downward at any time by order of this Commission, should the Commission find it is in the public interest to do so.~~ Within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this rule, each EU shall file with the Commission revised net generation tariffs consistent with the provisions of this revised rule for consideration and approval by the Commission.
- 107** Each new Billing Period shall begin with zero kWh credits to the REDGIC; however, subject to the provisions above, the customer may carry over any value of energy credit arising from the prior Billing Period(s). When a customer closes his or her account with the EU, if the REDGIC has accumulated a dollar balance as a result of excess energy delivered to the EU, any such balance, net of costs owed to the EU, shall be paid to the REDGIC.
- 108** Credit for any excess energy exported to the EU shall not be applied to reduce any fixed monthly customer charges or minimum bill provisions imposed by the EU under Commission-approved rate and rider schedules.
- 109** An EU shall offer a REDGIC the choice of a time differentiated energy tariff rate or a non-time-differentiated energy tariff rate, if the EU offers the choice to customers in the same rate class as the REDGIC. If a REDGIC uses a retail billing arrangement that has

time- differentiated rates, the EU shall net any production from the DGFs against the customer's consumption within the same time-of-use period in the Billing Period and any excess energy exported to the EU will be credited as described above.

- 110** Any renewable energy credits (RECs) created by the REDGIC are and shall remain the property of the REDGIC, unless otherwise approved by the Commission. The EU shall not charge any back-up, standby, or Exit Fees to a REDGIC, unless otherwise approved by the Commission.
- 111** An EU shall not charge a REDGIC any fee or charge, or require additional equipment, insurance or any other requirement, unless the fee, charge, or other requirement is specifically authorized in this ~~MDGR~~ MDGR or the MDGIR, or the fee would apply to other customers in the same rate class that are not REDGICs, or unless otherwise approved by the Commission.
- 112** All REDGICs must be electrically interconnected with their EU pursuant to the provisions of the MDGIR. All rules and regulations for interconnected DGFs within the MDGIR apply to REDGICs. Any Distribution System Upgrades, including additional equipment needed that is associated with the export of electricity, shall be at the REDGIC's expense, per the MDGIR.
- 113** ~~As a further requirement under this rule, e~~Each EU shall file with the Commission within three months of the effective date of this revised rule the EU's updated plan to publicize and inform its customers, ~~whether through a website, a bill insert, or other form of communication,~~ of the opportunities available under the MDGR to interconnect DGFs and receive compensation for excess energy delivered to the grid.
- 113** Nothing in this document shall abrogate any person's obligation to comply with all applicable Federal or State laws, rules or regulations, including the MDGIR.

Chapter 04: METERS AND METERING

- 100** A REDGIC shall be equipped with metering equipment that can measure the flow of electricity in each direction at the same time. This may be accomplished through the use of advanced metering infrastructure, or a single bi-directional meter that records customer usage as well as excess energy exported to the EU (e.g., energy supplied to the customer net of the output of the REDGIC is measured on Channel 1 and excess energy supplied by the REDGIC to the EU in excess of the customer's requirements is measured on Channel 2).
- 101** An EU may choose to use an existing electric revenue meter if the following criteria are met:
1. The meter is capable of measuring the flow of electricity both into and out of the REDGIC at the same time; and

2. The meter is accurate to within plus or minus five percent when measuring excess energy flowing from the REDGIC to the EU.
- 102 If the REDGIC's existing electric revenue meter does not meet the requirements above, the EU shall install a new revenue meter for the REDGIC, at the REDGIC's expense, within 10 business days after the interconnection agreement is executed and approved. If the EU offers a time-differentiated rate chosen by the REDGIC, the meter shall have the capability to appropriately record energy flows in each direction during any time-differentiated period.
- 103 Any subsequent revenue meter change will be at the EU's expense, meaning such meter expense will not be charged to an individual REDGIC but shall become part of the EU's overall cost of service and subsequent revenue requirement.

Chapter 05: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- 100 Each EU with one or more REDGICs connected to its grid shall submit to the Mississippi Public Service Commission a Net ~~Renewable~~ Generation report on or before March 1st of each calendar year. The report shall include the following information regarding REDGICs during the reporting period:
 1. The total energy expressed in kilowatt-hours supplied to the EU's grid by REDGICs and a description of any estimation methodology used;
 2. The total number of REDGICs that were paid for excess energy exported to the EU at the end of any Billing Period(s) during the prior calendar year;
 3. The total dollar amount by month that the EU paid to REDGICs for excess energy exported to the EU during the prior calendar year;
 4. The total number of net generation DGFs by resource type that were interconnected at the end of the prior calendar year;
 5. The total rated nameplate ~~alternating~~ direct current generating capacity of net ~~metering~~ generation DGFs installed during the prior calendar year broken out by resource type; and
 6. The percentage of the EU's total system peak demand from the prior calendar year represented by the total rated nameplate ~~alternating~~ direct current generating capacity of net ~~metering~~ generation DGFs.
 7. The total number of REDGICs who received the Low-to-Moderate Income Benefits Adder that calendar year.

- 101 For purposes of these reporting requirements, any estimates shall be made using Commission-approved protocols unless no such protocols are available, in which case the estimates shall be accompanied by detailed calculations demonstrating how the estimates were made.

Chapter 06: CUSTOMER PROGRAMS

- 100 While the Commission recognizes that it cannot order an EU to construct or acquire specific resources, the Commission finds that economic benefits warrant reasonably incentivizing energy independence through cost reductions for renewable energy for K-12 public schools through power purchase agreements, renewable energy for low-to-moderate income residential customers and residential battery storage systems that can accommodate and are compatible with any existing or future EU demand side management or demand response programs. Any renewable energy for public school programs or low-to-moderate income residential renewable energy programs will be subject to the three percent (3%) participation cap described, previously, herein; however, nothing herein prevents an EU from extending these programs if it chooses. These programs should begin on January 1, 2023, and should continue for no more than five (5) years.
- 101 Compliance with tariffs implementing a renewable energy program described above and the execution and filing of a power purchase agreement shall be deemed sufficient to satisfy any certificate requirements subject to Commission jurisdiction and authority.
- 102 Public Schools participating in any solar for public schools program are admonished to treat any savings or revenues as supplementing, not supplanting, school budgets related to educational expenses and investments focused on the classroom, such as classroom supplies.
- 103 EUs should be allowed to recover all reasonable and prudent costs incurred by them and resulting rates shall reflect on a prospective basis the reduction in energy sales volume that will result from all distributed generation. EUs all shall be allowed to recover all investments relating to this rule and any programs discussed above, including an opportunity to earn a reasonable return thereon. Such investments shall include, but not be limited to, equipment, incentives, marketing and delivery, direct installation costs, and any administration costs.

Chapter 0607: INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

- 100 In an effort to foster continued monitoring and consideration of the fairness and efficacy of this rule, the joint working group previously established between representatives of the Commission, the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff, the Office of the Mississippi

Attorney General, and other qualified stakeholders shall ~~continue to~~ meet bi-annually to identify and discuss issues related to net generation that may warrant further Commission attention and/or review. Members of the Commission Staff and Public Utilities Staff who participated in the working group shall present any joint recommendations on such issues to the Commission by January 30th each year.

101 In order to offer all customers some level of consumer protection, any entity interacting with customers in any transaction or proposed transaction related to this rule or any program or implementing tariff associated herewith, including but not limited to solar developers and solar installers, shall take the following actions, as applicable:

1. Must file with the Commission a point of contact to whom the Commission may direct customer complaints for resolution;
2. Must register with the Secretary of State to do business in Mississippi and list a registered agent for service of process; and
3. Must file annually with the Commission, and provide a copy to the consumer protection division of the Office of the Mississippi Attorney General, any marketing material with attestation to its accuracy.

Chapter ~~0708~~: REOPENER

100 ~~The Commission may, in its discretion, open a new docket to review and revise the MsNRG to the extent it deems necessary, either five years from the effective date of this Revised Rule, or when the total Net Generation alternating current capacity in kW, as reported through these requirements, exceeds 4 percent of the EU's total system peak demand as expressed in kW recorded during the prior calendar year, whichever occurs first. The Commission may revisit this rule five years from its effective date.~~

Exhibit "B"

Public K-12 Solar for Schools

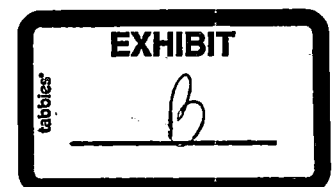
A Public K-12 Solar for Schools Program shall be available to Public School Districts, a list of which is curated by the Mississippi Department of Education and as reported by the School District to the Investor-Owned Electric Utility ("EU").

General Guidance

- The capacity limitation per School District shall be based on the lessor of the solar capacity necessary to not exceed 110% of the aggregate annual usage of the School District's meters served by the EU or 3MWDC.
- The total capacity (MWDC) of all participating School Districts shall be combined with the total capacity associated with net metering, or any similar or related Commission approved program, in determining that distribution level solar capacity equals or exceeds 3% of the EU's retail peak load.
- EUs may refuse additional Public K-12 Solar for Schools Program requests if the total direct current capacity in kW, as reported through these requirements, exceeds at any time 3 percent of the EU's total system peak demand expressed in kW recorded during the prior calendar year.

Solar for School Power Purchase Agreements

- Third Party Solar Developer would negotiate a Solar for Schools Agreement ("Agreement") with the School District. The purpose of which is to establish revenue disbursements from the EU to the Third Party Solar Developer and the School District.
- In order to promote consumer protection, EUs are directed to implement prequalification components for Third Party Solar Developers into its Public K-12 Solar for Schools Program; the EUs are directed to consider prequalified entities with the Energy Division of the Mississippi Development Authority pursuant to Mississippi Code Section 31-7-14 or expansion of the EUs Trade Ally Program to encompass the Public K-12 Solar for Schools Program.
- The Public Schools participating in any solar for public schools program,
- The Purchase Power Agreement price shall be the EU's avoided cost of energy plus 4.5 cents.
- Only a single PPA may be associated with each School District.
- The solar facility supplying the power must be located in the county/counties of the School District and within the Certificated Area of the EU and be physically interconnected with the EU's distribution system.
- PPA life would be 25 years, which is the reported life of the solar facility, pursuant to a PPA form approved by the Commission.
- PPAs shall be executed on a first-come-first-served basis.



Low-to-Moderate Income Energy Independence Incentive

Low-to-Moderate Income Energy Independence Incentive (“LMI Incentive”) shall be available to residential customers qualifying for the MDGR’s Low-to-Moderate Income Benefits Adder and participating in the Commission’s MDGR.

General Guidance

- Each EU shall offer a one-time \$3,000.00 LMI Incentive to any customer who qualifies for the MDGR’s Low-to-Moderate Income Benefits Adder and is participating in the Commission’s MDGR.
- Prior to receiving an LMI Incentive, the residential customer shall conduct an EU approved Energy Efficiency audit.
- Upon customer consent, the LMI Incentive shall be directly provided to the distributed energy facility installer or contractor.
- The total annual incentive budget for Entergy Mississippi, LLC shall be \$6 million; the total annual budget for Mississippi Power Company shall be \$3 million.
- Sufficient proof of interconnection and completion of the above-mentioned EU Energy Efficiency audit must be provided prior to receipt of a \$3,000.00 LMI Incentive.
- The budgets for the LMI Incentive shall be accounted for and recovered through rates in the same manner as demand-side management programs established under Rule 29.
- The disbursement of the LMI Incentive shall be audited by the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff in the same manner as demand-side management and other energy efficiency incentive programs under Rule 29.

Residential Demand Response Battery Incentive

Residential Demand Response Battery Incentive (“Battery Incentive”) shall be available to residential customers participating in the Commission’s MDGR. Residential customers who receive an LMI Incentive shall not be eligible to receive a Battery Incentive.

- Each EU shall offer a one-time \$2,000.00 Battery Incentive to any residential customer participating in the Commission’s MDGR; any residential customer who receives an LMI Incentive shall not be eligible to receive a Battery Incentive.
- Prior to receiving a Battery Incentive, the residential customer shall conduct an EU approved Energy Efficiency audit.
- Prior to receiving a Battery Incentive, the residential customer shall enroll in an EU’s Demand Response program as contemplated in Rule 29.107.1 of the Commission’s Public Utilities Rules of Practice and Procedure.
- Upon customer consent, the Battery Incentive shall be directly provided to the distributed energy facility installer or contractor.
- The total annual incentive budget for Entergy Mississippi, LLC shall be \$2 million; the total annual budget for Mississippi Power Company shall be \$1 million.
- Sufficient proof of installation and completion of the above-mentioned EU Energy Efficiency audit must be provided prior to receipt of a \$2,000.00 Battery incentive.
- The budgets for the Battery Incentive shall be accounted for and recovered through rates in the same manner as demand-side management programs established under Rule 29.
- The disbursement of the Battery Incentive shall be audited by the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff in the same manner as demand-side management and other energy efficiency incentive programs under Rule 29.