

## Distributed Generation Interconnection

### National Grid Reporting Requirements – Affected System Operator Studies

#### **Paragraph 7 Potential Need for an ASO Study Update**

April 15, 2021

Narragansett Electric Company (NECo) initially notified affected applicants on October 15, 2020, in accordance with Paragraph 6 of the Distributed Generation Interconnection National Grid Reporting Requirements – Affected System Operator Studies (DG ASO Study Reporting Requirements), that there is the potential need for an ASO study that will implicate three or more DG applications or more than 15 MWs of DG capacity in Western Rhode Island. NECo now has determined that applicants in this area will require an Area ASO Level 3 Comprehensive Transmission System Impact Study, which will be called Western RI Area ASO Study #3.

Following NECo's initial notification of the potential need for an ASO Study, NECo is providing this monthly update to the RI PUC and all affected DG applicants in accordance with Paragraph 7 of the DG ASO Study Reporting Requirements. The Western RI Area ASO Study #2 completed its Transmission System Impact Study (ASO Study) on January 30, 2021 and the associated Proposed Plan Applications (PPAs) were presented at the February 16<sup>th</sup> NEPOOL RC Meeting, and were officially approved by ISO-NE on March 4, 2021. Once Western RI Area ASO Study #3 commences, NECo will provide monthly written updates in accordance with Paragraph 9 and these Paragraph 7 updates will cease.

Below is the current list of substations to which projects that apply to interconnect will require further study.

Power Supply	Substation	# of Apps	AC Rating (kW)	Total kW
Western NECo	Putnam Pike	1	3,000	80,050
Western NECo	TBD	3	30,000	
Western NECo	Chase Hill	5	23,000	
Western NECo	Kent County	5	21,800	
Western NECo	West Kingston	1	2,250	

- a) **Whether and what additional information is needed to determine if an ASO Study is necessary:** No additional information is needed at this time.
- b) **Expected date when National Grid will know whether an ASO study is necessary:** NEP, in coordination with ISO-NE, has determined and informed NECo that an Area ASO Study will be required for these projects.
- c) **Potential Impact on interconnection and costs:** The Western RI Area ASO Study #3 is estimated, at this time, to take 6-12 months. The Western RI Area ASO Study #3 will not begin until it has been scoped following the Company's receipt of first payments under the Interconnection Service Agreements and after the effect of any attrition has been assessed for projects in Western RI Area ASO Study #2. Additionally, we are looking into possibly re-studying

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the DG applications that adversely impacted the transmission system by grouping them into Western RI Area ASO Study #3, which will begin no earlier than May 2021.

- d) **Any proposed resolutions that National Grid is exploring to enable some affected DG applications to proceed with the interconnection process prior to completion of the ASO study:** No additional resolutions are being explored at this time. NECo will revisit this if circumstances change.
  
- e) **National Grid’s plan to address the situation and minimize delays to interconnection timelines of potentially affected DG applications:** NECo along with NEP, in coordination with ISO-NE, will work to complete the required Western RI Area ASO Study #3 as efficiently as possible, once that Study begins.

*Force Majeure Event* NECo is informing all new applicants that due to the developing COVID-19 crisis, NECo declared a Force Majeure Event (Event) pursuant to the Standards for Connecting Distributed Generation, RIPUC No. 2180 (“Tariff”) Section 3.0., that the Company will notify customers whose DG project is directly impacted by this Event, and that all customers will be kept informed of the scope and duration (to extent known) of this Force Majeure Event and of the steps the Company is taking to mitigate the effects of the Event on its performance through periodic updates on the Company’s distributed generation website: <https://ngus.force.com/s/article/RI-Force-Majeure-Declarations>