

MASSACHUSETTS Interconnection Standards

Snapshots

Does Massachusetts have interconnection rules and requirements?	YES. They require utilities to have interconnection tariffs.				
Does it explicitly include energy storage in the definition of eligible projects for interconnection?	No				
What standard is referenced for setting technical requirements?	UL 1741 IEEE 1547 IEEE 1453 for Voltage fluctuation limits				
Is there any System Capacity Limit?	No Limit specified				
Is there a "Fast Track" option for application?	YES! (the simplified process)				
What are the eligible Technologies that can be Interconnected	Solar, Wind, Hydro, Diesel, Natural gas, Fuel Oil				
What sectors are eligible to participate	Commercial, Industrial, Local Government, Nonprofit, Residential, Schools, State Government, Federal Government, Agricultural, Multifamily Residential				
Is net metering required for interconnection?	Net metering is available but not required.				
What are the associated fees with interconnection in Massachusetts?		Simplified	Expedited	Standard	Simplified Spot & Area Network
	Application Fee (Covers Screens)	0	\$4.50/kW, minimum \$300 Maximum \$7,500 For Supplemental Review: Up to 30 engineering hours at \$150/hr (\$4,500 maximum)	\$4.50/kW, minimum \$300 Maximum \$7,500	≤3kW \$100, >3kW \$300
Is an external disconnect switch required for interconnected technologies?	At the discretion of the Utilities				
Is liability insurance required for homes and/or small business seeking to interconnect?	YES. General Liability insurance is required.				

Is there an Export limits from an energy storage technology	No limits specified
URLs	https://www9.nationalgridus.com/non_html/Interconnect_stds_MA.pdf

SUMMARY

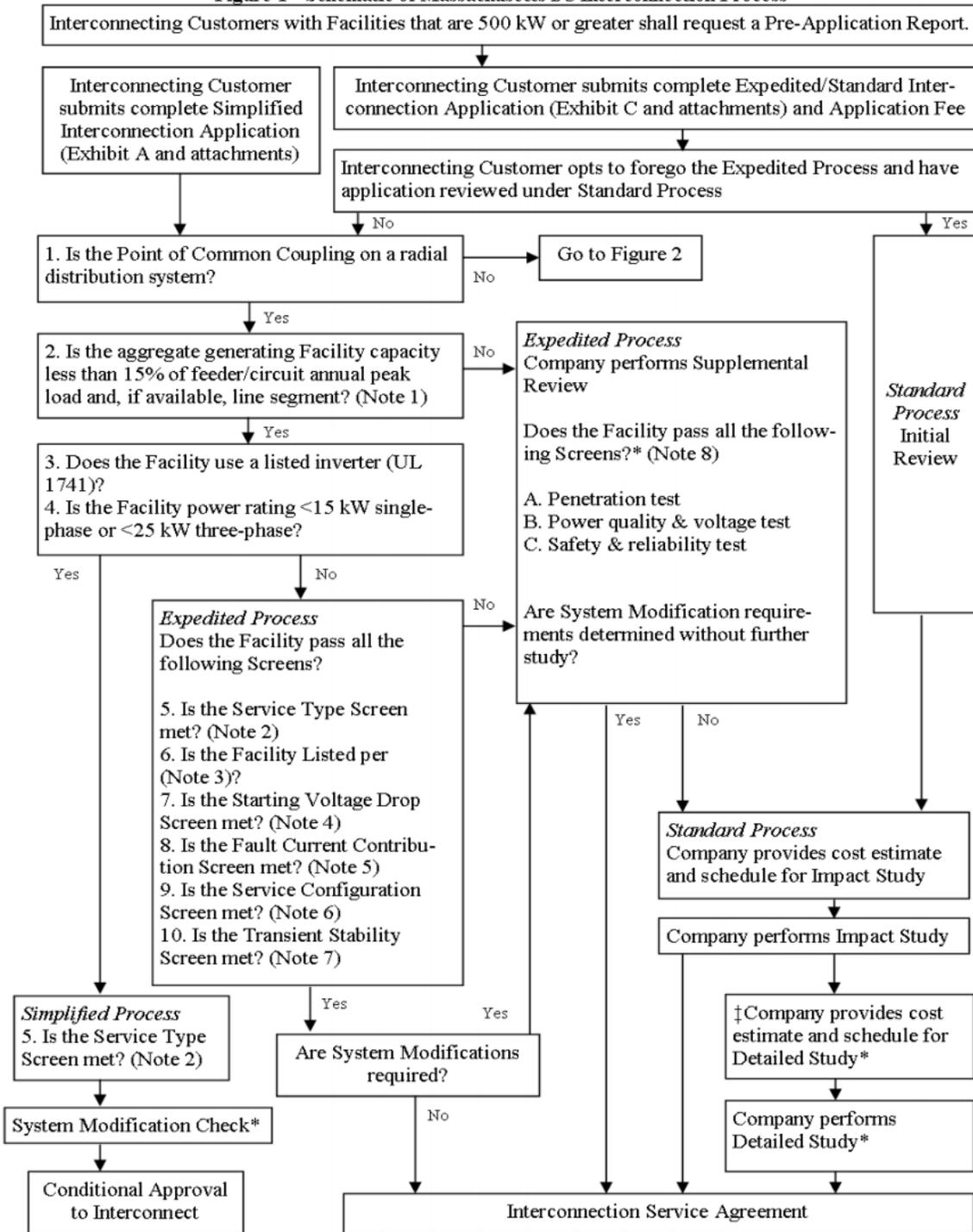
- The Massachusetts Department of Public utilities (DPU) regulates the interconnection process in the state and requires utilities to have interconnection Tariffs.
- In August 2011, the Department of Energy Resources (DEOR) submitted the Massachusetts Distributed Generation Interconnection Report to the DPU outlining its recommendations for improved interconnection policies and processes.
- The DPU opened an investigation into the interconnection of distributed generation in MA,
- On January 23, 2012, the Massachusetts Distributed Generation Interconnection Working group was initiated at the request of the DPU through [Order 11-75](#)
- The Working Group was tasked with determining what issues should be resolved regarding the interconnection standard and application procedure to ensure an effective and efficient interconnection process.
- The participants of the Working Group were
 - UTILITIES:
 - National Grid
 - NSTAR
 - WMECO
 - Unitill
 - DG PROVIDERS
 - DG Solar
 - Borrego Solar
 - Blue Wave Capital
 - Spire Solar Systems
 - DG Cleanpower
 - SEBANE/SEIA
 - Exelon/Constellation Energy
 - My Generation Energy
 - DG CHP
 - Source One/Veolia Energy
 - Northeast Clean Heat and Power Initiative
 - US Clean Heat & Power Association,
 - The E-Cubed Company,
 - Prime Solutions,
 - Havard
 - STATE AGENCIES
 - Dept. of Energy resources
 - MA Clean Energy center
 - Customers/Cities

- CLC/CVEC
- On September 14, 2012, the working group issued its final report, and the DPU adopted the report in March 2013.

INTERCONNECTION PROCESS SUMMARY

- Prior to connecting, the distributed generation system owner must obtain written approval from the local utility in the form of an Interconnection Service Agreement and subsequent Authorization to Connect.
- There are three (3) basic path to Interconnection
 - Simplified Process (fastest and least costly path)
 - Expedited Process
 - Standard process (longest time period and highest potential cost)
- **Simplified Process:** for interconnecting customers using
 - listed single-phase inverter-based facilities with power rating of 15 kW or less OR
 - listed three-phase inverter-based facilities with power rating of 25 kW and requesting an interconnection on radial EPS where the capacity is less than 15% of feeder annual peak load.
- **Expedited Process:** for customers that pass certain pre-specified screens on a radial EPS (See Figure 1)
- **Standard Process:** for all facilities not qualifying for either the simplified or expedited interconnection processes on radial and spot network EPS, and for all facilities on area network EPS.

Figure 1 – Schematic of Massachusetts DG Interconnection Process



*Only if required

Figure 2 – Simplified Interconnection to Networks

