

# **Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.**

## **Revised Generator Interconnection Procedures**

**Effective July 1, 2010**

Tri-State has adopted significant revisions to its interconnection process. These changes will be effective July 1, 2010. All interconnection requests submitted after July 1, 2010 will be processed under these new procedures.

### **Background**

In November 2008, Tri-State announced the commencement of a two stage generator interconnection queue reform process. Tri-State implemented the first stage on January 12, 2009. Since that time Tri-State has made significant process in processing interconnection requests. In November 2008, Tri-State's queue included 70 requests for almost 16,000 MW of generation. By December 31, 2009, Tri-State had reduced its backlog to 46 requests for approximately 9,500 MW.

During the past year Tri-State developed its second phase, or Revised Generator Interconnection Procedures, with input from numerous stakeholders. Tri-State developed many elements of its proposal based on reforms initiated by various Regional Transmission Organizations. Tri-State conducted two public stakeholder meetings, provided three public comment periods and made a number of modifications to its proposal as a result of stakeholder feedback. Tri-State retained a number of the changes, such as increased deposit amounts, although slightly modified, discontinuance of Interconnection Feasibility Studies and expedited treatment of interconnection requests with confirmed arrangements for sale of the output.

Information on Tri-State's queue reform process, including presentations, meeting transcripts and comments are available on Tri-State's external website under Queue Reform on the Transmission tab.

### **Revised Interconnection Procedures**

The process outlined below meets Tri-State's original goal as stated at its Interconnection Customer meeting on November 20, 2008 to develop "a process that allows competitive generators to deliver energy to load without compromising the integrity of the transmission system." This new process also meets the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's direction that "all Transmission Providers should be evaluating whether changes are needed to their queue management practices to ensure the expediency called for by Order No. 2003." (Order on Technical Conference, March 20, 2008, AD08-2-000)

System Impact Studies (SIS) for interconnection requests will be based on the results of an annual Load and Resource Transmission Study. The Load and Resource Transmission Study will analyze Tri-State's transmission system and identify all network upgrades required to meet the projected load growth of its Network Integration Transmission Service customers and any previously planned upgrades necessary for Point-to-Point Transmission Service. Funding for these network upgrades is assumed to be provided by Tri-State or the Point-to-Point transmission customer and will not be imposed on new interconnection requests.

### **Major components of Revised Generator Interconnection Procedures**

*Application:* Two 60 day application windows annually.

Deposits:

Generators large than 75 MW	\$250,000	(\$25,000 non-refundable)
Generators larger than 20 MW but no more than 75	\$ 75,000	(\$25,000 non-refundable)
Generators larger than 10 MW but no more than 20	\$ 50,000	(\$10,000 non-refundable)
Generators less than 10 MW	\$ 25,000	(\$5,000 non-refundable)

Site Control:

At Application	25%
Prior to Facilities Study	50%
Prior to Execution of Interconnection Agreement	100%
No deposit in lieu of site control will be accepted.	

*Queue:* Applications will be treated on a first come-first served basis through the system impact study; however interconnection requests with firm customer commitments will be studied on a priority expedited study basis. Proceeding to a Facilities Study will occur on a first ready - first served basis.

*Process:*

Customer is encouraged to perform its own screening analysis prior to submitting an application. If necessary, Tri-State will assist requestor with access to power flow model base cases, and a Tri-State transmission system map, under signature of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) with Tri-State and WECC.

With respect to modeling other generation requests in the IR queue, Tri-State will use a serial “stand alone” study methodology, and will only use a cluster study approach at its discretion.

Initial System Impact Study will study up to three levels of generation for each request. An alternate Point of Interconnection (POI) for the project may also be considered. After the preliminary steady-state power flow studies have been completed, Tri-State will meet with the customer and identified Affected System parties to discuss the results of these preliminary studies. After the review, the customer must select a single generation level, and a single POI for completion of the SIS.

Prior to commencing a Facilities Study, the customer must provide security in the form of available funds or a letter of credit for 25% of the estimated network upgrade costs and must identify one of four options for proceeding:

- Resource is a Network Resource identified in the Load and Resource Plan,
- Resource is a Network Resource not identified in the Load and Resource Plan,
- Resource has reserved Point-to-Point Transmission Service,
- Resource will use the system on an as available basis.

Customer has the option to delay this decision for up to eighteen months after completion of the System Impact Study report without being required to withdraw its request.

Suspension rights are limited under the Generator Interconnection Agreement.