

1.2 Definitions

The following words and terms shall be understood to have the following meanings when used in this Interconnection Tariff:

“Affected System” shall mean any neighboring EPS not under the control of the Company (i.e., a municipal electric light company or other regulated utility).

“Affiliate” shall mean a person or entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with a Party.

“Anti-Islanding” shall mean a description of the ability of a Facility to avoid unintentional islanding through some form of active control technique.

“Interconnection Application” shall mean the notice (which will serve as the Notice of Intent to Interconnect under 220 C.M.R. §§ 8.00 et seq. when required) provided by Interconnecting Customer to the Company in the form shown in Exhibits A and C which initiates the interconnection process.

“Area EPS” shall mean the Company EPS. This term is used in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Standard 1547-2003, “IEEE Standard for Interconnecting Distributed Resources with Electric Power Systems” (“IEEE Standard 1547-2003”).

“Authorization to Interconnect” shall mean an official written notification provided by the Company to the Interconnecting Customer, authorizing the Interconnecting Customer to activate and operate the Facility subject to the terms of the Interconnection Service Agreement.

“Business Day” shall be defined as the next working day, not including Saturday, Sunday or a legal holiday, after a request or application has been received by the Company.

“Certificate of Completion” shall mean the form required as proof that the installed Facility has been inspected by the local electrical wiring inspector or other jurisdictional authority.

“Class I Net Metering Facility” shall mean a plant or equipment that is used to produce, manufacture, or otherwise generate electricity and that is not a transmission facility and that has a design capacity of 60 kilowatts or less.

“Class II Net Metering Facility” shall mean an Agricultural Net Metering Facility, Anaerobic Digestion Net Metering Facility, Solar Net Metering Facility, or Wind Net Metering Facility with a generating capacity of more than 60 kilowatts but less than or equal to one megawatt; provided, however, that a Class II Net Metering Facility that is a Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity

may have a generating capacity of more than 60 kilowatts but less than or equal to one megawatt per unit.¹

“Class III Net Metering Facility” shall mean an Agricultural Net Metering Facility, Anaerobic Digestion Net Metering Facility, Solar Net Metering Facility, or Wind Net Metering Facility with a generating capacity of more than one megawatt but less than or equal to two megawatts; provided, however, that a Class III Net Metering Facility that is a Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity may have a generating capacity of more than one megawatt but less than or equal to two megawatts per unit.

“Common Study Area” shall mean a discrete portion of the Company EPS where the operation of multiple Interconnecting Customers’ Facilities may have cumulatively adverse EPS impacts. The Company shall determine if applications fall within a Common Study Area. A Common Study Area may include, but is not limited to, an area that: (1) is fed from a common substation transformer, or (2) is bounded by a circuit.

¹ Any terms used herein but not defined shall have the meaning as ascribed in the Company’s Net Metering Tariff, as amended or superseded from time to time.

“Company” shall mean NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, as applicable.

“Company EPS” shall mean the electric power system owned, controlled or operated by the Company used to provide distribution service to its Customers.

“Compliance Documentation” shall mean and include any documentation required to determine that the Interconnecting Customer is in compliance with requirements of the Tariff, including the applications, exhibits and agreements attached thereto, and such documentation includes, as applicable: final as-built one-line diagrams, photos, witness test results, local wiring inspection approval, completed Certificate of Completion, certified relay test results, printout of inverter settings, insurance certificates, P-rate agreement, Exhibit H (retail customer agreement), landowner agreement, easements for system modifications, and, if the Facility is net metering, a completed Schedule Z, a net metering cap allocation from the System of Assurance, and, for a Facility that is included in the public net metering cap, certification from the Department that the Host Customer and all off-takers qualify as a municipality or other governmental entity.

“Conditional Approval to Interconnect” shall mean an official written notification provided by the Company to the Interconnecting Customer approving of the proposed system design of a proposed Facility and authorizing the Interconnecting Customer to test but not commence commercial operation of that Facility subject to the terms of the Exhibit A, Simplified Process Interconnection Application and Service Agreement.

“Customer” shall mean any person, partnership, corporation, or any other entity whether public or private who obtains distribution service at a Customer delivery point and who is a customer of record of the Company for its own electricity consumption.

“Department” shall mean the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities.

“Detailed Study” shall mean the final phase of engineering study, if necessary, conducted by the Company to determine substantial System Modifications to its EPS, resulting in project cost estimates and a construction schedule for such modifications that will be required to provide the requested interconnection service.

“DG” shall mean Distributed Generation.

“~~DER~~” shall mean the Distributed Energy Resource

“Energy Storage System” shall mean a device that captures energy produced at one time, stores that energy for a period of time, and delivers that energy as electricity for use at a future time. For purposes of this Interconnection Tariff, an Energy Storage System can be considered part of a Facility. This term is used or a Facility in IEEE Standard 1547-2003-whole.

“Expedited Process” shall mean, as described in Section 3.3, process steps for Listed Facilities from initial application to final written authorization, using a set of technical screens to determine impact on the Company EPS.

“Export Capacity” shall mean the maximum Nameplate Rating of a Facility in alternating current (AC), except where such capacity is limited by an acceptable means as identified in Section 4.3 of this Interconnection Tariff, or as permitted by the Company.

“Facility” shall mean ~~a source~~the sum of ~~electricity~~all equipment that is owned and/or operated by the Interconnecting Customer ~~that is and~~ located on the Interconnecting Customer’s side of the PCC, ~~and all facilities ancillary that is used to generate, store, monitor, and appurtenant thereto, including interconnection equipment~~control electric power, which the Interconnecting Customer requests to interconnect to the Company EPS.

“FERC” shall mean Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

“Force Majeure Event” shall mean any event that is beyond the reasonable control of the affected Company or Interconnecting Customer, and that the affected Company or Interconnecting Customer is unable to prevent or provide against by exercising commercially reasonable efforts, including the following events or circumstances, but only to the extent they satisfy the preceding requirements: acts of war or terrorism, public disorder, insurrection, or rebellion; floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, lightning, storms, and other natural calamities; explosions or fire; strikes, work stoppages, or labor disputes; embargoes; and sabotage. For the treatment of Force Majeure see Section 3.7.

“Good Utility Practice” shall mean any of the practices, methods and acts engaged in or approved by a significant portion of the electric utility industry during the relevant time period, or any of the practices, methods and acts which, in the exercise of reasonable judgment in light of the facts known at the time the decision was made, could have been expected to accomplish the desired result at a reasonable cost consistent with good business practices, reliability, safety and expedition. Good Utility Practice is not intended to be limited to the optimum practice, method, or act to the exclusion of all others, but rather to be acceptable practices, methods, or acts generally accepted in the region.

“Group” shall mean all proposed Facilities studied as part of a Group Study or those Facilities’ applicants (as determined by the context). The order of applicants within a Group shall be determined on the basis of the date the applicants’ applications were deemed complete by the Company. The application completion date for the Group shall be defined as the earliest application completion date of any active application in the Common Study Area (excluding applications that have progressed through a Preceding Study).

“Group Study” shall mean a modified Impact Study that is performed for a Group of applications whenever two or more applications are awaiting completion of a Preceding Study within a Common Study Area, as provided in Section 3.4.1. The Group Study shall be performed once the Preceding Study is completed, instead of each application undergoing Impact Studies sequentially.

“Impact Study” shall mean the engineering study conducted by the Company under the Standard Process to determine the scope of the required modifications to its EPS and/or the Facility to provide the requested interconnection service.

“Inadvertent Export” shall mean the unscheduled or unintended export of power from a Facility, exceeding a specified magnitude and for a limited duration. Inadvertent Export does not include fault current exported by the Facility due to a fault on the Company EPS.

“In-Service Date” shall mean the date on which the Facility and System Modifications (if applicable) are complete and ready for service, even if the Facility is not placed in service on or by that date.

“Interconnecting Customer” shall mean the entity that owns and/or operates the Facility interconnected to the Company EPS, with legal authority to enter into agreements regarding the construction or operation of the Facility.²

“Interconnection Service Agreement” shall mean an agreement for interconnection service, the form of which is provided in Exhibit G, between the Interconnecting Customer and the Company. The agreement also includes terms and conditions, attachments describing the Facility, system modifications, payment terms and construction schedule (if applicable) and any amendments or supplements thereto entered into by the Interconnecting Customer and the Company.

“Interconnection Tariff” shall mean these Standards for Interconnection of Distributed Generation Energy Resources. The Interconnection Tariff is a regulatory document enforced by the Department.

“Islanding” shall mean a situation where electrical power remains in a portion of an electrical power system when the Company’s transmission or distribution system has ceased providing power for whatever reason (emergency conditions, maintenance, etc.). Islanding may be intentional, such as when certain segregated loads in an Interconnecting Customer or Customer’s premises are provided power by a Facility after being isolated from the Company EPS after a power failure. Unintentional Islanding, especially past the PCC, is to be strictly avoided.

“ISO-New England, Inc. (“ISO-NE”)” shall mean the Independent System Operator established in accordance with the NEPOOL Agreement and applicable FERC approvals, which is responsible for managing the bulk power generation and transmission systems in New England.

² An entity which owns the Facility interconnected to the Company EPS solely as part of a financing arrangement, which could include the acquisition of the tax credits related to the Facility, but is neither the Customer nor the operator of that Facility, shall not be considered the Interconnecting Customer hereunder.

“Isolated” shall mean the state of operating the Facility when electrically disconnected from the Company EPS on the Interconnecting Customer’s side of the PCC.

“Landowner” shall mean the owner of real property where the Facility is sited. In cases where the Landowner is not the Customer or Interconnecting Customer, a Landowner Consent Agreement will be required (see Exhibit I).

“Local EPS” shall mean the premises within which are contained the Facility. This term is used in the IEEE Standard 1547-2003.

“Limited Export” shall mean the exporting capability of the Facility that is maintained to be less than the Nameplate Rating described in Section 4.3.

“Listed” shall mean a Facility that has successfully passed all pertinent tests to conform with IEEE 1547.1.

“Metering Point” shall mean, for meters that do not use instrument transformers, the point at which the billing meter is connected. For meters that use instrument transformers, the point at which the instrument transformers are connected.

“Nameplate, design, or generation “capacity” or “rating Rating” shall mean the individual or sum total maximum continuous power output (AC) listed by capacity of all of a Facility’s constituent generating units and/or Energy Storage Systems as identified on the manufacturer– nameplate, regardless of whether it is limited by any approved means.

“NEPOOL” shall mean New England Power Pool.

“Net Metering” shall mean the process of measuring the difference between electricity delivered by the Company and electricity generated by a Class I, Class II, or Class III Net Metering Facility and fed back to the Company.

“Network Distribution System (Area or Spot)” shall mean electrical service from an EPS consisting of one or more primary circuits from one or more substations or transmission supply points arranged such that they collectively feed secondary circuits serving one (a spot network) or more (an area network) Interconnecting Customers.

“Non-Islanding” shall mean the ability of a Facility to avoid unintentional islanding through the operation of its interconnection equipment.

“NPCC” shall mean Northeast Power Coordinating Council.

“On-Site Generating Facility” shall mean a class of Interconnecting Customer-owned generating Facilities with peak capacity of 60 kW or less, as defined in 220 C.M.R. § 8.00.

“Operating Schedule” shall mean the manner in which the Facility is designed to be operated, as designated in the Interconnection Application materials, including the amount of export, the times of year, hours of the day and other relevant conditions.

“Parallel” shall mean the state of operating the Facility when electrically connected to and synchronized with the Company EPS (sometimes known as grid-parallel).

“Parties” shall mean the Company and the Interconnecting Customer, and “Party” shall mean either the Company and/or Interconnecting Customer, as determined by context.

“Point of Common Coupling (PCC)” shall mean the point where the Interconnecting Customer’s local electric power system connects to the Company EPS, such as the electric power revenue meter or Company’s service transformer. The PCC shall be specified in the Interconnection Service Agreement.

“Point of Delivery” shall mean a point on the Company EPS where the Interconnecting Customer makes capacity and energy available to the Company. The Point of Delivery shall be specified in the Interconnection Service Agreement.

“Point of Receipt” shall mean a point on the Company EPS where the Company delivers capacity and energy to the Interconnecting Customer.

“Pre-Application Report” shall mean, as described in Section 3.2, a non-binding report of certain information specific to a proposed Facility interconnection location provided to the Interconnecting Customer by the Company prior to the Application.

“Preceding Study” shall mean any study that is required by the Company to be completed prior to commencing the Group Study process for the remaining applicant(s) in a Common Study Area. A Preceding Study shall be deemed to have commenced upon execution of the relevant Impact Study Agreement(s) and the initial payment of the study costs. A Preceding Study shall be deemed to be complete upon issuance of the final Impact or Group Study report.

“Protective Function” shall mean the equipment, hardware and/or software in a Facility (whether discrete or integrated with other functions) whose purpose is to protect against conditions that, if left uncorrected, could result in harm to personnel, damage to equipment, loss of safety or reliability, or operation outside pre-established parameters required by the Interconnection Service Agreement.

“Public Facility” shall mean any Facility (1) that is owned or operated by a municipality or other governmental entity; or (2) that is sited on land of a municipality or other governmental entity; or (3) which for purposes of Net Metering qualifies as a Net Metering Facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity.

“Qualifying Facility” shall mean a generation Facility that has received certification as a Qualifying Facility from the FERC in accordance with the Federal Power Act, as amended by the Public Utility Regulatory

Policies Act of 1978, as defined in 220 C.M.R. § 11.04.

“Radial Distribution Circuit” shall mean electrical service from an EPS consisting of one primary circuit extending from a single substation or transmission supply point arranged such that the primary circuit serves Interconnecting Customers in a particular local area.

“Screen(s)” shall mean criteria by which the Company will determine if a proposed Facility’s installation will adversely impact the Company EPS in the Simplified and Expedited Processes as set forth in Section 3.0.

“Simplified Process” shall mean, as described in Section 3.1, process steps from initial application to final written authorization for certain inverter-based Facilities of limited scale and minimal apparent grid impact.

“Solar Facility” shall mean a facility for the production of electrical energy that uses sunlight to generate electricity and is interconnected to the Company EPS.

“Standard Process” shall mean, as described in Section 3.4, process steps from initial application to final written authorization for Facilities that do not qualify for Simplified or Expedited treatment.

“Supplemental Review” shall mean additional engineering study to evaluate the potential impact of the Facility on the Company EPS so as to determine any requirements for processing the application through the Expedited Process.

“System Modification” shall mean modifications or additions to distribution-related Company facilities that are integrated with the Company EPS for the benefit of the Interconnecting Customer.

“Time Frame” shall mean each step in the pertinent interconnection process with a Company or Interconnecting Customer obligation of completion within the relevant Business Days in this Interconnection Tariff beginning on the next Business Day following the completion of the prior step and concluding with the applicable deliverable in this Interconnection Tariff. The Company shall report annually to the Department on its compliance with all Time Frames as provided in Department order D.P.U. 11-75-F.

“Unintentional Islanding” shall mean a situation where the electrical power from the Facility continues to supply a portion of the Company EPS past the PCC when the Company’s transmission or distribution system has ceased providing power for whatever reason (emergency conditions, maintenance, etc.).

“Witness Test” shall mean the Company’s right to witness the commissioning testing and/or Company-required Interconnecting Customer-owned communication system. Commissioning testing is defined in IEEE Standard 1547-2003.