D. <u>Process for Projects in Group Studies</u>

Currently, upon completion of a Group Study, the Distribution Company presents the study results to the group and each group member has 15 business days to determine whether it will proceed in the interconnection process ("Notice Period"). M.D.P.U. No. 375, § 3.4.1(i); M.D.P.U. No. 55A, § 3.4.1(i); M.D.P.U. No. 1468, § 3.4.1(i). Provided that the group membership does not change during the Notice Period, the Distribution Company sends an executable ISA to each group member:

- (a) within 15 calendar days of the end of the Notice Period if the group has three or fewer interconnection applications;
- (b) within 25 calendar days of the end of the Notice Period if the group has four or five interconnection applications; and
- (c) within 35 calendar days of the end of the Notice Period if the group has more than five interconnection applications

M.D.P.U. No. 375, § 3.4.1(i); M.D.P.U. No. 55A, § 3.4.1(i); M.D.P.U. No. 1468, § 3.4.1(i). An Interconnecting Customer has 20 business days to execute an ISA following receipt from a Distribution Company or its interconnection application will be considered withdrawn, and the Interconnecting Customer would need to reapply for interconnection. DG Interconnection Tariff, § 3.6.2.

To provide regulatory certainty and to preserve the interconnection process under the DG Interconnection Tariff, the Department finds that, for purposes of the Provisional Program, the Notice Period for any Group Study for which a Distribution Company submits

long-term benefits of the upgrade, and potentially to gain an understanding of community needs.