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**BY EMAIL AND WEB POSTING**

## **BULLETIN**

**DATE ISSUED: October 29, 2024**

**TO: All Licensed Electricity Distributors  
All Other Interested Parties**

**RE: Providing Required Information on the Connection of Distributed Energy  
Resources to Distribution Systems**

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**This Ontario Energy Board (OEB) Staff Bulletin reminds licensed electricity distributors that, under the Distribution System Code (DSC), they have an obligation to provide access to specific forms and information concerning the connection of generation and storage facilities (Distributed Energy Resources or DERs) to their distribution systems. The forms and information must be made available upon the request of any person and electronically on distributors' websites.**

OEB staff has received several questions and complaints from customers regarding distributors not providing information required under the DSC to assist customers in understanding the technical requirements for connecting DERs to a distributors' systems. This information and these requirements are intended to assist customers make informed investment decisions about the installation of DERs and ensure a transparent and consistent approach to DER connections across the province. OEB staff is providing this Bulletin to remind distributors of their obligations under the DSC to provide DER connection-related forms and information, and to make it available to their customers through their websites.

Section 6.2 of the DSC requires distributors to make specific information related to the connection of generation facilities accessible both electronically, as well as in hard copy. Section 6.2.1A of the DSC includes storage facilities as generation facilities for the purposes of the requirements set out in Section 6.2. In this Bulletin, generation facilities, including storage facilities, are referred to as DERs.

Through a review of all distributors' websites, OEB staff has identified that several distributors have not yet met the requirements of Section 6.2. Furthermore, OEB staff observed that many distributors have not posted, as required in Section 6.2.3, the "technical requirements for being connected to the distributor's distribution system."

### **Requirements for the provision of documents and information regarding DER connections**

OEB staff has determined that a number of licensed electricity distributors have not complied with the DSC's requirements to provide the following<sup>1</sup>:

- **Generation Connection Information Package<sup>2</sup>**: This package must include all relevant details regarding the connection process, covering each phase of connection, the necessary forms, approvals required from other entities, technical requirements and standard contractual terms and conditions for being connected, distributor contact information, the sample Protection Philosophy and a list of restricted feeders. The list of restricted feeders helps proponents avoid pursuing projects likely to be rejected, saving both parties time and resources. The DSC requires that the list must be updated as necessary to capture system reconfiguration or expansions and shall be updated at least every 3 months. The Generation Connection Information Package must be made available electronically on the distributor's website. It must also be available in hard copy at the distributor's premises for customers who request it.
- **Micro-Embedded Generation Facilities Agreement<sup>3</sup>**: This agreement must be available electronically, on the distributor's website where available, with a paper copy available at the distributor's address.
- **Preliminary Consultation Information Request (PCIR) Form<sup>4</sup>**: This form must be made available in the manner specified in the *Distributed Energy Resources Connection Procedures* (DERCP) to a person who is considering applying for the connection of a generation facility to the distributor's distribution system. The PCIR Form should be available electronically on the distributor's website and in hard copy at the distributor's address.
- **Connection Impact Assessment (CIA) Application<sup>5</sup>**: in the form specified in the DERCP, should be available electronically, on the distributor's website where available, and in hard copy at the distributor's address.

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<sup>1</sup> For the complete requirements, please refer to the DSC.

<sup>2</sup> DSC s. 6.2.3.

<sup>3</sup> DSC s. 6.2.5. The template of this agreement is provided in Appendix E of the DSC.

<sup>4</sup> DSC s. 6.2.9. The template form is provided in Appendix C-i of the DERCP

<sup>5</sup> DSC s. 6.2.11.

Distributors are required to post this information and to ensure that it is maintained and updated to reflect any changes in requirements. Distributors who have not yet fulfilled these requirements must take the necessary steps to ensure the documents are posted and available immediately.

### **Distributors' obligations to provide information on the technical requirements for connecting DERs**

The DSC also requires distributors to provide detailed information on the technical requirements for connecting generation facilities to their distribution systems. This information plays a critical role in ensuring transparency and consistency across all DER connections. Distributors should ensure that customers are fully informed about the reasons for the any project specific requirements including potential cost implications. This transparency is essential for enabling customers to make well-informed decisions and for maintaining trust in the connection process. To facilitate the efficient integration of DERs and enable customers to make educated and informed investment decisions, OEB staff emphasizes the importance of distributors to:

- **Provide clear technical requirements for connections:** Under Section 6.2.3(c) of the DSC, distributors are required to make available to anyone who requests them, the “technical requirements for being connected to the distributor’s distribution system.” Distributors are expected to outline all potential connection requirements in their standard technical requirements documents, including aspects related to performance, protection, control, operation, and telecommunications.
- **Provide a rationale for any project-specific technical requirements:** In keeping with the requirement to post their standard technical requirements, a distributor is expected to provide a clear rationale for any technical requirements imposed on a specific project that deviate from the distributor’s standard technical requirements. This expectation also applies where after a connection agreement is signed there is a change in scope for the connection that requires any change in technical requirements. The distributor is also expected to engage with the customer to discuss any potential revisions to the CIA and connection agreement that may arise due to any scope changes.

All licensed distributors are expected to review their websites and ensure that the required information and forms, updated to meet the current DSC and DERCP requirements, are available on its website and where required in hard copy at their offices. Distributors that fail to have the required information and forms available may be subject to compliance action.

**The views expressed in this Bulletin are those of OEB staff and are not binding on a panel of Commissioners. Any questions regarding this Bulletin should be directed to the OEB’s Industry Relations email address at [IndustryRelations@oeb.ca](mailto:IndustryRelations@oeb.ca).**