**Section 467.APPENDIX C Contract**

**STANDARD AGREEMENT FOR INTERCONNECTION**

**OF DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES FACILITIES WITH A**

**CAPACITY MORE THAN 10 MVA**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| This agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into this | | | | | | | | | | |  | | day of |
|  | , by and between | | | |  | | | | ("interconnection customer"), | | | | |
| as an individual person, or as a | | |  | | | | | | | organized and existing under the | | | |
| laws of the State of | |  | | | | and |  | | | | | , ("Electric | |
| Distribution Company" (EDC)), a | | | |  | | | | existing under the laws of the State of | | | | | |
| Illinois. Interconnection customer and EDC each may be referred to as a "Party", or collectively as the "Parties". | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

**Recitals:**

**Whereas,** interconnection customer is proposing to install or direct the installation of a distributed energy resources (DER) facility, or is proposing a generating capacity addition to an existing DER facility, consistent with the interconnection request application form

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| completed by interconnection customer on | (Date) | and included in this Agreement as |

Attachment 9; and

**Whereas,** the interconnection customer will operate and maintain, or cause the operation and maintenance of, the DER facility; and

**Whereas,** interconnection customer desires to interconnect the DER facility with EDC's electric distribution system.

**Now, therefore,** in consideration of the premises and mutual covenants set forth in this Agreement, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt, sufficiency and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties covenant and agree as follows:

**Article 1. Scope and Limitations of Agreement**

1.1 This Agreement shall be used for all approved interconnection requests for DER facilities that are greater than 10 MVA according to the procedures set forth in Part 467 of the Commission's rules (83 Ill. Adm. Code 467) (referred to as the Illinois Large Distributed Energy Resources Interconnection Standard).

1.2 This Agreement governs the terms and conditions under which the DER facility will interconnect to, and operate in parallel with, the EDC's electric distribution system.

1.3 This Agreement does not constitute an agreement to purchase or deliver the interconnection customer's power.

1.4 Nothing in this Agreement is intended to affect any other agreement between the EDC and the interconnection customer.

1.5 Terms used in this Agreement are defined in Attachment 1 to this Agreement, unless otherwise noted.

1.6 Responsibilities of the Parties

1.6.1 The Parties shall perform all obligations of this Agreement in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

1.6.2 The EDC shall construct, own, operate, and maintain its interconnection facilities in accordance with this Agreement.

1.6.3 The interconnection customer shall construct, own, operate, and maintain its DER facility and interconnection facilities in accordance with this Agreement.

1.6.4 Each Party shall operate, maintain, repair, and inspect, and shall be fully responsible for, the facilities that it now or subsequently may own unless otherwise specified in the attachments to this Agreement. Each Party shall be responsible for the safe installation, maintenance, repair and condition of its respective lines and appurtenances on its respective sides of the point of interconnection.

1.6.5 The interconnection customer agrees to design, install, maintain and operate its DER facility so as to minimize the likelihood of causing an adverse system impact on the electric distribution system or any other electric system that is not owned or operated by the EDC.

1.7 Parallel Operation Obligations

Once the DER facility has been authorized to commence parallel operation, the interconnection customer shall abide by all operating procedures established by the applicable technical standards. The EDC shall use relevant technical standards adopted by the applicable regional transmission organization (RTO). If such standards do not exist, the parties shall negotiate adjustments or modifications to the IEEE 1547 technical standard necessary due to electric system conditions or constraints, or to unique generator characteristics. The EDC shall provide the interconnection customer with a written explanation for any departure from parallel operation obligations contained in the published technical standard.

1.8 Metering and Data Acquisition Equipment

The interconnection customer shall be responsible for the cost to purchase, install, operate, maintain, test, repair, and replace metering and data acquisition equipment specified in Attachments 6 and 7 of this Agreement.

1.9 Reactive Power

1.9.1 The interconnection customers shall design their DER facilities to maintain a power factor at the point of interconnection between .95 lagging and .95 leading at all times.

1.9.2 Any EDC requirements for meeting a specific voltage or specific reactive power schedule as a condition for interconnection shall be clearly specified in Attachment 4. Under no circumstance shall the EDC's additional requirements for voltage or reactive power schedules exceed the normal operating capabilities of the DER facility.

1.9.3 If the interconnection customer does not operate the DER facility within the power factor range specified in Attachment 4, or does not operate the distribute generation facility in accordance with a voltage or reactive power schedule specified in Attachment 4, the interconnection customer is in default under this Agreement, and the terms of Article 6.5 apply.

1.10 Standards of Operations

The interconnection customer shall obtain all certifications, permits, licenses and approvals necessary to construct, operate and maintain the facility and to perform its obligations under this Agreement. The interconnection customer is responsible for coordinating and synchronizing the DER facility with the EDC's system. The interconnection customer is responsible for any damage that is caused by the interconnection customer's failure to coordinate or synchronize the DER facility with the electric distribution system. The interconnection customer agrees to be primarily liable for any damages resulting from the continued operation of the DER facility after the EDC ceases to energize the line section to which the DER facility is connected. In Attachment 4, the EDC shall specify the shortest reclose time setting for its protection equipment that could affect the DER facility. The EDC shall notify the interconnection customer at least 10 business days prior to adopting a faster reclose time on any automatic protective equipment such as a circuit breaker or line recloser, that might affect the DER facility.

**Article 2. Inspection, Testing, Authorization, and Right of Access**

2.1 Equipment Testing and Inspection

The interconnection customer shall test and inspect its DER facility including the interconnection equipment prior to interconnection in accordance with EDC requirements. The interconnection customer shall not operate its DER facility in parallel with the EDC's electric distribution system without prior written authorization by the EDC as provided for in Articles 2.1.1-2.1.3. The EDC's requirements for testing and inspection shall not constitute or be construed as conforming or endorsing the design. Nor are such inspections any warranty of safety, durability or reliability of the interconnection customer's DER facility.

2.1.1 The EDC shall perform a witness test after construction of the DER facility is completed, but before parallel operation, unless the EDC specifically waives the witness test. The interconnection customer shall provide the EDC at least 15 business days' notice of the planned commissioning test for the DER facility. If the EDC performs a witness test at a time that is not concurrent with the commissioning test, it shall contact the interconnection customer to schedule the witness test at a mutually agreeable time. If the EDC does not perform the witness test within 10 business days after the commissioning test, the witness test is deemed waived unless the Parties mutually agree to extend the date for scheduling the witness test, or unless the EDC cannot do so for good cause, in which case, the Parties shall agree to another date for scheduling the test. If the witness test is not acceptable to the EDC, the EDC shall deliver in writing a detailed technical description of all deficiencies of the DER facility identified by the EDC during the witness test. The interconnection customer has 30 business days after receipt of the written description to address and resolve any deficiencies. This time period may be extended upon agreement between the EDC and the interconnection customer. If the interconnection customer fails to address and resolve the deficiencies to the satisfaction of the EDC, the applicable cure provisions of Article 6.5 shall apply. The interconnection customer shall, if requested by the EDC, provide a copy of documentation in its possession regarding testing.

2.1.2 If the interconnection customer conducts interim testing of the DER facility prior to the witness test, the interconnection customer shall obtain permission from the EDC before each occurrence of operating the DER facility in parallel with the electric distribution system. The EDC may, at its own expense, send qualified personnel to the DER facility to observe such interim testing, but it cannot mandate that these tests be considered in the final witness test. The EDC is not required to observe the interim testing or precluded from requiring the tests be repeated at the final witness test. During and leading up to the witness test, the EDC shall not limit the interconnection customer’s ability to test the DER facility during normal working hours except for safety and reliability reasons.

2.1.3 After the DER facility passes the witness test, the EDC shall affix an authorized signature to the certificate of completion and return it to the interconnection customer approving the interconnection and authorizing parallel operation. The authorization shall not be conditioned or delayed and the EDC shall return the signed certificate of completion to the interconnection customer no more than 10 business days after the date that the DER facility passes the witness test.

2.2 Commercial Operation

The interconnection customer shall not operate the DER facility, except for interim testing as provided in Article 2.1, until such time as the certificate of completion is signed by all Parties.

2.3 Right of Access

The EDC shall have access to the disconnect switch and metering equipment of the DER facility at all times. When practical, the EDC shall provide notice to the interconnection customer prior to using its right of access.

**Article 3. Effective Date, Term, Termination, and Disconnection**

3.1 Effective Date

This Agreement shall become effective upon execution by all Parties and the effective date shall be the date noted in the first paragraph of this Agreement.

3.2 Term of Agreement

This Agreement shall remain in effect unless terminated in accordance with Article 3.3 of this Agreement.

3.3 Termination

3.3.1 The interconnection customer may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving the EDC 30 calendar days prior written notice.

3.3.2 Either Party may terminate this Agreement after default pursuant to Article 6.5.

3.3.3 The EDC may terminate upon 60 calendar days' prior written notice for failure of the interconnection customer to complete construction of the DER facility within 12 months after the in-service date as specified by the Parties in Attachment 2, which may be extended by agreement between the Parties.

3.3.4 The EDC may terminate this Agreement, upon 60 calendar days' prior written notice, if the interconnection customer has abandoned, cancelled, permanently disconnected or stopped development, construction, or operation of the DER facility for a period of 60 calendar days or longer or if the interconnection customer fails to operate the DER facility in parallel with the EDC's electric system for three consecutive years.

3.3.5 Upon termination of this Agreement, the DER facility will be disconnected from the EDC's electric distribution system. Terminating this Agreement does not relieve either Party of its liabilities and obligations that are due or continuing when the Agreement is terminated.

3.3.6 If the Agreement is terminated, the interconnection customer loses its queue position.

3.4 Temporary Disconnection

A Party may temporarily disconnect the DER facility from the electric distribution system in the event one or more of the following conditions or events occurs:

3.4.1 Emergency conditions – shall mean any condition or situation: (1) that in the judgment of the Party making the claim is likely to endanger life or property; or (2) that the EDC determines is likely to cause an adverse system impact, or is likely to have a material adverse effect on the EDC's electric distribution system, interconnection facilities or other facilities, or it is likely to interrupt or materially interfere with the provision of electric utility service to other customers; or (3) that is likely to cause a material adverse effect on the DER facility or the interconnection equipment. Under emergency conditions, the EDC or the interconnection customer may suspend interconnection service and temporarily disconnect the DER facility from the electric distribution system. The EDC must notify the interconnection customer when it becomes aware of any conditions that might affect the interconnection customer's operation of the DER facility. The interconnection customer shall notify the EDC when it becomes aware of any condition that might affect the EDC's electric distribution system. To the extent information is known, the notification shall describe the condition, the extent of the damage or deficiency, the expected effect on the operation of both Parties' facilities and operations, its anticipated duration, and the necessary corrective action.

3.4.2 Scheduled maintenance, construction, or repair – the EDC may interrupt interconnection service or curtail the output of the DER facility and temporarily disconnect the DER facility from the EDC's electric distribution system when necessary for scheduled maintenance, construction, or repairs on EDC's electric distribution system. The EDC shall provide the interconnection customer with notice no less than 5 business days before an interruption due to scheduled maintenance, construction, or repair, or the EDC shall provide notice immediately if the scheduled maintenance, construction, or repair is scheduled less than 5 business days in advance. The EDC shall coordinate the reduction or temporary disconnection with the interconnection customer; however, the interconnection customer is responsible for out-of-pocket costs incurred by the EDC for deferring or rescheduling maintenance, construction or repair at the interconnection customer's request.

3.4.3 Forced outages – The EDC may suspend interconnection service to repair the EDC's electric distribution system. The EDC shall provide the interconnection customer with prior notice, if possible. If prior notice is not possible, the EDC shall, upon written request, provide the interconnection customer with written documentation, after the fact, explaining the circumstances of the disconnection.

3.4.4 Adverse system impact – the EDC must provide the interconnection customer with written notice of its intention to disconnect the DER facility, if the EDC determines that operation of the DER facility creates an adverse system impact. The documentation that supports the EDC's decision to disconnect must be provided to the interconnection customer. The EDC may disconnect the DER facility if, after receipt of the notice, the interconnection customer fails to remedy the adverse system impact, unless emergency conditions exist, in which case, the provisions of Article 3.4.1 apply. The EDC may continue to leave the generating facility disconnected until the adverse system impact is corrected.

3.4.5 Modification of the DER facility – The interconnection customer must receive written authorization from the EDC prior to making any change to the DER facility, other than a minor equipment modification. If the interconnection customer modifies its facility without the EDC's prior written authorization, the EDC has the right to disconnect the DER facility until such time as the EDC concludes, at the interconnection customer's cost, the modification poses no threat to the safety or reliability of its electric distribution system.

3.4.6 The EDC's compliance with Article 3 shall preclude any claim for damages for any lost opportunity or other costs incurred by the interconnection customer as a result of an interruption of service under Article 3. Any dispute over whether the EDC complied with Article 3 shall be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution mechanism set forth in Article 8.

**Article 4. Cost Responsibility for Interconnection Facilities and System Upgrades**

4.1 Interconnection Facilities

4.1.1 The interconnection customer shall pay for, or reimburse the EDC, as applicable, for, the cost of the interconnection facilities itemized in Attachment 3. The EDC shall identify the interconnection facilities necessary to interconnect the DER facility with the EDC's electric distribution system, the estimated cost of those facilities, and the estimated time required to build and install those facilities, as well as an estimated date of completion of the building or installation of these facilities.

4.1.2 The interconnection customer is responsible for its expenses, including overheads, associated with owning, operating, maintaining, repairing, and replacing its interconnection equipment.

4.2 System Upgrades

The EDC shall design, procure, construct, install, and own any system upgrades. The actual cost of the system upgrades, including overheads, shall be directly assigned to, and shall be paid by, or reimbursed by, the interconnection customer whose DER facility caused the need for the system upgrades.

**Article 5. Billing, Payment, Milestones, and Financial Security**

5.1 Billing and Payment Procedures and Final Accounting

5.1.1 The EDC shall bill the interconnection customer for the design, engineering, construction, and procurement costs of EDC-provided interconnection facilities and system upgrades contemplated by this Agreement as set forth in Attachment 3. The billing shall occur on a monthly basis, or as otherwise agreed to between the Parties. The interconnection customer shall pay each bill within 30 calendar days after receipt, or as otherwise agreed to between the Parties.

5.1.2 Unless waived by the interconnection customer, within 90 calendar days after completing the construction and installation of the EDC's interconnection facilities and system upgrades described in Attachments 2 and 3 to this Agreement, the EDC shall provide the interconnection customer with a final accounting report of any difference between (1) the actual cost incurred to complete the construction and installation of the EDC's interconnection facilities and system upgrades; and (2) the interconnection customer's previous deposit and aggregate payments to the EDC for the interconnection facilities and system upgrades. If the interconnection customer's cost responsibility exceeds its previous deposit and aggregate payments, the EDC shall invoice the interconnection customer for the amount due and the interconnection customer shall pay the EDC within 30 calendar days. If the interconnection customer's previous deposit and aggregate payments exceed its cost responsibility under this Agreement, the EDC shall refund to the interconnection customer an amount equal to the difference within 30 calendar days after the final accounting report. If the difference between the budget estimate and the actual cost exceeds 20%, the EDC will provide a written explanation for the difference.

5.1.3 If a Party disputes any portion of its payment obligation pursuant to this Article 5, the Party shall pay in a timely manner all non-disputed portions of its invoice, and the disputed amount shall be resolved pursuant to the dispute resolution provisions contained in Article 8. A Party disputing a portion of an Article 5 payment shall not be considered to be in default of its obligations under this Article.

5.2 Interconnection Customer Deposit

Within 15 business days after signing and returning the interconnection agreement to the EDC, the interconnection customer shall provide the EDC with a deposit equal to 100% of the estimated, non-binding cost that exceeds the unused application fee amount to design, engineer, procure, install, or construct that particular portion of any such interconnection facilities or system upgrades. However, when the estimated date of completion of the interconnection facilities or system upgrades exceeds three months from the date of notification under Article 4.1.1 of this Agreement, this deposit may be held in escrow by a mutually agreed-upon third-party, with any interest to inure to the benefit of the interconnection customer. The parties may mutually agree to waive or modify the customer deposit requirement if alternative financial security arrangements are made under Article 5.4 of this Agreement. To the extent that this interconnection agreement is terminated for any reason, the EDC shall return all deposits provided by the interconnection customer, less any actual costs incurred by the EDC.

5.3 Milestones

The Parties shall agree on milestones for which each Party is responsible and list them in Attachment 5 of this Agreement. A milestone for any Party established under this provision may be extended by mutual agreement. If a Party anticipates that it will be unable to meet a milestone for any reason other than a force majeure event, it shall immediately notify the other Party of the reasons for not meeting the milestone and propose the earliest reasonable alternate date by which it can attain this and future milestones. The appropriate amendments shall be made to Attachment 5. The Party affected by the failure to meet a milestone shall not unreasonably withhold agreement to an amendment.

5.4 Alternative Financial Security Arrangements

By mutual agreement of the Parties, as an alternative to the customer deposit requirement in Article 5.2, the Parties may agree to provide the EDC with a guarantee, surety bond, letter of credit or other form of security that is reasonably acceptable to the EDC and is consistent with the Uniform Commercial Code of the jurisdiction where the point of interconnection is located. The security for payment shall be in an amount sufficient to cover the costs for constructing, designing, engineering, procuring and installing the applicable portion of the interconnection facilities and system upgrades and shall be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis for payments made to the EDC under this Agreement. In addition:

5.4.1 The guarantee must be made by an entity that meets the creditworthiness requirements of the EDC, and contain terms and conditions that guarantee payment of any amount that may be due from the interconnection customer, up to an agreed-to maximum amount.

5.4.2 The letter of credit or surety bond must be issued by a financial institution or insurer reasonably acceptable to the EDC and must specify a reasonable expiration date.

**Article 6. Assignment, Limitation on Damages, Indemnity, Force Majeure, and Default**

6.1 Assignment

This Agreement may be assigned by either Party. If the interconnection customer attempts to assign this Agreement, the assignee must agree to the terms of this Agreement in writing and such writing must be provided to the EDC. Any attempted assignment that violates this Article is void and ineffective. Assignment shall not relieve a Party of its obligations, nor shall a Party's obligations be enlarged, in whole or in part, by reason of the assignment. An assignee is responsible for meeting the same obligations as the assignor.

6.1.1 Either Party may assign this Agreement without the consent of the other Party to any affiliate (including mergers, consolidations, or transfers, or a sale of a substantial portion of the Party's assets, between the Party and another entity), of the assigning Party that has an equal or greater credit rating and the legal authority and operational ability to satisfy the obligations of the assigning Party under this Agreement.

6.1.2 The interconnection customer can assign this Agreement, without the consent of the EDC, for collateral security purposes to aid in providing financing for the DER facility.

6.2 Limitation on Damages

Except for cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct, the liability of any Party to this Agreement shall be limited to direct actual damages and reasonable attorney's fees, and all other damages at law are waived. Under no circumstances, except for cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct, shall any Party or its directors, officers, employees and agents, or any of them, be liable to another Party, whether in tort, contract or other basis in law or equity for any special, indirect, punitive, exemplary or consequential damages, including lost profits, lost revenues, replacement power, cost of capital or replacement equipment. This limitation on damages shall not affect any Party's rights to obtain equitable relief, including specific performance, as otherwise provided in this Agreement. The provisions of this Article 6.2 shall survive the termination or expiration of the Agreement.

6.3 Indemnity

6.3.1 This provision protects each Party from liability incurred to third parties as a result of carrying out the provisions of this Agreement. Liability under this provision is exempt from the general limitations on liability found in Article 6.2.

6.3.2 The interconnection customer shall indemnify and defend the EDC and the EDC's directors, officers, employees, and agents, from all damages and expenses resulting from a third party claim arising out of or based upon the interconnection customer's (a) negligence or willful misconduct or (b) breach of, or performance under, this Agreement.

6.3.3 The EDC shall indemnify and defend the interconnection customer and the interconnection customer's directors, officers, employees, and agents from all damages and expenses resulting from a third party claim arising out of or based upon the EDC's (a) negligence or willful misconduct or (b) breach of performance under this Agreement.

6.3.4 Within 5 business days after receipt by an indemnified Party of any claim or notice that an action or administrative or legal proceeding or investigation as to which the indemnity provided for in this Article may apply has commenced, the indemnified Party shall notify the indemnifying Party of such fact. The failure to notify, or a delay in notification, shall not affect a Party's indemnification obligation unless that failure or delay is materially prejudicial to the indemnifying Party.

6.3.5 If an indemnified Party is entitled to indemnification under this Article as a result of a claim by a third party, and the indemnifying Party fails, after notice and reasonable opportunity to proceed under this Article, to assume the defense of such claim, that indemnified Party may, at the expense of the indemnifying Party, contest, settle or consent to the entry of any judgment with respect to, or pay in full, the claim.

6.3.6 If an indemnifying Party is obligated to indemnify and hold any indemnified Party harmless under this Article, the amount owing to the indemnified person shall be the amount of the indemnified Party's actual loss, net of any insurance or other recovery.

6.4 Force Majeure

6.4.1 As used in this Article, a force majeure event shall mean any act of God, labor disturbance, act of the public enemy, war, acts of terrorism, insurrection, riot, fire, storm or flood, explosion, breakage or accident to machinery or equipment through no direct, indirect, or contributory act of a Party, any order, regulation or restriction imposed by governmental, military or lawfully established civilian authorities, or any other cause beyond a Party's control. A force majeure event does not include an act of gross negligence or intentional wrongdoing by the Party claiming force majeure.

6.4.2 If a force majeure event prevents a Party from fulfilling any obligations under this Agreement, the Party affected by the force majeure event ("Affected Party") shall notify the other Party of the existence of the force majeure event within one business day or as soon as possible. The notification must specify the circumstances of the force majeure event, its expected duration, and the steps that the Affected Party is taking and will take to mitigate the effects of the event on its performance. If the initial notification is verbal, it must be followed up with a written notification within one business day or as soon as reasonably possible. The Affected Party shall keep the other Party informed on a continuing basis of developments relating to the force majeure event until the event ends. The Affected Party may suspend or modify its obligations under this Agreement (other than the obligation to make payments) only to the extent that the effect of the force majeure event cannot be otherwise mitigated.

6.5 Default

6.5.1 No default shall exist when the failure to discharge an obligation (other than the payment of money) results from a force majeure event as defined in this Agreement, or the result of an act or omission of the other Party.

6.5.2 A Party shall be in default ("Default") of this Agreement if it fails in any material respect to comply with, observe or perform, or defaults in the performance of, any covenant or obligation under this Agreement and fails to cure the failure within 60 calendar days after receiving written notice from the other Party. Upon a default of this Agreement, the non-defaulting Party shall give written notice of the default to the defaulting Party. Except as provided in Article 6.5.3, the defaulting Party has 60 calendar days after receipt of the default notice to cure the default; provided, however, if the default cannot be cured within 60 calendar days, the defaulting Party shall commence the cure within 20 calendar days after original notice and complete the cure within six months from receipt of the default notice; and, if cured within that time, the default specified in the notice shall cease to exist.

6.5.3 If a Party has assigned this Agreement in a manner that is not specifically authorized by Article 6.1, fails to provide reasonable access pursuant to Article 2.3, and is in default of its obligations pursuant to Article 7, or if a Party is in default of its payment obligations pursuant to Article 5 of this Agreement, the defaulting Party has 30 days from receipt of the default notice to cure the default. In the case of default, the EDC shall continue to have the right of access to the customer's disconnect switch and metering equipment, as provided in Article 2.3.

6.5.4 If a default is not cured as provided for in this Article, or if a default is not capable of being cured within the period provided for in this Article, the non-defaulting Party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement by written notice, and be relieved of any further obligation under this Agreement and, whether or not that Party terminates this Agreement, to recover from the defaulting Party all amounts due under this Agreement, plus all other damages and remedies to which it is entitled at law or in equity. The provisions of this Article shall survive termination of this Agreement.

**Article 7. Insurance**

The EDC and the interconnection customer shall negotiate the amounts of the comprehensive/general liability insurance coverage that shall be continuously maintained by the interconnection customer during the term of this agreement. The interconnection customer agrees to provide the EDC with at least 30 calendar days advance written notice of cancellation, reduction in limits, or non-renewal of any insurance policy required by this Article.

**Article 8. Dispute Resolution**

8.1 Parties shall attempt to resolve all disputes regarding interconnection as provided in this Article in a good faith manner.

8.2 If there is a dispute between the Parties about implementation or an interpretation of the Agreement, the aggrieved Party shall issue a written notice to the other Party to the agreement that specifies the dispute and the Agreement articles that are disputed.

8.3 A meeting between the Parties shall be held within 10 business days after receipt of the written notice. Persons with decision-making authority from each Party shall attend the meeting. If the dispute involves technical issues, persons with sufficient technical expertise and familiarity with the issue in dispute from each Party shall also attend the meeting. The meeting may be conducted by teleconference. The informal process between the parties shall extend 30 days after the receipt of written notice, after which the dispute is deemed resolved and the timeframes for decisions within the interconnection process resume, unless one of the parties seeks resolution through non-binding arbitration procedures described in Article 8.4 or files a formal complaint at the Commission prior to the end of the 30-day period.

8.4 If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute through the process outlined in Article 8.3, either party may submit the interconnection dispute to an Ombudsman for non-binding arbitration. The party electing non-binding arbitration shall notify the other party of the request in writing. The non-binding arbitration process is limited to 60 days, absent mutual agreement of the parties and the Ombudsman to a longer period.

8.5 Each party shall bear its own fees, costs and expenses and an equal share of the expenses of the non-binding arbitration.

8.6 Within 10 days after the conclusion of the procedures in Article 8.4, either party may initiate a formal complaint with the Commission and ask for an expedited resolution of the dispute. If the complaint seeks expedited resolution, any written recommendation of the Ombudsman shall be appended to the complaint. The formal complaint shall proceed as a contested hearing pursuant to the Commission’s Rules of Practice

8.7 A party may, after good faith negotiations have failed, decline to pursue non-binding arbitration and instead initiate a formal complaint with the Commission. The formal complaint shall proceed as a contested hearing pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice.

8.8 Pursuit of dispute resolution may not affect an interconnection request or an interconnection applicant's queue position.

8.9 If the Parties fail to resolve their dispute under the dispute resolution provisions of this Article, nothing in this Article shall affect any Party's rights to obtain equitable relief, including specific performance, as otherwise provided in this Agreement.

**Article 9. Miscellaneous**

9.1 Governing Law, Regulatory Authority, and Rules

The validity, interpretation and enforcement of this Agreement and each of its provisions shall be governed by the laws of the State of Illinois, without regard to its conflicts of law principles. This Agreement is subject to all applicable laws and regulations. Each Party expressly reserves the right to seek change in, appeal, or otherwise contest any laws, orders or regulations of a governmental authority. The language in all parts of this Agreement shall in all cases be construed as a whole, according to its fair meaning, and not strictly for or against the EDC or interconnection customer, regardless of the involvement of either Party in drafting this Agreement.

9.2 Amendment

Modification of this Agreement shall be only by a written instrument duly executed by both Parties.

9.3 No Third-Party Beneficiaries

This Agreement is not intended to and does not create rights, remedies, or benefits of any character whatsoever in favor of any persons, corporations, associations, or entities other than the Parties, and the obligations in this Agreement assumed are solely for the use and benefit of the Parties, their successors in interest and, where permitted, their assigns.

9.4 Waiver

9.4.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, a Party's compliance with any obligation, covenant, agreement, or condition in this Agreement may be waived by the Party entitled to the benefits thereof only by a written instrument signed by the Party granting the waiver, but the waiver or failure to insist upon strict compliance with the obligation, covenant, agreement, or condition shall not operate as a waiver of, or estoppel with respect to, any subsequent or other failure.

9.4.2. Failure of any Party to enforce or insist upon compliance with any of the terms or conditions of this Agreement, or to give notice or declare this Agreement or the rights under this Agreement terminated, shall not constitute a waiver or relinquishment of any rights set out in this Agreement, but the same shall be and remain at all times in full force and effect, unless and only to the extent expressly set forth in a written document signed by that Party granting the waiver or relinquishing any such rights. Any waiver granted, or relinquishment of any right, by a Party shall not operate as a relinquishment of any other rights or a waiver of any other failure of the Party granted the waiver to comply with any obligation, covenant, agreement, or condition of this Agreement.

9.5 Entire Agreement

Except as provided in Article 9.1, this Agreement, including all attachments, constitutes the entire Agreement between the Parties with reference to the subject matter of this Agreement, and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous understandings or agreements, oral or written, between the Parties with respect to the subject matter of this Agreement. There are no other agreements, representations, warranties, or covenants that constitute any part of the consideration for, or any condition to, either Party's compliance with its obligations under this Agreement.

9.6 Multiple Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which is deemed an original, but all constitute one and the same instrument.

9.7 No Partnership

This Agreement shall not be interpreted or construed to create an association, joint venture, agency relationship, or partnership between the Parties or to impose any partnership obligation or partnership liability upon either Party. Neither Party shall have any right, power or authority to enter into any agreement or undertaking for, or act on behalf of, or to act as or be an agent or representative of, or to otherwise bind, the other Party.

9.8 Severability

If any provision or portion of this Agreement shall for any reason be held or adjudged to be invalid or illegal or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction or other governmental authority, (1) that portion or provision shall be deemed separate and independent, (2) the Parties shall negotiate in good faith to restore insofar as practicable the benefits to each Party that were affected by the ruling, and (3) the remainder of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

9.9 Environmental Releases

Each Party shall notify the other Party of the release of any hazardous substances, any asbestos or lead abatement activities, or any type of remediation activities related to the DER facility or the interconnection facilities, each of which may reasonably be expected to affect the other Party. The notifying Party shall (1) provide the notice as soon as practicable, provided that Party makes a good faith effort to provide the notice no later than 24 hours after that Party becomes aware of the occurrence, and (2) promptly furnish to the other Party copies of any publicly available reports filed with any governmental authorities addressing such events.

9.10 Subcontractors

Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent a Party from using the services of any subcontractor it deems appropriate to perform its obligations under this Agreement; provided, however, that each Party shall require its subcontractors to comply with all applicable terms and conditions of this Agreement in providing services and each Party shall remain primarily liable to the other Party for the performance of the subcontractor.

9.10.1 A subcontract relationship does not relieve any Party of any of its obligations under this Agreement. The hiring Party remains responsible to the other Party for the acts or omissions of its subcontractor. Any applicable obligation imposed by this Agreement upon the hiring Party shall be equally binding upon, and shall be construed as having application to, any subcontractor of the Party.

9.10.2 The obligations under this Article cannot be limited in any way by any limitation of subcontractor's insurance.

**Article 10. Notices**

10.1 General

Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, any written notice, demand, or request required or authorized in connection with this Agreement ("Notice") shall be deemed properly given if delivered in person, delivered by recognized national courier service, or sent by first class mail, postage prepaid, to the person specified below:

**If to Interconnection Customer:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Interconnection Customer: | | | |  | | | | | | |
| Attention: | | |  | | | | | | | |
| Address: | | |  | | | | | | | |
| City: |  | | | | | State: |  | | Zip: |  |
| Phone: | |  | | Fax: |  | E-Mail: | |  | | |

**If to EDC:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| EDC: |  | | | | | | | | | |
| Attention: | | |  | | | | | | | |
| Address: | | |  | | | | | | | |
| City: |  | | | | | State: |  | | Zip: |  |
| Phone: | |  | | Fax: |  | E-Mail: | |  | | |

**Alternative Forms of Notice**

Any notice or request required or permitted to be given by either Party to the other Party and not required by this Agreement to be in writing may be given by telephone, facsimile or e-mail to the telephone numbers and e-mail addresses set out above.

10.2 Billing and Payment

Billings and payments shall be sent to the addresses set out below:

**If to Interconnection Customer:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Interconnection Customer: | | |  | | | | |
| Attention: | |  | | | | | |
| Address: | |  | | | | | |
| City: |  | | | State: |  | Zip: |  |

**If to EDC:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| EDC: |  | | | | | |
| Attention: | |  | | | | |
| Address: | |  | | | | |
| City: |  | | State: |  | Zip: |  |

10.3 Designated Operating Representative

The Parties may also designate operating representatives to conduct the communications that may be necessary or convenient for the administration of this Agreement. This person will also serve as the point of contact with respect to operations and maintenance of the Party's facilities.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Interconnection Customer's Operating Representative:** | | | |  | | | |
| Attention: | |  | | | | | |
| Address: | |  | | | | | |
| City: |  | | State: | |  | Zip: |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EDC's Operating Representative:** | | |  | | | | |
| Attention: | |  | | | | | |
| Address: | |  | | | | | |
| City: |  | | | State: |  | Zip: |  |

10.4 Changes to the Notice Information

Either Party may change this notice information by giving five business days' written notice before the effective date of the change.

**Article 11. Signatures**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** the Parties have caused this Agreement to be executed by their respective duly authorized representatives.

**For the Interconnection Customer:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name: | |  |
| Title: |  | |
| Date: |  | |

**For EDC:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name: | |  |
| Title: |  | |
| Date: |  | |

**Attachment 1**

**Definitions**

**Adverse system impact** – A negative effect that compromises the safety or reliability of electric distribution or transmission systems or that materially affects the quality of electric service provided to customers. An adverse system impact shall take into consideration all higher queued requests in all of the EDC's interconnection queues, whether transmission, distribution subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission, or distribution subject to the jurisdiction of another state regulatory authority.

**Applicable laws and regulations** – All duly promulgated applicable federal, State and local laws, regulations, rules, ordinances, codes, decrees, judgments, directives, judicial or administrative orders, permits and other duly authorized actions of any governmental authority having jurisdiction over the Parties.

**Business day** – Monday through Friday, excluding State and federal holidays.

**Calendar day** – Any day, including Saturdays, Sundays and State and federal holidays.

**Certificate of completion** – A certificate, in a form approved by the Commission, that contains information about the interconnection equipment to be used, its installation and local inspections (see Appendix A).

**Commissioning test** – A test applied to a distributed energy resources facility by the applicant after construction is completed to verify that the facility does not create adverse system impacts and performs to the submitted specifications. At a minimum, the scope of the commissioning tests performed shall include the commissioning test specified IEEE Standard 1547 Section 5.4 "Commissioning tests".

**Distributed energy resources (DER) facility** – The equipment used by an interconnection customer to generate or store electricity that operates in parallel with the electric distribution system. A DER facility typically includes an electric generator, prime mover, and the interconnection equipment required to safely interconnect with the electric distribution system or a local electric power system.

**Electric distribution company or EDC** – Any electric utility subject to the jurisdiction of the Illinois Commerce Commission.

**Electric distribution system** – The facilities and equipment owned and operated by the EDC and used to transmit electricity to ultimate usage points such as homes and industries from interchanges with higher voltage transmission networks that transport bulk power over longer distances. The voltage levels at which electric distribution systems operate differ among areas, but generally carry less than 100 kilovolts of electricity. Electric distribution system has the same meaning as the term Area EPS, as defined in Section 3.1.6.1 of IEEE Standard 1547.

**Force majeure event** – Any act of God, labor disturbance, act of the public enemy, war, acts of terrorism, insurrection, riot, fire, storm or flood, explosion, breakage or accident to machinery or equipment through no direct, indirect, or contributory act of a Party, any order, regulation or restriction imposed by governmental, military or lawfully established civilian authorities, or any other cause beyond a Party's control. A force majeure event does not include an act of gross negligence or intentional wrongdoing.

**Governmental authority** – Any federal, State, local or other governmental regulatory or administrative agency, court, commission, department, board, or other governmental subdivision, legislature, rulemaking board, tribunal, or other governmental authority having jurisdiction over the Parties, their respective facilities, or the respective services they provide, and exercising or entitled to exercise any administrative, executive, police, or taxing authority or power; provided, however, that this term does not include the interconnection customer, EDC or any affiliate of either.

**IEEE Standard 1547** – The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., 3 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016-5997, Standard 1547 (2003), "Standard for Interconnecting Distributed Resources with Electric Power Systems".

**IEEE Standard 1547.1** – The IEEE Standard 1547.1 (2005), "Conformance Test Procedures for Equipment Interconnecting Distributed Resources with Electric Power Systems".

**Interconnection agreement or Agreement** – The Agreement between the interconnection customer and the EDC governing the connection of the DER facility to the EDC's electric distribution system and the ongoing operation of the DER facility after it is connected to the EDC's electric distribution system.

**Interconnection customer** – The entity entering into this Agreement for the purpose of interconnecting a DER facility to the EDC's electric distribution system.

**Interconnection equipment** –A group of components or an integrated system owned and operated by the interconnection customer that connects an electric generator with a local electric power system, as that term is defined in Section 3.1.6.2 of IEEE Standard 1547, or with the electric distribution system. Interconnection equipment is all interface equipment, including switchgear, protective devices, inverters or other interface devices. Interconnection equipment may be installed as part of an integrated equipment package that includes a generator or other electric source.

**Interconnection facilities** – Facilities and equipment required by the EDC to accommodate the interconnection of a DER facility. Collectively, interconnection facilities include all facilities and equipment between the DER facility's interconnection equipment and the point of interconnection, including any modifications or additions necessary to physically and electrically interconnect the DER facility to the electric distribution system. Interconnection facilities are sole use facilities and do not include system upgrades.

**Interconnection request** – An applicant's request, on the required form, for the interconnection of a new DER facility, or to increase the capacity or change the operating characteristics of an existing DER facility that is interconnected with the EDC's electric distribution system.

**Line section** – That portion of an electric distribution system connected to an interconnection customer's site, bounded by automatic sectionalizing devices or the end of the distribution line.

**Parallel operation or Parallel** – The state of operation that occurs when a DER facility is connected electrically to the electric distribution system.

**Point of interconnection** – The point where the DER facility is electrically connected to the electric distribution system. Point of interconnection has the same meaning as the term "point of common coupling", defined in Section 3.1.13 of IEEE Standard 1547.

**Queue position** – The order an EDC receives a completed interconnection request relative to that specific EDC's other interconnection requests. It is established by the date that the EDC receives the completed interconnection request.

**System upgrade −** A required addition to the electric distribution or transmission system to accommodate the interconnection of the DER facility. System upgrades do not include interconnection facilities.

**Witness test** –Verification by the EDC, either by on-site observation or review of documents, that the interconnection installation evaluation required by the applicable technical standards has been performed.

**Attachment 2**

**Construction Schedule, Proposed Equipment & Settings**

This attachment shall include the following:

1. The proposed construction schedule for the distributed energy resources facility.

2. A one-line diagram indicating the distributed energy resources facility, interconnection equipment, interconnection facilities and metering equipment.

3. Component specifications for equipment identified in the one-line diagram.

4. Component settings.

5. Proposed sequence of operations.

6. A three-line diagram showing current potential circuits for protective relays.

7. Relay tripping and control schematic diagram.

**Attachment 3**

**Description, Costs and Time Required to Build and Install the EDC's**

**Interconnection Facilities and System Upgrades**

This attachment is to be completed by the EDC and shall include the following:

1. Required interconnection facilities and system upgrades.

2. An estimate of itemized costs charged by the EDC for interconnection, including overheads, based on results from prior studies.

3. An estimate for the time required to build and install the EDC's interconnection facilities and system upgrades based on results from prior studies and an estimate of the date upon which the facilities will be completed

**Attachment 4**

**Operating Requirements for Distributed Energy Resources Facilities Operating in Parallel**

The EDC shall list specific operating practices pursuant to Articles 1.9 and 1.10 of this Agreement and the conditions under which each listed specific operating practice applies.

**Attachment 5**

**Milestones**

This attachment shall list the milestones identified by mutual agreement of the parties pursuant to Article 5.3 of this Agreement.

**Attachment 6**

**Monitoring and Control Requirements**

The EDC may request a variance to the EDC's published monitoring and control requirements if necessary due to electric system conditions, constraints or unique generator characteristics. A written explanation of any modifications shall be provided below.

This attachment is to be completed by the EDC and shall include the following:

1. The EDC's monitoring and control requirements, along with a reference to the EDC's written requirements documents from which these requirements are derived.

2. An internet link to the requirements documents.

3. An explanation of any modifications to the EDC's published monitoring and control requirements.

**Attachment 7**

**Metering Requirements**

Any metering required for a distributed energy resources interconnection shall be installed, operated and maintained in accordance with applicable EDC tariffs and agreements.

This attachment is to be completed by the EDC and shall include the following:

1. The metering requirements for the distributed energy resources facility.

2. Identification of the appropriate tariffs that establish these requirements.

3. An internet link to these tariffs.

**Attachment 8**

**As-Built Documents**

This attachment is to be completed by the interconnection customer and shall include the following:

When it returns the certificate of completion to the EDC, the interconnection customer shall provide the EDC with documents detailing the as-built status of the following:

1. A one-line diagram indicating the distributed energy resources facility, interconnection equipment, interconnection facilities, and metering equipment.

2. Component specifications for equipment identified in the one-line diagram.

3. Component settings.

4. Sequence of operations.

5. A three-line diagram showing current potential circuits for protective relays.

6. Relay tripping and control schematic diagram.

**Attachment 9**

**Application and Supporting Documentation**

Attached to this Agreement are the interconnection customer's interconnection request application form and all other supporting documents used by the Parties to determine the requirements for connecting the distributed energy resources facility.

(Source: Amended at 46 Ill. Reg. 9788, effective May 26, 2022)