

Grading of Model Interconnection Standards

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on behalf of the

Interstate Renewable Energy Council

March 24, 2008



INTERSTATE RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL

Overview

- Analyze FERC's SGIP, California Rule 21, MADRI and IREC interconnection standards (dropped NARUC and added CA Rule 21)
- Use grading criteria developed by coalition of industry experts and published in "Freeing the Grid – 2007"
- Explain the approaches taken in each model for each criterion
- Propose refinements to the "Freeing the Grid" grading methodology
- Provide a useful document for state utility commissioners and staff developing interconnection standards

About the Models

- FERC's Small Generator Interconnection Procedure (SGIP) most thoroughly vetted by all industry, issued in 2005, just for FERC-jurisdictional interconnections (www.ferc.gov/industries/electric/indus-act/small-gen.asp)
- California's Rule 21 issued in 2000 with single applicant path approach. (www.energy.ca.gov/distgen/interconnection/california_requirements.html)
- Mid-Atlantic Distributed Resources Initiative (MADRI) model developed by PJM Interconnection (DE, DC, MD, NJ, PA), Extensive comments. Improved upon in MD and OR in 2007 (www.energetics.com/madri/pdfs/inter_modelsmallgen.pdf)
- Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) funded by U.S. DOE to participate in state utility commission rulemakings regarding interconnection standards; model established in late 2005 (www.irecusa.org, "IREC Programs", "Connecting to the Grid")

About “Freeing the Grid - 2007”

- Grading of state net metering rules and interconnection standards
- Developed by interconnection experts at Network for New Energy Choices, Solar Alliance, Vote Solar Initiative and IREC
- 14 major criteria used for interconnection standard grading, plus miscellaneous category
- All criterion scores based on a zero for the FERC SGIP, with that model given a “C”
- Evolving methodology with considerable refinement in 2007
- Released on Dec. 3, 2007 at www.newenergychoices.org

Results

- Grades: FERC's SGIP (C), CA Rule 21 (C+), MADRI (D+), IREC (A)
- Safety, reliability and cost allocation perspectives of utilities discussed
- Conclude that any could work as starting point and each has advantages. But, don't use bad state standards or start from scratch
- Appendix with point-by-point review incomplete; write up on IREC Model incomplete
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