



December 20, 2019

Via Electronic Mail

To Wisconsin Electric Providers & Distributed Generation Installers and Developers:

The Wisconsin Distributed Resources Collaborative (WIDRC) has worked with stakeholders over the past two years to update and streamline the distributed generation (DG) interconnection application process in Wisconsin under Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 119. New, reorganized DG interconnection application forms are now available for your use beginning January 1, 2020.

The updated forms were created through an extensive stakeholder engagement process to better suit the needs of electric providers, distributed generation installers and customers who use these forms in the course of interconnecting distributed generation in Wisconsin. WIDRC collected several rounds of feedback over the course of two years from electric provider staff engaged in the DG interconnection review process and from DG installers working in Wisconsin. The new forms have also been shared with Public Service Commission of Wisconsin staff.

The new forms should be used in place of the original application forms, known as forms 6027 and 6028. The new forms consist of one single base application form, and a series of technology specific attachments. The forms are designed to streamline the information requested from DG interconnection applicants, eliminating information deemed unnecessary that was included on the earlier forms. The forms are also designed to provide a better platform to communicate information needed by electric providers to evaluate an interconnection application, to minimize the need for additional back and forth between the applicant and the electric provider before the application can be evaluated. WIDRC has also created a Change of Ownership form to aid in the efficient exchange of information when a distributed generation system changes ownership, typically due to a change in ownership of the underlying home, building or land on which the distributed generation is located. No changes have been made to Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 119 related to the DG interconnection process.

To Electric Providers:

We encourage you to join WIDRC's member electric providers in using the new forms by beginning to accept the new forms starting January 1, 2020. We also encourage you to post the new forms to your websites where you host information related to DG interconnection and to encourage installers you work with to use the new forms. The new forms are attached to the email by which you received this letter. You can also download the new forms from WIDRC's website at www.wisconsindr.org. We also recommend you continue to accept the original DG interconnection forms throughout 2020.

To Installers/Developers:

The new forms are fillable PDFs. The new forms are attached to the email by which you received this letter. To use the new forms, simply download them from your email or from WIDRC's website at www.wisconsindr.org and submit the base application form along with the applicable technology-specific attachment to the electric provider. Questions about whether the electric provider will accept the new forms should be directed to the DG Point of Contact for the electric provider listed on the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's website.

We believe the new DG interconnection forms will improve the interconnection process in Wisconsin for all involved. If you would like to be involved with future discussions about additional enhancements to Wisconsin's DG interconnection process, we encourage you to consider joining WIDRC as a member in 2020 and attending our quarterly meetings. Additional background information on WIDRC and this DG interconnection enhancement initiative is attached to this letter for your reference.

Sincerely,



Eric Kostecki,
Chair, WIDRC Steering Committee
WPPI Energy



Tyler Huebner
Executive Director, RENEW Wisconsin

WIDRC Steering Committee Members

Deb Erwin
Xcel Energy

Frank Greb
Slipstream

Larry Krom
L & S Technical Associates

Nick Smith
Alliant Energy

Ken Walz
Madison College

Additional Background

WIDRC is a voluntary collaborative committed to facilitating and promoting the successful deployment of economic, efficient and environmentally responsible distributed resources in Wisconsin. It is a 501(c)3 organization with origins that pre-date Wisconsin's current distributed generation interconnection procedures.

The group that was to become WIDRC began meeting as early as 2000. One of the group's first tasks was to make recommendations on updating Wisconsin's distributed generation interconnection rules. In 2001, Wisconsin Act 16 required the Commission to form an advisory committee to develop new interconnection rules. Because the WIDRC group was already working on drafting guidelines for interconnection, most of these WIDRC members were appointed to Commission's Distributed Generation Interconnection Advisory Committee. The administrative rules for interconnection developed by the committee were adopted by the Commission as Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 119, and became effective on February 1, 2004.

WIDRC was formally incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization following these interactions, to provide a more open venue to discuss the development of a distributed resources market in Wisconsin. WIDRC's members currently consist of Wisconsin electric providers (including municipals and cooperatives), industry groups, some of Wisconsin's regulatory agencies, installers/contractors/engineers, public interest groups, and academic participants that are interested in distributed resources in Wisconsin. The group has continued to meet quarterly since the adoption of PSC 119 to discuss current issues, projects and challenges for distributed generation in Wisconsin. The group has both voting members and non-voting advisory members. Meetings are open to members and non-members, and Commission staff regularly attends WIDRC meetings. Current voting members include:

- Alliant Energy
- American Transmission Co.
- L & S Technical Associates, Inc.
- Madison College
- Madison Gas & Electric Co.
- Midwest Energy Research Consortium
- Midwest Renewable Energy Association
- RENEW Wisconsin
- Slipstream
- We Energies
- Wisconsin Public Service Corp.
- WPPI Energy
- Xcel Energy

In March of 2017, WIDRC hosted a Distributed Generation Interconnection Forum, which brought together a wide variety of parties engaged in distributed generation work in Wisconsin. The Forum was designed to provide educational background on the current interconnection procedures in Wisconsin, and provide an open forum for discussing what is working well and what could use improvement. The Forum was well attended by over 50 utility representatives,

distributed generation installers and others, and resulted in many robust discussions. WIDRC gathered input from attendees about potential actions it could take to support the successful deployment of distributed generation in Wisconsin, consistent with its mission. One of the recommendations identified at the Forum was a need to update Wisconsin's interconnection application forms. The Forms were created in the early 2000s in conjunction with the development of PSC 119, when solar photovoltaic installations were rare, and distributed generation was more likely to consist of small wind turbines or small engine generators. A lot has changed since that time. The majority of interconnection requests today consist of solar PV, and batteries are also clearly on the horizon. The current interconnection application forms do not lend themselves particularly well to providing information about solar PV or batteries, as these were likely not the technologies anyone had in mind when these forms were created.

WIDRC has spent the two years engaging with its members and other stakeholders to identify consensus recommendations for changes to the current interconnection application forms used throughout the state of Wisconsin. WIDRC used an iterative process to come to these recommendations, first gathering "wish lists" from both utility stakeholders and distributed generation installers, and then working to identify areas of common ground between both parties. Through multiple rounds of edits, facilitated by a WIDRC subcommittee, the group landed on recommendations that preserve much of the content of the current interconnection forms, remove some information deemed unnecessary, add other information essential to a smooth interconnection process, reorder the information previously included, and materially restructure the forms. The subcommittee facilitating this drafting and review process consisted of Deb Erwin (Xcel Energy), Tyler Huebner (RENEW Wisconsin), Adam Gusse (SunVest), and Ken Walz (Madison College).

WIDRC is a consensus-based organization, and these forms represent a consensus of utility and distributed generation stakeholder recommendations. These forms likely do not represent any one stakeholder's preferred approach, however, through several rounds of back and forth, all stakeholders had multiple opportunities to suggest changes and raise any concerns. The final forms contained here are in WIDRC's opinion reflective of the best possible consensus among Wisconsin's distributed generation stakeholders.