

07/31/2024

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**Subject: Transition Cluster Study Process**

**Statement:** This Technical Bulletin provides information regarding the Transition Cluster Study Process as set forth in Attachment HH to the Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT).

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**Details:****Background**

This Technical Bulletin addresses the NYISO's Transition Cluster Study Process – the first Cluster Study under the new Standard Interconnection Procedures in Attachment HH to the NYISO OATT. The details of the Transition Cluster Study are set forth Attachment HH to the NYISO OATT and will be incorporated into the NYISO Transmission Expansion and Interconnection Manual.

**Transition Cluster Study Process**

The NYISO will conduct the Transition Cluster Study Process pursuant to the same requirements as the Cluster Study Process, including using the same *pro forma* forms and agreements, with limited exceptions established in Attachment HH and described below to assist the NYISO and Interconnection Customers with adapting to the new rules.<sup>1</sup>

An Interconnection Customer may submit an Interconnection Request for any project that satisfies the application requirements for the NYISO's Cluster Study Process in the Application Window for the Transition Cluster Study Process. There are no prerequisite studies for a project to enter the Transition Cluster Study. Projects in the NYISO's Queue with ongoing feasibility or system impact studies pursuant to the transition rules in Section 40.3.1 of Attachment HH need not complete their individual ongoing studies before participating in the Transition Cluster Study; however, the Interconnection Customer must submit a new Interconnection Request for such projects in the Application Window and, if its ongoing study is not complete at that time, the Interconnection Customer must terminate such study for its new Interconnection Request to proceed. Projects in the NYISO's Queue that are participating in the Class Year Study for Class Year 2023 or have an ongoing Small Generator facilities study may submit an Interconnection Request for the same project to participate as a Contingent Project in the Transition Cluster Study Process.

The NYISO will open the Application Window for its Transition Cluster Study Process at 8:00 AM EST on August 1, 2024, which will commence a 75-day Application Window (in place of the normal 45-day duration).<sup>2</sup> The NYISO will then commence a 90-day Customer Engagement Window for the Transition Cluster Study Process (in place of the normal 70-day duration).<sup>3</sup> The extended timeframes for the transition process will provide the NYISO and Interconnection Customers with additional time to address any issues with the implementation of substantial new process requirements, including the potential for a significant number of project proposals for the transition process. For these reasons, both the NYISO and Interconnection Customers will have 15 business days (in place of the normal 10 business day duration)

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<sup>1</sup> See proposed OATT Attach. HH § 40.5.2.

<sup>2</sup> See proposed OATT Attach. HH §§ 40.5.1.1, 40.5.3.2.

<sup>3</sup> See *Id.* § 40.7.1.2. The Customer Engagement Window time period can be extended to align with the completion of the Class Year Study for Class Year 2023.

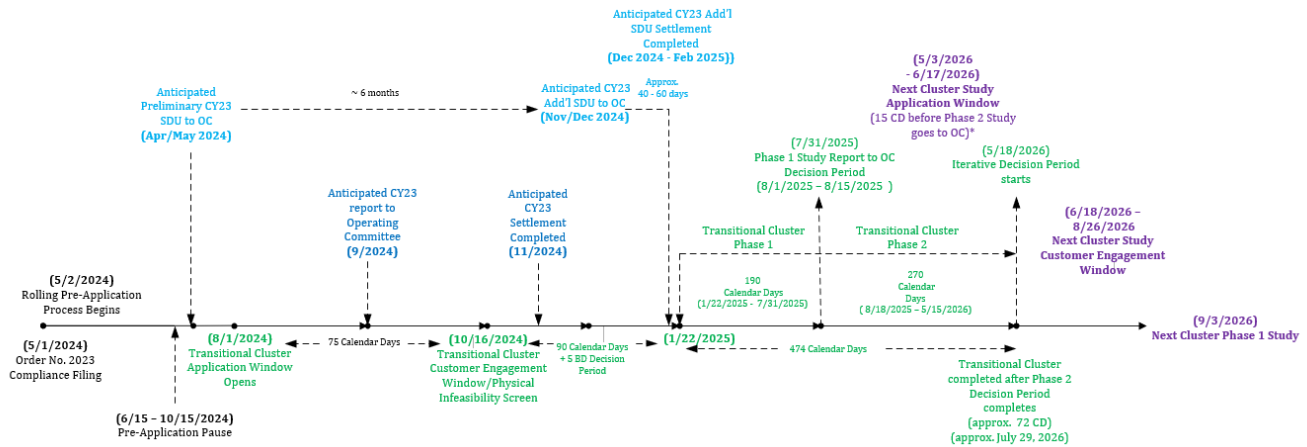
for the NYISO to identify deficiencies in the transition Application Window when validating Interconnection Requests and CRIS-Only Requests and for Interconnection Customers to cure such deficiencies.<sup>4</sup>

### Transition Cluster Timeframes

The Transitional Cluster Study Process has the same overall structure as the Cluster Study Process, however the timeframes are slightly different. The timeframes for the Transitional Cluster Study are as follows:

- **Application Window:** 75 Calendar Days (versus 45 days in the Cluster Study Process)
- **Customer Engagement Window:** 90 Calendar Days (versus 70 Calendar Days in the Cluster Study Process)
- **Phase 1 Entry Decision Period:** 5 Business Days
- **Cluster Study Phase 1:** 190 Calendar Days
- **Phase 2 Entry Decision Period:** 10 Business Days
- **Cluster Study Phase 2:** 270 Days
- **Final Decision Period:** iterative

### Transition Cluster Timeline



### Transition Cluster Study Entry Requirements

To enter the Transition Cluster Study Process, an Interconnection Customer must submit an Interconnection Request or CRIS-Only Request during the Application Window that satisfies the requirements established in Section 40.5 of Attachment HH.

The Interconnection Request and CRIS- Only Request requirements include, as applicable:

1. Non-refundable Application Fee of \$10,000 (cash only) (\$5,000 for CRIS-Only projects)
2. Study Deposit (cash, Letter of Credit, or surety bond):

<sup>4</sup> See *Id.* §§ 40.5.7.1.1, 40.5.7.2.2.

Size of Proposed Generating Facility Associated with Interconnection Request	Amount of Deposit
< 80 MW	\$100,000
≥ 80 MW < 200 MW	\$150,000
≥ 200 MW	\$250,000

3. Conceptual one-line diagram that includes:

- a. The Project name, and the Interconnection Customer name on the diagram;
  - b. The facility address (specific location – coordinates or closest street address);
  - c. The number of inverters or generator units (type, nameplate rating MW and MVA), and configuration of the facility;
  - d. The facility’s electrical components (i.e., generation, transformers (GSU, PSU, current transformer, and potential transformers), breakers, switches, cables/lines/feeders, compensation, FACTs, auxiliary load, buses, etc.) as described in the modeling data form;
  - e. The capability and voltage levels of the electrical components, their connection to each other and to the New York State Transmission System or Distribution System;
  - f. The Point of Interconnection (name of the substation name (specify the bus) or transmission/distribution line name and number);
  - g. References to other diagram sheets if there is more than one diagram sheet (i.e., use references to indicate how the diagrams are interconnected).
  - h. Acronyms used in the conceptual breaker one-line diagram should follow ANSI Standard Device Numbers & Common Acronyms.
4. Completed Interconnection Request must also include a project layout that shows general project layout and location of project in relation to proposed POI, including specific POI
5. Workable individual project models (*e.g.*, short circuit, steady-state, and stability)
6. Attestations (for Generating Facilities greater than 20 MW) required by the final, approved NYSRC Reliability Rule B.5 (currently PRR 151) establishing minimum interconnection standards for Inverter Based Resource (IBR) Generating Facilities based on IEEE Standard 2800-2022<sup>5</sup>
7. Demonstration of Site Control<sup>6</sup>

Once the Interconnection Request is determined to be valid, the Interconnection Customer may be required to provide additional Transmission Owner-specific data.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> The form for these attestation is posted on the NYISO’s website:  
<https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/1403912/NYSRC-Rule-B-5-Compliance-Attestation-fillable.pdf/97162093-809e-ce45-a66e-3b412b0a44c5>

<sup>6</sup> For more information regarding Site Control requirements, please see the Site Control Technical Bulletin posted on NYISO’s website: <https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/2931465/TB260-SiteControl-v20240611-Final.pdf/e8a7bf3c-adf9-e5db-3a08-07fe258f4be4>

<sup>7</sup> See proposed OATT Attach. HH § 40.5.7.3.

## Contingent Projects in the Transition Cluster Study

Contingent Projects are permitted in the Transition Cluster Study.<sup>8</sup> A Contingent Project is an Interconnection Request or CRIS-Only Request that an Interconnection Customer submits during the Application Window of the Cluster Study Process pursuant to Section 40.5.4.1 for a Project that is simultaneously participating in the prior, ongoing Class Year Study, Cluster Study Process, Additional SDU Study, or Small Generator facilities study.<sup>9</sup> If a project is participating in a Class Year Study, Cluster Study, Additional SDU Study, or Small Generator facilities study that is ongoing during the Application Window for the next Cluster Study Process (a “Pending Project”), then the Interconnection Customer may submit during that Application Window for the next Cluster Study Process an Interconnection Request or CRIS-Only Request for a Cluster Study Project that is the same as its Pending Project (e.g., same technical data, modeling, Point of Interconnection, and site). The project that is submitted during an Application Window will be labeled as a “Contingent Project” with its own Queue Position. An Interconnection Customer’s submission of a Contingent Project will not replace, or require the withdrawal, of the Interconnection Request or CRIS-Only Request for the Pending Project.

An Interconnection Customer may submit an Interconnection Request or CRIS-Only Request for a Pending Project, such as a Class Year 2023 project, as a Contingent Project during the Application Window for the Transition Cluster Study. A Contingent Project must satisfy all of the requirements set forth in Section 40.5.5 of Attachment HH, as is required for an entirely new project.

The tariff contemplates different processes for Contingent Projects, depending on the type of service an Interconnection Customer is seeking (either CRIS or ERIS or both).

If the Pending Project is a Class Year Project or Cluster Study Project only requesting ERIS, then:

- if the Interconnection Customer accepts its SUF Project Cost Allocation or CTOAF and SUF Project Cost Allocation required for ERIS for the Pending Project in the Final Decision Round of the applicable Class Year Study or Cluster Study, then the ISO shall withdraw the Contingent Project, and the Contingent Project shall not be assessed a Withdrawal Penalty for this withdrawal; or
- if the Interconnection Customer withdraws the Pending Project prior to the applicable Final Decision Round or does not accept its cost allocation described above, then the Contingent Project shall continue on in the new Cluster Study Process (subject to all of the same requirements in the Cluster Study Project as any other project).<sup>10</sup>

If the Pending Project is a Class Year Project or Cluster Study Project only requesting CRIS, then:

- if the Interconnection Customer accepts the SDU Project Cost Allocation or Deliverable MWs for the fully requested CRIS amount for the Pending Project in the Final Decision Round of the later of the applicable Class Year Study, Cluster Study, or Additional SDU Study, then the ISO shall withdraw the Contingent Project, and the Contingent Project shall not be assessed a Withdrawal Penalty for this withdrawal; or

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<sup>8</sup> See Section 40.5.4.1 of Attachment HH of the OATT.

<sup>9</sup> See Definitions in Section 40.1 of Attachment HH of the OATT.

<sup>10</sup> See Sections 40.5.4.1.3.1 of Attachment HH of the OATT.

- if the Interconnection Customer withdraws the Pending Project prior to the applicable Final Decision Round, does not accept the cost allocation or Deliverable MWs described above, or the Additional SDU Study in which its Pending Project is participating is not completed, then the Contingent Project shall continue as a CRIS-Only Cluster Study Project in the new Cluster Study Process for purposes of obtaining the megawatts of requested CRIS that it did not obtain in the prior study and shall be subject to all of the same requirements in the Cluster Study Process as any other project, including any applicable Withdrawal Penalties if it withdraws or is deemed withdrawn by the ISO.<sup>11</sup>

If the Pending Project is a Class Year Project or Cluster Study Project requesting both ERIS and CRIS, then:

- if the Interconnection Customer: a) accepts the SUF Project Cost Allocation or the CTOAF and SUF Project Cost Allocation for the ERIS for the Pending Project in the Final Decision Round of the later of the applicable Class Year Study, Cluster Study, or Additional SDU Study, and b) accepts the SDU Project Cost Allocation or the Deliverable MWs required for the fully requested CRIS amount for the Pending Project in the later of the applicable Class Year Study, Cluster Study, or Additional SDU Study, then the NYISO shall withdraw the Contingent Project, and the Contingent Project shall not be assessed a Withdrawal Penalty for this withdrawal; or
- if the Interconnection Customer withdraws the Pending Project prior to the applicable Final Decision Round for ERIS or does not accept the cost allocation described above, then the Contingent Project shall continue as a Cluster Study Project in the new Cluster Study Process and be subject to all of the same requirements of the Cluster Study Process, or
- if: (a) the Interconnection Customer accepts the cost allocation for ERIS, but (b) does not accept the SDU Project Cost Allocation or the Deliverable MWs for the fully requested CRIS amount or if the Additional SDU Study that the Pending Project is participating in has not completed, then the Contingent Project shall be converted into a CRIS-Only Cluster Study Project for its evaluation in the Cluster Study Process for the megawatts of requested CRIS not obtained by the Pending Project in the prior study.<sup>12</sup> If the Interconnection Customer informs the NYISO that will not proceed as a CRIS-Only Cluster Study Project prior to electing to enter the Phase 1 Study, then the NYISO shall withdraw the project, and the project shall not be assessed a Withdrawal Penalty for this withdrawal.<sup>13</sup>

If the Pending Project is a Small Generating Facility subject to a Small Generator facilities study, then:

- if: (A) the facilities study is completed prior to the end of the Application Window for the Transition Cluster Study Process, and (B) the Interconnection Customer accepts its cost allocation for the System Upgrade Facilities cost allocation following the issuance of the final report in accordance with Section 32.3.5.7 of Attachment Z, then the ISO shall withdraw the Contingent Project, and the Contingent Project shall not be assessed a Withdrawal Penalty; or
- if: (A) the Interconnection Customer withdraws the Pending Project prior to the completion of the facilities study, (B) the Interconnection Customer does not accept the cost allocation for the Pending Project described above, or (C) the facilities study for the Pending Project is not completed prior to the end of the Application Window for the Transition Cluster Study Process and is

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<sup>11</sup> See Section 40.5.4.1.3.2 of Attachment HH of the OATT.

<sup>12</sup> See Section 40.5.4.1.3.3 of Attachment HH of the OATT.

<sup>13</sup> See Section 40.5.4.1.3.3 of Attachment HH of the OATT.

terminated by the ISO, then the Contingent Project shall continue as a Cluster Study Project in the new Cluster Study Process and shall be subject to all of the same requirements in the Cluster Study Process as any other project.<sup>14</sup>

**This Technical Bulletin is expected to be incorporated into the next revision/version of the Transmission Expansion and Interconnection Manual.**

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<sup>14</sup> See Section 40.5.4.1.3.4 of Attachment HH of the OATT.