

Interconnection Requirements and Proceedings before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

MN DIP

The Distributed Energy Resources Interconnection Process (MN DIP) is a set of generic, statewide standards for the interconnection and parallel operation of distributed energy resources (DER) under 10MW. It provides a detailed interconnection application process with set requirements, timelines, specifications, and a dispute resolution process. The intent of the MN DIP is to give maximum possible encouragement of DER while keeping the system efficient, safe, and reliable at fair and reasonable rates, stay consistent with statewide and national standards, and remain technology neutral and non-discriminatory. The MN DIP is based on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Small Generator Interconnection Process (SGIP) and changes require PUC approval.

MN TIIR

The MN Technical Interconnection and Interoperability Requirements (TIIR) describes common statewide requirements for interconnection of DER systems with the utility operating the area distribution system, called the Area Electric Power System (EPS). The TIIR should be used in tandem with the Area EPS Technical Specification Manual (TSM). The TIIR acts as a baseline statewide requirement, whereas the TSM includes more specific specifications or technology requirements. Both the TIIR and TSM are based on national standards such as IEEE 1547. The purpose of the TIIR and TSMs is to provide consumers and installers with a clear set of technical requirements and a guide to the DER interconnection process. Changes to the TIIR and the TSMs require PUC approval.

Recent and Ongoing Interconnection-related Dockets

	Docket	Notes
Small DER Prioritization	16-521	Implemented 2023 legislative changes establishing a “Priority Queue” for projects up to 40kW in the MNDIP process. Decided March 14, 2024, Order forthcoming.
Distributed Solar Energy Standard (DSES)	23-403	Implementing 2023 legislative addition of the DSES requiring utilities to procure large amounts of solar projects under 10MW by 2030. Commission must approve a competitive bidding process. Anticipated hearing on May 2, 2024.
Xcel Distribution Upgrade Program	23-458	Implementing 2023 legislative appropriation of \$10 million to minimize customer barriers to interconnection. Department Decision issued April 1, 2024.
New Xcel CSG program	23-335	Implementing 2023 legislative changes to the Community Solar Garden program. Commission Order issued Dec 28, 2023, Xcel filed tariff Jan 5, 2024, objections raised by parties, Commission will hear objections on April 4, 2024.
Xcel Cost-Sharing Fund	18-714	As of January 1, 2023, all Xcel interconnection applicants under 40kW pay \$200 to fund system upgrade costs up to \$15k per project. Legislature appropriated an additional \$250k to the fund in 2023 administered through the Department.
Utility Integrated Distribution Plans (IDPs)	23-452 23-258 23-380 23-420	Xcel, Otter Tail Power, Minnesota Power, and Dakota Electric Association filed 2023 Integrated Distribution Plans on November 1, 2023. These plans assess current and planned distribution system projects and spending, including issues around distributed generation resources. Anticipated hearing in July 2024.
Xcel Hosting Capacity Analysis	23-466	Xcel filed its 2023 Hosting Capacity Program Report on November 1, 2023, providing analysis for generation and load hosting capacity across its service territory. Anticipated hearing in summer 2024.

