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Customer-Generated Power Interconnection Application Process

BGE's Interconnection team follows a five-phase process – initiation, review, conditional approval, scheduling and final approval – when processing a customer's Interconnection Application requests for net metering.

INITIATION BGE's Initiation Phase

- ◆ BGE receives a customer's Interconnection Application for a net meter and begins processing the request.
- ◆ During this phase, BGE creates a job in the workload management System based on the residential or commercial customer's application.
- ◆ The job is assigned a name, account and target completion date.

REVIEW BGE's Review Phase

- ◆ BGE reviews the Interconnection Application, ensures the application has been completed, and includes both a signature and the correct BGE account information.
- ◆ Within 5 business days of the receipt of the Interconnection Application, BGE will email the customer to confirm the application has been completed or inform them that additional information is needed.
- ◆ Once the application has been confirmed as completed, BGE ensures the customer's proposed system meets all requirements and regulations.

CONDITIONAL APPROVAL BGE's Conditional Approval Phase

Interconnection Applications are categorized into four different review procedures, based on the size of the requested generator:

- ◆ If a LEVEL 1 application has met all the requirements, a conditional approval letter is emailed to the customer and contractor within 15 business days. Upon receiving the approval letter, the contractor is now approved to build the customer's solar system. The customer and contractor are also asked to submit a final inspection certificate and certificate of completion (COC) to BGE at generator-apply@bge.com once installation has been completed.
- ◆ LEVEL 2, 3, and 4 applications are forwarded to BGE's engineering team for further review and planning:
 - If a LEVEL 2 application has met all the requirements, a conditional approval letter is emailed to the customer and contractor within 20 business days.

- If a LEVEL 3 application has met all the requirements, a conditional approval letter is emailed to the customer and contractor.
- If a LEVEL 4 application has met all of the requirements, a conditional approval letter is emailed to the customer and contractors.
- ◆ For LEVEL 2, 3, and 4 conditional approval letters also include the Standard Agreement.
 - Upon receiving the approval letter, the customer and contractor may execute the Standard Agreement that was included in the letter and install the generator system.
 - Within the conditional approval letter, the customer and contractor are also asked to submit a final inspection certificate and certificate of completion (COC) to BGE at generator-apply@bge.com to confirm the generation system has been installed.

SCHEDULING BGE's Resource Management & Workload Phase

- ◆ Once BGE receives the final inspection certificate and COC, BGE will notify the customer and contractor via email that the job is ready to be scheduled.
- ◆ If the customer's meter is located outside, the net meter will be installed without the customer needing to be present.
- ◆ If the customer's meter is located in inside, you will be contacted to schedule a net meter installation appointment.

FINAL APPROVAL BGE's Construction Phase

- ◆ BGE will send a Final Approval email to the customer and contractor to confirm the net meter has been installed. It may take up to 20 business days from the day you submit your final COC to the day you receive your final approval.
 - The email will contain the executed Interconnection Application.
 - The customer will also be granted permission to start and operate their solar system.

For additional information, visit the Interconnection Application Guide on **BGE.COM**. For inquires on the status of a customer's Interconnection Application, please contact BGE's New Business Team at **800.233.1854**.



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Interconnection Application Levels

Level 1: ≤20 kW AC Expedited Review

These systems are inverter-based and must be tested to Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and Underwriters Laboratory (UL) standards by a nationally recognized test laboratory. Household photo voltaic systems are an example of the type of small generator equipment that is expected to qualify for Level 1 expedited review.

Level 2: >20 kW AC Expedited Review

These systems must use equipment approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory or must have been previously approved by an electric utility under a study process. Systems in this size range do not have to be inverter-based and are expected to use a variety of technologies including photo voltaic, reciprocating engines, micro turbines, fuel cells, small wind generators, and combined heat and power units. Level 2 procedures also provide for the interconnection of systems less than 50kW to area networks. (Projects over 1,350 kW AC connecting to 13 kV circuits must be studied under Level 4.)

Level 3: “Do Not Export” Review

These systems qualify for expedited review if they use special equipment to ensure they will not export power from the customer premises on to the electric distribution system. The vast majority of small generators that qualify for review under this category are expected to be standby generator facilities that interconnect at distribution system voltages and operate in parallel for more than 100 milliseconds. Net metered small generators are not eligible for a Level 3 review.

Level 4: Detailed Study Process

Small generators that do not qualify for expedited review or have not been accepted under an expedited review already conducted will be evaluated under the procedures outlined in this category. Because the small generators in this category are expected to be larger and will use application-specific interconnection equipment, a more in-depth evaluation of the potential impacts of the small generator on the electric distribution system is necessary. For this reason, reviews conducted under a Level 4 application are more involved and will take more time.

INTERCONNECTION APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Level 1 (less than or equal to 20 kW AC)

- Fully completed and signed Interconnection Application
- PVWATTS Worksheet pvwatts.nrel.gov
- Inverter specification sheets
- Submit documentation to generator-apply@bge.com

Level 2 (more than 20 kW AC)

- Fully completed and signed Interconnection Application
- PVWATTS Worksheet pvwatts.nrel.gov
- Inverter specification sheets
- Engineering specs, single line electrical diagram, and site plan
- Application fee (\$50 plus \$1 per kW AC of rated generating facility output)
- Signed Standard Agreement
- Submit documentation to generator-apply@bge.com

Level 3 (Do Not Export)

- Fully completed and signed Interconnection Application
- PVWATTS Worksheet pvwatts.nrel.gov
- Inverter specification sheets
- Engineering specs, single line electrical diagram, and site plan
- Application fee (\$100 plus \$2 per kW AC of rated generating facility output)
- Signed Standard Agreement
- Submit documentation to generator-apply@bge.com

Level 4 (Detailed Study Process)

- Fully completed and signed Interconnection Application
- PVWATTS Worksheet pvwatts.nrel.gov
- Inverter specification sheets
- Engineering specs, single line electrical diagram, and site plan
- Application fee (\$100 plus \$2 per kW AC of rated generating facility output)
- Signed Standard Agreement
- Submit documentation to generator-apply@bge.com

Does BGE sell renewable energy equipment such as solar panels and wind turbines?

BGE does not sell renewable energy equipment.

Why do I need to go through BGE’s small generator Interconnection Process?

Code of Maryland Regulations require all customer-owned generation operating in parallel with the electric system to be approved by BGE.

When do I need to start the Interconnection Process?

Since many generator characteristics are required in the Interconnection Application, you may not be able to start the application process until after your system has been designed. It is important to begin the application process before you begin construction. This will allow BGE to review your application before your generator is constructed, which may help you avoid unnecessary construction costs should your design fail to meet the interconnection requirement.

Do I need to be home for the net meter installation?

No, you will not need to be home if your meter is located outside and has no obstacles to its location. If the customer’s meter is located inside, you will be contacted to schedule a net meter installation appointment.

Does my interconnection approval expire?

Yes, your approval is good for six months for systems less than 100 kW AC. Approvals for systems larger than 100 kW AC are valid for one year. You may request an extension at generator-apply@bge.com within 30 days of your expiration date.

What if I already installed a generator that is connected to the distribution system but do not have the interconnection documents?

If you have an existing small generator that requires an Interconnection Application under the Maryland Small Generator Interconnection rules but have never applied for interconnection, you will need to contact BGE and submit an application for interconnection unless (1) you already have net metering covered by BGE’s tariff or (2) if you are not net metered but have signed an operating and maintenance agreement with BGE.

What is BGE’s Net Energy Metering Program?

Net energy metering is a program available to customers with qualifying small generation’s systems. These systems include biomass, solar, and wind electric generating facilities. Net energy metering enables customers to use their own power generation to offset their power consumption over a billing period. Many small generator sites can be equipped with special bidirectional meters that have the capability both to receive power in, or send power out, when electric power is generated in excess of power consumed. Net energy metering can also include micro-turbines up to 30kW when used in combined heat and power energy installations.

Will I lose power during my net meter installation?

If you currently have an existing BGE smart meter, there will be no interruption of service. However, if you have a legacy BGE meter, you will experience a minor interruption with your service.

Are you a non-profit, agricultural, or municipal customer?

Check out BGE.com to inquire about meter aggregation.