
HOUSE BILL 1011

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Morris, Hudgins, Linville and B. Sullivan

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Committee on Technology, Energy & Communications.

1 AN ACT Relating to distributed generation interconnection
2 procedures and net metering provisions; amending RCW 80.60.010; and
3 adding a new chapter to Title 19 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds it is in the public
6 interest to adopt this chapter to simplify the process of
7 interconnecting distributed generation facilities that will be used for
8 net metered customers. This chapter is intended to both identify a
9 class of distributed generators that, because of their selected point
10 of common coupling, can be interconnected with ease and expedition as
11 well as the standards to be used for ordinary interconnections by all
12 utilities subject to commission regulation.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
14 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

15 (1) "Applicant" means a person who has filed an application to
16 interconnect a customer-generator facility to an electric delivery
17 system.

1 (2) "Annualized period" means a period of twelve consecutive
2 monthly billing periods. A customer-generator's first annualized
3 period begins on the first day of the first full monthly billing period
4 after which the customer-generator's facility is interconnected and is
5 generating electricity.

6 (3) "Area network" means a type of electric delivery system served
7 by multiple transformers interconnected in an electrical network
8 circuit generally used in large metropolitan areas that are densely
9 populated to provide high reliability of service and having the same
10 definition as the term "secondary grid network" as defined in the
11 institute of electrical and electronic engineers standards.

12 (4) "Class I energy" means electrical energy generation. It may
13 include all types of generation.

14 (5) "Commission" means the utilities and transportation commission.

15 (6) "Consumer-owned utility" includes a municipal electric utility
16 formed under Title 35 RCW, a public utility district formed under Title
17 54 RCW, an irrigation district formed under chapter 87.03 RCW, a
18 cooperative formed under chapter 23.86 RCW, a mutual corporation or
19 association formed under chapter 24.06 RCW, a port district formed
20 under Title 53 RCW, or a water-sewer district formed under Title 57
21 RCW, that is engaged in the business of distributing electricity to one
22 or more retail electric customers in the state.

23 (7) "Customer-generator" means a residential or commercial customer
24 that generates electricity, typically on the customer's side of the
25 meter.

26 (8) "Customer-generator facility" means the equipment used by a
27 customer-generator to generate, manage, and monitor electricity. A
28 customer-generator facility typically includes an electric generator
29 and/or an equipment package.

30 (9) "Electric delivery system" means the infrastructure constructed
31 and maintained by an electric utility to deliver electric service to
32 end-users.

33 (10) "Electric utility" means a consumer-owned or investor-owned
34 utility.

35 (11) "Equipment package" means a group of components connecting an
36 electric generator with an electric delivery system, and includes all
37 interface equipment including switchgear, inverters, or other interface

1 devices. An equipment package may include an integrated generator or
2 electric source.

3 (12) "Fault current" means electrical current that flows through a
4 circuit and is produced by an electrical fault, such as to ground,
5 double-phase to ground, three-phase to ground, phase-to-phase, and
6 three-phase. A fault current is several times larger in magnitude than
7 the current that normally flows through a circuit.

8 (13) "Good utility practice" means any of the practices, methods,
9 and acts engaged in or approved by a significant portion of the
10 electric industry during the relevant time period, or any of the
11 practices, methods, and acts that, in the exercise of reasonable
12 judgment in light of the facts known at the time the decision was made,
13 could have been expected to accomplish the desired result at a
14 reasonable cost consistent with good business practices, reliability,
15 safety, and expedition. "Good utility practice" is not intended to be
16 limited to the optimum practice, method, or act to the exclusion of all
17 others, but rather to be acceptable practices, methods, or acts
18 generally accepted in the region.

19 (14) "Investor-owned utility" means a corporation owned by
20 investors that meets the definition of corporation in RCW 80.04.010 and
21 is engaged in distributing electricity to more than one retail electric
22 customer in the state.

23 (15) "Interconnection agreement" means an agreement between a
24 customer-generator and an electric utility, that governs the connection
25 of the customer-generator facility to the electric delivery system, as
26 well as the ongoing operation of the customer-generator facility after
27 it is connected to the system.

28 (16) "Minor system modifications" include activities such as
29 changing the fuse in a fuse holder cut-out, changing the settings on a
30 circuit recloser, and other activities that usually entail less than
31 four hours of work and one thousand dollars in materials.

32 (17) "Point of common coupling" means the point in the
33 interconnection of a customer-generator facility with an electric
34 delivery system at which the harmonic limits are applied.

35 (18) "Spot network" means a type of electric delivery system that
36 uses two or more intertied transformers to supply an electrical network
37 circuit. A spot network is generally used to supply power to a single
38 customer or a small group of customers.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 80.60.010 and 2000 c 158 s 1 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
4 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

5 (1) "Commission" means the utilities and transportation commission.

6 (2) "Customer-generator" means a user of a net metering system.

7 (3) "Electrical company" means a company owned by investors that
8 meets the definition of RCW 80.04.010.

9 (4) "Electric cooperative" means a cooperative or association
10 organized under chapter 23.86 or 24.06 RCW.

11 (5) "Electric utility" means any electrical company, public utility
12 district, irrigation district, port district, electric cooperative, or
13 municipal electric utility that is engaged in the business of
14 distributing electricity to retail electric customers in the state.

15 (6) "Irrigation district" means an irrigation district under
16 chapter 87.03 RCW.

17 (7) "Municipal electric utility" means a city or town that owns or
18 operates an electric utility authorized by chapter 35.92 RCW.

19 (8) "Net metering" means measuring the difference between the
20 electricity supplied by an electric utility and the electricity
21 generated by a customer-generator that is fed back to the electric
22 utility over the applicable billing period.

23 (9) "Net metering system" means a fuel cell or a facility for the
24 production of electrical energy that:

25 (a) Uses as its fuel either solar, wind, or hydropower;

26 (b) Has a generating capacity of not more than (~~twenty-five~~) one
27 hundred kilowatts;

28 (c) Is located on the customer-generator's premises;

29 (d) Operates in parallel with the electric utility's transmission
30 and distribution facilities; and

31 (e) Is intended primarily to offset part or all of the customer-
32 generator's requirements for electricity.

33 (10) "Port district" means a port district within which an
34 industrial development district has been established as authorized by
35 Title 53 RCW.

36 (11) "Public utility district" means a district authorized by
37 chapter 54.04 RCW.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) There are three interconnection review
2 paths for interconnection of customer-sited generation.

3 (a) Simplified. This is for qualified inverter-based facilities
4 with a power rating of ten kilowatts or less on radial or spot network
5 systems under certain conditions.

6 (b) Expedited. This is for certified generating facilities that
7 pass certain prespecified screens and have a power rating of two
8 megawatts or less.

9 (c) Standard. This is for all generating facilities not qualifying
10 for either the simplified or expedited interconnection review processes
11 that have a power rating of twenty megawatts or less.

12 (2) To qualify for simplified or expedited interconnection
13 procedures, generators no larger than two megawatts must be certified
14 under subsection (3) of this section to comply with the following codes
15 and standards as applicable:

16 (a) The institute of electrical and electronic engineers' 1547
17 standard for interconnecting distributed resources with electric power
18 systems or 929 standard for inverters less than ten kilowatts in size;
19 and

20 (b) UL 1741 inverters, converters, and controllers for use in
21 independent power systems.

22 (3) An equipment package is certified for interconnected operation
23 if it has been submitted by a manufacturer, tested and listed by a
24 nationally recognized testing and certification laboratory for
25 continuous interactive operation with a utility grid in compliance with
26 the applicable codes and standards listed in subsection (2) of this
27 section. An "equipment package" includes all interface components
28 including switchgear, inverters, or other interface devices and may
29 include an integrated generator or electric source. If the equipment
30 package has been tested and listed as an integrated package, which
31 includes a generator or other electric source, it shall not require
32 further design review, testing, or additional equipment to meet the
33 certification requirements of this interconnection procedure. If the
34 equipment package includes only the interface components such as
35 switchgear, inverters, or other interface devices, then an
36 interconnection applicant must show that the generator or other
37 electric source being used with the equipment package is compatible
38 with the equipment package and consistent with the testing and listing

1 specified for the package. If the generator or electric source
2 combined with the equipment package is consistent with the testing and
3 listing performed by the nationally recognized testing and
4 certification laboratory, no further design review, testing, or
5 additional equipment is required to meet the certification requirements
6 of this interconnection procedure. A certified equipment package does
7 not include equipment provided by the utility.

8 (4) Each electric utility shall have a simplified interconnection
9 procedure for inverter based generators not exceeding ten kilowatts in
10 capacity, which shall require the following steps:

11 (a) The customer submits an application filled out properly and
12 completely indicating which certified generator or equipment package
13 the customer intends to use;

14 (b) The electric utility acknowledges to the customer receipt of
15 the application within three business days of receipt;

16 (c) The electric utility evaluates the application for completeness
17 and notifies the customer within ten days of receipt that the
18 application is or is not complete and whether the generating facility
19 equipment passes screens in subsection (6)(a), (f), (g), and (h) of
20 this section. If incomplete, the application is rejected and returned
21 to the customer with a list of items needed to make it complete;

22 (d) Within three days of the customer notification under (c) of
23 this subsection, the electric utility will execute and send a
24 simplified interconnection agreement to the customer unless an
25 agreement is not required by the electric utility;

26 (e) Upon receipt of a signed application/agreement and completion
27 of installation, the electric utility may inspect a generating facility
28 for compliance with standards and may arrange for a witness test;

29 (f) If the inspection/test is satisfactory, the electric utility
30 will notify the customer in writing that interconnection is allowed and
31 approved. Customers who do not receive any notice from the electric
32 utility within fifteen days are deemed approved for interconnection.
33 Final interconnection of the generator is subject to approval by the
34 appropriate electrical code officials.

35 (g) The simplified interconnection is provided at a total cost to
36 the customer not to exceed twenty-five dollars. Additional protection
37 equipment not included with the certified generator or interconnection
38 equipment package may be added at the electric utility's discretion if

1 the performance of the system is not negatively impacted in any way and
2 the customer is not charged for equipment in addition to that which is
3 included in the certified equipment package.

4 (5) Each electric utility shall have an expedited interconnection
5 procedure for customer-sited generators not exceeding two megawatts in
6 capacity that will use existing customer facilities, which shall
7 require the following steps:

8 (a) To assist customers in the interconnection process the electric
9 utility will designate an employee or office from which basic
10 information on the application can be obtained through an informal
11 process. On request, the electric utility will provide the applicant
12 with all relevant forms, documents, and technical requirements for
13 filing a complete application for interconnection of generators not
14 exceeding two megawatts to the electric utility's electric power
15 system. Upon the customer's request, the electric utility will meet
16 with the customer before submission of an application for expedited
17 interconnection.

18 (b) The customer shall submit an application for expedited
19 interconnection to the electric utility and may, at the same time,
20 submit an interconnection agreement executed by the customer.

21 (c) A customer will be notified by the electric utility within
22 three business days of its receipt of an interconnection application.

23 (d) The electric utility will notify the customer within eight
24 business days of its receipt of the application whether it is complete
25 or incomplete. If the application is incomplete, the electric utility
26 will at the same time provide the customer a written list detailing all
27 information that must be provided to complete the application. An
28 applicant will have ten business days to submit the listed information
29 following receipt of the notice. If the applicant does not submit the
30 listed information to the electric utility within the ten business
31 days, the application shall be deemed withdrawn. An application will
32 be complete upon the applicant's submission of the information
33 identified in the electric utility's written list.

34 (e) Within ten business days after the electric utility notifies
35 the applicant it received a complete application, the electric utility
36 shall perform an initial review of the proposed interconnection, which
37 shall consist of an application of the screening criteria set forth in
38 subsections (6) and (7) of this section. The electric utility shall

1 notify the applicant of the results, providing copies of the analysis
2 and data underlying the electric utility's determinations under the
3 screens. During the initial review, the electric utility may conduct,
4 at its own expense, any additional studies or tests it deems necessary
5 to evaluate the proposed interconnection.

6 (f) If the initial review determines that the proposed
7 interconnection passes the screens set forth in subsections (6) and (7)
8 of this section as applicable, the interconnection application will be
9 approved and the electric utility will provide the applicant an
10 executable interconnection agreement within five business days after
11 the determination.

12 (g) If the initial review determines that the proposed
13 interconnection fails one or more screens in subsections (6) and (7) of
14 this section, but the electric utility determines through the initial
15 review that the small generator may nevertheless be interconnected
16 consistent with safety, reliability, and power quality standards, with
17 or without minor system modifications, the electric utility will
18 provide the applicant an executable interconnection agreement within
19 five business days after the determination. The generator is
20 responsible for the cost of any minor system modifications required.

21 (h) If the initial review determines that the proposed
22 interconnection fails one or more screens in subsections (6) and (7) of
23 this section, and the electric utility does not or cannot determine
24 from the initial review that the generator may nevertheless be
25 interconnected consistent with safety, reliability, and power quality
26 standards, then the electric utility will offer to perform an
27 additional review if the electric utility concludes that an additional
28 review might determine that the generator could qualify for
29 interconnection pursuant to the expedited procedures. The electric
30 utility will provide a nonbinding, but good faith estimate of the costs
31 of the additional review when it notifies the customer its proposed
32 interconnection has failed one or more screens in subsections (6) and
33 (7) of this section.

34 (i)(i) Each investor-owned utility will include in its net metering
35 and interconnection compliance tariff the procedure it will follow for
36 any additional review including the allocation of cost responsibility
37 to the customer.

1 (ii) Each consumer-owned utility shall develop and publish
2 procedures for any additional review including the allocation of cost
3 responsibility to the consumer. Upon approval of its governing board,
4 each consumer-owned utility shall publish the procedures for additional
5 review either as part of an annual report or as a separate document
6 available to the public. Each consumer-owned utility shall also
7 transmit a copy of its procedures to the department.

8 (j) Final interconnection of the customer's generator is subject to
9 commissioning tests as set forth in subsection (2)(a) of this section
10 and approval by the appropriate local electrical code officials.

11 (k) An application and processing fee may be imposed on customers
12 proposing interconnection of generators under expedited interconnection
13 procedures if the total of all fees to complete the interconnection
14 does not exceed fifty dollars plus one dollar per kilowatt of the
15 capacity of the proposed generator. Additional fees may only be
16 charged to customers if their generator interconnection requires minor
17 system modifications under (g) of this subsection or additional review
18 under (h) of this subsection. Costs for minor system modifications or
19 additional review will be based on quotations for services from the
20 electric utility and subject to review by the commission or its
21 designee for such review. Hourly engineering fees for additional
22 review may not exceed one hundred dollars per hour.

23 (6) The screening criteria used by the electric utility in
24 conducting its evaluation under expedited procedures for
25 interconnection and, if qualified, for net metering, shall include:

26 (a) For interconnection of a proposed generator to a radial
27 distribution circuit, the aggregated generation, including the proposed
28 generator, on the circuit will not exceed ten percent, or fifteen
29 percent for solar based generation, of the total circuit annual peak
30 load as most recently measured at the substation.

31 (b) The proposed generator, in aggregation with other generation on
32 the distribution circuit, will not contribute more than ten percent to
33 the distribution circuit's maximum fault current at the point on the
34 high voltage primary level nearest the proposed point of common
35 coupling.

36 (c) The proposed generator, in aggregate with other generation on
37 the distribution circuit, will not cause any distribution protective
38 devices and equipment including but not limited to substation breakers,

1 fuse cutouts, and line reclosers, or customer equipment on the system,
2 to exceed ninety percent of the short circuit interrupting capability;
3 nor is the interconnection proposed for a circuit that already exceeds
4 ninety percent of the short circuit interrupting capability.

5 (d) The proposed generator, in aggregate with other generation
6 interconnected to the distribution low voltage side of the substation
7 transformer feeding the distribution circuit where the generator
8 proposes to interconnect, will not exceed ten megawatts in an area
9 where there are known or posted transient stability limitations to
10 generating units located in the general electrical vicinity.

11 (e) The proposed generator is interconnected to the electric power
12 utility as follows:

13 (i) If the primary distribution line configuration is three-phase,
14 three wire, interconnection must be phase-to-phase; and

15 (ii) If the primary distribution line configuration is three-phase,
16 four wire, interconnection must be line-to-neutral.

17 (f) If the proposed generator is to be interconnected on single-
18 phase shared secondary, the aggregate generation capacity on the shared
19 secondary, including the proposed generator, may not exceed twenty
20 kilovolt amps.

21 (g) If the proposed generator is single-phase and is to be
22 interconnected on a transformer center tap neutral of a two hundred
23 forty volt service, its addition will not create an imbalance between
24 the two sides of the two hundred forty volt service of more than twenty
25 percent of nameplate rating of the service transformer.

26 (h) The proposed generator's point of common coupling may not be on
27 a transmission line.

28 (7) The screening criteria under this subsection is in addition to
29 the applicable screens in subsection (6) of this section.

30 (a) For interconnection of a proposed generator to a spot network
31 circuit where the generator or aggregate of total generation exceeds
32 five percent of the spot network's maximum load, the generator must use
33 a protective scheme that ensures that its current flow will not affect
34 the network protective devices including reverse power relays or a
35 comparable function.

36 (b) For interconnection of a proposed generator that uses inverter
37 based protective functions to an area network, the generator, in
38 aggregate with other exporting generators interconnected on the load

1 side of network protective devices, will not exceed the lesser of ten
2 percent of the minimum annual load on the network or five hundred
3 kilowatts. For a solar photovoltaic customer-generator facility, the
4 ten percent minimum shall be determined as a function of the minimum
5 load occurring during an off-peak daylight period.

6 (c) For interconnection of generators to area networks that do not
7 use inverter based protective functions or inverter based generators
8 that do not meet the requirements of (b) of this subsection, the
9 generator must use reverse power relays or other protection devices
10 that ensure no export of power from the customer's site including any
11 inadvertent export, under fault conditions, that could adversely affect
12 protective devices on the network circuit.

13 (8) An electric utility may not require an eligible customer-
14 generator whose system meets the simplified or expedited
15 interconnection standards in subsections (2) through (7) of this
16 section, as applicable, to install additional controls, perform, or pay
17 for additional tests or purchase additional liability insurance, except
18 as agreed to by the customer in subsection (5) of this section.

19 (9) Each customer generator approved for interconnection shall
20 affix to their electric revenue meter a standard warning sign as
21 approved by the commission that notifies utility personnel of the
22 existence of customer sited parallel generation.

23 (10) Each electric utility shall have a standard interconnection
24 procedure available for generators not exceeding twenty megawatts in
25 capacity interconnecting to distribution level voltages that do not
26 qualify for simplified or expedited interconnection procedures, which
27 shall consist of the following:

28 (a) The customer submits an application for standard
29 interconnection review, or a customer's interconnection application is
30 transferred from the simplified or expedited interconnection procedures
31 for failure to meet all of the requirements of those procedures;

32 (b) The electric utility acknowledges to the interconnecting
33 customer receipt of the application or the transfer from the simplified
34 or expedited interconnection procedures within three business days;

35 (c) The electric utility evaluates the application for completeness
36 and notifies the customer within ten days of receipt that the
37 application is or is not complete and, if not, advises what is missing;

1 (d) The electric utility will conduct an initial review that may
2 include a scoping meeting or discussion with the customer to review the
3 application. At the scoping meeting the electric utility will provide
4 pertinent information such as: The available fault current at the
5 proposed location; the existing peak loading on the lines in the
6 general vicinity of the proposed generator; and the configuration of
7 the distribution lines at the proposed point of interconnection;

8 (e) At the customer's request, the electric utility will undertake
9 a feasibility study that provides a preliminary review of the potential
10 impacts on the distribution system that will result from the proposed
11 interconnection. The feasibility study may be combined with any
12 feasibility study conducted to determine transmission impacts. The
13 feasibility study will preliminarily review short circuit currents
14 including contribution from the proposed generator as well as
15 coordination of and potential overloading of distribution circuit
16 protection devices. If no violations are found in the feasibility
17 study, the impact study in (f) of this subsection may be waived;

18 (f) The electric utility provides an impact study agreement,
19 including a cost estimate for the impact study. Where the proposed
20 interconnection may affect electric transmission or distribution
21 systems other than that of the electric utility where the
22 interconnection is proposed, the electric utility shall coordinate, but
23 not be responsible for the timing of any studies required to determine
24 the impact of the interconnection request on other potentially affected
25 electric systems. The customer will be responsible to any other
26 affected systems for all costs of any additional studies incurred by
27 any other affected system to evaluate the impact of the proposed
28 generator interconnection.

29 (i) For generators greater than two megawatts, the interconnection
30 study may require analysis of power flows and other impacts on the
31 transmission system if the utility has a reasonable belief that the
32 interconnection of the generator will create power flows that reach the
33 transmission system.

34 (ii) Transmission system interconnection studies will be governed
35 by separate procedures that may include submission of an application
36 into a transmission interconnection queue.

37 (iii) Each electric utility will identify the circumstances under

1 which generators larger than two megawatts must submit their
2 application into a transmission interconnection queue;

3 (g) For generators that are certified pursuant to subsection (2) or
4 (3) of this section, no review of the generator's protection equipment
5 is required. While a utility may review a certified generator's
6 protection scheme, it cannot charge for such review;

7 (h)(i) Each investor-owned utility will include in its compliance
8 tariff a description of the various elements of an impact study it
9 would typically undertake under this section.

10 (ii) Each consumer-owned utility shall develop and publish a
11 description of the various elements of an impact study it would
12 typically undertake under this section. Upon approval of its governing
13 board, each consumer-owned utility shall publish the elements either as
14 part of an annual report or as a separate document available to the
15 public. Each consumer-owned utility shall also transmit a copy of the
16 elements to the department.

17 (iii) The elements of an impact study under this section should
18 include:

19 (A) Load flow study;

20 (B) Short-circuit study;

21 (C) Circuit protection and coordination study;

22 (D) Impact on system operation;

23 (E) Stability study and the conditions that would justify including
24 this element in the impact study; and

25 (F) Voltage collapse study and the conditions that would justify
26 including this element in the impact study;

27 (i) Once the interconnecting customer executes the impact study
28 agreement and pays pursuant to the good faith estimate contained in the
29 agreement, the electric utility will conduct the interconnection impact
30 study;

31 (j) If the electric utility determines, in accordance with good
32 utility practices, that the electric utility electric system
33 modifications required to accommodate the proposed interconnection are
34 not substantial, the impact study will identify the scope and cost of
35 the modifications as defined in the study results;

36 (k) If the electric utility determines, in accordance with good
37 utility practices, that the system modifications to the electric
38 utility's electric system are substantial, the results of the impact

1 study will produce an estimate for the modification costs. The
2 detailed costs of, and the electric power supplier's modifications
3 necessary to interconnect the customer's proposed generator will be
4 identified in a facilities study to be completed by the electric
5 utility;

6 (l) A facilities study agreement, with a good faith estimate of the
7 cost of completing the facilities study shall be submitted to the
8 customer for the customer's approval;

9 (m) Once the interconnecting customer executes the facilities study
10 agreement and pays pursuant to the terms thereof, the electric utility
11 will conduct the facilities study;

12 (n) Upon completion of the impact or facilities study, the electric
13 utility shall send the customer an executable interconnection agreement
14 including a quote for any required electric utility system
15 modifications;

16 (o) The customer returns the signed interconnection agreement;

17 (p) The customer completes installation of its generator and the
18 electric utility completes any electric utility system modifications;

19 (q) The electric utility inspects the completed generator
20 installation for compliance with requirements and attends any required
21 commissioning tests; and

22 (r) Provided any required commissioning tests are satisfactory, the
23 electric utility shall notify the customer in writing that
24 interconnection is approved.

25 (11) Fees for standard interconnection review shall include an
26 application fee not to exceed one hundred dollars plus two dollars per
27 kilowatt capacity, as well as charges for actual time spent on the
28 interconnection study. Costs for the engineering review may not exceed
29 one hundred dollars per hour. Costs for the electric utility's
30 facilities necessary to accommodate the customer's generator
31 interconnection will be the responsibility of the customer.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) An electric utility that charges a fee
33 for an interconnection study shall provide the customer-generator with
34 a bill that includes a clear explanation of all charges. In addition,
35 the electric utility shall provide to the customer-generator, before
36 the start of the interconnection study, a good faith estimate of the

1 number of hours that will be needed to complete the interconnection
2 study, and an estimate of the total interconnection study fee.

3 (2) If a customer-generator's facility complies with all applicable
4 standards under section 4 of this act, the facility shall be presumed
5 to comply with the technical requirements of this chapter. In such a
6 case, the electric utility shall not require a customer-generator to
7 install additional controls, including but not limited to a utility
8 accessible disconnect switch, perform or pay for additional tests, or
9 purchase additional liability insurance in order to obtain approval to
10 interconnect.

11 (3) Once an interconnection has been approved under this chapter,
12 the electric utility shall not require a customer-generator to test its
13 facility except for the following:

14 (a) An annual test in which the customer-generator's facility is
15 disconnected from the electric utility's equipment to ensure that the
16 generator stops delivering power to the grid; and

17 (b) Any manufacturer-recommended testing.

18 (4) An electric utility may inspect a customer-generator's facility
19 both before and after interconnection approval is granted, at
20 reasonable hours and with reasonable advance notice to the customer-
21 generator. If the electric utility discovers the customer-generator's
22 facility is not in compliance with the requirements of section 4 of
23 this act and the noncompliance adversely affects the safety or
24 reliability of the electric system, the electric utility may require
25 disconnection of the customer-generator's facility until it complies
26 with this chapter.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The commission may from time to time
28 designate a technical master for the resolution of interconnection
29 disputes. The parties shall use the technical master to resolve
30 disputes related to interconnection and such resolution is binding on
31 the parties.

32 (2) The commission may designate a department of energy national
33 laboratory; college or university; or an approved federal energy
34 regulatory commission regional transmission organization with
35 distribution system engineering expertise as the technical master.
36 Should the federal energy regulatory commission identify a national

1 technical dispute resolution team, the commission may designate the
2 team as its technical master.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1, 2, and 4 through 6 of this act
4 constitute a new chapter in Title 19 RCW.

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