1. How does a new ESR connect to the NY Transmission System?

An ESR can connect to the NY Transmission System through the NYISO’s interconnection process. ESRs along with other generation, transmission and load projects that have submitted an Interconnection Request to the NYISO form what is called the “Interconnection Queue.” The steps in an ESR’s interconnection process is the same as any other type of traditional generator submitting an Interconnection Request. An ESR’s ERIS and CRIS values will be determined through the interconnection process.

2. What are ERIS and CRIS?

ERIS (Energy Resource Interconnection Service) is basic Interconnection service that allows a Developer to interconnect its ESR to the NYCA grid in accordance with the NYISO Minimum Interconnection Standard, to enable the wholesale grid to receive electric energy from the ESR.

CRIS (Capacity Resource Interconnection Service) is Interconnection service that allows a Developer to interconnect their ESR to the NYCA grid in accordance with the NYISO
Deliverability Interconnection Standard, allowing participation in the NYISO’s ICAP market to the extent of the ESR’s approved CRIS level.

3. What is the objective of a scoping meeting?

Once a new ESR Developer (Large Facility over 20 MW) or an Interconnection Customer (Small Facility 20 MW or less) submits an Interconnection Request in NYISO’s automated Interconnection Portal, they are invited to an initial scoping meeting with NYISO and their respective Transmission Owner. This meeting typically includes review and discussion of the following: the full project description, the Interconnection portal, and steps for accessing information, potential issues surrounding the proposed Interconnection point, consideration of alternate Interconnection points, a review of the coming studies and next steps, and questions the developer has regarding the process. The scoping meeting therefore provides developers the initial insight on the Interconnection process to help them decide if, and how they want to proceed with the subsequent studies in the Interconnection process.

4. What are the three studies that take place in NYISO’s Interconnection Process?

The NYISO’s Interconnection Process includes three successive studies:

Optional Feasibility Study – This evaluates the configuration and local system impacts and provides the developer with a design on how the facility can interconnect to the system.

System Reliability Impact Study or Small Generator System Impact Study – This evaluates the impact of the facility interconnecting on system reliability and provides any upgrades that must be made for reliable Interconnection. If a project elects to forego the Optional Feasibility Study, this study also evaluates the physical feasibility and local system impacts.

Class Year Study or Small Generator Facilities Study – The Class Year Study is a clustered evaluation of a group of projects. It is comprised of two primary components. The System Upgrade Facilities evaluation identifies the Interconnection facilities upgrades required for the reliable Interconnection of the Class Year projects. The Deliverability study determines the extent to which each project is deliverable at the requested CRIS MW level, for projects that request to participate in the NYISO’s Installed Capacity Market. Small Generating Facilities are only subject to a Class Year Study if their SISs identify the need for non-Local System Upgrades. If a Small Generating Facility only requires Local System Upgrades, it proceeds through a facilities study under the Small Generator Interconnection Procedures. The Small
Generator Facilities Study identifies the Interconnection facilities and upgrades required for the reliable Interconnection of the individual project – not a group of projects.

5. What are the Large Facility Interconnection Procedures and Small Facility Interconnection Procedures?

An ESR that is larger than 20 MW in size is considered a Large Facility and is evaluated in NYISO's Large Facility Interconnection Procedures (LFIP), while an ESR that is 20 MW or less is considered a Small Generating Facility and is evaluated in the NYISO’s Small Generator Interconnection Procedures (SGIP) if it is connecting to transmission or portion of the distribution system subject to the NYISO’s interconnection process. The Large Facility Interconnection Procedures are described in the Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) Attachment X. The Small Generator Interconnection Procedures are described in the OATT Attachment Z. The scope of the System Reliability Impact Study (SRIS) performed for Large Facilities is more extensive than the System Impact Study (SIS) conducted for Small Generating Facilities. Studies performed under the Small Generator Interconnection Procedures also do not involve NYISO Working groups or the NYISO Operating Committee.

6. At what stage of the Interconnection process is meter configuration of an ESR studied, and determined?

The metering configuration of an ESR, its location, the cost of meter installation and the Meter Authority involved is typically determined as part of the facilities study. Typically, the respective Transmission Owner will function as the Meter Authority for an ESR.

7. Can an ESR connect to the Distribution system through their TO’s Interconnection process and still participate in NYISO’s markets?

An ESR connecting to the distribution system is subject to the Transmission Owner’s Interconnection process vs. the NYISO’s Interconnection process unless the portion of the distribution system is “FERC jurisdictional” for Interconnection purposes (e.g., if there is a wholesale generator already connected to that distribution line/facility). Please refer to Attachment A of the Transmission Expansion and Interconnection Manual for the “Jurisdictional Flow Chart.” If the resource would like to participate in NYISO’s wholesale markets, then it must proceed through the NYISO’s Registration process and demonstrate that it has an effective interconnection agreement, as well as other relevant
documents. To participate in the Installed Capacity market, an ESR larger than 2 MW will have to obtain CRIS though a Deliverability study as part of a Class Year Study or Expedited Deliverability Study. ESRs smaller than 2 MW do not need to participate in a Deliverability study to obtain CRIS.

8. How is NYISO’s Interconnection Process handled for an ESR that proposes to connect as a Co-located Storage Resource (CSR), rather than a stand-alone ESR?

For facilities proposing to interconnect as a CSR, both the participating ESR and the Wind/Solar Intermittent Power Resource (IPR) must be included in a single Interconnection Request (IR). The CSR will be studied in the Interconnection process as a single facility evaluated at a single total ERIS value and a single total CRIS value; however, the Developer will specify ERIS and CRIS for the ESR and IPR such that each generator will have its own ERIS and CRIS values.

9. What are some important considerations for an ESR developer before going through the NYISO’s Interconnection process?

It is important that ESR developers familiarize themselves with NYISO Interconnection procedures before beginning the Interconnection process. This will aid in avoiding any unnecessary potential delays. For example, providing required data on a timely basis, satisfying required deadlines, and understanding when and how project modifications can be accommodated are critical elements of the interconnection process.

10. How long does NYISO’s Interconnection process take?

The estimated time frames for NYISO to meet its obligations are outlined in Attachments S, X and Z to the NYISO OATT, and summarized in the tables in Attachments D and E of the Transmission Expansion and Interconnection manual. These time frames are subject to the parties using Reasonable Efforts to meet the applicable milestones. The overall time to complete the Interconnection studies and execute an Interconnection Agreement can vary significantly based on the unique circumstances of individual projects. The NYISO posts quarterly study metrics on its publicly accessible website under “Interconnection Process” > “Quarterly Reports” consistent with the requirements under Order No. 845 and Order No. 845-A and Section 30.3.4.4 of Attachment X to the NYISO OATT. Developers and Interconnection Customers can review those postings to
Buyer Side Mitigation for ESRs in the Mitigated Capacity Zones

1. When does the Buyer Side Mitigation evaluation take place?

The purpose of Buyer Side Mitigation is to prevent uneconomic entry from artificially suppressing Installed Capacity prices. Buyer Side Mitigation rules only apply for the Mitigated Capacity Zones (New York City and Zones G-J). BSM evaluation process occurs concurrently with the NYISO Class Year process, where CRIS request is evaluated.

2. How are ESRs evaluated for Buyer Side Mitigation?

An ESR is considered an Excluded Facility as it is qualified to satisfy the goals specified in the New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). Therefore, ESRs will not be subject to review by the NYISO under BSM rules or otherwise be subject to an Offer floor.