

# Integrating NY's Clean Energy Resources

The interconnection process is crucial for integrating the high volume of generator additions, transmission expansions, and large industrial loads that are needed to meet the state's energy, environmental, and economic development goals.

The process requires significant coordination between utilities, developers, and state and local governments to ensure that projects can connect without harming the bulk electric system or imposing undue costs on consumers. Recent process enhancements reflect NYISO's continual improvements to support state policy goals while preserving reliability.



“ These interconnection enhancements reflect our steadfast commitment to delivering the grid of the future. I thank our NYISO team and stakeholders for advancing these improvements in a collaborative effort to improve efficiency and transparency. ”

Rich Dewey, NYISO President & CEO



## Interconnection Process Improvements Overview

Recognizing the importance of advancing clean energy projects in New York, the NYISO worked with stakeholders to improve interconnection processes. NYISO planning and customer service teams were expanded, and interconnection processes reforms were developed. In August 2024, we launched a new “Cluster Study” process to reduce the time needed to assess projects. The new process incorporates extensive, ongoing collaboration with stakeholders and includes the following:

### ✓ New Cluster Study Approach

Evaluates interconnection requests collectively rather than individually, making the process more efficient for the NYISO, utilities, and developers.

### ✓ Physical Feasibility Screen

A new early screening process will identify issues preventing a project from feasibly connecting to the grid.

### ✓ Interconnection Portal

The new tool enables developers, the NYISO, and utilities to streamline information sharing.

### Rolling, Optional Pre-Application Process

Allows developers to engage with NYISO and the Connecting Transmission Owner (CTO) before formally entering the queue to obtain information to aid decisions on potential points of interconnection before submitting application. Includes:

- ✓ **A scoping meeting** with the CTO leading to a more efficient evaluation.
- ✓ **Rapid response requirement.** The CTO must complete their report within 25 business days after the meeting.
- ✓ **Existing grid infrastructure transparency** including constraints and planned upgrades which are crucial for project planning.

### Additional Improvements that Accelerate Studies

- ✓ **Limit of “mid-stream” project modifications** and opportunities for developers to cure deficiencies to avoid one project from delaying others.
- ✓ **Commercial readiness deposits and withdrawal penalties** to incent uncertain projects to exit the queue.
- ✓ **Tariff-mandated deadlines** and consequences for work performed by the NYISO and Transmission Owners.
- ✓ **Single, standardized process** for generation facilities
- ✓ **Additional pro forma forms and agreements to expedite the process**, negotiation of required agreements, and construction of required upgrades.

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## FERC Order 2023: Improvements to Generator Interconnection Procedures and Agreements

In July 2023, FERC issued Order 2023 with the goal to streamline interconnection processes to accommodate growing queues across the country. Many of the enhancements called for are already integral elements of the NYISO's process.

Order 2023 calls for rules to:

- **Implement** a first-ready, first-served cluster study process.
- **Reduce** interconnection queue processing timeframes.
- **Incorporate** technological advancements into interconnection processes.
- **Establish** transition processes to implement these improvements



Following extensive discussions with stakeholders, in May 2024, the NYISO submitted its compliance filing. The NYISO's full compliance plan is designed to meet the obligations of FERC's order while reflecting the unique elements of interconnection planning in New York. The filing is still under review, but our new Cluster Study process was launched on August 1, 2024.

## Our commitment to a clean energy grid of the future

The NYISO's nearly 600 employees share a common mission:

- ✓ **Maintain** grid reliability
- ✓ **Deliver** electricity at the least cost through our wholesale markets
- ✓ **Plan** for an effective and efficient transition to a clean energy grid
- ✓ **Serve** as an independent, authoritative source of information for policymakers, regulators, investors, stakeholders, market participants, and the public

### PLAY VIDEOS



[Grid of the Future Episode 5: Connecting Clean Energy to the Grid](#)



[Project Manager Liz Keeling: Understanding & Improving Interconnection](#)

Addressing the pace of change as we transition from the grid of today while working to ensure a reliable clean energy grid of the future is central to all we do.

## What's in the queue?

### 376 applications in new Cluster Study

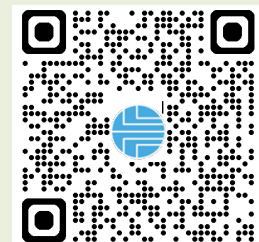
The NYISO is currently reviewing project applications under the new process which enables projects to be assessed collectively, with timeline requirements for all parties. **Recognizing the learning curve for all involved, NYISO has provided a 30-day extension to resolve insufficient applications.**

### Class Year 2023 projects representing more than 13,000 MW advance

In parallel to processing the new Cluster Study applications, the NYISO is working with developers of 68 projects that have advanced into the cost allocation decision phase of the previous Class Year process.

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<https://www.nyiso.com/connecting-to-the-grid>



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