

SCE Grid Interconnection Frequently Asked Questions Rule 21 Tariff

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SCE offers these guidelines to help you understand our Generator Interconnection Procedures. However, in the case of discrepancies, SCE's tariffs and interconnection documents prevail.

All capitalized items used but not defined within this document will have the same meaning assigned in the Rule 21 tariff.

*Note: The answers shown below were developed from the information found in the **Rule 21 tariff** located at: https://www.sce.com/NR/sc3/tm2/pdf/Rule21_1.pdf*

1. What is a Rule 21 application?

Response

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A Rule 21 application is a request for the interconnection of a Generating Facility to Southern California Edison's (SCE) Distribution System, over which the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has jurisdiction.

There are three applications:

- For exporting projects, use Form 14-918, *Rule 21 Exporting Generator Interconnection Request*
- For non-exporting, non-NEM projects, use Form 14-732, *Generating Facility Interconnection Application*
- For Net Energy Metering, (NEM) use Form 14-957, *Net Energy Metering (NEM) Generating Facility Interconnection Application*

Only one application needs to be submitted for each type of project. Please refer to SCE's Rule 21 to determine the specific requirements for appropriate application type at the following link:

https://www.sce.com/NR/sc3/tm2/pdf/Rule21_1.pdf

To find the application forms with instructions on how to make payments, use the links provided in Question #2 below.

2. Where can I find the Rule 21 Tariff and Applications?

Response

The Rule 21 Tariff is located at the following link:

https://www.sce.com/NR/sc3/tm2/pdf/Rule21_1.pdf

There are three Rule 21 Application forms:

- Rule 21 Exporting Application (Form 14-918)
- Rule 21 Non-Exporting, non-NEM Application (Form 14-732)
- Rule 21 Net Energy Metering (NEM) Application (Form 14-957)

To find the application forms with instructions on how to make payments, use the following links.

Forms 14-918 and Form 14-732 may be found by navigating through SCE Open Access web page link shown below:

www.sce.com/gridinterconnection

Then select:

"Rule 21 Application Form for the Exporting Generator" to access Form 14-918 or

"Rule 21 Application Form for the Non Exporting Generator" to access Form 14-732

The NEM application, Form 14-957, may be found on the NEM website at:

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www.sce.com/nem

Then select:

“**Rule 21 Application Form for the Net Energy metering (NEM)**” to access the on-line application, Form 14-957

[Note: These links may be updated next week once the exact webpages are approved for publication.]

3. What is the effective date of the current Rule 21 Tariff? What changes were made in the latest revisions?

Response

The current Rule 21 is effective February 11, 2015. Below is a summary of the last three Advice letters that contain revisions to Rule 21.

Advice letter 3167-E

On January 20, 2015, the CPUC approved Advice Filing 3167-E, (effective January 25, 2015) which did the following:

- Revised Rule 21 to include Smart Inverter technology. These changes included, Generating Facility Interconnections, Section H, *Generating Facility Design and Operating Requirements*, Section C, *Definitions* to include new terminology consistent with these changes, and added a new Section Hh, *Design and Operation Requirements for Smart Inverter Generating Facility*.

Click on the following link to access the most current Rule 21 tariff:

https://www.sce.com/NR/sc3/tm2/pdf/Rule21_1.pdf

Advice letter 3162-E

On February 19, 2015, the CPUC approved Advice Filing 3162-E, (effective February 11, 2015) which did the following:

- Revises SCE’s Net Energy Metering (NEM) application forms and rate schedules to implement the California Public Utilities Commission’s (Commission or CPUC) decision to transfer the responsibility for collecting solar statistics and other data from the California Solar Initiative (CSI) to the NEM interconnection application process
- Creates a new single NEM application and modification of the Multiple Tariffs GFIA (Form 14-773) to align the form with SCE’s other NEM interconnection agreements to better facilitate the online application process

For further details, please see Advice letter 3162-E at the following link:

<https://www.sce.com/NR/sc3/tm2/pdf/3162-E.pdf>

Advice letter 3050-E

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On July 9, 2014, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved SCE's Advice Filing 3050-E. Major changes include:

- The addition of a Distribution Group Study process under the Detailed Study Interconnection Review Process of Rule 21
- Revised Form 14-732, Generating Facility Interconnection Application
- Revised Form 14-918, Rule 21 Exporting Generating Facility Interconnection Request
- New Form 14-925, Rule 21 Generator Interconnection Agreement for Exporting Generating Facilities Interconnecting Under the Independent Study, Distribution Group Study, or Transmission Cluster Study Process
- New Form 14-926, Rule 21 Detailed Study Agreement
- Revised Form 14-922 Pre-Application Report Request

For further details, please see the Advice letter 3050-E, at the following link:

<https://www.sce.com/NR/sc3/tm2/pdf/3050-E.pdf>

4. What is the Distribution Group Study (DGS) process? When are the windows for participating in DGS?

Response

The DGS process is a review of projects seeking interconnection to SCE under Rule 21 that allows customers that are in the same circuit are studied together. For eligibility and details, see SCE Rule 21, Section F.3.c.

The DGS has two windows during the year for receipt of DGS requests. The first window of the year opens on March 1 and closes on March 31. The second window opens on September 1 and closes on September 30.

5. What interconnection agreement is appropriate for my Rule 21 interconnection project?

Response

- For exporting Generating Facilities, there are two potential interconnection agreements:
 - If your project passes the Rule 21 Fast Track, the appropriate interconnection agreement is the *Rule 21 Generator Interconnection Agreement for Exporting Generating Facilities Interconnecting under the Fast Track Process* (Form 14-919).
 - If your project is via the Rule 21 Detailed Study track, the appropriate interconnection agreement is *Rule 21 Generator Interconnection Agreement for Exporting Generating Facilities Interconnecting under the Independent Study, Distribution Group Study, or Transmission Cluster Study Process* (Form 14-925).
- For a Non-Export, Non-NEM Application, please see pages 5-7 of Form 14-732 for a list of the applicable Generator Interconnection Agreements.

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- For a project operating in the isolated or momentary parallel mode, an interconnection agreement is not required; however, the Interconnection Customer/Applicant will still need to submit an application (Form 14-732).

Please note that all projects must be processed in compliance with the interconnection requirements of SCE's Rule 21 Tariff to be eligible to receive a Rule 21 Generator Interconnection Agreement.

You can find the Forms 14-919, 14-732, and 14-925 at the following link, under the section Interconnection Agreements:

<https://www.sce.com/wps/portal/home/regulatory/tariff-books/filed-forms/>

In addition, Net Energy Metering has six (6) Agreement Forms. You can find all these forms at the following link: www.sce.com/nem

6. What documents must be submitted with a Rule 21 application?

Response

For an Exporting Generating Facility:

If your generating facility is an exporting generating facility, you will need to submit Form 14-918 (*Rule 21 Exporting Generating Facility Interconnection Request*). Please refer to Question #2 for a link to the application form with instructions on how to make payments.

Your application MUST include the following:

- A completed Interconnection Request form for processing (Form 14-918)
- A completed Attachment A (see Form 14-918), Interconnection Request Generating Facility Data
- Applicable Interconnection Request fee as specified in Rule 21, Section E.2.c (see answer to question 7 below). Please see the "Request for Payment Instructions" form attached to the interconnection application Form 14-918 for directions on how to submit your payment.
- Evidence of Site Exclusivity as specified in Rule 21 Section E.2.d as applicable, including name(s), address(es) and contact information of site owner(s). You can find the guidelines for site exclusivity at this link: https://www.sce.com/wps/wcm/connect/9538296a-88b9-49ee-b81e-f090f1c8287d/05_SiteExclusivityGuidelines.pdf?MOD=AJPERES
- Site drawing to scale, showing generator location and Point of Interconnection with SCE's Distribution System.
- Single line diagram showing applicable equipment such as generating units, step-up transformers, auxiliary transformers, switches/disconnects of the proposed interconnection, including the required protection devices and circuit breakers. **This drawing must be signed and stamped by a licensed Professional Engineer** if the Generating Facility is larger than 50 kW.

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Note: For wind and photovoltaic generator projects, the one line diagram should include the distribution lines connecting the various groups of generating units, the generator capacitor banks, the step up transformers, the distribution lines, and the substation transformers and capacitor banks at the Point of Interconnection with SCE's Distribution System.

For Non-Export, Isolated Operation Mode, Multi Tariff, or Uncompensated Export Generating Facilities:

Your Non-Exporting, Non-NEM application MUST include the following*:

- A completed Non-Exporting, Non-NEM Interconnection Request form for processing (Form 14-732)
- An Initial Review fee check or money order in the amount of \$ 800, if applicable. Please see the "Request for Payment Instructions" form attached to the interconnection application Form (14-732) for directions on how to submit your payment.
- Single-line drawing showing the electrical relationship and descriptions of the significant electrical components such as the primary switchgear, secondary switchboard, protective relays, transformers, generators, circuit breakers, with operating voltages, capacities, and protective functions of the Generating Facility, the Customer's loads, and the interconnection with SCE's Distribution System. Show the location of all required net generation electric output. Drawings must conform to accepted engineering standards and must be legible. 11"x17" drawings are preferred
- Site plans and diagrams showing the physical relationship of the significant electrical components of the Generating Facility such as generators, transformers, primary switchgear/secondary switchboard, and control panels, the Customer's loads and the interconnection with SCE's Distribution System. Please show the location of all required net generation electric output meters and the A.C. manually operated disconnect devices on the site plans.
- Photos of the AC Disconnect, showing visible contact separation in the open position.
- If the point of interconnection is on the utility side of the main circuit breaker and/or it is a Virtual Net Energy Metering project, please provide switchgear, switchboard, or main panel cut-sheets/shop drawings detailing the bussing and proposed point of interconnection including any proposed modifications showing resultant clearances. The proposal must include a signed PE stamp and modifications must be re-certified by the manufacturer or a qualified third party. In addition, please provide pictures of the point of interconnection prior to modification. Pictures of the point of interconnection post-modification must be provided prior to scheduling of SCE commissioning test.
- If the project requires a net generation output meter (NGOM), provide meter socket cut-sheets of the net generation output meter socket.
- If transformers are used to interconnect the Generating Facility with SCE's Distribution System, provide transformer nameplate information (voltages, capacity, winding arrangements, connections, impedance, et cetera).

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- If a transfer switch or scheme is used to interconnect the Generating Facility with SCE Distribution System, provide component descriptions, capacity ratings, and a technical description of how the transfer scheme is intended to operate.
- If protective relays are used to control the interconnection, provide protection diagrams or elementary drawings showing relay wiring and connections, proposed relay settings, and a description of how the protection scheme is intended to function.

Please note that digital copies of application documents are greatly appreciated and may be submitted to: Rule21@sce.com

7. How much does it cost to submit a Rule 21 application?

Response

For an exporting generator or for a non-NEM, non-exporting generator either “in parallel” or in “momentary parallel” operating mode with SCE’s Distribution System, an \$800 interconnection request fee is required.

Whenever a Supplemental Review is requested, an additional nonrefundable fee of \$2,500 will be required.

Please refer to Table E.1 under section E.2.c of Rule 21 for a summary of the appropriate Interconnection Request, Study Deposit and Commissioning Test fees.

For more information about modes of operation, Net Energy Metering (NEM) and non-exporting generators, please review Part 3.A of the Application Form 14-732.

For more information about Net Energy Metering (NEM) online application form, Form 14-957, *Net Energy Metering (NEM) Generating Facility Interconnection Application*, and the on-line application process, you can find both at the following link: www.sce.com/nem.

For a Generating Facility operating in “isolated mode”, the interconnection request fee is not required.

8. How can we submit a Rule 21 application?

Response

The applicant can send the completed application directly to SCE via email or mail. Instructions for sending the application are on page 2 of Form 14-732 and page 3 of Form 14-918.

Please note that digital copies of application documents are greatly appreciated and may be submitted to: Rule21@sce.com

The address for sending by mail is the following:

Grid Interconnection & Contract Development
Southern California Edison

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2244 Walnut Grove Ave
Rosemead, CA 91770

For questions:

Email: interconnectionQA@sce.com

Phone: (626) 302-3688

9. Is there a project review process or timeline?

Response

The review process and timeline for the processing of an interconnection request are fully explained in Rule 21. Please see the relevant tariff sections for timelines associated with the specific review process.

- For an overview of the interconnection request process, refer to Section F.1 of Rule 21.
- For the Fast Track interconnection request process, refer to Section F.2 of Rule 21.
- For the Detailed Study interconnection request process, refer to Section F.3 of Rule 21.

For details about the Net Energy Metering program, refer to Section D.13 of Rule 21.

For additional details on the Rule 21 interconnection request process, please see SCE's Rule 21 web page link below:

https://www.sce.com/NR/sc3/tm2/pdf/Rule21_1.pdf

10. Where can I find more technical information about a potential project site?

Response

SCE's Interconnection Map provides SCE system data pertinent to Distributed Generation (DG) developers searching for possible interconnection locations on the SCE distribution system. This set of maps includes the locations of SCE distribution circuits, substations, subtransmission systems, and areas of transmission constraints along with the associated circuit/substation/system voltage, available capacity, and current and queued DG interconnections amounts.

You can access these maps by navigating through SCE's Rule 21 web page link shown below:

https://www.sce.com/NR/sc3/tm2/pdf/Rule21_1.pdf

In addition, you may request a "Pre-Application Report". This is an optional report that is described in Section E.1 of the Rule 21 Tariff. A copy of the tariff can be found at the link shown under Question 2. The Rule 21 Pre-Application Report Request can be found at the following link:

https://www.sce.com/NR/sc3/tm2/pdf/Rule21_1.pdf

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Under the tab:

[“Rule 21, Fillable Pre-Application Report Request Form”](#)

11. Where can I find the information about the initial review screens?

Response

These initial review screens are described in Rule 21, Section G.

12. Where do I find more general information about meters or switchboards?

Response

The Electrical Service Requirements (ESR) Handbook includes information about meters and switchboards. The ESR is located at SCE’s Grid Interconnection page by completing the following steps:

Go to: www.sce.com/GridInterconnection

Expand the "SCE Manuals" section of the menu on the left

Click on "Electrical Service Requirements (ESR)

Click on "Electrical Service Requirements (ESR-PDF) to download and open the file.

In many cases, your local Service Planning Office may be of further assistance. A list of locations and phone numbers is available on Table 1-1 of the ESR.

13. When will departing load and standby charges apply to Rule 21 projects?

Response

SCE’s [Standby](#) Schedule (or [TOU-8-S Schedule](#)) is applicable for customers that are “taking service under a regular service rate schedule who supply a part or all of their electrical requirements from a generating facility as defined, interconnected, and operated in accordance with SCE’s Rule 21, Wholesale Distribution Access Tariff (WDAT) or Transmission Owners (TO) tariff, but who require electric service from SCE’s electrical system during periods of partial or complete outage of the customer’s generating facility.”

SCE’s Departing Load Schedules, ([CGDL-CRS](#) and [DL-NBC](#)), are applicable to “that portion of SCE’s customer’s electric load for which the customer, on or after December 20, 1995: (a) discontinues or reduces its purchases of electricity supply and delivery services from SCE; (b) purchases or consumes electricity supplied and delivered by sources other than SCE to replace such SCE purchases; and (c) remains physically located at the same location or within SCE’s service area as it existed on December

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20, 1995. Reduction in load qualifies as Departing Load only to the extent that such load is subsequently served with electricity from a source other than SCE.”

Please note, for departing load customers with customer generation, per the California Energy Commission, the 3000 MW statewide cap for some exemptions from cost responsibility surcharges (CRS) has been reached. The statewide cap is described in Schedule CGDL-CRS Section 3. Moving forward, these departing load Customers will be responsible for CRS unless otherwise exempt (e.g., net energy metered customers).

Note that the [Standby Contract \(Form 14-917\)](#) is required to be completed, signed and returned to StandbyDemandDepartingLoad@sce.com, 30 days before the customer receives a Permission to Operate (PTO) Letter. The rate is effective after the customer’s first full monthly electric bill, after the customer’s PTO date.

Departing load and standby charges apply when a generator offsets an existing customer’s load via behind the meter interconnected generator. Departing load and standby charges do not apply to NEM eligible generators. Departing load and standby charges apply to Rule 21 Non-export and export projects.

14. Other helpful websites and contacts

Response

For information about NEM (Net Energy Metering)

<https://www.sce.com/wps/portal/home/business/generating-your-own-power/net-energy-metering/>

For Information on Generating Your Own Power:

<https://www.sce.com/wps/portal/home/residential/generating-your-own-power/>

For information about RES-BCT (Renewable Energy Self Generation Bill Credit Transfer) Program

<https://www.sce.com/wps/portal/home/business/generating-your-own-power/renewable-energy-self-generation-bill-credit-transfer/>

For information on Energy Procurement

<https://www.sce.com/wps/portal/home/procurement/>