Danielle DeMarre <danielle.demarre@allenergysolar.com>

DER Application On-Hold Status Case _____/No Capacity available at NOF061

1 message

Solar Program MN <solarprogrammn@xcelenergy.com> Tue, Sep 27, 2022 at 4:50 PM
To:
Cc: Danielle DeMarre <danielle.demarre@allenergysolar.com>, Solar Program MN <solarprogrammn@xcelenergy.com>

Dear _____,

I wanted to let you know that your interconnection application has been put on hold temporarily while Xcel Energy sequentially reviews other applications ahead in the engineering queue at the same feeder/substation (NOF061). Since the Technical Planning Standard has been met or exceeded, these applications must be reviewed one at a time based on their queue position in order to identify any issues and maintain the safety and reliability of our grid for all our energy customers, pursuant to notice provided under MN DIP 5.2.2. There are currently 23 other projects ahead of yours in queue. This may add a significant delay to your application timeline, and we apologize for the inconvenience. We estimate each project ahead in queue may take a maximum of 240 days to complete the review cycle for interconnection. However, these dates are subject to change as prior-in-queue projects shift and change over time. To review your project in the queue, visit our Interconnection webpage and click on "Public Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Queue Report under ***General Resources***.

The applicable application timeframes will restart once your project re-enters active study, and Xcel Energy will notify you at that time. Your queue position will be maintained throughout this process.

We are also writing to inform you there is currently no capacity available to safely and reliably interconnect your proposed system to the electric grid on the [NOF061] substation feeder, which is the portion of the electric grid that serves your location.

A Phase II System Impact Study would help determine the most cost-effective way to increase capacity to safely and reliably interconnect additional solar projects. We have notified the first customer in our engineering study queue of projects requesting to interconnect to your feeder that they have the option to pay for the study at an estimated cost of $15,000. Depending on the results of the study, the cost to increase the capacity of the substation feeder could exceed $1 million. Due to cost-causation rules, the cost is paid by the customer whose energy system interconnection triggers the need for increased capacity. Your project will remain “on hold” while we wait for the prior-in-queue customers to decide how to proceed.

We recognize that this cost may be unrealistic for many customers, including any customer ahead of you in this queue. If no customer who is ahead of you in the queue chooses to pay the costs and you would still like to interconnect your project, you can choose to pay the costs yourself.

As of today, we cannot provide any further options. The capacity limitation on this substation feeder could be resolved as the queue and capacity situations change, but if or when this might happen is uncertain.

You will not receive a formal Phase II System Impact Study notice until your project moves further up the queue. However, we wanted you to know about the current lack of capacity on your feeder/substation so you can decide how to proceed. We want to help you understand that under no circumstance should you go ahead with your solar installation at this time, as your ability to interconnect it to our system is uncertain.

In the meantime, Xcel Energy offers other ways for environmentally conscious customers like you to contribute to our clean-energy future. To learn more, please visit www.xcelenergy.com/Renewables.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to SolarProgramMN@xcelenergy.com.

Kind regards,

Xcel Energy DER Interconnection Program Team

XcelEnergy.com

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Email SolarProgramMN@xcelenergy.com

Other helpful resources:

- For questions about your electric service/account: Call Customer Service - 1-800-895-4999
- For questions about rates/electric bills/incentive payments:
    - Residential customers: Call the Energy Experts – 1-800-824-1688
    - Commercial customers: Call the Business Solutions Center – 1-800-481-4700
- For questions regarding meter orders/scheduling: Call the Metering Shop - 1-800-422-0782