

# Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Wholesale Distribution Tariff Queue Frequently Asked Questions

## **What are the reasons for updating the PG&E WDT Queue?**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Generation Interconnection Services (GIS) Department recently began transitioning to a new business process management system in an effort to improve project tracking, service level agreements, and information management. With the conversion to this new tool, PG&E undertook a comprehensive validation process of Wholesale Distribution Tariff (WDT) generation interconnection queue (Queue) assignments and associated data. This extensive review revealed administrative errors that led to an adjustment of customer queue numbers.

## **What is the relevance of a WDT Queue number?**

Queue numbers were assigned to allow PG&E to track interconnection requests (IRs) pursuant to its WDT. The purpose of the WDT Queue was to establish a system to prioritize IRs in circumstances where more than one IR was competing to interconnect at the same geographic interconnection point. Though WDT Queue numbers were assigned based upon the time/date of receipt of a project's application and IR materials, a project's queue number frequently has no bearing on the project's IR, its priority or associated costs. A queue number is only relevant to an IR's priority or costs in circumstances in which:

- 1) The project is one of multiple requests to interconnect at the same substation;
- 2) Based upon the requests of all applicants at that particular substation, distribution or network upgrades will be necessary; and
- 3) All IRs at the particular substation are not being studied in a cluster study process.

In other words, if your project is the only project seeking to interconnect at a particular substation, your queue number has no impact on your project, its priority or its costs. Similarly, if there are no distribution or network upgrade costs associated with interconnecting all relevant applicants to a particular substation, then the queue numbers of each of those projects will not affect their priority or costs. The same is true of projects that are part of cluster studies. Because all costs are divided equally among applicant projects in the cluster, the relative queue numbers of projects in the cluster will not affect priority or project costs.

## **How does the updated WDT Queue numbering affect my interconnection request?**

PG&E has reviewed the updated WDT Queue to determine whether there are impacts to any customer's IR(s) resulting from renumbering. PG&E has contacted each customer that has an IR in the WDT Queue to notify it about whether its IR(s) has been impacted. In nearly all circumstances, the renumbering of the queue has not impacted interconnection projects (*i.e.*, no impact on project timing, costs, etc.).

**What was PG&E's process for assessing potential impacts resulting from the updated WDT Queue numbers?**

After collecting IR application information, PG&E categorized each IR by associating it with the PG&E substation to which it would be interconnected. These IRs were then ordered chronologically by the application-received date/time in order to establish the order of study.

PG&E then reviewed the IRs associated with each PG&E substation to identify whether any IRs had not been studied in the order in which they were received. In addition, PG&E undertook analysis to determine whether the revised WDT Queue numbers would require PG&E to restudy any projects to confirm previous study conclusions regarding system impacts.

**How can I tell if my interconnection request was impacted by the renumbering of the WDT Queue?**

First, you should review the letter you received from PG&E, which addresses your specific project(s). The following provides an explanation of how PG&E reached conclusions about potential impacts of the renumbering of IRs.

PG&E determined that IRs that met the following criteria **were not impacted** as a result of the revision of the WDT Queue numbers:

- Any project that represented the sole interconnection request made at the relevant substation was not impacted because its revised queue number has no relevance or bearing upon the original study results and the underlying interconnection request. The original study conclusions remain valid even with renumbering of the queue.
- Any project that was one among multiple requests that were made involving a common substation was not impacted if the original studies concluded that there was no financial obligation to upgrade distribution facilities at the relevant substation. In such a case, the original study conclusions relating to projects interconnecting at that substation remain valid, even with renumbering of the queue, since no project was assigned upgrade costs.
- Any project that was one among multiple requests that were made involving a common substation was not impacted if the renumbering of the overall WDT Queue did not result in a change to the relative numbering of the projects interconnecting to a particular substation. In such a case, the original study results and any identification and assignment of distribution upgrade costs would not be affected by the renumbering of the overall WDT Queue because they were originally performed in the correct order.
- Any project that was one among multiple project requests that were made involving a common substation was not impacted if the project participated in a cluster study, where all costs are equally distributed among all relevant projects in a cluster. In such a case, the queue number assigned to any particular project in the cluster has no relevance or bearing upon the study results or costs associated with the underlying interconnection request. Thus, the original study conclusions remain valid even with renumbering of the overall WDT Queue.

In limited situations where multiple interconnection requests were located at a common substation requiring distribution upgrades that are sensitive to the order of the interconnection requests, restudies were required. For those cases, PG&E has notified the customers of these potentially impacted IRs to discuss next steps.

**What are my options if my interconnection request was impacted due to the updated WDT Queue?**

If your IR was impacted due to the update of the WDT Queue, PG&E apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused and is committed to working with you to discuss the options.

**What if I have withdrawn my interconnection request?**

As stated above, most projects were not impacted by renumbering of the WDT queue. If PG&E identified a potential impact to your withdrawn project, your interconnection request is eligible for continuing the interconnection process without the need to re-apply. If you are interested in re-instating your project please contact PG&E. Otherwise, if your project was not identified as being impacted by the updated WDT Queue, there are no changes to the original results of your interconnection studies.

**Who can I contact at PG&E to get more information about the updated WDT Queue?**

PG&E is committed to delivering excellent customer service and meeting your generation interconnecting needs. If you have questions regarding the updated WDT Queue, please send your questions via email to [wholesaledistributionqueue@pge.com](mailto:wholesaledistributionqueue@pge.com).