Best Practices for Interconnection Agreements

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Interconnection Considerations

• Meet with utility early in project development
  – Obtain interconnection process and requirement information (varies depending upon utility and distributed energy project size/type)

• Considerations:
  – Study requirements, time required, queue to start study
  – Fees for application, study, possible equipment upgrades
  – Utility participation in commissioning and final approval
Interconnection Considerations

• Determine who is responsible for meeting the interconnection requirements (agency and/or contractor)

• Close communication between agency and contractor required to ensure that the interconnection process runs smoothly

• Consult with FEMP, GSA and/or other agencies
Interconnection Agreement (ICA)

An interconnection agreement is a business contract between the utility and the customer for the purpose of interconnecting a distributed energy (DE) project located at the customer site to the utility’s electrical distribution system.
ICA Suggestions

• Obtain template ICA (federal/government-specific if available) and ask who needs to sign

• Federal agency legal counsel and/or CO complete ICA review early in the DE project development process

• Negotiate with the utility as needed (ICA changes may have to be approved by the state PUC for investor-owned utilities; governing board for public utilities)
ICA Suggestions

• Use GSA Areawide Contract (AWC) Exhibits

  1. Authorization for the Provision of Services Provided Under the Appropriate Regulatory Authority (Exhibit D)

  2. Authorization for Electric Services (Exhibit A)

• **GSA AWC list** available on the web
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