Data Transparency Solution eXchange
Improving Pre-request Data| 5/31/23

An initiative spearheaded by the Solar Energy Technologies Office and the Wind Energy Technologies Office

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Meeting Notes

Notes synthesizing keys points, insights and questions from the meeting can be found here: [Box Link](#)

The first portion of this Teams call is being recorded and may be posted on DOE's website or used internally. If you do not wish to have your voice recorded, please do not speak during the call. If you do not wish to have your image recorded, please turn off your camera or participate by phone. If you speak during the call or use a video connection, you are presumed consent to recording and use of your voice or image.

Agenda

- Introduction to i2X and Data Transparency topic (10 min)

- Stakeholder Panel (25 min)

  - Jason Foster (CAISO)

  - David Mindham (EDP Renewables)

  - Christian Noyce (Minnesota PUC)

  - Robert Sherick (GridUnity)

- Open Q&A (10 min)

- Interactive Breakout Groups Discussion (55 min)

- Re-convene full group (15 min)

INTERCONNECTION INNOVATION e-XCHANGE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Interconnection Innovation e-Xchange (i2X)

Mission: To enable a **simpler**, **faster**, and **fairer** interconnection of clean energy resources while enhancing the **reliability**, **resiliency**, and **security** of our **distribution and bulk-power electric grids**

Stakeholder Engagement
Nation–wide engagement platform and collaborative working groups

Data & Analytics
Collect and analyze interconnection data to inform solutions development

Strategic Roadmap
Create roadmap to inform interconnection process improvements

Technical Assistance
Leverage DOE laboratory expertise to support stakeholder roadmap implementation

i2X — INTERCONNECTION INNOVATION e-XCHANGE — U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Key Outcomes from Our e-Xchange Meetings

- Inform and formulate a ***publicly available***, strategic roadmap for interconnection
  - Topical challenges and issues
  - Practical solutions to implement and scale
  - Knowledge and data gaps and new solutions to pilot
  - Success goals and measures of success

- Summary documentation for each meeting regarding ideas discussed and opportunities for targeted stakeholder action

- Provide platform for ongoing engagement before and after meetings

- **Longer term vision** → Solution e-Xchanges to continue building a national forum for all stakeholders as a community of practice, excellence, and innovation

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Upcoming Solution e-Xchanges to Consider Joining

1. June 7, 2023, 2-4 p.m. ET: BPS Interconnection Cost Allocation: Perspectives and Options for Reform

2. June 21, 2-4 PM ET: DER Emerging Cost Allocation Options and Perspectives

3. **July 6, 2-4PM ET: Opportunities to improve accessibility and standardization of interconnection queue and cost data (post-application data)**

4. July 12, 2023, 2-4 p.m. ET: Improving Interconnection Study Methodologies in the Bulk Power System

Follow the schedule of events on the i2X website.

https://www.energy.gov/eere/i2x/i2x-solution-e-xchanges

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Virtual Meetings Code of Conduct

1. *Assume good faith and respect differences*
2. *Listen actively and respectfully*
3. *Use "Yes and" to build on others' ideas*
4. *Please self-edit and encourage others to speak up*
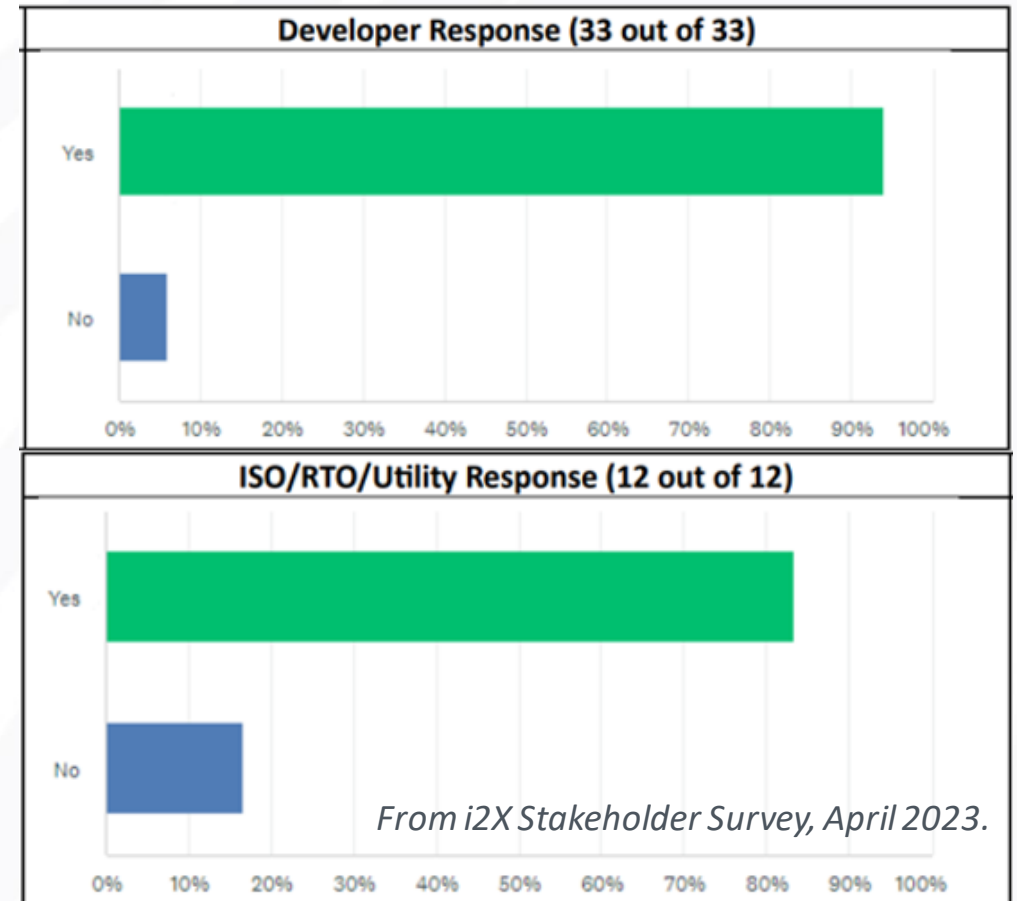5. *Seek to learn from others*

Mutual Respect . Collaboration . Openness

Limitations and Barriers to Improving Pre-Application Interconnection Data Transparency

Key Themes from 4/13 Queue Management eXchange on Pre-request Information

- There may not be a perfect solution
- Having better information prior to submitting requests is likely to improve process and outcomes (*see figure at right*)
- Timeliness of information - most information is outdated by the time it reaches developers
- Developers have varying levels of sophistication in siting analysis – open-source software and standardization might help make information more widely available
- Relationship between queue processing time and information needs: reforms that reduce the study process time would also reduce the need for more accurate pre-request information

Could providing pre-interconnection information to interconnection customers help to improve the speed, efficiency, and fairness of the interconnection process?

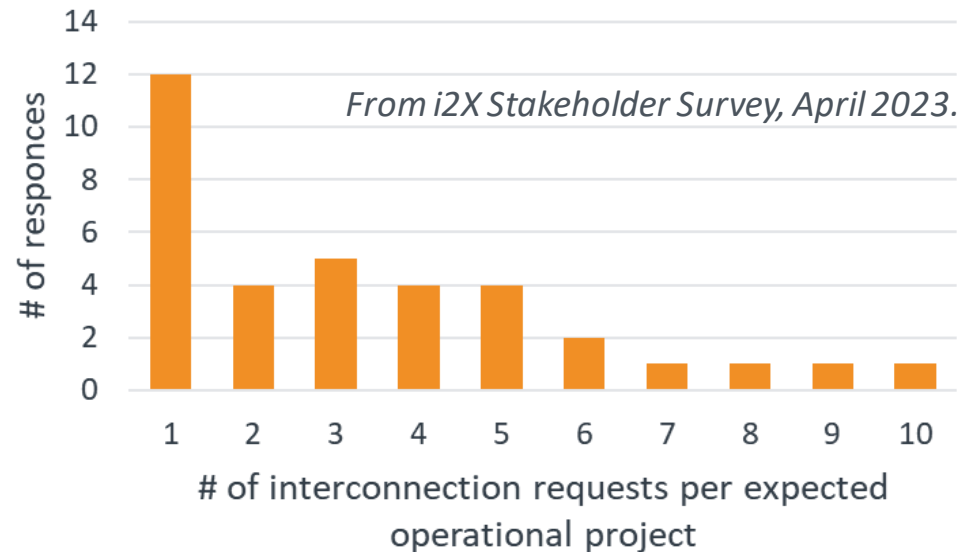*From i2X Stakeholder Survey, April 2023.*

Assumption:
Many active projects in interconnection queues are exploratory - that is, they were submitted in order to discover upgrade costs and enable cost comparison to other projects in developers' portfolio

Hypothesis:
Improving data transparency could reduce developers' need to submit multiple requests to uncover upgrade costs, and help to improve the speed, efficiency, and fairness of the interconnection process

Problem:
Barriers prevent effectively providing necessary data at the resolution and frequency required to reduce submission of exploratory interconnection requests

From i2X Stakeholder Survey, April 2023.

# of interconnection requests per expected operational project

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Menti Icebreaker

Introduction of Panelists

- Jason Foster (CAISO)
- David Mindham (EDP Renewables)
- Christian Noyce (Minnesota PUC)
- Robert Sherick (GridUnity)