








The State of Generator Interconnection Reform

Three years after FERC issued Order No. 2023, grid connection bottlenecks are improving – but not fixed

Generator interconnection, the grid-connection process for large-scale projects like solar, wind, and energy storage, continues to be one of the biggest barriers for project developers, and is preventing energy supply from keeping up with skyrocketing energy demand.

While grid operators have made meaningful strides in reducing interconnection queue backlogs and improving planning processes, significant challenges remain. A new progress report from Grid Strategies and The Brattle Group, on behalf of Advanced Energy United, evaluates how grid operators are progressing since an initial 2024 assessment at fixing these bottlenecks, and outlines policy solutions to speed connection to the transmission grid.

GRID OPERATOR	2024 GRADE	2026 ASSESSMENT
CAISO	B	 Promising Improvements
ERCOT	B	 Incremental Progress
ISO-NE	D+	 Expected Progress
MISO	C-	 Incomplete Progress
NYISO	C-	 Expected Progress
PJM	D-	 Expected Progress
SPP	C-	 Promising Improvements

Source: “Generator Interconnection Progress Report: an interim evaluation of the outcomes and processes of the seven U.S. regional transmission system operators”

ABOUT THE PROGRESS REPORT

As a benchmark against which to measure the impact of these reforms, Advanced Energy United commissioned The Brattle Group and Grid Strategies to develop the 2024 Generator Interconnection Scorecard. Two years later, with Order No. 2023 at various stages of implementation, and with other RTO reforms in the works, this progress report takes stock of how things are going—and what else still needs to be done.

Download the report at
[advancedenergyunited.org/
interconnection-progress-report](https://advancedenergyunited.org/interconnection-progress-report)



REPORT FINDINGS

What the Data Shows

The combined impact of FERC Order No. 2023, region-specific reforms, technology adoption, and attention from state leaders and the advanced energy industry, is improving outcomes. Grid operators have, with varying levels of success, cleared the backlog of projects while also preparing and implementing process changes for future review cycles.

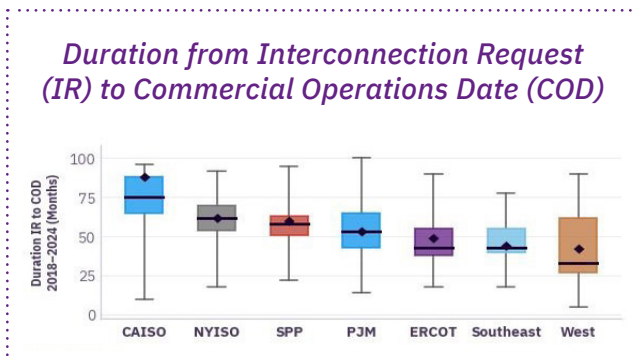
WHAT'S GOING WELL

RTOs across the board are placing substantial focus and efforts into improving the management of the interconnection process including hiring additional staff, improving project management tools, applying automation, increasing transparency, and improving coordination with transmission owners and interconnection customers.

Some regions have innovated above and beyond the requirements of FERC Order No. 2023. In particular, the report highlights SPP's Consolidated Planning Process (CPP) as a promising model to deliver a more efficient, faster, and more predictable interconnection process.

CHALLENGES THAT REMAIN

Not all pressing issues have been addressed. In many places, reforms have been slow, delays have been common, project withdrawal rates remain high, post-interconnection delays are both persistent and opaque, and fast-track workarounds have primarily benefitted costly thermal-generation projects. Project developers (interconnection customers) still generally face uncertainty with respect to both the cost and time to connect to the grid.



FURTHER REFORMS

Policy Solutions

While each grid operator is approaching these process changes in different ways, the report advances **a list of policy solutions for improving generator interconnection**:

Proactively planning capacity and prioritizing “most ready” interconnection requests utilizing an entry fee.

Creating or updating processes for replacement of existing plants and making use of immediately available system capability.

Identifying the most cost-effective solutions for resolving reliability violations.

Leveraging automation to expedite interconnection studies.

Improving reporting on the post-generator interconnection agreement transmission construction phase.

