196 Taylor Road
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Guidance Document: Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Project Connection Cost Information

Published: May 2026

Disclaimer

This guidance material has been developed to support applicants proposing to connect Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) to the distribution system. It outlines general information related to connection cost estimating practices and is intended to help applicants better understand potential variability between preliminary estimates and actual costs. All information is provided for reference purposes only and does not constitute a guarantee of cost accuracy or final connection charges.

Estimates provided during the connection process are indicative and subject to refinement as project details are finalized. Applicants remain responsible for all actual costs incurred.

Context

For DER facilities greater than 12 kW (previously 10kW), a Connection Impact Assessment (CIA) is typically provided when sufficient system capacity exists. The CIA includes a high-level connection cost estimate, generally classified as a Class C estimate, which carries an approximate accuracy range of ±50%. Final connection costs are determined after construction and energization of the facility.

This document is intended to help set expectations by presenting historical estimating performance and identifying connection work components that tend to drive higher cost variability.

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Table 1: Sample DER Projects - Cost details

	Cost Breakdown	DER group #1	DER group #2	DER group #3	DER group #4
		All micro-embedded generation facility connection cost(s) - ≤12kW	DER: >12 kW and ≤30 kW	DER: >30 kW and ≤500 kW	DER: >500 kW and ≤1000 kW
1	Metering	$657	$657	$657	$657
2	Engineering	$500	$500	$500	$500
3	Labour	Included in Engineering costs	$238	$238	$238
4	Equipment	Included in Engineering costs	$48	$48	$48
5	Commissioning	Included in Engineering costs	Included in Engineering costs	Included in Engineering costs	$600
6	SCADA	N/A	N/A	$516	$516
7	CIA Fees	N/A	$500	$5,500	$10,000
8	HONI CIA Costs	N/A	N/A	3000	3000
	Total connection cost	$1,157	$1,943	$10,459	$14,959

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Table 2: Sample DER Projects - Guidance on cost variance

DER Group/kW Size Range	No.	Address	Work Order	Project type (exporting / non-exporting)	Connection cost estimate($)	Actual Connection Cost ($)	Variance [Actual - Estimate] ($)	Variance %	Expansion Required (Y/N)	Transfer Trip Required (Y/N)	Build & Energization	General Notes
DER≤12kW	1	420 Beaumont	PW22290	NON	$1,157.00	$1,235.63	$78.63	6.36	N	N		
	2	31 Barron	PW23667	NON	$1,157.00	$1,174.27	$17.27	1.47	N	N		
	3	110 Wellington	PW21666	NON	$1,157.00	$1,066.48	$90.52	8.49	N	N		
DER: >12 kW and ≤30 kW	1											
	2											
	3											
DER: >30 kW and ≤500 kW	1	PS Coast Guard	LP06356	NON	$11,066.84	$10,457.01	$609.83	5.83	NO	N		HONI CIA costs $5655
	2	21 Bowes	LP29990	NON	$5,650.00	$4,566.08	1083.92	23.74	NO	N		HONI CIA costs $3390
DER: >500 kW and ≤1000 kW	1											
	2											
	3											