

Application: Utility and Grid Operator Interconnection Assistance

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Utility and Grid Operator Technical Assistance program is designed to solve real-time technical challenges or near-term planning challenges utilities are facing as they transition to clean energy.

This technical assistance provides transmission providers and distribution utilities with access to national lab researchers and cutting-edge models that can address their interconnection needs (this technical assistance is not for independent system operators). This program will provide \$100,000 - \$150,000 per project for one year, focusing on short-term and medium-term solutions.

Focus areas include:

- Technical scoping of host capacity maps (also known as "heatmaps" that meet or exceed FERC Order 2023 requirements).
- Evaluation of mitigation options during interconnection studies, incorporating alternative technologies such as dynamic line rating, advanced conductors, as well as capability of solar, wind, and battery storage.
- Adoption of a harmonized and/or comprehensive interconnection requirements or standards, consistent with IEEE Standard 2800-2002 and IEEE 1547-2018.
- Developing automated technical screens for distributed energy resource interconnection studies.
- Developing protocols for dynamic or flexible interconnection solutions and services.
- Developing cybersecurity requirements and protocols for Interconnection Agreements and secure data sharing.
- Other short-term and medium-term interconnection solutions that are deemed critical for the applicants.

Applications are due by Tuesday, November 26.

Privacy Statement: *The information collected here will be used to notify you about the Utility and Grid Operator Technical Assistance program. We will retain this information indefinitely in our secure database unless requested to remove it. Only program management staff will have access to the data. Learn more about the NREL security and privacy policy at nrel.gov/security.html.*

* Required

1. First name *

2. Last name *

3. Email address *

4. Job title *

5. Utility or organization name *

6. Utility or organization type *

- Municipal utility
- Electrical cooperative
- Investor-owned utility
- Regional transmission organization or independent system operator
- Other

7. Participant's office location (city) *

8. Participant's office location (state) *

9. Organization size (total number of customers in service area or footprint) *

- Less than 10,000 customers
- 10,000–50,000 customers
- 50,000–100,000 customers
- 100,000–500,000 customers
- 500,000–1 million customers
- More than 1 million customers

10. Will your team have a secondary point of contact for Utility and Grid Operator Technical Assistance? *

Yes

No

11. First name of secondary point of contact

12. Last name of secondary point of contact

13. Email address of secondary point of contact

14. Job title of secondary point of contact

15. Is your application focused on interconnection issues? *

Yes

No

Maybe

16. Tell us about the interconnection related challenge your utility is currently facing that could benefit from technical assistance through the Utility & Grid Operator Technical Assistance Program? *

17. Describe how the technical assistance would inform upcoming utility decision points (grid investments, planning decisions, etc.), regulatory filings, or other opportunities. *

18. Please provide detail on the specific topic or issue for which you are seeking technical assistance. (600-700 words) *

19. What work has already been performed on each topic or issue? (600-700 words) *

20. Does this technical assistance request include other partners or collaborators outside of your organization (please describe)? *

21. This program requires outputs of the work to be shared with the public. Sensitive data will be removed and your organization will be able to review public documents before they are published. Is it acceptable to your organization to have the results shared with the public? *

Yes

No

22. Have you ever worked with or received technical assistance from any DOE national laboratories? If so, list which lab(s) you have worked with. Your response to this question does not impact your eligibility or selection for technical assistance; rather, it will ensure that we build on existing and previous work where possible. *

23. What is your organization's capacity in the clean energy area or sector related to this request? This will help us determine which experts, and which output formats, will be the best fit for your specific technical assistance request. *

We have no in-house capacity (i.e., no staff person with expertise in this topic area).

We have little in-house capacity (e.g., a staff person with some expertise in this topic area who may be responsible for a lot of other areas, too).

We have moderate in-house capacity (e.g., a staff person who dedicates most of their time to this topic area).

We have substantial in-house capacity (e.g., more than one staff person dedicates most of their time to this topic area).

24. Do you envision needing to share data with national labs as part of your technical assistance project? If so, do you have a person on staff to facilitate that data sharing? *

25. Would you like to subscribe to the Utility and Grid Operator Technical Assistance mailing list to receive information about future opportunities for support in transitioning to clean energy? *

Yes

No

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