

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4190

To require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to promulgate regulations that accelerate the interconnection of electric generation and storage resources to the transmission system through more efficient and effective interconnection procedures.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 18, 2024

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to promulgate regulations that accelerate the interconnection of electric generation and storage resources to the transmission system through more efficient and effective interconnection procedures.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Expediting Generator
5 Interconnection Procedures Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
2 means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

3 (2) ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT.—The term
4 “energy storage project” means—

5 (A) any equipment that receives, stores,
6 and delivers energy using batteries, compressed
7 air, pumped hydropower, hydrogen storage (in-
8 cluding hydrolysis), thermal energy storage, re-
9 generative fuel cells, flywheels, capacitors,
10 superconducting magnets, or other technologies
11 identified by the Commission; and

12 (B) any project for the construction or
13 modification of equipment described in subpara-
14 graph (A) as part of an effort to build-out
15 transmission interconnection opportunities.

16 (3) GENERATION PROJECT.—The term “gen-
17 eration project” means—

18 (A) any facility—

19 (i) that generates or injects electricity;

20 and

21 (ii) for which an interconnection re-
22 quest is subject to the jurisdiction of the
23 Commission; and

1 (B) any project for the construction or
2 modification of a facility described in subpara-
3 graph (A).

4 (4) INTERCONNECTION CUSTOMER.—The term
5 “interconnection customer” means a person or entity
6 that has submitted an interconnection request.

7 (5) INTERCONNECTION REQUEST.—The term
8 “interconnection request” means a request sub-
9 mitted to a public utility to interconnect a new gen-
10 eration project or energy storage project to the elec-
11 tric system of a public utility for the purposes of
12 transmission of electric energy in interstate com-
13 merce or the sale of electric energy at wholesale.

14 (6) PUBLIC UTILITY.—The term “public util-
15 ity” has the meaning given the term in section
16 201(e) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824(e)).

17 (7) TRANSMISSION FACILITY.—The term
18 “transmission facility” means a facility that is used
19 for the transmission of electric energy in interstate
20 commerce.

21 (8) TRANSMISSION PROVIDER.—The term
22 “transmission provider” means a public utility that
23 owns, operates, or controls 1 or more transmission
24 facilities.

1 (9) TRANSMISSION SYSTEM.—The term “trans-
2 mission system” means a network of transmission
3 facilities used for the transmission of electric energy
4 in interstate commerce.

5 **SEC. 3. RULEMAKING TO EXPEDITE GENERATOR INTER-**
6 **CONNECTION PROCEDURES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall ini-
9 tiate a rulemaking—

10 (1) to address the inefficiencies and ineffective-
11 ness of existing procedures for processing inter-
12 connection requests to ensure that new generation
13 projects and energy storage projects can inter-
14 connect quickly, cost-effectively, and reliably; and

15 (2) to revise the pro forma Large Generator
16 Interconnection Procedures and, as appropriate, the
17 pro forma Large Generator Interconnection Agree-
18 ment, promulgated pursuant to section 35.28(f) of
19 title 18, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor
20 regulations), to require transmission providers—

21 (A) to develop and employ modeling as-
22 sumptions for each resource type based on ac-
23 tual operating abilities and practices, for the
24 purposes of studying an interconnection re-
25 quest;

1 (B) to study interconnection requests in a
2 manner consistent with the risk tolerance of the
3 interconnection customer;

4 (C) to select, as appropriate, 1 or more
5 cost-effective solutions to address network reli-
6 ability needs that may be identified while study-
7 ing an interconnection request;

8 (D) to provide sufficient information to
9 interconnection customers for the interconnec-
10 tion customers to understand how a trans-
11 mission provider has implemented the assump-
12 tions and solutions described in subparagraphs
13 (A) and (C);

14 (E) to share and employ, as appropriate,
15 queue management best practices, including
16 with respect to the use of advanced computing
17 technologies, automation, and standardized
18 study criteria, in evaluating interconnection re-
19 quests, in order to expedite study results; and

20 (F) to implement transparency and per-
21 formance-enhancing measures to ensure timely
22 and cost-conscious construction of necessary
23 network upgrades once an interconnection
24 agreement has been executed.

1 (b) DEADLINE FOR FINAL RULE.—Not later than 18
2 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Com-
3 mission shall promulgate a final rule to complete the rule-
4 making initiated under subsection (a).

5 (c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section alters,
6 or may be construed to alter, the allocation of costs of
7 the transmission system pursuant to the ratemaking au-
8 thority of the Commission under section 205 of the Fed-
9 eral Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824d).

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