

## Definition of Qualified Change for Purposes of External Facility Interconnections FAC-001-4 and FAC-002-4 Version 1: Effective January 1, 2024

### Applicability:

“Interconnection” in the context of this Qualified Change definition shall mean any new or existing request as submitted to BPA via the [“Large Generation Interconnection Procedures”](#), [“Small Generation Interconnection Procedures”](#), or the [“Line & Load Interconnection Procedures”](#).

In the NERC’s pro-forma interconnection procedures, the term Material Modification refers to impacts on cost and schedule to higher queued generation interconnection projects. Whereas in the NERC Standards FAC-001 and FAC-002, governing facility interconnection requirements and studies, Material Modification refers to reliability impacts to the system. In Order [RD-22-5-000 FERC](#) agreed with NERC to clarify Standards FAC-001 and FAC-002 by using the term Qualified Change instead of Material Modification in the Standards.

Standard FAC-001 expressly governs interconnection requirements to a Transmission Owner’s (TO) transmission system so that entities seeking to interconnect to the TO’s system will have the necessary information. Standard FAC-002 governs studies of the reliability impact of new interconnections, or existing interconnections seeking to make a qualified change. These requirements are applicable to third parties that either request interconnection to the BPA transmission system through BPA’s interconnection queue, or third parties already interconnected seeking a qualified change.

In the next future update, this definition will be migrated and maintained under the [“Technical Requirements for Interconnection to the BPA Transmission Grid”](#) available on the BPA webpage.

### Qualified Change for Generation Facilities

Any Generating Facility seeking to modify a generator or energy storage system that is connected to the BPA transmission system, that includes but is not limited to:

- Changing the MVA rating (real and reactive power) of the Generating Facility or of any individual generator in a facility with multiple generating units.
- Changing the fuel type (coal to gas conversion, gas to biofuel conversion, etc).
- Changing the inverter, turbine, generator, power converter, plant protection, plant controls or OEM control equipment associated with a Facility with an aggregate real and reactive power rating of three MVA or greater, unless the replacement is in-kind.
- Changing the main power transformer or any modifications that would result in changes to the impedance and/or other electrical parameters of the gen tie line or collector system.
- Changes to the governor, exciter, voltage regulator, or power system stabilizer.
- Changing any voltage control and reactive power devices.
- Changing or adding a Point of Interconnection (POI) for a generator or energy storage system that delivers or receives power from the transmission system to a facility with an aggregate real and reactive power rating of three MVA or greater.



## Qualified Change for Interconnection Transmission Facilities

Any Modification to existing third party transmission facilities interconnected to BPA that includes but is not limited to:

- System topology that alters flows on the BES.
- Facility ratings.
- Protective relaying and power system control settings.
- Fault clearing speed or fault duty capabilities.
- Voltage control devices (changes in number or size).
- Changes in impedance or operating voltage.

## Qualified Change for End-User Facilities

Any end-user Facility seeking to modify a previously interconnected load or interconnected load service facility, that includes but is not limited to:

- Increasing the aggregate demand by 25 MW or more for a load connected and co-located with a Generator Owner's Facility.
- Increasing the aggregate demand by 25 MW or more for a load connected to a Transmission Service Provider's system.
- Moving a Point of Interconnection (POI) to a new electrical bus on a different transmission circuit.
- Annual Increase in Demand exceeding 10%.
- Increase in Demand of 75 MW or greater within the next two years; or
- Increase in Demand of 20 MW or greater within the next two years for a third-party Facility interconnected to a Generator Owner's Facility.
- Adding or removing equipment that would impact the composite load model used to represent a Facility.
- Changing protection schemes or settings that would impact under-frequency or under-voltage load shedding.
- Changing load type or load characteristics that would affect electrical harmonic levels or transient response.
- Changing end-user Facility topology that may affect power flows on the BES.

If you have a change that meets this definition, please contact the BPA Interconnection Administrator via email at: [Interconnection@bpa.gov](mailto:Interconnection@bpa.gov). BPA will contact you within 5 business days to set up a meeting to discuss the specifics and determine next steps.