

Northern Indiana Public Service Company LLC
Responses to Questions regarding Net Metering Programs

Questions regarding Net Metering Programs (“programs”):

Investor-owned Electric Utilities:

- 1) How does your utility presently communicate to potential customers the program’s availability?

NIPSCO has a section on its website (<https://www.nipsco.com/our-services/renewable-energy/net-metering>) regarding its net metering program which details program and the steps the customer must take in order to participate in the program. The website provides an email for customers to contact NIPSCO for additional program details. NIPSCO responds to any emails or telephone calls that both residential and commercial net metering applications are being accepted.

- 2) Does your utility provide public access to program availability on its website?

As discussed above, NIPSCO does provide information regarding the availability of the program on its website. However, at this time, NIPSCO does not provide updates on program availability as it relates to the various statutory reservations/capacity thresholds on its website.

- 3) How, if at all, does your utility inform potential customers of the remaining availability of the program in terms of the statutory capacity thresholds?

NIPSCO does not report out on the availability under the capacity thresholds.

- 4) If so, how often is the availability updated? (weekly, monthly, etc.)

Not applicable.

- 5) What, if any, limitations are there to providing public access to the program availability in such a context?

One limitation is the availability of real time, accurate information. For example, if an application is submitted, it does not necessarily mean the application capacity is truly what will be in the final executed contract to be installed, thus the capacities associated with that application and the impact on availability may not be accurate. In addition, not all of the projects for which applications are approved go into service or the project can vary in size from the original application.

- 6) To what extent does your utility facilitate a queue for requests to participate in the program?

There is no “queue” for requests at this time, as NIPSCO does not have project volume sufficient to fill its capacity in any of the three categories. The biomass and residential categories are not close to capacity, so there is no need for a queue in either of those categories. NIPSCO anticipates that it will fill the available capacity in the commercial category in the foreseeable future based on the applications it has received. NIPSCO expects to continue to process applications as they are received, as it also intends to approve net metering interconnections beyond the statutory reservations

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for commercial customers at this time due to its belief that the biomass category will not be utilized due to the availability of its feed in tariff.

- 7) If you use a queue, what are the minimum requirements that must be satisfied by an applicant in order to be added to the queue?

While NIPSCO does not have a net metering queue at this time, a complete interconnection application is required including: (1) Interconnection Application; (2) single line diagram; (3) site plan; (4) inverter specifications; (5) panel specifications or wind turbine specifications; and (6) application fee for Level 2 installations. The application fee is only deposited if capacity becomes available and the application undergoes Engineering review.

- 8) If you use a queue, how is the queue status communicated to the other potential customers?

Not applicable.

- 9) What, if any, limitations are there to providing public access to the program queue in such a context?

NIPSCO does not utilize a queue. However, based on NIPSCO's experience there are limitations to the ability to provide public access to accurate information if a queue is utilized in the future. When interconnection capacity is limited, some customers/installers have submitted interconnection applications for larger capacities than were installed and/or have submitted more applications than they actually ended up interconnecting to reserve the limited capacity for themselves or their client. It has therefore proven difficult to accurately gauge the length of the queue or when capacity might actually become available.

- 10) Are there other options your utility has availed itself of to address availability transparency?

NIPSCO has had conversations with various stakeholders regarding the status of the commercial category and has currently agreed to continue accepting applications as enrollment approaches capacity due to the lack of enrollment in the biomass category.

- 11) Are there other approaches your utility would suggest we explore to address availability transparency?

In NIPSCO's experience (as noted above) there are challenges to providing real-time information on capacity availability that is both accurate and meaningful to customers. However, as a means of providing greater transparency into availability, NIPSCO is willing to provide availability data on a regular basis, preferably quarterly, with appropriate caveats regarding the impact of project changes that would alter program availability.

- 12) How would your utility suggest customer requests are managed when the availability of net metering to them may be limited because of the statutory reservations?

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NIPSCO's current practice is to allow all customers to complete applications as the Company has decided to extend beyond the statutory reservations in the commercial category. If a queue were to be utilized in the future, NIPSCO would inform the customer that he or she has been placed into a net metering queue and that he or she will be contacted if capacity becomes available, and, at that time, he or she can decide to proceed with the interconnection process. This process has worked well in the feed-in tariff program, subject to the limitations discussed above. There may be ways to provide additional information to customers regarding the status of the queue in the aggregate to improve the accuracy of expectations regarding the potential for a project to move forward.