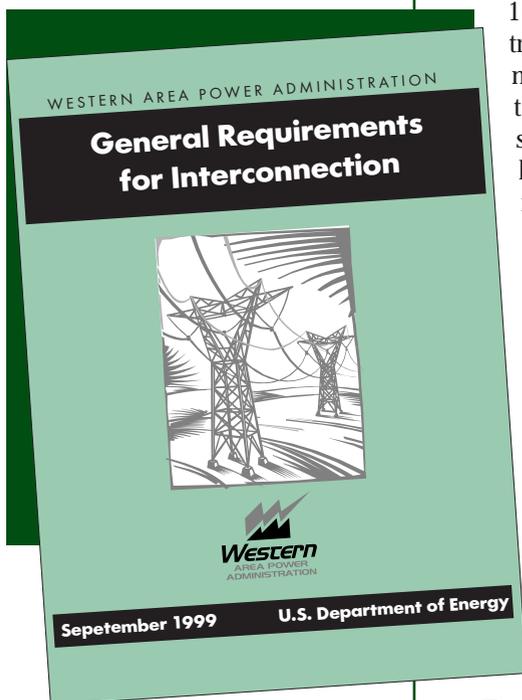


Updated Interconnections booklet a better guide for customers

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***—Simmons
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As more merchant plants and other independent power entities seek to tap into Western's transmission systems, they now have an up-to-date document to guide them: The revised General Requirements for Interconnection booklet.

Seeking a faster way to process interconnection requests, the Power Marketing Management Council convened a team in fall 1998 to update the booklet, which describes Western's general requirements for interconnecting, adding to or modifying Western's transmission facilities. The booklet summarizes the funding, reliability, safety and security, environmental, land acquisition, technical and contractual requirements. It also lists Western points of contact and references.

An increase in interconnection requests in the regions and the opening up of the wholesale transmission market are what led to the revisions to the

1994 booklet. "If an entity wants transmission, they will probably need to interconnect to our system. They can go hand-in-hand," said **Simmons Buntin**, team lead. The Interconnection booklet includes guidelines for interconnection with or without transmission access, which is a separate process, Buntin noted.

The revisions recognize the different types and needs of interconnecting entities, as well as the changes in the utility industry, technology and legislative and Department of Energy mandates. In addition, the new booklet makes the interconnection process easier to follow by including more concise sections and a flow chart.

The 1999 version also more thoroughly describes Western's separate transmission facilities, allows regional offices to provide for additional require-

ments or streamlining and accounts for Western's Open Access Transmission Service Tariff. An application for interconnection was also added to the back of the booklet.

Western receives about 30 requests for interconnection each year, which include transmission line taps, substation breaker bay additions, additional delivery points to existing customers and generation tie lines. These requests are usually received in the regional manager's office and then sent to a project manager. Each request for interconnection is evaluated individually. Those requesting interconnection typically include firm power customers, private power developers or independent power generators.

"We are seeing more requests from noncustomer merchant entities who want to use Western's vast transmission systems to move power from one place to another, often outside of Western's service territory," said Buntin.

Direct interconnection to Western's facilities does not involve nor guarantee transmission capacity on Western's system. Transmission service requests must be made according to Western's tariff, which is available on Western's web site. It is also posted on regional Open Access Same-Time Information Systems.

Transmission service request review is a separate process from interconnection request review, though for efficiency, some steps are shared. Additional parallel processes include environmental review and land acquisition.

Copies of the Interconnections booklet are available from Buntin. It is also posted on Western's external web page under the Power Marketing page.

Team members who worked on the revision include Buntin, **Ken Mathias, Steve Webber, John Quintana, Ross Clark, Tom Rietman, Milt Percival, Scott Barndt, Matt Yakab, Russell Knight, Mariam Mirzadeh, Charles Sweeney** and **Twyla Folk**.