

evaluating each Interconnection Request.

45. The Coalition proposes a single, uniform, nationwide precertification process for Small Generating Facilities no larger than 2 MW that would encourage the development of small generation while ensuring the safety of the electric system. The Coalition proposes that the Commission itself certify equipment and maintain a registry of equipment that has been certified.

46. This NOPR does not propose to adopt the Coalition's proposal in its entirety. In the Proposed SGIP, a Precertified Generating Facility is defined as one that has been tested by a nationally recognized testing laboratory to consensus industry standards in order to ensure that it will operate in a safe manner. The Commission in this NOPR concludes that certifying equipment and maintaining a registry should be done by an industry-recognized testing organization, not this agency. Accordingly, rather than establish and maintain a list of precertified equipment, as proposed by the Coalition, the Commission encourages cooperation and information sharing among the States and industry participants regarding the precertification of generating equipment. This would eliminate duplication of effort and encourage small generation development, while advancing the movement toward a nationwide set of precertification standards.

47. The Commission recognizes that the IEEE Standards Board approved IEEE Standard 1547 for Interconnecting Distributed Resources with Electric Power Systems on June 12, 2003 to create uniform standards to interconnect distributed generation for safe and reliable operation. Together with other technical industry documents, IEEE 1547 could serve as the basis for a national standard for precertification. The Coalition proposed other documents that might be relevant to equipment precertification. The Commission requests comments about what role, if any, the Commission should have in assessing which entity or entities could perform this precertification function.

5. Use of Screening Criteria (Proposed SGIP Sections 3.3 and 4.3)

48. Screening criteria simplify the process of evaluating the interconnection of certain Small Generating Facilities to the Transmission Provider's Transmission System. Their purpose is to identify

quickly those proposed interconnections that can be implemented with minimal or no impact on the Transmission Provider's Transmission System and can, therefore, be completed quickly. An example of a Super-Expedited Screening Criterion is that the capacity of a Small Generator proposed for a radial circuit shall not exceed five percent of that circuit's annual peak load.

49. The Coalition developed four screening criteria: (1) Primary screening criteria, (2) secondary screening criteria, (3) distribution impact screening criteria, and (4) transmission impact screening criteria. The first three only apply to proposed interconnections with the Transmission Provider's Distribution System. Not all parties in the ANOPR process supported the use of all four Coalition screening criteria, especially the last two.

50. The Proposed SGIP includes two screening criteria to evaluate proposed interconnections with a Transmission Provider's Low-Voltage Transmission System (*i.e.*, below 69 kV): (1) Super-Expedited Screening Criteria for the smallest generating facilities, and (2) Expedited Screening Criteria for somewhat larger but still small generating facilities. Although both screening criteria use similar evaluation standards, the latter are easier to satisfy than the former. The Commission does not propose screening criteria for: (1) Small Generating Facilities of any size interconnecting with the Transmission Provider's High-Voltage Transmission System and (2) Small Generating Facilities larger than 10 MW interconnecting with the Transmission Provider's Low-Voltage Transmission System. Because of the potential for an Adverse System Impact, such requests to interconnect are best evaluated using the Scoping Meeting and Interconnection Studies.

51. A proposed interconnection that fails the Super-Expedited Screening Criteria may still qualify for interconnection by being evaluated using the Additional Review and three sequential Interconnection Studies: the Interconnection Feasibility Study, the Interconnection System Impact Study, and the Interconnection Facilities Study. A proposed interconnection that fails the Expedited Screening Criteria may still qualify for interconnection by being evaluated using three sequential studies: the Interconnection Feasibility Study, the Interconnection System Impact Study, and the Interconnection Facilities Study.

a. Super-Expedited Screening Criteria (Appendix 1 to the Proposed SGIP)

52. The Super-Expedited Screening Criteria²⁷ are designed to evaluate proposed interconnections for Precertified Small Generating Facilities no larger than 2 MW that are to be interconnected with the Transmission Provider's Low-Voltage Transmission System. If the proposed interconnection passes the Super-Expedited Screening Criteria, the Interconnection Customer and Transmission Provider would sign an Interconnection Agreement without any further review. However, if the proposed interconnection does not pass, the Interconnection Customer can request an Additional Review to be followed by, if necessary, an Interconnection Feasibility Study, Interconnection System Impact Study, and Interconnection Facilities Study.

b. Expedited Screening Criteria (Appendix 2 to the Proposed SGIP)

53. The Expedited Screening Criteria²⁸ are used to evaluate the proposed interconnection of Small Generating Facilities larger than 2 MW but no larger than 10 MW with the Transmission Provider's Low-Voltage Transmission System. If the proposed interconnection passes the Expedited Screening Criteria and the Transmission Provider believes that it can interconnect the Generating Facility safely and reliably, the Interconnection Customer would sign an Interconnection Agreement without any further review. However, if the Generating Facility does not pass the Expedited Screening Criteria, or if the Transmission Provider believes that the interconnection will undermine the safety and reliability of its Transmission System even though the proposed interconnection passes the Expedited Screening Criteria, the Parties would conduct a Scoping Meeting to determine the appropriate Interconnection Studies to be performed. However, as stated above, in order to encourage the Parties to use the Expedited Screening Criteria to the fullest extent possible, the Commission proposes that, if a subsequent Interconnection Feasibility Study indicates no Adverse System Impact, the Transmission Provider must bear the cost of the Interconnection Feasibility Study. If an Adverse System Impact is identified, however, the Interconnection Customer would have

²⁷ The Coalition SGIP referred to Super-Expedited Screening Criteria as the Primary Screening Criteria.

²⁸ The Coalition SGIP referred to Expedited Screening Criteria as the Impact Screening Criteria.