

176 FERC ¶ 61,117
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

August 23, 2021

In Reply Refer To:
PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.
Docket No. ER21-2203-000

PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.
2750 Monroe Boulevard
Audubon, PA 19403

Attention: Jeanine Watson
Attorney for PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.

Dear Ms. Watson:

1. On June 24, 2021, PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. (PJM) filed proposed revisions to its Open Access Transmission Tariff (Tariff) to provide PJM additional time to meet its interconnection deficiency review requirements. As discussed below, we accept PJM's proposed Tariff revisions, effective August 23, 2021, as requested.

2. PJM administers two New Services Queue¹ windows per year to accept New Service Requests.² Each window is open for six months. The first queue window starts April 1 of each year and ends on September 30 of that year, and the second queue window starts on October 1 of each year and ends on March 31 of the next year. The

Tariff establishes deadlines for the processing of New Service Requests.³ Specifically,

¹ A New Services Queue is collectively comprised of all interconnection requests, completed applications, and upgrade requests that are received within each six-month period ending on March 31 and September 30 of each year. PJM, Intra-PJM Tariffs, OATT, Definitions L – M – N (28.0.0). PJM's proposed Tariff revisions address PJM's deficiency review deadlines related to interconnection requests and upgrade requests.

² PJM defines New Service Request as an interconnection request, a completed application, or an upgrade request and New Service Customer as a customer that submits a New Service Request. *Id.*

the Tariff requires PJM to acknowledge the receipt of an interconnection or upgrade request, provide a deficiency review of such request, and issue a notice of any deficiencies within five business days of receipt of the interconnection or upgrade request. An interconnection customer is required to respond to a PJM deficiency notice within 10 business days. PJM then has five business days to review the interconnection customer's response to the deficiency notice.⁴

3. On March 31, 2021, the Commission granted a limited, one-time waiver⁵ of PJM's deficiency review deadlines for New Service Requests received in the AG2 and AH1 New Services Queues.⁶ In the March 2021 Order, the Commission noted that PJM had a stakeholder process underway to review PJM's interconnection process and that PJM intended to propose Tariff revisions that could obviate the need for similar waivers in the future.⁷ The Commission stated that it "expect[ed] PJM to timely follow-through on its commitment to revise its deficiency review tariff provisions through its stakeholder process to eliminate the need for similar waiver requests of its deficiency review deadlines in the future."⁸

4. PJM states that it filed the proposed revisions in response to the March 2021 Order, and that the revisions are designed to reduce or eliminate the number of PJM waiver requests due to the high volume of New Service Requests that it receives at the end of New Services Queue windows.⁹ PJM explains that it has received increasing volumes of New Service Requests each year, including the most recent AG2 New

³ See, e.g., PJM, Intra-PJM Tariffs, OATT, §§ 36.1.01, 36.1.01(2)(c), 36.1.03 & 36.1.03(2)(c); §§ 110.1 & 110.1(2)(c); §§ 111.1 & 111.1(2)(c); §§ 112.1 & 112.1(2)(c); §§ 112A.1 & 112A.1(2)(b); § 112B.1; § 204.2.2.2.

⁴ See, e.g., PJM, Intra-PJM Tariffs, OATT, § 36.1.01(2)(c) (8.0.1).

⁵ *PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.*, 174 FERC ¶ 61,261 (2021) (March 2021 Order). The Commission previously granted PJM two similar waivers for prior queue windows. See *PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.*, 172 FERC ¶ 61,268 (2020); *PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.*, 170 FERC ¶ 61,279 (2020)

⁶ PJM designated the queue window ending March 31, 2021 as AG2 and the queue window ending Septembers 30, 2021 as AH1.

⁷ March 2021 Order, 174 FERC ¶ 61,261 at P 22.

⁸ *Id.* The March 2021 Order also directed PJM to submit an informational filing regarding the status of such stakeholder review within 45 days of the date of the March 2021 Order. *Id.* PJM submitted its informational filing on May 11, 2021.

⁹ Transmittal at 1.

Services Queue.¹⁰ PJM states that it typically receives 50% or more of the total New Service Requests for a given queue window during the last month of the queue window, with most of the requests received in the last week and final day of the queue window.¹¹ PJM states that there was a 23% increase in total New Service Requests submitted in AG2 New Services Queue as compared to the prior AG1 New Services Queue window.¹²

5. PJM states that the proposed Tariff revisions are designed to provide PJM with flexibility in addressing the large volume of New Service Requests that PJM typically receives towards the end of each New Services Queue window.¹³ PJM states that its proposed Tariff revisions extend the deadlines applicable to PJM's deficiency review of New Service Requests and PJM's responses to deficiency reviews.¹⁴

6. Specifically, instead of the current five business days deadlines for PJM's deficiency reviews, the proposed revisions provide that if PJM is unable to complete the deficiency review within 15 business days, PJM shall use "Reasonable Efforts to complete [such review] as soon thereafter as practicable."¹⁵ PJM states that the Reasonable Efforts criterion "is tempered by the requirement that PJM's response time for [the deficiency reviews] shall not serve as a basis for PJM to delay its compliance with its Interconnection Feasibility Study timeline provisions in [section 36.2 of] the PJM Tariff."¹⁶ PJM also states that New Service Customers would continue to have the same

¹⁰ *Id.* at 5. PJM states that 1,660 New Service Requests were submitted between January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

¹¹ *Id.* at 6. PJM also states that out of the 691 New Service Requests submitted in the AG2 New Services Queue, 365 were submitted in the last week and 291 were submitted on the last day. *Id.* at 8.

¹² *Id.* at 7-8. PJM also explains that AG2 New Service Requests represent approximately a 55% increase over the AF2 New Services Queue and provided additional data regarding the number and timing of New Service Requests submitted in other recent queue windows. *Id.* at 7-9.

¹³ *Id.* at 12.

¹⁴ *Id.* PJM states that a number of parallel revisions are proposed revisions for Tariff §§ 36.1.01, 36.1.01(2), 36.1.01(2)(c), & 36.1.01(2)(c)(iii); §§ 110.1, 110.1(2), 110.1(2)(c); & 110.1(2)(c)(iii); §§ 111.1, 111.1(2), 111.1(2)(c), & 111.1(2)(c)(iii); §§ 112.1, 112.1(2), 112.1(2)(c), & 112.1(2)(c)(ii); §§ 112A.1, 112A.1(2), 112A.1(2)(b), & 112A.1(2)(b)(iii); § 112B.1; §§ 204.2.2.1 & 204.2.2.2. *Id.* at 12-14.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 14-15.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 15.

time periods, i.e., 10 business days, to provide their responses to PJM deficiency notices established in the Tariff.¹⁷

7. Further, PJM proposes to change the deadline to submit New Service Requests from March 31 to March 10 and from September 30 to September 10.¹⁸ PJM explains that this change will allow more time to review the New Service Requests without shortening the amount of time available for the resulting model builds and analyses.

8. PJM proposes to delete the term “New Services Queue Closing Date” because the term is obsolete and is not used again in the Tariff.¹⁹ PJM also proposes a number of non-substantive, ministerial revisions for consistency in cross-references to other Tariff sections and minor linguistic changes.

9. PJM requests an August 23, 2021 effective date for the Tariff revisions, so that the revisions are applied to the present queue window (AH1 New Services Queue) and all future queue windows thereafter.²⁰

10. Notice of PJM’s filing was published in the *Federal Register*, 86 Fed. Reg. 35,285 (Jul. 2, 2021), with interventions and protests due on or before July 15, 2021. American Electric Power Service Corporation,²¹ Monitoring Analytics, LLC, acting in its capacity as the Independent Market Monitor for PJM, Dominion Energy Services, Inc.,²² Calpine Corporation, Solar Energy Industries Association, and Ohio Federal Energy Advocate filed timely motions to intervene. No protests or comments were filed.

11. Pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure,

¹⁷ *Id.* at 12.

¹⁸ *Id.* at 12, 15-16. PJM states this “soft close” is proposed in response to requests by some PJM stakeholders. *Id.* at 12.

¹⁹ *Id.* at 12, 16.

²⁰ *Id.* at 16.

²¹ American Electric Power Service Corporation intervened on behalf of its affiliates, Appalachian Power Company, Indiana Michigan Power Company, Kentucky Power Company, Kingsport Power Company, Ohio Power Company, Wheeling Power Company, AEP Appalachian Transmission Company, Inc., AEP Indiana Michigan Transmission Company, Inc., AEP Kentucky Transmission Company, Inc., AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc., and AEP West Virginia Transmission Company, Inc.

²² Dominion Energy Services, Inc. intervened on behalf of Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia.

18 C.F.R. § 385.214 (2020), the timely, unopposed motions to intervene serve to make the entities that filed them parties to this proceeding.

12. We accept PJM's Tariff revisions, effective August 23, 2021, as requested.²³ We find that PJM's proposal is just and reasonable because it will provide PJM with additional time to complete its deficiency reviews of New Service Requests. The extended deadlines for PJM's deficiency reviews combined with the requirement that interconnection and upgrade requests must be submitted by either March 10 or September 10 should reduce or eliminate PJM's need to request waiver of its deficiency review deadlines in the future because both changes address the large volume of New Service Requests that PJM typically receives towards the end of each New Services Queue window. Further, under PJM's proposal, the additional time allotted to PJM for its deficiency review cannot serve as the basis for PJM to delay compliance with interconnection feasibility study timeframes. We also note that the proposed revisions were overwhelmingly endorsed by the PJM stakeholder body.²⁴

13. PJM's proposed revisions to the PJM Tariff are hereby accepted for filing, effective August 23, 2021, as requested, as discussed in the body of this order.

By direction of the Commission.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

²³ PJM states that it has a stakeholder process underway to review PJM's interconnection process, including an Interconnection Process Reform Task Force. Transmittal at 9-10.

²⁴ *Id.* at 2.