

INTERCONNECTING DISTRIBUTED GENERATION: THE CALIFORNIA EXPERIENCE

Edan Prabhu¹, David Michel²

¹*Reflective Energies
22922 Tiagua, Mission Viejo,
California 92692, USA
Phone +1 949 380-4899
Fax +1 949 380-8407
edanprabhu@cox.net*

²*California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street, Sacramento,
California 95814, USA
Phone: +1 916 651 9864
Fax +1 916 654 4559
dmichel@energy.state.ca.us*

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ABSTRACT

California, USA has been a leader in improving the interconnection of distributed generation (DG) systems. The government, utilities, DG developers and manufacturers have created a Working Group that resolves impediments to interconnection. The Working Group helps revise Rule 21, the rule that allows interconnection of DG in California. A three-tier process was established for review and approval of applications to interconnect. Prior to the revised Rule 21, it took about one year for utilities to approve interconnections. It now takes less than three months. The cost associated with interconnections has also been greatly reduced. A process has been set up for certification of interconnection systems. A limited field study shows that so far, for the sites monitored, DG has had no adverse impact on the distribution systems. We are seeking others who wish to monitor their DG installations for grid interaction, with the goal of developing a global real-time database.