

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: Can you provide examples of major deficiencies that will prevent my Interconnection Request (IR) from being deemed valid and eligible for NEM 2.0?

A: “Major” deficiencies include, but are not limited to the following:

- Inaccurate customer information: The name of customer of record, their address, service account number and/or meter number not matching the customer’s SCE bill.
- An incomplete application:
 - For all projects: Missing the single line diagram (SLD).
 - For oversized projects (where the system’s production exceeds the customer’s 12-month historical usage): Missing a System Size Justification:
 - Residential customers with system sized up to 30 kW may provide the Customer System Size Acknowledgement (CSSA) form.
 - All customers may provide SCE’s Load Justification form.
- Any equipment inconsistencies between the Application and single line diagram (SLD), such as:
 - Inverter/panel selected on the application not matching the SLD.
 - When there are multiple versions of the same equipment model and the SLD only contains a partial model number.
 - Electrical connection type not matching between the Application and SLD.
- For expansion requests: existing equipment on the application and SLD does not match the SCE record.
 - If the equipment was verified on a site visit, please make a note of it in the “Applicant Comments” field.

“Minor” deficiencies include, but are not limited to the following:

- SCE meter changes or service account number changes.
- Invalid customer emails:
 - Using the contractor email (or domain) in place of the customer’s email.
 - Undeliverable (bad) emails
 - Incorrect customer email: gmail vs. gmal
- Customer name discrepancies: James vs. Jim

Additional documents not listed as a “major” deficiency (as shown above) may still be required by SCE after the application is deemed valid. As an example, energy storage projects with an AC Disconnect may be required to provide a Plot Plan document prior to SCE issuing a Permission to Operate (PTO).

4) Q: How does a “material modification” affect my NEM application?

A: First, let us explain what a material modification is. Any proposed change to an existing project or application, after it has been deemed valid, needs to be reviewed to determine if it is a “material modification”. Please refer to SCE’s Electric Rule 21 Section Ee.(1) (*Modifications to Existing Equipment*) to identify if a proposed modification is considered “material” and whether a new interconnection application is required.

Examples of non-material modifications:

- Replacement of “like for like” system components with no increase to the system size.
- A decrease of up to 20% of the system size.

Examples of material modifications:

- Any increase to the system size.
- Any decrease of more than 20% of the system size.
- Any decrease to avoid upgrades.

Please note that if a proposed modification is found to be “material”, it will require that a new interconnection request be submitted (along with a new interconnection fee).

Now, let us explain what modifications may be proposed without losing NEM 2.0 eligibility. According to NEM 2.0 provisions, an increase of up to 10% of the original project capacity, or 1kW, whichever is larger, is an allowed modification without losing NEM 2.0 eligibility. However, SCE will accept any expansion of an existing NEM 2.0 project (already issued Permission to Operate) if proposed before April 15, 2023. This means that if an existing NEM 2.0 project submits a complete expansion application, without major deficiencies prior to April 15, 2023, the system will retain NEM 2.0 eligibility. Any proposed expansion to an existing NEM 2.0 project or in-flight application, submitted on or after April 15, 2023, will be limited to the larger of the 10% or 1kW increase threshold to maintain NEM 2.0 eligibility.

In addition, adding eligible energy storage to an existing NEM 2.0 project, or an in-flight NEM 2.0 application, does not affect the project’s eligibility for NEM 2.0 (regardless of whether the addition is proposed before or after April 15, 2023).

Applicants can propose modifications for in-flight NEM 2.0 applications using the existing application in PowerClerk. Once submitted, SCE will verify whether the proposed modification is “material” and provide feedback as to whether the proposed modification would trigger a loss of NEM 2.0 eligibility. SCE will also provide instructions on how to submit a new interconnection fee for material modifications.

5) Q: How will system oversizing, and the load justification process change with the Solar Billing Plan?

A: Under the Solar Billing Plan, oversizing is allowed for up to 150% of the customer’s 12-month historical usage. SCE’s new Solar Billing Plan portal will allow customers to submit applications for oversized projects. The portal will require that the applicant and the customer sign an affidavit (built into the portal). Under the Solar Billing Plan, no additional load justification or calculation will be needed for systems oversized up to 150% of the customer’s 12-month historical usage. Applications that are oversized above the 150% cap will not be accepted.

New construction customers with less than 12 months of usage history, or customers with a recent increase of load, would be required to attest that the system is sized to the energy consumption expected within 12 months. The attestation will be built into the Solar Billing Plan portal with no additional documentation needed for submittal.

Please note that SCE uses the CEC-AC Nameplate Rating and the following calculation to determine the system’s annual production: (CEC-AC Nameplate Rating) x 720 x 0.20 x 12. The estimated system’s production is then compared against the last 12 months of the customer’s kWh usage.

6) Q: How should a New Construction Interconnection Request (IR) be submitted to prevent a return?

A: To avoid returns on New Construction applications, please adhere to the following recommendations:

- Be sure to submit the application under the customer that will receive PTO, whether that is the Builder or the new homeowner.
- Select “New NEM - New SCE Meter” as the Application type. Doing so, will not require a service account number or meter number to be entered.
- In lieu of addresses, SCE will accept parcel numbers. As the final addresses are known, the applicant should update the information on the application (this would not be considered a modification).
- You must use the same address or parcel number the permit is pulled under to avoid issues later in the project.
- The equipment that is expected to be installed is required on both the application and SLD; a project cannot be submitted without this information.