

Interconnection Cluster Window Calendar

2026 - 2028 | All 7 RTOs

Every application window, deadline, and deposit amount
for PJM, MISO, CAISO, ISO-NE, NYISO, SPP, and ERCOT.

Prepared by Zonevex | zonevex.com

Updated April 2026

2026 Application Windows

FERC Order 2023 cluster reforms are now live across all RTOs. This is the first year with post-reform cycles for PJM, SPP, and ISO-NE.

RTO	Cycle / Study	Window	Deadline	Status	Study Deposit	Readiness
PJM	Cycle 1	Q1 - Apr 27	Apr 27, 2026	* Open	\$75K-\$400K	\$4,000/MW
SPP	CPP Trans. ICS	Apr 1 - May 31	May 31, 2026	* Open	GRID FS	GRID-C/MW
MISO	DPP-2026	~Aug - Oct	~Oct 2026	* Upcoming	D2 + \$7K fee	\$8,000/MW
CAISO	Cluster 16	Oct 1 - Oct 15	Oct 15, 2026	* Upcoming	Per App. KK	\$10K/MW
ISO-NE	1st Reg. Cluster	Oct 5 - Nov 19	Nov 19, 2026	* Upcoming	Per Sch. 22	2x study dep.
NYISO	Cluster Study 2	~Late 2026	TBD (45-day)	o TBD	\$100K-\$250K	20% Ph.1 costs
ERCOT	GINR (rolling)	Year-round	Rolling	o Rolling	\$5K-\$7K fee	TIF caps

PJM -- Cycle 1

* **OPEN NOW** -- Deadline: **April 27, 2026**

First post-reform cluster under FERC Order 2023 (Docket ER22-2110). This replaces PJM's old serial queue with a cluster-based, first-ready-first-served process.

Application Deadline: **April 27, 2026 -- No extensions**

Readiness Deposit #1: **\$4,000 per MW (due with application)**

RD#2 (at Decision Pt I): **10% of network upgrade allocation minus RD#1**

Study Deposit Tiers (per Manual 14H):

Capacity Range	Study Deposit
0 - 20 MW	\$75,000
>20 - 50 MW	\$200,000
>50 - 100 MW	\$250,000
>100 - 250 MW	\$300,000
>250 - 750 MW	\$350,000
>750 MW	\$400,000

10% non-refundable. Single deposit covers Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III studies.

Key Milestones:

- Phase I System Impact Study: ~120 days after cluster close
- Decision Point I: after Phase I results
- Phase II: ~180 days after DP-I
- Phase III + Interconnection Agreement: ~180 days after Phase II

Sources: PJM Inside Lines, PJM Manual 14H, PJM Applications & Forms portal

SPP -- Consolidated Planning Process (CPP) Transitional ICS

* **OPEN NOW** -- Window: **April 1 - May 31, 2026**

Major reform: FERC approved the CPP on March 13, 2026 (effective March 1, 2026), replacing both ITP and DISIS with a single integrated framework under new Attachment AY of SPP's OATT.

Application Window: **April 1 - May 31, 2026 (2-month window, down from 11 months under DISIS)**

Financial Security: **GRID FS required; FS1 due with application**

Study Period: **180-day consolidated study with single Decision Point**

GRID-C Rate: **Per-MW standardized charge; initial rate expected end of 2026**

Previously under DISIS: FS2 = greater of 10% of cost factor minus FS1, or \$4,000/MW. Gen-tie financial security = \$80,000 per linear mile.

Sources: *SPP CPP page, FERC order (Holland & Knight analysis), SPP GI Portal*

MISO -- DPP-2026

* **UPCOMING** -- Expected **~October 2026**

Annual DPP cycle. DPP-2025 (deadline Oct 7, 2025) Phase 1 started January 5, 2026 and attracted ~78 GW. DPP-2026 window expected Q3-October following the established annual cadence. Exact dates TBD.

Application Fee (D1): **\$7,000 flat (non-refundable)**

Study Deposit (D2): **Varies by project**

Milestone Payment (M2): **\$8,000 per MW (cash or irrevocable letter of credit)**

Phase 1 SIS: **~140 days after cycle start**

Full DPP Cycle: **~355 calendar days**

IBR modeling package required with application. MISO filed Enhanced Readiness Assessment (ERAS) reforms under Docket ER25-2454, currently protested at FERC.

Sources: *MISO Generator Interconnection page, DPP Schedule PDF*

CAISO -- Cluster 16

* **UPCOMING** -- Window: **October 1 - 15, 2026**

15-day application window. IPE 5.0 reforms (scoring, ranking, commercial readiness) expected in effect before window opens. Cluster 15 currently in study.

Application Window: **October 1 - 15, 2026 (all deposits as separate wires)**

Study Deposit: **Per tariff Appendix KK**

Site Control Deposit: **\$10,000 per MW (minimum \$500,000)**

Merchant Zone Deposit: **\$10,000 per MW (capped \$500K - \$5M)**

Key Date: **TPD constraint mapping spreadsheet expected mid-July 2026**

IPE 2023 Track 3 tariff amendments filed under Docket ER25-2044.

Sources: *CAISO IR & Study page, CAISO GI Portal, Tariff Appendix KK*

ISO-NE -- First Regular Cluster

* **UPCOMING** -- Window: **October 5 - November 19, 2026**

ISO-NE's first regular cluster study window following the Transitional Cluster Study (started Oct 2025, completes by August 6, 2026, studying 26 projects).

Application Window: **October 5 - November 19, 2026 (~45-day window)**

Study Deposit: **Per Schedule 22, Section 3.4.2 (scaled by project size)**

Commercial Readiness Deposit: **2x study deposit amount (due with IR submission)**

Studies Begin: **Early 2027**

FERC Order 2023 compliance: Dockets ER24-2009, ER25-1445, ER25-2149. Financial penalties apply for queue withdrawal.

Sources: *ISO-NE Cluster Studies page, Schedule 22 LGIP, Interconnection Guide*

NYISO -- Cluster Study 2

o **TBD** -- Expected late 2026 / early 2027

Transition Cluster (C24) Phase 2 runs through mid-June 2026, with Decision Period 2 delayed 60 days (due to National Grid Phase 1 study report delays). Next cluster window opens 15 calendar days before the ISO presents the prior Cluster Study Report to the Operating Committee.

Expected Window: **Late 2026 / Early 2027 (45-day window per tariff Section 40.5)**

Application Fee: **\$10,000 (non-refundable)**

Study Deposit Tiers:

Capacity	Study Deposit
<80 MW	\$100,000
80 - 200 MW	\$150,000
>=200 MW	\$250,000

Readiness Deposit 2: **Greater of RD1 or 20% of Phase 1 estimated costs**

Sources: *NYISO Interconnections page, Cluster Enhancements PDF, Tariff Section 40.5*

ERCOT -- GINR Process

o **ROLLING** -- Year-round submissions via R100-IS

ERCOT does not use cluster study windows for generation interconnection. GINRs are submitted on a rolling basis. However, major batch study reforms are in progress.

Application Fee: **\$5,000 (<=150 MW) or \$7,000 (>150 MW) -- non-refundable**

FIS Proceed Window: **180 days after screening study (or GINR cancelled)**

2026 TIF Allowance Caps (effective January 1, 2026):

Voltage	TSP Funding Cap
<=138 kV	\$14,408,000
>138 kV	\$20,583,000

CPI-adjusted annually. Costs exceeding these allowances are the generator's responsibility.

Major Reform Coming

PUCT directed ERCOT to overhaul the interconnection process (Project No. 59142). Board vote deadline: June 1, 2026. New batch study protocol target: summer 2026 (PGRR 145 / NPRR 1325). Two tracks: Batch Zero and Legacy LLIS.

Sources: *ERCOT Resource Integration, EPE Consulting (2026 deposit analysis), PUCT Project 59142*

Deposit Comparison -- 200 MW Solar Project

Estimated total capital required to enter the interconnection queue at each RTO.

RTO	App Fee	Study Deposit	Readiness / Milestone	Est. Total Entry
PJM	Included	\$250,000	\$800,000 (\$4K/MW)	\$1,050,000
MISO	\$7,000	Varies	\$1,600,000 (\$8K/MW)	\$1,600,000+
CAISO	Per tariff	Per App. KK	\$2,000,000 (\$10K/MW)	\$2,000,000+
ISO-NE	Included	Per Schedule 22	2x study deposit	3x study deposit
NYISO	\$10,000	\$150,000	20% of Phase 1	\$160,000+
SPP	Included	GRID FS	GRID-C/MW	TBD (new)
ERCOT	\$7,000	Per fee sched.	TIF caps apply	\$7,000+ fees

MISO M2 = \$8,000/MW. CAISO site control deposit = \$10,000/MW (min \$500K). PJM RD#1 = \$4,000/MW. NYISO 200 MW = \$150K study deposit tier. Actual costs vary by location and upgrades.

2027 Projected Windows

Based on established annual cadences and tariff requirements. Dates are estimated -- confirm with each RTO as windows are announced.

RTO	Cycle / Study	Expected Window	Confidence	Study Deposit	Readiness
PJM	Cycle 2	~Q1-Q2 2027	Likely	\$75K-\$400K	\$4,000/MW
SPP	CPP ICS-2	~Apr-May 2027	Likely	GRID FS + C/MW	Per CPP tariff
MISO	DPP-2027	~Aug-Oct 2027	Likely	D2 + \$7K fee	\$8,000/MW
CAISO	Cluster 17	~Oct 1-15, 2027	Likely	Per App. KK	\$10K/MW
ISO-NE	Reg. Cluster 2	~Oct-Nov 2027	Likely	Per Schedule 22	2x study dep.
NYISO	Cluster Study 3	~Mid-Late 2027	TBD	\$100K-\$250K	20% Ph.1
ERCOT	Batch Study (new)	TBD (new framework)	TBD	TBD	TBD

PJM Cycle 2 timing depends on Cycle 1 study progress. SPP first transitional study concludes ~2028. MISO may implement ERAS reforms or queue caps for DPP-2027. ERCOT will be under the new batch framework. NYISO timeline depends on C24 final decision outcomes.

2028 Projected Windows

Longer-range projections based on annual cadences. Higher uncertainty -- treat as planning horizons.

RTO	Cycle / Study	Expected Window	Confidence	Notes
PJM	Cycle 3	~Q1-Q2 2028	Est.	Tiers may be revised
SPP	CPP ICS-3	~Apr-May 2028	Est.	GRID-C rates established
MISO	DPP-2028	~Aug-Oct 2028	Likely	Most predictable cadence
CAISO	Cluster 18	~Oct 1-15, 2028	Likely	IPE reforms fully mature
ISO-NE	Reg. Cluster 3	~Oct-Nov 2028	Est.	Depends on Cluster 1 & 2
NYISO	Cluster Study 4	TBD	TBD	Prior cluster pace dependent
ERCOT	Batch Year 2	TBD	TBD	1 year of batch framework data

By 2028, all seven RTOs will have completed at least one full post-reform cluster cycle. Expect deposit structures to be adjusted based on lessons learned.

Why Every Window Looks Different Now

FERC Order 2023 (July 28, 2023)

- Mandated cluster-based 'first-ready, first-served' process for all FERC-jurisdictional RTOs
- Higher upfront deposits to deter speculative queue entries (3-10x pre-reform levels)
- Commercial readiness requirements at each decision point
- Financial penalties for withdrawal to reduce queue churn
- Strengthened site control demonstration requirements

What This Means for 2026-2028

- PJM, SPP, and ISO-NE are running first-ever post-reform cycles in 2026
- Application windows are shorter and more rigid than pre-reform
- Each RTO implemented compliance differently -- no two are identical
- Expect further tariff revisions as RTOs learn from their first cycles

Official RTO Resources

PJM	pjm.com/planning/service-requests/application-and-forms
MISO	misoenergy.org/planning/resource-utilization/generator-interconnection/
CAISO	caiso.com/generation-transmission/generation/generator-interconnection
ISO-NE	iso-ne.com/system-planning/system-plans-studies/cluster-interconnection-studies/
NYISO	nyiso.com/interconnections
SPP	spp.org/engineering/consolidated-planning-process/
ERCOT	ercot.com/services/rq/integration
FERC	ferc.gov/explainer-interconnection-final-rule

Stop Tracking Deadlines Manually

This calendar covers one snapshot in time.

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Based on publicly available RTO tariffs, FERC filings, and official announcements as of April 2026. 2027-2028 projections are based on established annual cadences and may change. Educational resource only -- not legal, financial, or engineering advice. Verify all dates and deposit amounts against official RTO documentation before submitting applications.

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