

PJM Cycle 1 Quick Start Guide

Everything you need to prepare your application

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Application Deadline: April 27, 2026

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96 projects withdrew at Decision Point 1 in PJM's Transition Cycle -- and another 10 were discontinued for failing readiness requirements. Most failures were preventable. Here are the 10 most common causes -- and how to avoid each one in under 5 minutes.

1. Your entity name doesn't match across documents.

The legal entity name on your application must be character-for-character identical on every site control document, every financial instrument, every certification. "Sunrise Solar LLC" is not "Sunrise Solar, LLC" is not "Sunrise Energy Holdings."

Fix now: Complete the Entity Name Verification Matrix (Checklist items #2, #38). Cross-check every document today.

-> Playbook Section 8, Killer #1

2. Your site control doesn't cover your full footprint.

Your Attachment N site plan shows access roads, setback zones, laydown areas, and stormwater management. If any of that land falls outside your site control documents, you get a deficiency. This is the hardest to cure in 10 days because acquiring new land takes weeks.

Fix now: Overlay your site plan on a boundary survey. Every square foot on the plan must fall within controlled parcels.

-> Playbook Section 4; Checklist items #6, #10

3. Your site control expires too soon.

Documents must show control through at least April 27, 2027 (one year from deadline). If your option or lease expires before that, it's an automatic deficiency.

Fix now: Check every expiration date. Execute term extensions with your landowners before submission.

-> Playbook Section 4; Checklist items #8, #42

4. You don't have your PSSE dynamic model.

PJM requires a PSSE v33+ compatible .dvr file from your equipment manufacturer. Manufacturer lead time is 4-8 weeks. If you haven't requested it yet, you may not have it by April 27.

Fix now: Contact your inverter/turbine manufacturer's interconnection team TODAY. Request the .dvr file with documentation.

-> Playbook Section 3.4; Checklist item #15

5. Your MW numbers don't match.

If your application says 100 MW, your site plan implies 100 MW, but your solar engineering analysis shows the land only supports 85 MW -- that's a deficiency. MW must be identical across every document.

Fix now: Create an MW cross-reference: application, site plan, B-1 data form, engineering analysis. All must match exactly.

-> Checklist items #16, #39

6. Your POI is vague.

"Nearest 138 kV transmission line" is not a valid POI. PJM needs a specific facility name and voltage level: "Smith Substation 138 kV bus."

Fix now: Verify your POI name against PJM's queue spreadsheet. Use Queue Scope to check thermal availability. Contact InterconnectionSupport@pjm.com to pre-validate.

-> Playbook Section 6; POI Evaluation Workbook

7. You used the wrong deposit amount.

RD1 is \$4,000 per MW -- but based on the greater of energy or capacity value, not necessarily nameplate. The wrong MW figure = wrong deposit = deficiency.

Fix now: Use PJM's official calculator: <https://www.pjm.com/planning/service-requests/application-and-forms/deposit-calc>. Have a second person verify.

-> Playbook Section 5; Checklist items #22-25, #43

8. You used old forms.

PJM updated forms for Cycle 1. If you submit Transition Cycle versions of the ASA, Officer Certification, or data forms, that's a deficiency.

Fix now: Download ALL forms fresh from PJM's portal in the week before submission. Create a form version index.

-> Checklist items #29-30, #41

9. You don't have a NextGen account.

Cycle 1 applications are submitted through NextGen (not QueuePoint). Non-member companies need a CAM assignment, which takes business days.

Fix now: Log into NextGen. If you can't, contact your PJM Account Manager immediately.

-> Playbook Section 11; Checklist item #47

10. You submitted on deadline day.

Upload failures, payment processing delays, or platform issues on April 27 can't be cured. There is no late submission window.

Fix now: Plan to submit 2-3 business days early (by April 23).

-> Checklist item #49

How Confident Are You?

Take the Readiness Self-Assessment (included in this toolkit) to score your project across 7 dimensions. It takes 10 minutes and tells you exactly where your gaps are -- with specific remediation steps for each one.

One Project or Twenty?

This toolkit helps you prepare one PJM application manually.

If you're managing multiple projects across PJM, MISO, SPP, or other RTOs, Zonevex automates the entire compliance workflow:

See it in action: Request a demo at zonevex.com/demo

Full Toolkit Contents

Zonevex -- Interconnection compliance, simplified.