

Site Control Criteria Policy

Standard Generator Interconnection Procedures

This policy sets out the criteria that BC Hydro uses to determine whether an Interconnection Customer has reasonably demonstrated Site Control within the meaning of BC Hydro's [Open Access Transmission Tariff](#) (OATT), Attachment M-1: Standard Generator Interconnection Procedures (SGIP) including Standard Generator Interconnection Agreement (SGIA), over the land where the Interconnection Customer intends to develop its Generating Facility. These criteria differ depending on whether the Generating Facility is constructed on Crown land or private land.

For projects that require Crown land, the process involves certain additional steps undertaken by the BC Energy Regulator (BCER) or the Ministry of Water Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) and Lands Authorization staff, that are not required for private lands. Such steps include conducting a completeness check of the application, completing a technical review, and conducting consultation with First Nations. The completion timeline is, to an extent, out of the Interconnection Customer's control, as those steps are led by the BCER or FrontCounter BC.

Crown Land

British Columbia Crown land tenure policy is well developed for wind, solar, and hydro power projects, however, the Site Control criteria for Generating Facilities using other power sources should be applied consistently. To the extent possible, the Interconnection Customer must generally demonstrate that it has submitted a Crown Land Tenure Application that has been vetted and accepted by the appropriate authority.

Wind and Solar Generating Facilities

Wind and solar Crown Land Tenure Applications are submitted to the BCER via the Application Management System. Once the application has been vetted and is in active review, the Interconnection Customer will receive a confirmation letter of its application from the BCER. After the application has been confirmed complete, to the extent that BCER's review process identifies concerns or requests raised by third parties or First Nations, the Interconnection Customer may be required to provide additional information, including any progress on resolution of such issues, to BC Hydro. At all times BC Hydro reserves the right, in its discretion, to request additional information from the Interconnection Customer.

BC Hydro will generally consider an Interconnection Customer to have reasonably demonstrated Site Control when it has successfully completed the application process for an investigative licence on the Crown land for its Generating Facility. Site Control can be demonstrated by the Interconnection Customer providing BC Hydro either (1) an approved active investigative use licence for the Crown land for its Generating Facility, or (2) a Renewable Investigative Use Licence Application Under Review confirmation letter stating a Crown Land Tenure Application has been accepted by the BCER. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis at BC Hydro's discretion.

Hydro power, Geothermal, Natural Gas and other Non-Solar/Non-Wind Generating Facilities

Hydro power, geothermal, natural gas, and other non-solar/non-wind Crown Land Tenure Applications are submitted to WLRS through FrontCounter BC's online application system. Once the application has been accepted by FrontCounter BC, the Interconnection Customer will receive an acceptance letter confirming that the application has met the applicable submission requirements and will proceed to the [next stage](#) of review to be completed by WLRS Lands Authorization staff. The next stage of that review considers concerns or requests raised by third parties or First Nations. The Interconnection Customer may be required to provide additional information, including any progress on resolution of such issues, to BC Hydro. At all times BC Hydro reserves the right, in its discretion, to request additional information from the Interconnection Customer.

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Private Land

Site Control on private land may be reasonably demonstrated by:

1. Ownership of, a leasehold interest in, or a right to develop a site for the purpose of constructing the generating facility;
2. An option to purchase or acquire a leasehold site for such purpose; or
3. An exclusivity or other business relationship between the Interconnection Customer and the entity having the right to sell, lease or grant the Interconnection Customer the right to possess or occupy a site for such purpose.

The Interconnection Customer should provide to BC Hydro a copy of the title to property registered in the name of the Interconnection Customer, or a copy of the lease, option agreement, joint venture agreement or other contract that gives the Interconnection Customer a right to develop a Generating Facility on the lands to demonstrate Site Control.