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Subject: Dryden Tompkins (Pinney) Utility requirements

Noah – as per our discussion with some member of the town board noted below are reasons for the NYSEG pole requirements.

NYSEG's standard distribution pole is a 50' class 2 pole. A 50' pole is installed with 7' in the ground (2' plus 10% of the pole height) leaving 43' of pole above ground. This pole height is needed for clearance requirements of the distribution circuit conductors and other attachments subsequently installed below the power lines. These include cable, telephone, fiber, etc. Included in this is the clearances required by code and also for safe working practices for the workers in the field.

To a certain extent a "pole lineup" is required for each interconnection to the utility's distribution circuit. Typically the interconnection will be to a pole that already exists in the distribution circuit. If that is not practical, an additional pole will be installed between 2 existing poles and the circuit tapped from that new circuit pole.

The next required pole is the pole on which a recloser is required. This is a protective device that is required for all generation interconnections greater than 500 KW when connecting to distribution circuits greater than 5 KV. The distribution circuit to which the Pinney projects will be interconnected is 34.5 KV so a recloser is required for each. The recloser is a protective device that monitors power flow, voltage, and current flow both towards the generating sites and also away from the site into the distribution circuit. The main purpose for its installation is to provide protection to the utility's distribution circuit and its distribution customers on that circuit from faults or disturbances in the PV site. It will trip (disconnect) the generation if it "sees" disturbances above a preset value. This device is a pole mounted device as NYSEG does not have a pad mounted equivalent in its Standards Equipment.

The installation of a non-standard device requires: additional training for the workers; procurement of spares that could be used solely for the equipment; additional engineering to determine its compatibility with existing protection equipment located elsewhere on the line; creation of specific installation requirements including tools/dies needed. In short, the use of non-standard equipment is more costly, takes considerably more time to procure, engineer, and install, and creates additional training and other personnel issues for the utility workers in that division. Therefore the standard pole mounted recloser must be used for these installations.

The next pole in the lineup is typically the utility meter pole. There are also clearances which must be met for the conductors and metering equipment that must be located on this pole and therefore a 50' pole is also required for this pole. Occasionally an additional pole is required between the meter pole and the recloser pole and this pole would also be required to be a 50' pole.

To summarize, for the 3 Dryden-Tompkins (Pinney) interconnections the utility requires 50' poles for its equipment due to clearance requirements and for worker safety. In addition, a pole mounted recloser for each site is required as NYSEG does not have a pad-mounted equivalent in its Standard Equipment. Let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thanks - Rick

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