

1. Pre-feasibility

Applicants consider the feasibility of their project and begin discussions with Power and Water, landowners and relevant government authorities. Applicants consider factors such as the location, size, network constraints, infrastructure requirements, loss factors, competing or dependent projects. Power and Water provides all information to assist applicants to proceed with a connection enquiry.

Inputs

- Engagement between Power and Water and applicant.
- Power and Water provides all relevant and reasonable requested information. (e.g. Annual Planning Report, etc.).
- Applicant submits a preliminary enquiry.

Process

- Applicants commence preliminary discussions with Power and Water.
- Power and Water manages the connection process and provides information as requested.

Outputs

- Power and Water will respond to the applicant within 15 business days of a preliminary enquiry.
- Preparation of a connection enquiry.

Indicative timeframe* subject to

- The level of feasibility studies of the project proceeding is being explored.

2. Enquiry

The applicant submits a connection enquiry to Power and Water to:

- help determine the most suitable point of connection
- confirm the information required to be submitted for a connection application.

Inputs

- Power and Water receipt of connection enquiry from applicant, including description of the proposed installation.

Process

- Power and Water reviews information submitted with the connection enquiry.
- Power and Water advise the fee to respond to the connection enquiry.
- Power and Water undertakes a System Strength Preliminary Impact Assessment (PIA) and consults NTESMO.

Outputs

- Power and Water will respond to applicant within 30 business days to a connection enquiry.
- Provision of network data from Power and Water (upon request and subject to payment of enquiry fees and intention to obtain any licences required by the Utilities Commission) to enable applicant to undertake studies to support its application.

Indicative Timeframe* 1 - 2 months subject to

- Preparation time by the applicant.
- Quality and completeness of connection enquiry.

3. Application and agreement

The applicant submits an application to connect to Power and Water, inclusive of information stipulated in the connection enquiry response to:

- establish technical performance and grid integration requirements
- establish the scope and estimate of costs (as required) of any required connection assets
- finalise connection agreement.

Inputs

- Completed connection application including performance standards and supporting information.
- Description of the proposed installation, including associated plant computer models and other information.

Process

- Power and Water receives and reviews application and supporting information and undertakes technical studies (including full system strength impact assessment if required).
- Power and Water consults NTESMO in relation to any negotiated standards and to any proposed system strength remediation (if applicable).
- Power and Water advise the fee to process the Connection application and prepare an Offer to Connect.

Outputs

- NTESMO responds to Power and Water regarding any negotiated standard and to any proposed system strength remediation (if applicable) and Power and Water responds to the Applicant.
- Finalised connection agreement and notification to NTESMO.

Indicative Timeframe* 4 – 10 months subject to

- Quality and completeness of the Connection Application.
- Stability of generator models.
- Complexity of connection and supporting power system studies
- Degree of proposed negotiated access standards

4. Connection completion

Finalisation of market registration and Utilities Commission licensing (as applicable), construction and commissioning of the facility and connection assets. The purpose is to confirm the ability to meet the proposed performance standards and validate model information used for planning and operational performance.

Inputs

- Completion of construction of facility and connection assets.
- Market registration and licence (as applicable) completed.
- Commissioning and compliance test plan and schedule. **Process**
- The Power and Water and NTESMO review commissioning and compliance test results at successive hold points to confirm alignment between modelled and tested performance and successful commissioning of the facility.
- Applicant provides certification of installation per NTC 3.2.1.11 (b) or 3.3.3 (d) prior to connection of facilities to the network.
- Applicant provides to Power and Water validated models and R2 data, as well as develop and implement a compliance monitoring program.

Outputs

- Hold point approvals, operating protocol and approval for commercial operation.
- Post-commissioning, acceptance of updated (R2) data and models, compliance monitoring program and maintaining business and operational contact information.

Indicative Timeframe* 12 - 30 months subject to

- Government and landowner approvals.
- Scale of facility / connection assets.
- Long lead time equipment.
- Compliance and commissioning delays / hold points.
- Seasonal site access

* Indicative timeframes include applicants and Power and Water timeframes

