

## **DER Bulletin 2026-003**

### **Technical Standards Update and Industry Engagement**

FortisAlberta is continuing its engagement with Distributed Energy Resource (DER) proponents, consultants, developers, investors, and other industry participants on updates to its DER technical interconnection requirements.

This bulletin introduces updated DER technical requirements, identifies draft requirements being released for industry engagement, and outlines the planned in-person engagement session and follow-up feedback process. FortisAlberta will use this engagement process to walk through the updated requirements, discuss implementation considerations, and collect structured feedback before draft requirements are finalized.

These updates reflect increasing DER activity across FortisAlberta's distribution system and are intended to support safe, reliable, and cost-effective DER integration as projects continue to connect and evolve across the distribution system.

The updated requirements are focused on:

- Enabling export controls where local distribution system capacity is constrained.
- Supporting advanced DER control modes across customer types, from residential systems to utility-scale facilities.
- Leveraging DER communications to support a more responsive distribution system.
- Improving clarity and consistency for technical submissions, review expectations, and implementation requirements.
- Clarifying modelling, validation, and study requirements where additional technical assessment is required.

### **Why these updates are needed**

As DER activity increases across FortisAlberta's distribution system, the technical requirements that support interconnection also need to continue evolving. The updated standards address several areas, including export controls, advanced control modes, communication requirements, commissioning expectations, modelling requirements, and other technical information needed to support safe and reliable DER integration.

One important part of this update relates to Electromagnetic Transient (EMT) modelling. FortisAlberta has identified that unit-level Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) models do not always reflect the behaviour of a complete DER facility. Composite DER sites often include power plant controllers or other site-level control systems that influence the overall facility response. As a result, system-level studies based only on unit-level models may not fully reflect how a DER facility will behave at the point of interconnection.

This can lead to inaccurate study results, unnecessary mitigation requirements, or additional uncertainty during the interconnection process. FortisAlberta is therefore continuing to move toward validated plant-level EMT models where required. This supports more accurate studies, better technical decisions, and more efficient DER integration.

The proposed EMT modelling requirements are being released for industry engagement and will be discussed in more detail during the industry session.

FortisAlberta previously introduced this direction through [DER Bulletin 2025-003: Electromagnetic Transient Models](#) and the related industry webinar. The current engagement is intended to provide further discussion on the detailed requirements, implementation considerations, transition considerations, and practical application of those requirements.

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## What is being updated

FortisAlberta has updated several DER technical standards and related supporting documents.

These updates include:

- DER-01 updates related to Power Control Systems (PCS), including export-limited and non-export configurations.
- DER-02 updates related to advanced control modes, communication requirements, modelling expectations, and related interconnection requirements.
- Draft DER-02 Sections 4.2 to 4.6, which address EMT model applicability, model format requirements, pre- and post-commissioning submission requirements, change management, and synchronous machine modelling requirements.
- Draft DER-02F, which provides detailed requirements for EMT model submission, model quality testing, conformity assessment, validation, and revalidation.
- Updates to related DER-02 companion documents, including references to DER-02F and related implementation requirements.
- Supporting process and documentation updates, including the PCS Commissioning Record.

DER-02F is currently being introduced as a draft standard for comment. Proponents are encouraged to review the draft, consider how it may apply to current or planned projects, and participate in the engagement process before the requirements are finalized.

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## Transition and applicability of EMT modelling requirements

FortisAlberta recognizes that some DER projects are already well advanced in the interconnection process. Applicability of the draft EMT modelling requirements will be reviewed with consideration for project status, technical scope, study progress, and distribution system conditions.

Where transition considerations are required, FortisAlberta will communicate directly with affected proponents through the applicable interconnection process.

Projects that are early in development, materially changed, restarted, deferred, or no longer aligned with the technical basis of the original review may be required to meet the updated EMT modelling requirements.

Project-specific applicability will continue to be assessed through the applicable FortisAlberta interconnection process.

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### **Industry engagement session**

FortisAlberta plans to host an in-person industry engagement session to walk through the updated DER technical requirements, explain the technical basis for the changes, and provide proponents, consultants, developers, investors, and other industry participants with an opportunity to better understand how the requirements may apply to current and future projects.

The session is expected to include discussion on:

- General DER integration topics and related planning considerations.
- DER-01 updates, including PCS, export-limited configurations, non-export configurations, and related commissioning expectations.
- DER-02 updates, including draft DER-02 Sections 4.2 to 4.6 and proposed EMT modelling requirements.
- Draft DER-02F, including model submission, model quality testing, validation, revalidation, and implementation considerations.
- Project readiness, transition considerations, general questions, and opportunities to connect with FortisAlberta representatives.

Session topics may change to support the discussion and respond to stakeholder interest.

The industry engagement session is planned as an in-person session. Session materials and post-session resources will be made available through FortisAlberta's [DER Bulletins](#) page.

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### **Registration and participation**

FortisAlberta will contact proponents it is currently engaged with to make them aware of the industry engagement session.

Proponents, consultants, developers, investors, and other interested industry participants are invited to register through FortisAlberta's online registration form.

The online form will be used to support registration and attendance planning for the in-person session. FortisAlberta may limit the number of attendees per organization if required due to room capacity.

Registration details, session information, and related bulletin materials will be available through FortisAlberta's [DER Bulletins](#)<sup>1</sup> page.

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## Feedback process

FortisAlberta will provide information on the follow-up feedback process through the DER Bulletins page and during the industry engagement session.

The feedback process is intended to support comments on the updated requirements, draft DER-02 Sections 4.2 to 4.6, draft DER-02F, and related implementation considerations.

Project-specific questions should continue to be addressed through the applicable FortisAlberta interconnection process.

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## Where to find the updated requirements

The updated DER technical requirements are available through FortisAlberta's public [DER interconnection resources and related standards documents](#)<sup>2</sup>.

Consultants and technical representatives should review the updated requirements in detail and work with FortisAlberta through the existing interconnection process where project-specific clarification is required.

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## Action required

Proponents, developers, investors, consultants, and other interested industry participants are encouraged to:

- Review the updated DER technical requirements and draft requirements being released for industry engagement.
- Register for the in-person industry engagement session through FortisAlberta's online registration form.
- Attend the industry engagement session where possible.
- Participate in the follow-up feedback process following the industry engagement session.

FortisAlberta appreciates the continued engagement of DER proponents, consultants, developers, and industry participants as we work together to support safe, reliable DER integration across the distribution system serving FortisAlberta customers.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fortisalberta.com/customer-service/get-connected/generation/der-bulletins>

<sup>2</sup> <https://fortisalberta.com/customer-service/documents-forms/-in-category/categories/documents/distributed-generation>