

DER Bulletin 2026-05

Ameren Illinois Statement on ICC Docket 26-0050

Re: Joint Solar Parties' Emergency Waiver Petition Related to SCR/WSCR screen

July 10, 2026

On January 16, 2026, the Joint Solar Parties (JSP) filed a petition with the Illinois Commerce Commission (Commission or ICC) seeking a waiver of certain requirements of Part 466 and 467 of Title 83 of the Illinois Administrative Code in connection with Ameren Illinois Company's use of a short circuit ratio (SCR) or weighted short circuit ratio (WSCR) screen when reviewing distributed energy resource (DER) interconnection applications, initiating Docket 26-0050. On March 19, 2026, the Commission issued a Final Order (Order) in Docket 26-0050 granting the JSP waiver request. As JSP explained to the Commission, the waiver petition was not intended to address the substantive merits of a SCR/WSCR screen, but rather its purpose was "limited to keeping applications in queue that would otherwise be removed due to the SCR/WSCR screen." To that end, the Commission approved the following procedures to be applied prospectively to interconnection applications filed under both Part 466 and Part 467:

1. When an interconnection application is denied exclusively due to the SCR/WSCR screen—specifically that no other screens are preventing interconnection—Ameren toll review of the application and the interconnection queue behind that application and that such tolling not impact Ameren's interconnection performance metric.
2. Upon resolution of the pending application, the queue shall resume as normal.
3. When queue processing resumes, projects that have been tolled will be re-studied (to the extent necessary) in their respective queue order.
4. An application under Level 2 may, at the applicant's request, revise the application one time to attempt to resolve the SCR/WSCR screen prior to the toll described above beginning.
5. All applicants impacted by the SCR/WSCR may change inverters, and such change will not be determined to be a material modification.
6. Such procedures will remain in effect until the earlier of 12 months or when a filing is made in this docket and accepted by the Commission that describes an acceptable solution to the SCR/WSCR screen issue.¹

¹ Docket 26-0050, Order at 4-5 (Mar. 19, 2025).

These procedures provide additional response time, during which the Company, JSP, Commission Staff, and other interested stakeholders can work towards alignment on a path forward that allows for continued DER interconnection, how and where appropriate, while maintaining the Company's ability to protect the reliability of the system for all of its customers.

Scope of Waiver's Application to Projects

In response to requests to provide clarity on the scope of the waiver to projects, the following bullets document the categories of projects impacted by the WSCR screen and how the approved waiver procedures apply to those Level 2 and Level 4 applications that were studied prior to the Commission issuing the Order on March 19, 2026.²

1. Category 1: Interconnection applications that received their most recent study result **on or prior to January 16, 2026 (the date of filing of the waiver petition)**, where the study documented that the project failed the WSCR screen, and due to the failed WSCR screen, the project was deemed infeasible or upgrades were required:
 - a. For any interconnection applications that fit the Category 1 criteria and that invoked and participated in the informal dispute resolution process defined in Administrative (Admin) Code Part 466.130 and then filed a formal complaint with the ICC or invoked the Ombudsperson process within the informal dispute resolution timeline provided within the Admin Code Part 466.130, **the waiver provisions apply.**
 - b. For **Level 2** interconnection applications that fit the Category 1 criteria and that executed the submission of a subsequent Level 4 application per the timeline documented in the Admin Code Part 466.100.h, **the waiver provisions apply.**
 - c. For any interconnection applications that fit the Category 1 criteria and initiated the Admin Code Part 466.130 informal dispute resolution process between **February 18, 2026, and March 19, 2026**, (i.e., within the 30 days prior to the March 19 Order) **the waiver provisions apply.**
 - d. For any interconnection applications that fit the Category 1 criteria and that took no action to invoke the informal dispute resolution process as described in Admin Code Part 466.130 prior to **March 19, 2026, the waiver provisions do not apply.**

² Note that the provisions of the waiver only apply to projects that were studied with, among other criteria, the WSCR screen during the study process, which include projects deemed not feasible or to which upgrades would be required, specifically due to WSCR screen results. The waiver provisions do not apply to projects not directly affected by the WSCR screen, including, for example, projects that have completed the study process and proceeded to an executed interconnection agreement (IA). Projects with executed IAs continue to be governed by the provisions of Part 466 and Part 467 of the Illinois Administrative Code, as currently in force and unmodified by this waiver, including the provisions governing material modification in Part 466.125, as well as other applicable law.

- e. For any interconnection applications that fit the Category 1 criteria and that initiated the Admin Code Part 466.130 informal dispute resolution process on or prior to **February 17, 2026** (i.e., more than 30 days prior to the March 19 Order) but that did not file a formal complaint or invoke the Ombudsperson process described in the Admin Code Part 466.130(c) on the timeframes set out by the Admin Code Part 466.130, **the waiver provisions do not apply.**
 - f. For any interconnection applications that were withdrawn prior to **March 19, 2026**, or that have since withdrawn their application, **the waiver provisions do not apply.**
 - g. For **Level 2** Interconnection applications that fit the Category 1 criteria and that invoked an application redesign defined in the Admin Code Part 466.100.g and received an interconnection agreement, the waiver provisions are not needed and therefore **the waiver provisions do not apply.**
2. Category 2: Interconnection applications that received the most current interconnection study result **after January 16, 2026**, where the study documented that the application was declared infeasible or upgrades were required due to the failure of the WSCR screen:
- a. For any interconnection applications that fit the Category 2 criteria and that did not pass its study exclusively due to the WSCR screen, **the waiver provisions apply.**

To provide additional clarity, following the issuance of this bulletin Ameren Illinois will notify DER interconnection customers if they have one or more projects that fit the Category 1 or 2 criteria and to which the waiver provisions **do not apply**.

Additional Comments in Response to Inquiries

The waiver requires Ameren Illinois to pause the processing of applications in the interconnection queue to which the waiver applies and that are behind any project with an interconnection study denied exclusively due to the WSCR screen at the time the Order was issued. In some cases, this may have resulted in a pause of the entire service area queue containing the impacted application. Opportunities may exist in some other areas' queues to continue processing applications that are not in the line of projects directly behind an impacted application.

In light of the pause described above, projects that can still fail the WSCR screen in the normal course of review (and not be allowed to proceed to interconnection at this time), are not impacted by the waiver process described above.

Additionally, although the Order provides that qualifying applicants may change inverters, permits one-time redesign of Level 2 applications, and provides for re-study of qualifying projects once the queue processing resumes, these provisions do not necessarily mean that any particular project will be able to pass the WSCR screen, whether by redesign, restudy, or an inverter change, and proceed to interconnection. In part, this is due to the nature and purpose of the WSCR screen. For example, because it factors in the characteristics of multiple IBRs in an area, simply changing an

inverter proposed in an application or redesigning the application to downsize may not meaningfully impact a particular application's WSCR score. The waiver provisions apply only in the limited circumstances authorized by the Order. For example, non-material modification inverter changes are only available under the waiver to developers that have been denied interconnection exclusively due to the SCR/WSCR screen and seek to address that through an inverter change.

Until a technical framework is developed and implemented for review of interconnection applications, which must include assessment of grid strength, Ameren Illinois will continue to provide DER interconnection applicants with sufficient technical information (regarding the basis for the WSCR determination) as part of initial study results of applications impacted by the WSCR screen — to allow applicants to evaluate whether: 1) project redesign (*i.e.*, downsizing) or 2) system upgrades may reasonably be expected to affect the outcome of the WSCR screen. That technical framework is currently being developed with input from industry experts and interested stakeholders, including EPRI and JSP. Once this technical framework has been implemented, additional information regarding other potential mitigations to address weak grid issues may be available through more detailed EMT studies (*i.e.*, inverter changes, control setting modifications, or other mitigations).