



WEST LONDON RAMPED CAPACITY SCHEME TRIAL

A guide for customers and stakeholders

March 2023

Background

SSEN has six Grid Supply points located in the West London area where the transmission network meets the distribution network. West London has always been a very busy part of the SSEN network but applications for distribution capacity have recently increased dramatically.

The increase in distribution applications, combined with an increase in applications to the transmission system, has triggered the need for significant network upgrades to the upstream transmission network and the local distribution network. As a result, some customers seeking electricity connections with more than 250kVA capacity in the West London area have been advised of delays of up to fourteen years.

Current rules governing the allocation of electricity capacity require it to be provided on a first come, first served basis. This means that any customer seeking connection may be required to wait until any reinforcement work(s) triggered by earlier customers (at either distribution or transmission level) is complete.

These protracted timescales have been driven largely by multiple large demand customers (predominantly data centre and battery projects) seeking to connect either to SSEN's distribution network or the wider transmission network.

Solution and eligibility

Following careful collaborative consideration, SSEN, NGENSO and NGET have jointly agreed an innovative whole system trial solution that will allow smaller demand projects up to 1MVA to connect at a local distribution level (11kV), without triggering a requirement to be assessed at transmission level. The same rule can apply for demand projects larger than 1MVA, where a ramped or phased build out of projects can be agreed to ensure no more than 1MVA demand increase each financial year.

If the following criteria are met, your project could be eligible for a Ramped Capacity Scheme offer:

- You can build out your project regularly in equal stages (no greater than 999kVA) each financial year.
- You can meet milestones which are required for your project build and provide the evidence of the satisfactory completion of those milestones as a pre-condition to your staged connection.
- Your point of connection will be onto the 11kV network at one of the applicable GSPs (Amersham, Ealing, Iver, Laleham, North Hyde, Willesden)
- Your connection is for an electrical capacity greater than 1MVA but less than 10MVA.
- There is no requirement for distribution reinforcement which would prevent such early connection. Where distribution reinforcements prevent ramping, then ramping may only take place after the applicable reinforcements have completed.
- National Grid continues to be able to support the Ramping Capacity Scheme for this connection. National Grid has indicated that it may withdraw its approval of the Ramped Capacity Scheme trial at any time and all Ramped Capacity Scheme offers are conditional upon and entirely subject to National Grid permitting the use of early released capacity at the GSP at any time.



If your connection can meet the above criteria, no Transmission Impact Assessment should be required and once any distribution works required to provide the initial connection are complete, the first stage of ramped capacity will be available to you in accordance with the West London Ramped Capacity Scheme trial.

The West London Ramped Capacity Scheme trial will be available to applicants from 01 April 2023. The standard application forms for demand customers (found here on our website: [New electricity supplies - SSEN](#)) can be utilised for a ramped connection application.

Please clearly highlight on your application if you wish your project to be considered as part of the West London Ramped Capacity Scheme trial. If you have an existing standard connection offer, you will need to apply separately for a ramped connection offer. If you subsequently choose to pursue the ramped offer, we will terminate the standard offer you hold, and the queue position of the ramped offer will reflect the status of your project.

Contact details

For inquiries relating to specific jobs or pre-application inquiries commercial.contracts@sse.com