

Distributed Generation Evaluation Map: Frequently Asked Questions

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Question: How do I get the information I want in areas where the feeders overlap?

Answer: There are areas where the feeders are close together. In some cases, this results in the feeders overlapping. In instances where a user cannot identify the information they are seeking by turning layers on/off, please contact the DSP team at DSP@pgn.com.

Question: What is a generation-limited feeder?

Answer: A feeder is designated as "Generation Limited" when the ratio of total generation (DG connected + DG in queue) to actual load (Net DML + DG connected) is greater than 90% and existing protective devices and equipment cannot adequately support backfeed. In some instances, it isn't the feeder that is at risk. The transformer to which that feeder is connected is at risk. There are instances where two or more "not limited" feeders are connected to a single transformer, pushing the generation-to-load ratio (generation:load) over 90% at the transformer. In these cases, we label the feeders attached to the transformer as "Generation Limited". When a feeder is designated as "Generation Limited", additional studies, and potentially upgrades, are required in order to connect more distributed generation.

Question: What does a negative Net Daytime Minimum Load mean?

Answer: Net Daytime Minimum Load is the minimum amount of load or power delivered to customers on a feeder during a period of time. This typically occurs during spring and fall days when heating and cooling loads are much lower. Net DML includes the load plus any existing generation on that feeder. A positive number indicates the load exceeds the generation on a feeder and power is flowing from the substation to the customers. A negative number indicates the generation exceeds the load on a feeder and power is flowing to the substation and potentially onto the transmission system. Net DML is allowed to be negative when there is adequate protection on the feeder and transformer.

Question: Can I move the feeder pop-up window so it doesn't cover the feeder on the map?

Answer: Unfortunately, there is not a means by which the popup can be moved. This will need to be addressed by trial and error - clicking in different areas of the map to get the map area and pop-up info you want at the same time.

Question: What does DG Ready mean?

Answer: A feeder or transformer is designated as DG Ready if it has adequate protection to minimize the risk of damage during a period of backfeed. These feeders and transformers are prepared to accept additional distributed generation, assuming there are no other constraints, such as thermal limits on connected lines or equipment.

Question: How much capacity is available on a DG Ready feeder or transformer?

Answer: Assuming no other constraints, a DG Ready feeder or transformer can accept additional distributed generation up to 80% of its thermal rating. Currently, the map and associated data do not provide the information necessary to quantify this amount. PGE is working on making this data available. In the interim, customers may request a pre-application report to get additional information for an area of interest.

Question: What is the source of the demographic data in the map?

Answer: The data come from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>

Additional information about the census data is available here:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>

Question: Where can I find definitions of the data elements that are included in the map?

Answer: The data elements that are available in the map and their descriptions are provided in the map's About Pop-Up window as well as the User Guide.

Question: How frequently is the map updated.

Answer: The map and data elements are updated twice annually. The date of the last update is located in the Feeder Pop-up Window and in the About Pop-up Window.