SEC. 20303. EFFICIENT GRID INTERCONNECTION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(2) ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT.—The term “energy storage project” means equipment which receives, stores, and delivers energy using batteries, compressed air, pumped hydropower, hydrogen storage (including hydrolysis), thermal energy storage, regenerative fuel cells, flywheels, capacitors, superconducting magnets, or other technologies identified by the Secretary of Energy, and which has a capacity of not less than 5 kilowatt hours.

(3) GENERATION PROJECT.—The term “generation project” means any facility—

(A) that generates electricity; and

(B) the interconnection request of which is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
(4) GRID ENHANCING TECHNOLOGY.—The term “grid enhancing technology” means any technology or equipment that increases the capacity, efficiency, or reliability of a transmission facility or transmission system, including—
(A) power flow control and transmission switching equipment;
(B) energy storage technology;
(C) topology optimization technology;
(D) dynamic line rating technology; and
(E) other advanced transmission technologies, such as composite reinforced aluminum conductors or high temperature superconductors.

(5) INTERCONNECTION CUSTOMER.—The term “interconnection customer” means a person or entity that has submitted a request to interconnect a generation project or an energy storage project that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission to the owner or operator of a transmission facility or a transmission system.

(6) PUBLIC UTILITY.—The term “public utility” has the meaning given such term in section 201(e) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824(e)).
(7) Regional Transmission Organization; Independent System Operator.—The terms “Regional Transmission Organization” and “Independent System Operator” have the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

(8) Transmission System.—The term “transmission system” means a network of transmission facilities used for the transmission of electric energy in interstate commerce.

(b) Deployment of Grid Enhancing Technologies.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue a new regulation, or revise existing regulations, to require the following:

(1) Consultation.—

(A) In General.—With respect to processing a request to interconnect a generation project or an energy storage project, the Regional Transmission Organization, Independent System Operator, or transmission planning coordinator, as applicable, shall—

(i) consult with the relevant owner of the transmission facility or transmission system, and the interconnection customer,
regarding deploying grid enhancing technology in addition to, or as a substitute to, carrying out a traditional transmission upgrade or addition, such as modifying or adding a conductor or substation element; and

(ii) study the efficacy of deploying grid enhancing technology for the purposes described in clause (i).

(B) UNCONNECTED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES.—With respect to a request to interconnect a generation project or an energy storage project to a transmission facility that is not connected to a transmission system, the owner or operator of such a facility shall—

(i) consult with the interconnection customer regarding deploying grid enhancing technology in addition to, or as a substitute to, carrying out a traditional transmission upgrade or addition, such as modifying or adding a conductor or substation element; and

(ii) study the efficacy of deploying grid enhancing technology for the purposes described in clause (i).
(2) DEPLOYMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An interconnection cus-
tomer that is consulted with under paragraph
(1) may request that grid enhancing technology
that was the subject of such consultation be de-
ployed.

(B) DETERMINATION.—The owner of the
transmission facility or transmission system to
which such technology would be deployed shall
determine whether to deploy such technology,
subject to an appeal under subparagraph (C).

(C) APPEAL.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An interconnection
customer that requests deployment of grid
enhancing technology under subparagraph
(A) may submit to the Commission a re-
quest for a hearing to appeal the decision
under subparagraph (B) to not deploy grid
enhancing technology.

(ii) EFFECT OF APPEAL.—After a
hearing under clause (i), the Commission
may order the owner of the transmission
facility or transmission system to deploy
the grid enhancing technology requested
under subparagraph (A).
(3) UPDATING PROCEDURES.—Not later than the date that is 3 months after the date on which the Commission issues or revises regulations as required under this subsection, each public utility shall make a filing pursuant to section 205 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824d) to amend their interconnection procedures to comply with such regulations.