

POLK-BURNETT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Policy No.: **M-32**

Subject: **Distributed Generation**

I. Objective

To support Distributed Generation as a viable and sound means of meeting the electric needs of various consumer groups, and establish the procedures for supporting such service requests. These procedures shall take into account issues of safety, reliability and cost fairness to all members.

II. Policy and Availability

Distributed Generation interconnection is available under this policy for all single-phase and three-phase Eligible Cooperative Members, as hereinafter defined, who wish to install facilities using resources to generate all or part of the electrical requirements of the member, where such facilities are connected in parallel with the Cooperative, and where such facilities are approved by the Cooperative. Interconnection is subject to all other rules, conditions, practices and policies of the Cooperative in addition to those set out in this policy.

Distributed Generation shall take into account applicable laws, the voluntary consideration by the Cooperative of operational guidelines contained in PSC Chapter 119 Wisconsin Administrative Code, application forms as amended, interconnection agreements as amended, and issues of safety, reliability and cost fairness.

III. Definitions

- A. Eligible Cooperative Member means a Cooperative member that owns or operates a solar, wind, or other Eligible Electrical Generating Facility with a generation capacity of 20 kilowatts (kW) or less that is located on the member's premises and is intended primarily to offset the member's own electric requirements by being connected to the member's electrical system.
- B. Eligible Electrical Generating Facility (EEGF) means a generator of 20 kW or less powered by solar electric energy, wind, dedicated crops grown for electricity generation, anaerobic digestion of livestock or food processing waste, fuel cells or micro turbines powered by renewable fuels, or hydroelectric energy.
- C. According to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Sec. 1251 (11))), "net metering means services to an electric consumer under which electric energy generated by that electric member from an eligible on-site generating facility and delivered to the local distribution facilities may be used to offset electric energy provided by the electric utility to the electric member during the applicable billing period." The purpose of net metering is to allow members to offset their individual loads, not become independent power producers. Therefore, generation should be properly sized to a member's load. Under Cooperative policy, Net Metering means the measurement, during the applicable billing period to an Eligible Cooperative Member, of the net amount of electricity supplied by the Cooperative to the member's premises or provided to the Cooperative by the member.
- D. Applicable Billing Period means the time window in which energy and demand are normally metered for cooperative members. This window in the case of smaller accounts

relates to energy only and is a monthly billing period. In the case of larger accounts, the window, as published in the appropriate rate schedule, includes both demand and energy and has an applicable billing period defined in that rate schedule.

- E. "Avoided Cost" rate shall be defined as the wholesale market value of energy on a kilowatt-hour (kWh) basis. The Avoided Cost is published monthly by Dairyland Power Cooperative. The monthly average is compiled from the daily MISO Day-Ahead LMP on-peak and off-peak prices averaged for the month. The previous month's Avoided Cost provided by Dairyland will be used to calculate the true-up rate.
- F. Off-Peak meter is a second or third meter at the service that is metering a subset of the main service's loads. The off-peak meter can be in parallel with the main meter or can subtract from the main meter (i.e. all usage is recorded by the main meter and the subset of off peak meter usage is subtracted from the main meter to get the final billing determinant)

IV. General Provisions

A. Power Quality

- i. The member-generated electricity must not, in the opinion of the Cooperative, adversely affect the Cooperative distribution system safety, reliability, line loading or control.
- ii. Where necessary, for reasons of public or employee safety or the potential for a distributed generation facility to cause problems with the service of other members, the Cooperative may require a separate distribution transformer(s) for a member having a facility.
- iii. Where necessary, to avoid the potential for a distributed generation facility to cause problems with the service of other members, the Cooperative may limit the capacity and operating characteristics of single-phase generators in a manner consistent with the Cooperative's limitations for single-phase motors.
- iv. The power output of the member must be maintained such that frequency and voltage are compatible with normal Cooperative service, and do not cause that service to fall outside the prescribed limits of standard limitations.
- v. The member's installation must be operated so that variations from acceptable voltage levels and other service impairing disturbances do not result in adverse effects on the service or equipment of other members, and in a manner which does not produce undesirable levels of harmonics in the Cooperative's power supply.

B. Interconnection

- i. The member's facility must have a system of automatically isolating the generator from the Cooperative's system upon loss of the Cooperative's supply. Paralleling equipment must meet the testing standards of UL1741 and IEEE 1547 compliance and undergo commission tests including anti-islanding capabilities prior to interconnection approval.
- ii. The Cooperative will require that there be provided between the parallel generator and the Cooperative's system, a lockable load-break disconnect switch. For installations interconnected at greater than 600 volts, a fused cutout switch may be substituted, where practicable. The switches must be labeled and accessible to the Cooperative personnel for the purpose of isolating the parallel generator's equipment from the Cooperative's system when necessary.
- iii. The Cooperative may require that the member discontinue parallel distributed generation operation and isolate the generating installation from the Cooperative's system for any of the following reasons:
 - a. To facilitate maintenance or repair of the Cooperative's facilities.
 - b. During system emergencies.

- c. At such times as the member's equipment is operating in a hazardous manner, or is operating such that it adversely affects service to other members or to nearby communications systems or circuits.

C. Member Responsibilities

- i. A Standard Distributed Generation Application Form, must be completed to the satisfaction of the Cooperative and approved prior to proceeding with installation of the system.
- ii. The Cooperative will require the owner of any new distributed generation project to pay for the cost of any necessary electric distribution system upgrades that the Cooperative determines are appropriate, before any new project is allowed to interconnect with the existing distribution system.
- iii. A Distributed Generation commissioning test must be successfully conducted, documented and approved by the Cooperative. Cooperative personnel must be present to observe and document this testing.
- iv. A Standard Distributed Generation Interconnection Agreement, must be executed between the member and the Cooperative.
- v. The member shall make equipment available and permit entry upon the property by Cooperative utility personnel at reasonable times for the purpose of: testing isolation and protective equipment; to evaluate the quality of power delivered to the Cooperative's system; and, to test to determine whether the local generating system is the source of any electric service or system problems.
- vi. The member is responsible for providing overcurrent protection for the installed equipment. The member's installation must comply with all applicable National, State and local codes.
- vii. The member shall maintain liability insurance equal to or greater than \$300,000 (20 kW or less) or \$1 million (greater than 20 kW) per occurrence, or prove financial responsibility by another means mutually agreeable to the member and the Cooperative. The Cooperative shall be listed as a *Certificate Holder* on the liability insurance policy.

D. Rates

- i. The rates for sales and purchases of electricity may change over time due to Cooperative board approved rate changes, and sales and purchases shall be made under the rates in effect for the month that any such energy is sold or produced.

E. Other

- i. This policy is subject to all Federal, State and Local laws, the Cooperative's articles of incorporation, bylaws, and existing policies and the terms and conditions of the Cooperative's existing power supply contracts and loan agreements. To the extent any provision of this policy conflicts with those obligations, the provisions of this policy are deemed null and void.
- ii. The Cooperative reserves the right to establish a maximum penetration threshold for net metered Distributed Generation to limit the total kW of interconnected generation that may qualify for net metering.
- iii. Each party to the Distributed Generation Interconnect Agreement shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend the other party, its officers, directors, employees and agents from and against any and all claims, suits, liabilities, damages, costs and expenses resulting from the installation, operation, modification, maintenance or removal of the Distributed Generation facility. The liability of each party shall be limited to direct actual damages, and all other damages at law or in equity shall be waived.

V. **Calculation of Distributed Generation System Capacity**

- A. The electric energy produced by the Distributed Generation system must originate at the member's premises served by the Cooperative.

- B. The energy production capacity of a member's owned Distributed Generation system will be deemed to be the manufacturer's name plate rating in Watts AC. In the event a member's maximum output measured during any 15 minute period exceeds 20 kW, the facility and interconnection shall then be governed by the appropriate size generation rules.
- C. Any Distributed Generation systems owned by the same individual, organization, corporation or affiliates will be considered on a per service location basis.

VI. Facilities 20 kW or less Generation Capacity

A. Eligibility for Net Billing

- i. If a member installs an Eligible Electrical Generating Facility with a generation capacity of 20 kW or less, the Cooperative may, subject to the other rules and conditions of Cooperative membership (including but not limited to as contained in the policy) purchase any excess energy produced by this system using net metering as described below at "avoided cost," subject to the following criteria:

B. Net Billing Method

- i. The Cooperative will install and maintain special metering equipment capable of measuring the flow of electricity at the same rate and ratio both into and out of the member's meter location. The expense for installation of this special metering equipment will be the responsibility of the Eligible Cooperative Member at the time of installation.
- ii. Members that installed Distributed Generation at locations with existing off-peak metering equipment will need further analysis to determine allowable sizing of system in relationship to off-peak metering load.
- iii. The Cooperative shall measure and charge or credit for the net electricity supplied to Eligible Cooperative Members or provided by Eligible Cooperative Members as follows: The energy consumed and generated offset each other, kWh for kWh, and over-generation is credited directly to the account each month.

One Meter Accounts

- a. If the member uses more energy than they generated, they only pay for the kWh that exceeds their generation (all other charges such as facility charges, PCA, taxes, etc. still apply).
- b. If the member generates more than they consume in a month, their generated kWh that exceeds consumption is credited directly to the account monthly at the avoided cost rate.

Accounts with Off-Peak Meter Accounts (Parallel or Subtract)

- a. If the member uses more energy on the main meter than they generated, they only pay for the kWh that exceeds their generation (all other charges such as facility charges, PCA, taxes, etc. still apply).
- b. If the member generates more than they consume in a month on the main meter, their generated kWh that exceeds consumption then is applied kWh for kWh to offset the off-peak meter usage.
- c. If the member generates more than they consume in a month on both the main meter and off-peak meter, their generated kWh that exceeds consumption is credited directly to the account monthly at the avoided cost rate.

VII. Facilities Between 20 KW and 40 KW and Facilities Over 40 kW Capacity

Proposed facilities with capacity over 20 kW but less than or equal to 40 kW shall be paid for all of their excess energy production by the Cooperative at the Avoided Cost rate within the stated limits of the policy.

VIII. Facilities Over 40 kW Capacity

Proposed facilities with capacity over 40 kW will have their power production purchased by the Cooperative or Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC). The terms and conditions for the energy purchase shall be determined after analyzing the purchase power agreement between the Cooperative and DPC. Connection of qualifying facility will occur on the members side of the meter and all excess energy produced will be purchased at the Avoided Cost Rate determined by purchasers established rate policies.

IX. Grandfathered Provisions

Those members that installed Distributed Generation systems prior to April 28, 2014 shall be grandfathered into the calculation for the credit of excess energy based on the methodology as outlined in the previous edition of this policy. The grandfathered provisions are in effect until April 28, 2024, or until the existing account is transferred to a different member or until the current EEGF capacity on the member's site is increased, whichever occurs first.

X. Administration

It shall be the responsibility of the general manager to administer and make recommendations for any changes to this policy.

Edward O. Gullickson, President
July 24, 2023