

Pascoag Utility District - Electric Net Metering Policy

POLICY

This policy sets forth interconnection requirements, equipment specifications, and proposed metering for residential customers who may choose self generation of electric energy using photovoltaic (PV), or wind co-generation electric generating equipment. The Burrillville Building Official must be contacted regarding installations to ensure all permitting requirements are met.

Definitions

"Net metering" means a system of metering electricity in which Pascoag Utility District (PUD) credits a Customer Generator. Please see our filed tariffs for actual Standard Offer rates. The tariffs are intended to accomplish the following:

1. PV system, Wind System owners and owners of any other PUD approved Co-Generation, will be credited the wholesale cost of power, which is PUD's SO Rate.

Generation credits will be based on energy on the customer generator's side of the electric revenue meter, up to the total amount of electricity used by that customer during an annualized period.

General Provisions

1. PUD will offer net metering to customers who generate electricity, on the customer's side of the meter, provided that the generating capacity of the customer-generating facility does not exceed ten kilowatts. Larger applications must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
2. This policy is intended for use at residential properties only: specifically, owner occupied, single family, and not to exceed three family homes
3. The customer is solely responsible for securing and complying with all local permitting processes including zoning, electrical, building inspection, and any and all other special permits that may be required.
4. Eligible generating sources include, energy resources as described by and pursuant to §39-26-5(a) including sources which simultaneously generate electricity and recover heat. The RIGL referred to herein is to be used as a guide only.

Traditional gasoline, diesel, propane or natural gas fired portable or permanently mounted emergency generators are explicitly excluded from this policy.

Meters and Metering

1. PV and wind systems will always require the installation of a detent meter by PUD. Co-generation facilities used for net metering shall be equipped with two meters. An additional meter socket (meter must be provided by PUD only) will be installed by the customer's contractor to measure the amount of electricity produced by the generating facility. The meter socket must comply with PUD standards, RI electric code and Burrillville Building Official's requirements and policies.
2. The generating facility must be inverter-based.
3. The aggregate generation capacity on the distribution circuit to which the Customer Generating Facility will interconnect, including the capacity of the Customer-Generating Facility, shall not contribute more than 10% to the distribution circuit's maximum fault current at the point on the high voltage (primary) level that is nearest the proposed point of common coupling as determined by the customer and forwarded to PUD
4. If a single-phase Customer-Generating Facility is to be connected to a transformer center tap neutral of a 240 volt service, the addition of the Customer-Generating Facility shall not create an imbalance between the two sides of the 240 volt service of more than 20% of nameplate rating of the service transformer.
5. The Customer shall be required to install a manual disconnect located on the line side, within 10 feet of the meter, and outside of the residence. Disconnect must be clearly labeled, unlocked and readily accessible by utility personnel.
6. Interconnecting Customer will be responsible for reasonable and necessary costs incurred by PUD for the purchase, installation, operation, maintenance, testing, repair and replacement of metering and data acquisition equipment.
7. If, at any time, any metering equipment is found to be inaccurate by a margin greater than that allowed under applicable criteria, rules and standards, PUD shall cause such metering equipment to be made accurate or replaced. The cost to repair or replace the meter shall be borne by PUD. Meter readings for the period of inaccuracy shall be adjusted so far as the same can be reasonably ascertained; provided, however, no adjustment prior to the beginning of the preceding month shall be made except by agreement of the Parties. Each Party shall comply with any reasonable request of the other concerning the sealing of meters, the presence of a representative of the other Party when the seals are broken and the tests are made, and other matters affecting the accuracy of the measurement of electricity delivered from the Facility. If either Party believes that there has been a meter failure or stoppage, it shall immediately notify the other.

Price Credits and Sample Calculations

The amount credited by PUD for electricity produced by the Customer-Generating Facility shall be at PUD's "blended" wholesale rate regardless of the type of generating facility.

If as a result of the annual reconciliation, the amount due on the Customer's bill is a negative number, this amount will be carried over to their next bill as a credit. If a credit is maintained for two or more annual reconciliations, the customer can request the credit to be issued to them in the form of a check.

PUD shall own the meter and the Interconnecting Customer shall pay to PUD a monthly charge to cover meter maintenance, incremental reading and billing costs, the allowable return on the invoice cost of the meter and the depreciation of the meter, if any. These charges, if any, are set forth in the applicable PUD tariff, as amended from time to time.

Requirements for Inverter Based Installations

1. PUD's distribution circuits generally operate with automatic re-closers, which activate following a trip without regard to whether the Facility is keeping the circuit energized. The Interconnecting Customer is responsible for protecting their equipment from being re-connected out of synch with PUD's system.
2. For Facilities that utilize photovoltaic (PV) technology, it is required that the system be installed in compliance with IEEE Standard 929-2000, "IEEE Recommended Practice for Utility Interface of (PV) Systems". The inverter shall meet the Underwriters Laboratories Inc. Standard UL 1741, "Static Inverters and Charge Controllers for Use in PV Power Systems". Based on the information supplied by the Interconnecting Customer, if CMLP determines the inverter is in compliance with UL 1741, the Interconnecting Customer's request for interconnection will be approved.
3. For Facilities that utilize wind technology or other direct current energy sources and employ inverters for production of alternating current, the inverter shall meet the Underwriters Laboratories Inc. Standard UL 1741, "Static Inverters and Charge Controllers for Use in Photovoltaic Power Systems." Based on the information supplied by the Interconnecting Customer, if PUD determines the inverter is in compliance with UL 1741, the Interconnecting Customer's request for interconnection will be approved.
4. The following information must be submitted by the Interconnecting Customer for review and acceptance by PUD prior to PUD's approving the Interconnecting Customer's request for interconnection:
 - An electrical one-line diagram or sketch depicting how the inverter will be interconnected relative to the service entrance panel and the electric revenue meter.
 - The make, model and manufacturer's specification sheet for the inverter.

Force Majeure

An event of Force Majeure means any act of God, labor disturbance, act of the public enemy, war, insurrection, riot, fire, storm or flood, explosion, breakage or accident to machinery or equipment, any curtailment, order, regulation or restriction imposed by governmental, military or lawfully established civilian authorities, or any other cause beyond either party's control. A Force Majeure event does not include an act of negligence or intentional wrongdoing. Neither PUD, nor the Interconnecting Customer will be considered in default as to any obligation under Interconnection Requirements if prevented from fulfilling the obligation due to an event of Force Majeure. However, a party whose performance is hindered by an event of Force Majeure shall make all reasonable efforts to perform its obligations under this Interconnection Requirements.

Indemnification

The Interconnecting Customer shall at all times indemnify, defend, and hold PUD harmless from any and all damages, losses, claims, including claims and actions relating to injury to or death of any person or damage to property, demands, suits, recoveries, costs and expenses, court costs, attorney fees, and all other obligations by or to third parties, arising out of or resulting from PUD's performance of its obligations under this Interconnection Requirements on behalf of the Interconnecting Customer, except in cases of gross negligence or intentional wrongdoing by PUD.

Protection Requirements

If, due to the interconnection of the Facility, when combined with pre-existing facilities interconnected to PUD's system, the rating of any of PUD's equipment or the equipment of others connected to PUD's system will be exceeded or its control function will be adversely affected, PUD shall have the right to require the Interconnecting Customer to pay for the purchase, installation, replacement or modification of equipment to eliminate the condition. Where such action is deemed necessary by PUD, PUD will, where possible, permit the Interconnecting Customer to choose among two or more options for meeting PUD's requirements as described in this Protection Policy.

Access and Control

Representatives of PUD shall, at all reasonable times, have access to the Facility to make reasonable inspections. At the Facility, PUD representatives shall identify themselves to the Interconnecting Customer's representative, state the object of their visit, and conduct themselves in a manner that will not interfere with the construction or operation of the Facility. PUD will have control such that it may open or close the aforementioned required meter socket bypass.

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