

ROCK ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Policy M25-08

SUBJECT:

Board Policy—Interconnection and Parallel Operation of Distributed Generation

OBJECTIVE:

To establish safety, reliability and economic standards for interconnection and parallel operation of distributed generation that encourage the development of member-owned on-site electric generation facilities using renewable fuel sources designed primarily to offset the member's electrical requirements while honoring the cooperative's obligation to provide electricity to all members on a cooperative basis.

DEFINITIONS:

Distributed generation is defined as any generation built within close proximity to the generating member's load regardless of generation capacity or energy source of such generation and includes but is not limited to:

- A. small scale environmentally friendly generators such as photovoltaics (PV), fuel cells, small wind turbines, batteries;
- B. microturbines or reciprocating engines fueled by renewable fuels such as landfill gas or methane gas from digesters;
- C. any qualifying facility (QF) under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA);
- D. any on-site generation with less than 5 MW of capacity interconnected with distribution facilities;
- E. commercial emergency and standby diesel generators installed, for example, in hospitals, hotels and farms;
- F. residential standby generators;
- G. generators installed by a utility at a substation for voltage support or other reliability purposes.

IEEE STANDARD 1547 – The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) Standard 1547 (2003) “Standard for Interconnecting Distributed Resources with Electric Power Systems”, as amended and supplemented, at the time the interconnection request is submitted.

IEEE STANDARD 1547.1 – The IEEE Standard 1547.1 (2005) “Conformance Test Procedures for Equipment Interconnecting Distributed Resources with Electric Power Systems”, as amended and supplemented, at the time the interconnection request is submitted.

NAMEPLATE CAPACITY – The maximum rated output of a generator, prime mover, or other electric power production equipment under specific conditions designated by the manufacturer and is usually indicated on a nameplate physically attached to the power production equipment.

SMALL GENERATOR FACILITY – The equipment used by an interconnection customer to generate, or store electricity that operates in parallel with the electric distribution system with a nameplate capacity of 10 kW or less. A small generator facility typically includes an electric generator, prime mover, and the interconnection equipment required to safely interconnect with the electric distribution system or local electric power system. These facilities have been approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory or must have been approved by the cooperative under a study process and qualify for expedited review.

UL STANDARD 1741 – Underwriters Laboratories’ standard titled “Inverters Converters, and Controllers for Use in Independent Power Systems”, November 7, 2005 edition, as amended and supplemented.

WITNESS TEST – For lab certified or field approved equipment, verification (either by an on-site observation or review of documents) by the cooperative that the interconnection installation evaluation required by IEEE Standard 1547 Section 5.3 and the commissioning test required by IEEE Standard 1547 Section 5.4 have been adequately performed. For interconnection equipment that has not been lab certified or field approved, the witness test shall also include the verification by the cooperative of the on-site design tests as required by IEEE Standard 1547 Section 5.1 and verification by the cooperative of production tests required by IEEE Standard 1547 Section 5.2. All tests verified by the cooperative are to be performed in accordance with the test procedures specified by IEEE Standard 1547.1.

APPLICABILITY:

This interconnection policy applies to cooperative members proposing to install and interconnect small generator facilities that:

- A. Have a nameplate capacity equal to or less than 5 MW;
- B. Are not subject to the interconnection requirements of MISO/PJM; and
- C. Are designed to operate in parallel with the electric distribution system.

INTERCONNECTION REQUESTS:

- A. Members seeking to interconnect a generator facility shall submit an interconnection request using the cooperative approved form. The request may be eligible for expedited interconnection review if the request is for a small generator facility using lab certified or field approved interconnection equipment.
- B. Interconnection equipment shall be deemed to be lab certified if it is evaluated by a nationally recognized testing laboratory (NRTL) and found to be in compliance with IEEE 1547 Standard for Interconnecting Distributed Resources with Electric Power Systems (including use of IEEE 1547.1 testing protocols to establish conformity), UL 1741 Inverters, Converters, and Controllers for Use in Independent Power Systems and NFPA 70 National Electrical Code.

- C. Interconnection equipment shall be deemed to be field approved if within the previous 36 months of the date of the interconnection request, it has been previously approved for use with the proposed small generator facility in a materially identical system application, and the prior approval process included a successful witness test.
- D. The member must submit to the cooperative plans of the proposed installation and must obtain approval for the installation. This approval process will include a review by the cooperative of the effect of the proposed generation on the cooperative's distribution system, including its protective scheme. The member requesting interconnection shall pay the cost of this review. No installation will be permitted that reduces reliability to other members or causes voltage conditions on the system to be outside of the limits of ANSI C84.1 Range A. No installation will be permitted that is expected to produce objectionable harmonics on the system. Any mitigation required to resolve harmonic problems created by a member-owned generator will be completed and paid for by the member.
- E. For generating facilities with nameplate ratings greater than 10 kW up to and including 10 MW, the Cooperative shall apply, to the extent practicable and as determined to be in the best interests of the cooperative, the procedures contained in the Small Generator Interconnection Procedures (SGIP) for generating facilities no larger than 20 MW as developed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Illinois Commerce Commission regulations governing interconnection standards.

EXPEDITED REVIEW:

- A. The cooperative shall review the application and evaluate the potential for adverse system impacts. Any costs of construction of facilities on the cooperative's system to accommodate the small generator facility shall be paid by the member.
- B. The cooperative shall, within 10 business days after receipt of the interconnection request, inform the applicant that the interconnection request is complete or incomplete and if so, what materials are missing.
- C. The cooperative shall, within 15 business days after the end of the 10 business days noted in B, verify that the small generator facility equipment can be interconnected safely and reliably.
- D. Unless the cooperative determines and demonstrates that a small generator facility cannot be interconnected safely or reliably to its system and provides a letter to the applicant explaining its reasons for denying an interconnection request, the cooperative shall approve the interconnection request subject to the following conditions:
 - 1. The small generator facility has been approved by local or municipal electric code officials with jurisdiction over the interconnections; and
 - 2. A certificate of completion has been returned to the cooperative. Completion of local inspections may be designated on inspection forms used by local inspecting authorities; and
 - 3. The witness test has been successfully completed or waived; and

4. The applicant has signed a standard small generator interconnection agreement and provided proof of insurance or otherwise complied with the terms of the agreement. When an applicant does not sign the agreement within 30 business days after receipt from the cooperative, the interconnection request may be deemed withdrawn unless the applicant requests to have the deadline extended. The request for extension shall not be unreasonably denied by the cooperative.
- E. When a small generator facility is not approved under this expedited review, the applicant may submit a new interconnection request for consideration under the procedures for review of larger capacity generator facilities with a nameplate capacity greater than 10 kW and less than 5 MW.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS AND INDEMNIFICATION:

- A. Throughout the term of this agreement, the Member shall carry a liability insurance policy issued by a licensed insurance carrier with an A. M. Best rating of B+ or better that provides protection against claims for damages resulting from (i) bodily injury, including wrongful death; and (ii) property damage arising out of the member's ownership and/or operation of the distributed generation facility under this agreement. The limits of such policy shall be at least \$500,000 per occurrence for generating facilities that are 10 kilowatts (kW) or less; or \$1,000,000 per occurrence for generating facilities that are between 11 kW and 100 kW; or \$3,000,000 for generating facilities that are greater than 100 kW. The member shall provide a certificate of insurance, naming Rock Energy Cooperative as additionally insured and containing a minimum 30 day notice of cancellation to the cooperative prior to connection of the member's facility to the cooperative's system. Any variance from the requirements listed in this paragraph must be approved by Cooperative management in writing.
- B. In the event the member chooses to self-insure, the member shall provide proof of financial responsibility satisfactory to the cooperative and shall indemnify the cooperative, its officers, agents, and employees against all loss, damage, expense and liability to any persons, including members, for injury to or death of persons or injury to property, including but not limited to consequential damages, interest, punitive damages, member's fees and court costs, proximately caused by the indemnifying party's construction, ownership, interconnection, operation, or maintenance of, or by failure of, any of such party's works or facilities used in connection with the operation of the generating facility.

MISCELLANEOUS REQUIREMENTS

- A. The cooperative shall have free access to the member's small generation facility and interconnection equipment at all times to monitor operation of the member's equipment, cooperative-supplied service equipment connected to such system, or to disconnect if the facility is not in compliance with the requirements of IEEE 1547 and the non-compliance adversely affects the safety or reliability of the electric system. The cooperative shall provide reasonable notice to the member prior to disconnection of the facility if possible.
- B. The cooperative shall have the right to inspect and approve all plans for parallel generation systems and the interconnection systems prior to initial operation or subsequent operation following modifications.

- C. The member shall make any necessary changes or adjustments to the additional facilities being operated in parallel to eliminate interference on the cooperative's distribution system.
- D. The member shall not energize the cooperative's system during any period of utility service interruption. The member's equipment must contain a disconnect device to which the cooperative has access and which the cooperative can lock in an open position to disconnect, for safety reasons, the member's electric generating facility for the cooperative's electric delivery system.
- E. The Cooperative has the right to disconnect Member's generation equipment from its system, under the following conditions: 1) Lack of approved application form or interconnection agreement. 2) Termination of interconnection by mutual agreement. 3) Non-compliance with the technical or contractual requirements, including IEEE 1547, UL 1741, and the cooperative's requirements for maintaining voltage standards of output and production of reactive power. 4) Distribution system emergency as determined by Rock Energy Cooperative 5) Routine maintenance, repairs, and modifications, but only for a reasonable length of time necessary to perform the required work and upon reasonable notice. 6) Failure to maintain safe and satisfactory operating conditions of generating equipment. 7) Unduly impacting the Cooperative's distribution system or power quality.
- F. Phase, frequency and voltage of the member's interconnected generation shall be compatible with that provided by the cooperative.
- G. Members shall pay the cost of interconnection, in accordance with the fee schedule, including initial and future transmission, distribution, metering, service and other facilities costs necessary to permit interconnected operations with the cooperative.
- H. Any auxiliary or reserve power service required by the member must be arranged in accordance with the terms of the cooperative's applicable policies/rates as modified from time to time.
- I. In the event of a dispute, either party shall provide the other Party with a written Notice of Dispute describing in detail the nature of the dispute. If the dispute has not been resolved within two Business Days after receipt of the Notice, either Party may request assistance from a reputable dispute resolution service for assistance in resolving the dispute. The service will select an appropriate dispute resolution venue, (e.g., mediation, settlement judge, early neutral evaluation, or technical expert) to assist the Parties in resolving their dispute. Each party agrees to conduct all negotiations in good faith and will be responsible for one-half of any costs paid to neutral third-parties utilized in the attempt to resolve the dispute. If neither party elects to seek assistance from a dispute resolution service, or if the attempted dispute resolution fails, then either Party may exercise whatever rights and remedies it may have in equity or law consistent with the terms of this policy.

ADOPTED: January 30, 2008

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2008

REVISIONS: November 2009, November 2018, May 2020

/s/ Marian A. Trescher

Marian A. Trescher, Secretary