



BLACHLY-LANE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
P.O. Box 70 Junction City, OR 97448-0070
90680 Highway 99 Eugene, OR 97402-9630
Tel (541) 688-8711 Fax (541) 688-8958

Net Metering Rules

Section I – Scope and Applicability of Net Metering Rules

(1) In accordance with ORS 757.300, these rules govern net metering facilities interconnecting to the Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative (hereafter “BLEC”) electric utility system. Net metering is available to a member-generator only as provided in these rules.

(2) For good cause shown, a member may request that the BLEC Board of Directors waive any of the net metering rules. The BLEC General Manager and a net metering applicant may mutually agree to reasonable extensions to the required times for notices and submissions of information set forth in these rules for the purpose of allowing efficient and complete review of a net metering application.

(3) As used in these rules:

(a) “ANSI C12.1 standards” means the standards prescribed by the 2001 edition of the American National Standards Institute, Committee C12.1 (ANSI C12.1), entitled “American National Standard for Electric Meters – Code for Electricity Metering,” approved by the C12.1 Accredited Standard Committee on July 9, 2001.

(b) “Applicant” means a person who has filed an application to interconnect a net metering facility to an electric distribution system.

(c) “Area network” means a type of electric distribution system served by multiple transformers interconnected in an electrical network circuit in order to provide high reliability of service. This term has the same meaning as the term “secondary grid network” as defined in IEEE standard 1547 Section 4.14 (published July 2003).

(d) “Electric distribution system” means that portion of an electric system which delivers electricity from transformation points on the transmission system to points of connection at a member’s premises.

(e) “Equipment package” means a group of components connecting an electric generator with an electric distribution system, and includes all interface equipment including switchgear, inverters, or other interface devices. An equipment package may include an integrated generator or electric production source.

(f) “Fault current” means electrical current that flows through a circuit and is produced by an electrical fault, such as to ground, double-phase to ground, three-phase to ground, phase-to-phase, and 3-phase.

(g) “Generation capacity” means the nameplate AC capacity of a power-generating device. Generation capacity does not include the effects caused by inefficiencies of power conversion or plant parasitic loads.

(h) "Good utility practice" means a practice, method, policy, or action engaged in or accepted by a significant portion of the electric industry in a region, which a reasonable utility official would expect, in light of the facts reasonably discernable at the time, to accomplish the desired result reliably, safely, and expeditiously.

(i) "IEEE standards" means the standards published in the 2003 edition of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Standard 1547, entitled "Interconnecting Distributed Resources with Electric Power Systems," approved by the IEEE SA Standards Board on June 9, 2005.

(j) "Impact study" means an engineering analysis of the probable impact of a net metering facility on the safety and reliability of BLEC's electric distribution system.

(k) "Interconnection agreement" means an agreement between a member-generator and BLEC, which governs the connection of the net metering facility to the electric distribution system, as well as the ongoing operation of the net metering facility after it is connected to the system. An interconnection agreement will follow the standard form agreement approved by the BLEC Board of Directors.

(l) "Member-Generator" means a user of a net metering facility who is also a BLEC cooperative member, and has the same meaning as "customer-generator" as defined in ORS 757.300(1)(a).

(m) "Net metering facility" means a net metering facility as defined in ORS 757.300(1)(d).

(n) "Point of common coupling" means the point beyond the member-generator's meter where the member-generator facility connects with BLEC's electric distribution system.

(o) "Spot network" means a type of electric distribution system that uses two or more intertied transformers protected by network protectors to supply an electrical network circuit. A spot network may be used to supply power to a single customer or a small group of customers.

(p) "Written notice" means a required notice sent by BLEC via electronic mail if the member-generator has provided an electronic mail address. If the member-generator has not provided an electronic mail address, or has requested in writing to be notified by United States mail, or if BLEC elects to provide notice by United States mail, then written notices from BLEC shall be sent via First Class United States mail. BLEC shall be deemed to have fulfilled its duty to respond under these rules on the day it sends the member-generator notice via electronic mail or deposits such notice in First Class United States mail. The member-generator shall be responsible for informing BLEC of any changes to its notification address.

SECTION II – NET METERING KILOWATT LIMIT

In accordance with ORS 757.300, these rules apply to net metering facilities having a generating capacity of 25 AC kilowatts or less. The cumulative generating capacity of all net metering systems may not exceed 0.5 percent of BLEC's single hour peak load.

SECTION III – INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF NET METERING FACILITIES

(1) A member-generator must install, operate, and maintain a net metering facility in compliance with IEEE standards.

(2) A member-generator must install and maintain a manual disconnect switch that will disconnect the net metering facility from BLEC's electric distribution system. The disconnect

switch must be a lockable, load-break switch that plainly indicates whether it is in the open or closed position. The disconnect switch must be readily accessible to BLEC at all times and located within 10 feet of BLEC's meter. (See Attachment "A" attached to the Net Meter Agreement)

- (a) For member services of 600 volts or less, BLEC requires an automatic disconnect switch upon loss of Utility source power. Customers generating DC power shall provide a net metering facility that is inverter-based.
- (b) The manual disconnect switch may be located more than 10 feet from the BLEC meter if permanent instructions are posted at the meter indicating the precise location of the disconnect switch. BLEC must approve the location of the disconnect switch prior to installation of the net metering facility.
- (3) BLEC may entirely disconnect the member-generator's electric service if the net metering facility must be physically disconnected for any reason.

SECTION IV – NET METERING FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

(1) To qualify for the interconnection review procedures set forth below, a net metering facility must be certified as complying with the following standards, if applicable:

- (a) IEEE standards; and
- (b) UL 1741 Inverters, Converters, and Controllers for Use in Independent Power Systems (January 2001).

(2) An equipment package will be considered certified for interconnected operation if it has been submitted by a manufacturer to a nationally recognized testing and certification laboratory, and has been tested and listed by the laboratory for continuous interactive operation with an electric distribution system in compliance with the applicable codes and standards listed in section (1) of this rule.

(3) If the equipment package has been tested and listed in accordance with this section as an integrated package, which includes a generator or other electric source, the equipment package will be deemed certified, and BLEC will not require further design review, testing, or additional equipment.

(4) If the equipment package includes only the interface components (switchgear, inverters, or other interface devices), an interconnection applicant must show that the generator or other electric source being utilized with the equipment package is compatible with the equipment package and consistent with the testing and listing specified for the package. If the generator or electric source being utilized with the equipment package is consistent with the testing and listing performed by the nationally recognized testing and certification laboratory, the equipment package will be deemed certified, and BLEC will not require further design review, testing, or additional equipment.

(5) A net metering facility must be equipped with metering equipment that can measure the flow of electricity in both directions, and that complies with ANSI C12.1 standards. BLEC will install the required metering equipment at its expense.

SECTION V – APPLICATION FOR NET METERING INTERCONNECTION

(1) A member seeking to interconnect a net metering facility must apply for interconnection review on a standard form available from BLEC and posted on BLEC's website. BLEC may revise the application form from time to time, but will require the following information at a minimum:

- (a) Applicant's name;
- (b) The type and specifications of the proposed net metering facility;
- (c) The contractor who will install the net metering facility;
- (d) Equipment certifications;
- (e) The anticipated date the proposed facility will be operational; and
- (f) Other information that BLEC deems necessary to determine compliance with these net metering rules.

(2) Within three business days after receiving an application for interconnection review, BLEC will provide written or electronic mail notice to the applicant that it received the application and whether the application is complete. If the application is incomplete, the written notice will include a list of all the information needed to complete the application.

(3) On request, BLEC will provide all relevant forms, documents, and technical requirements for submittal of a complete application for interconnection review under these net metering rules, as well as the identity and contact information of the BLEC employee assigned to review the application.

(4) BLEC will not be responsible for the cost of determining the rating of equipment owned by a member-generator or of equipment owned by other members.

(5) At the time of the application, an applicant may choose to simultaneously submit an executed standard form interconnection agreement.

SECTION VI – NET METERING INTERCONNECTION REVIEW

(1) A net metering facility meeting the following criteria is eligible for interconnection review:

- (a) The facility is inverter-based;
- (b) The facility has a capacity of 25AC kilowatts or less; and
- (c) Meets the requirements of a "net metering facility" as defined by ORS 757.300(1)(d).

(2) Within 10 business days after receiving a complete net metering application, BLEC will notify the applicant whether BLEC has determined that an impact study will be necessary prior to approving an interconnection for the proposed net metering facility. Such notice will include a non-binding, good faith estimate of the cost of the study to be conducted in accordance with good utility practice. Such study will:

(a) Detail the impacts to the electric distribution system that would result if the net metering facility were interconnected without modifications to either the net metering facility or to the electric distribution system;

(b) Identify any modifications to the BLEC electric distribution system that would be necessary to accommodate the proposed interconnection;

- (c) Focus on power flows and utility protective devices, including control requirements; and
- (d) Include the following elements, as applicable:
 - (A) A load flow study;
 - (B) A short-circuit study;
 - (C) A circuit protection and coordination study;
 - (D) The impact on the operation of the electric distribution system;
 - (E) A stability study, along with the conditions that would justify including this element in the impact study;
 - (F) A voltage collapse study, along with the conditions that would justify including this element in the impact study; and
 - (G) Additional elements determined to be necessary in BLEC's sole discretion.
- (3) After the applicant executes the impact study agreement, and pays BLEC the amount of the good faith estimate, BLEC will complete such study, and will notify the applicant within 30 calendar days whether modifications to BLEC's electric distribution system are necessary to accommodate the proposed interconnection. If modifications are necessary, BLEC will send the applicant an interconnection agreement that details the scope of the necessary modifications and a non-binding, good faith estimate of their cost. Upon applicant's payment of the good faith estimate, BLEC will proceed with such modifications consistent with good utility practice and availability of BLEC resources.
- (4) If BLEC has determined that no system modifications are necessary to accommodate the proposed interconnection with applicant's net metering facility, BLEC will approve proposed interconnection provided that:
 - (a) The aggregate generation capacity on the distribution circuit to which the net metering facility will interconnect, including the capacity of the net metering facility, will not contribute more than 10 percent 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.
 - (b) A net metering facility's point of common coupling will not be on a transmission line, a spot network, or an area network.
 - (c) If a net metering facility is to be connected to a radial distribution circuit, the aggregate generation capacity connected to the circuit, including that of the net metering facility, will not exceed 10 percent (15 percent for solar electric generation) of the circuit's total annual peak load, as most recently measured at the substation.
 - (d) If a net metering facility is to be connected to a single-phase shared secondary, the aggregate generation capacity connected to the shared secondary, including the net metering facility, will not exceed 20 kilovolt-amperes.
 - (e) If a single-phase net metering facility is to be connected to a transformer center tap neutral of a 240-volt service, the addition of the net metering facility will not create a current imbalance between the two sides of the 240-volt service of more than 20 percent of nameplate rating of the service transformer.
- (5) Within 10 business days after BLEC notifies an applicant that the application is complete, BLEC will notify the applicant that:

(a) The net metering facility meets all applicable criteria and the interconnection will be approved upon installation of any required meter upgrade, completion of any required inspection of the facility, completion of any required modifications to the BLEC electric distribution system, and execution of an interconnection agreement; or

(b) The net metering facility has failed to meet one or more of the applicable criteria and the interconnection application is denied.

(6) Within five business days after sending the notice to an applicant that the proposed interconnection meets the requirements of these rules, BLEC will notify the applicant whether:

(a) An inspection of the net metering facility for compliance with the net metering rules is required prior to the operation of the facility; and

(b) An interconnection agreement is required for the net metering facilities. If required, BLEC will also execute an interconnection agreement and send it to the applicant, unless the applicant has already submitted such an agreement with its application for interconnection.

(7) On receipt of any required executed interconnection agreement from the applicant, completion of any required modifications to the BLEC electric distribution system, and satisfactory completion of any required inspection, BLEC will approve the interconnection, conditioned on compliance with all applicable building codes.

(8) A member-generator will notify BLEC of the anticipated start date for operation of the net metering facility at least five business days prior to starting operation, either through the submittal of the interconnection agreement or in a separate notice. If BLEC requires an inspection of the net metering facility, the applicant will not begin operating the facility until satisfactory completion of the inspection.

SECTION VII –NET METERING INTERCONNECTION FEES AND COSTS

The following fees and charges apply to net metering facilities:

(1) BLEC's standard fee to review and consider an application for interconnection of a net metering facility is \$100 plus \$1 per kilowatt of capacity.

(2) When an applicant has paid a good faith estimate for the cost of an impact study or system modifications, BLEC will charge only the actual cost of conducting such study or making such modifications whether conducted by BLEC employees or outside consultants. If the actual cost of such study or modifications varies from the estimate, BLEC will either pay or collect the variance.

(3) If BLEC requires an inspection of the net metering facility prior to operation, the fee shall be \$50.

(4) The fee for annual inspections of net metering facilities shall be \$50.

SECTION VIII – REQUIREMENTS AFTER APPROVAL OF A NET METERING INTERCONNECTION

(1) Once a net metering interconnection has been approved under these rules, BLEC will not require a member-generator to test or perform maintenance on its facility, except for the following:

- (a) An annual test in which the net metering facility is disconnected from BLEC's equipment to ensure that the inverter stops delivering power to the grid; and provide documentation to BLEC.
 - (b) Any manufacturer-recommended testing or maintenance;
 - (c) Any post-installation testing necessary to ensure compliance with IEEE standards or to ensure safety; and
 - (d) The member-generator replaces a major equipment component that is different from the originally installed model.
- (2) When an approved net metering facility undergoes maintenance or testing in accordance with the requirements of these rules, the member-generator must retain written records for seven years documenting the maintenance and the results of testing.
- (3) BLEC has the right to inspect a member-generator's facility after interconnection approval is granted at reasonable hours and with reasonable prior notice to the member-generator. If BLEC discovers that the net metering facility is not in compliance with the requirements of these net metering rules, BLEC may require the member-generator to disconnect the net metering facility until compliance is achieved.

SECTION IX – NET METERING BILLING

- (1) Each monthly billing period, BLEC will charge a member-generator the monthly facilities charge and all applicable charges for the net electricity that BLEC delivered. If in a monthly billing period a member-generator has supplied to BLEC more electricity than BLEC has delivered to the member-generator, BLEC will apply the excess kilowatt-hours as a cumulative credit to the member-generator's monthly bill. BLEC will apply such credit at the avoided cost rate for each component on the bill that uses kilowatt-hours as the billing determinant.
- (2) Unless otherwise agreed by BLEC and the member-generator, the billing cycle is the difference in the meter reading dates.
- (3) BLEC will value any unused kilowatt-hour credit accumulated by a member-generator at the conclusion of the billing cycle at BLEC's avoided cost as annually determined by the BLEC Board of Directors. After such valuation, BLEC will credit the member-generator the amount so determined at the close of the billing cycle.