



P.O. BOX 138 • ASHLAND, MONTANA 59003 • OFFICE: 1-406-784-2341 • FAX NUMBER: 1-406-784-2279

## NET METERING INTERCONNECTION STANDARDS

### Interconnection of Customers Generation Facilities:

Tongue River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TRECO) recognizes that their members may want to take advantage of alternative on-site generation sources. This standard outlines the means and requirements of net metering interconnection of your generation with the TRECO distribution lines. While this interconnection standard assesses interconnection options, it is recognized that a member may generate without interconnecting to TRECO's lines.

### Net Metering:

Net Metering is defined as the interconnection of member owned generation from a renewable source to Cooperative facilities; in which the generation output of energy not used at the service is netted against the energy delivered by the Cooperative within the following guidelines:

- The Cooperative will not purchase energy produced by the member.
- Name-plate generation capacity shall not exceed 10 KW.
- Member generation is intended primarily to offset parts or all of the member's own electrical requirements at the service.
- A standard non-detent meter may be allowed to turn the direction the power flows. Two detented meters may be required if needed for automated meter reading systems.
- Charges for energy delivered by the Cooperative in excess of the energy flowing back into the system shall be billed monthly at a retail rate. KWh's may not be banked beyond the 12-month billing period. \*
- Monthly net metering facilities charges will be assessed for cooperative costs and expenses including distribution and transmission costs and expenses.
- The Generator will be required to sign an interconnection and operating agreement with the Cooperative.

\*Banking is a method of accounting, within a monthly billing period, for energy produced for export into the distribution system for later use at that customer's service. Tracking of the excess electricity for billing purposes begins after installation of net metering equipment by TRECO. The annual true up will be December 31 and the start of the 12 month billing period is January 1<sup>st</sup>.



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### **Technical Requirements:**

1. The generating facility shall be metered with a TRECO utility installed meter.
2. Any direct current (DC) generating facility shall be interconnected to the TRECO utility system through a static inverter that complies with the following standards:
  - o Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) standard 929, “Recommended Practice for Utility Interface of Photovoltaic (PV) Systems.”
  - o Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Subject 1741, “Standard for Static Inverters and Charge Controllers for Use in Photovoltaic Power Systems”
3. The installation shall meet all applicable safety, power quality and interconnection requirements established by the National Electric Code, the National Electric Safety Code, IEEE, and accredited testing laboratories such as Underwriters Laboratories.
4. The owner of the generating facility and/or the owner’s agents or representatives shall not alter the factory set points for the owner’s inverter without first notifying TRECO in writing of the owner’s intent to make any such modifications.

The generating facility shall be capable of being manually isolated from TRECO’s system by means of an external, visible load break, electrically located between the generating facility and the TRECO system. The disconnect switch should be located within 10 feet of the customer’s electric meter and shall be clearly marked “Generator Disconnect Switch” on a weather resistant placard. This switch shall be readily accessible to TRECO personnel at all times, and TRECO shall have the right to lock this switch open whenever necessary to maintain safe electrical operating conditions. If the disconnect switch will be located farther than 10 feet away from the TRECO meter, permission must be granted from TRECO and a weather resistant placard shall be mounted next to the meter indicating clearly where the disconnect switch is locate.

### **Interconnection:**

Prior to connecting a renewable energy system to operate in parallel with the utility, the eligible member-generator must comply Net Metered, Grid-connected Electric Generating Facilities of 10 Kilowatts or Less Peak Generating Capacity. Upon inspection and approval of the renewable energy system by the appropriate State or Local government electrical inspector, the utility will supply and install the necessary metering.

TRECO may require two meters for net metering. If two meters are required, existing meter shall remain in place



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as the facility meter. A second energy meter shall be installed on the output from the generator to meter the energy generated by the generator. TRECO will net the accounts between the facility and the generator to credit the customer for the energy generated as described under TERMS AND CONDITIONS below.

The member shall pay all costs associated with necessary distribution/metering system modifications directly resulting from the installation and interconnection of the customer's generator.

#### **Interruption of Reduction of Deliveries:**

TRECO may require the customer to interrupt or reduce deliveries of available energy when TRECO determines such interruption is necessary in order to construct, install, maintain, repair, replace, remove, investigate, or inspect any TRECO equipment or part of the TRECO system. Whenever possible, TRECO will give the customer notice of the possibility that interruption or reduction of deliveries may be required.

If at any time TRECO determines that either the customer's generator, or its operation, may endanger TRECO personnel, or the continued operation of the generator may endanger the integrity of TRECO's electric distribution system, TRECO shall have the right to disconnect the generator from TRECO's system. TRECO will give the customer notice of such occurrence as soon as practical. The customer's generator will remain disconnected until such time as TRECO determines that all condition(s) are safe to reconnect. TRECO is not obligated to pay for energy that would otherwise have been delivered to its system absent the occurrences described in this section.

#### **Terms and conditions:**

An eligible customer-generator served under this schedule is responsible for all charges for its applicable rate schedule including base, energy, demand, and seasonal customer charges. If during the applicable billing period, the electricity (kWh) supplied by the utility exceeds the electricity generated by the customer, the charges for the net energy (kWh) consumed will be in accordance with the customer's applicable metered rate schedule. If during the applicable monthly billing period, the electricity generated by the customer exceeds the electricity supplied by the utility, the customer shall be billed for the applicable distribution service charges, and the balance of the electricity generated shall be carried into the following billing period and appear as a credit on the customer's account, until the customer's consumption offsets the credit or the end of the designated 12-month billing period, whichever is earlier. At the end of the 12-month period, any unused energy (kWh) credit accumulated during the previous 12 months will be granted to the utility, with no compensation to the customer. The start date of the 12-month billing period is January 1.