

OKEFENOKE RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

POLICY NO. 421

Net Metering of Member Owned

Renewable Distributed Generation Facilities

FOREWORD

Okefenoke Rural Electric Membership Corporation (herein after referred to as “OREMC” or the “Cooperative”) seeks to provide its members with the best electric service possible, and at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management. In some cases, Cooperative members may become interested in installing their own electric power generation equipment. In these cases, OREMC stands ready to work with its members to ensure that their generation equipment is installed in a proper and safe manner, and in accordance with all applicable codes, standards, regulations, laws and insurance requirements. In most of these cases, members will need to coordinate the installation and approval of their electric power generator with the local code inspection authority.

OBJECTIVES

This policy outlines the minimum requirements, from the system protection and operations perspective, for the connection of a member’s generator to OREMC’s distribution system. Such generators can be described by several different names such as distribution generator (DG), independent power producer (IPP), co-generator, or peak shaver. OREMC will refer to all these as Distributed Generation (DG). DG as described in this policy is a source of electric power that is not directly connected to a bulk power transmission system, but is connected to the distribution system.

This policy is applicable only to distributed generation facilities defined in Section A.6 of this policy. The interconnection of other DG to OREMC’s distribution system will be addressed with each member on a case-by-case basis. This policy is not applicable to generation intended strictly for emergency backups, open transfer peak shaving, or any other stand-alone operations where DG is never tied directly with OREMC’s distribution system.

This Distributed Generation Policy establishes the terms and conditions for the interconnection of distributed generation facilities and for providing net energy metering services.

A. Definitions

The following words and terms shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

1. **“Billing period”** means, as to a particular member, the time period between the dates on which the Cooperative normally reads the retail service meter for billing purposes.
2. **“Bi-directional meter”** is a meter capable of measuring (but not necessarily displaying) electricity flow in both directions.
3. **“Bi-directional metering”** means measuring the amount of electricity supplied by the Cooperative and the amount of electricity fed back to the Cooperative by the member’s distributed generation facility using a single meter.

4. **“Member”** means a member of Okefenoke Rural Electric Membership Corporation.
5. **“Member Generator”** means a member who is the owner or operator of a distributed generation facility.
6. **“Distributed generation facility”** means a facility owned and operated by a member of the Cooperative for the production of electrical energy that:
 - a. Uses a fuel cell or a renewable energy source;
 - b. Has peak generating capacity of not more than 10 kW for a residential application and 100 kW for a non-residential application;
 - c. Is located on the member’s premises;
 - d. Operates in parallel with the Cooperative’s distribution facilities;
 - e. Is connected to the Cooperative’s distribution system on either side of the Cooperative’s retail service meter; and
 - f. Is intended primarily to offset part or all of the member generator’s requirements for electricity.
7. **“Electric distribution system”** is the wires, poles, reclosers, breakers, regulators, transformers, and other associated equipment and facilities owned, operated, and maintained by OREMC for the purposes of the timely and reliable delivery of electrical energy to its members.
8. **“Excess net energy”** is the amount of energy received by the electric distribution system from the member generator that exceeds the amount of energy delivered to the member from the electric distribution system during the billing period.
9. **“Net metering”** means measuring the difference, over the billing period, between electricity supplied to a Member Generator from the electric grid and the electricity generated and fed into the electric grid by the Member Generator, using a bi-directional meter or an additional single direction meter.
10. **“Renewable energy sources”** means energy supplied from technologies such as a solar photovoltaic system, wind turbine, biomass system, or other technologies approved in the Georgia Green Pricing Accreditation Program.

B. Application Process

A prospective Member Generator that intends to interconnect with the Cooperative’s distribution system must:

- (1) Submit a completed Application for Interconnection of Distributed Generation Facility, including all attachments thereto, accompanied by payment of a distributed generation application fee in the amount as specified in Policy No. 409. The completed application and fee must be submitted at least thirty (30) business days prior to the date the member intends to interconnect the distributed generation facility to the Cooperative’s electric distribution facilities;

- (2) A representative from OREMC will review the Application and notify the prospective member generator within twenty (20) business days if the Application is approved or not approved. Any review or acceptance of the Application by the Cooperative shall not impose any liability on the Cooperative and does not guarantee the adequacy of the member generator's equipment to perform its intended function. The Cooperative disclaims any expertise or special knowledge relating to the design or performance of the member's distributed generation facility and does not warrant the efficiency, cost-effectiveness, safety, durability, or reliability of that distributed generation facility.

C. Requirements for Initial Interconnection

1. A Member Generator may begin operation of his distributed generation facility on an interconnected basis when:
 - a. The Application Process set forth in Section B above has been completed;
 - b. The member has executed the Distributed Generation Facility Interconnection Agreement with the Cooperative and is in compliance with all requirements set forth therein, including all applicable safety, power quality, and interconnection requirements established by the most recent versions of the National Electric Code, National Electric Safety Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, and Underwriters Laboratories. The Cooperative may adopt additional safety, power quality, and interconnection requirements.
 - c. The Member Generator has paid to the Cooperative all applicable charges and fees set forth in the Distributed Generation Facility Interconnection Agreement.
 - d. The Member Generator has made all payments required by and has otherwise complied with the conditions for extension or modification of the Cooperative's electric distribution system as may be determined herein and as set forth in the Cooperative's service rules and regulations.
 - e. The Member Generator has submitted to the Cooperative a copy of the final, signed, jurisdictional approval (Permit) for the member's distributed generation facility from any local government entity with jurisdiction over the member's distributed generation facility (generally the local building and inspection department).
 - f. The Cooperative has provided the Member Generator with written authorization to begin parallel operation of his distributed generation facility.
2. Any existing Member Generator who desires to modify, improve, or increase production of an approved Distributed Generation Facility shall contact Okefenoke Member Services Department for approval prior to initiating any change to the Distributed Generation Facility described in the signed Distributed Generation Facility Interconnection Agreement. Existing Member Generator requests shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

D. Net Metering

The Cooperative will use either a single-directional or bi-directional meter depending upon how the distributed generation facility is connected to the distribution system. If the distributed generation facility is connected to the distribution system on the Member Generator's side of the retail service meter, the Cooperative will use a bi-directional meter for net metering. If the distributed generation facility is connected to the distribution system on the Cooperative's side of the retail service meter, the Cooperative will install an additional single directional meter for net metering at the member's expense.

E. Obligations to Purchase Excess Net Energy

When the electricity generated by the Member Generator's distributed generation facility exceeds the electricity supplied by the Cooperative during the billing period, the Member Generator shall receive payment for the excess net energy pursuant to the Cooperative's Net Metering Service, Rider NMTR-001. However, the Cooperative will only be required to purchase such energy from Member Generators on a first-come, first-served basis until the cumulative generating capacity of all renewable energy resources equals 0.2 percent of the Cooperative's annual peak demand in the previous year.

F. Charges for Interconnection And Net Metering

The Member Generator shall be responsible for all costs of installing, operating and maintaining protective equipment and/or electrical facilities required to interconnect with the Cooperative's distribution system. The Member Generator shall be charged for the direct cost incurred by the Cooperative as a result of the interconnection and for providing net metering service.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies only to Distributed Generation Interconnection Agreements dated prior to November 1, 2020.

RESPONSIBILITY

The General Manager or designee will be responsible for carrying out the provisions of this policy.

Date Adopted: September 24, 2020 Supersedes: September 26, 2019

Effective Date: November 1, 2020