
POLICY BULLETIN NO. 113A

SUBJECT:

Net Metering

OBJECTIVE:

To establish Cooperative generation interconnection for Net Metering of member-owned facilities, small power producers, and co-generators less than 10 kW Nameplate Capacity.

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) recognizes that its members may want to take advantage of alternative on-site generation sources. This policy outlines the means and requirements for interconnection of this generation with LYREC distribution system under terms and conditions that do not adversely affect other members economically and qualitatively. While this policy primarily assesses interconnection options, it is recognized that a member may generate without interconnecting to the cooperative lines.


GENERAL POLICY:

A. Safety and Reliability Standards

1. Safety of Cooperative personnel and protecting existing members from undesirable system operation is paramount. Interconnection between the Member's generation equipment and the Cooperative's electric system mandates the establishment by this Cooperative of reasonable standards to ensure the safety and reliability of the Cooperative's electric system, and to protect the Member and its generating system, the general public, and the Cooperative's personnel.
2. To ensure safe interconnection, the Member/Generator will be required to observe and follow IEEE 1547: Standard for Interconnecting Distributed Resources with Electric Power Systems, UL 1741: Standard for Inverters, Converters, Controllers, and Interconnection System Equipment for Use with Distributed Energy Resources, and other protection measures deemed necessary by the Cooperative's Engineering department.
3. The Cooperative will permit the Member/Generator to operate its generation equipment in parallel with the Cooperative's electrical system whenever this can be done without adverse effects on the general public, other utility consumers, or to the Cooperative's equipment or personnel. Certain protective devices (relays, circuit breakers, etc.), within reasonable Electrical Industry Standards specified by the Cooperative must be installed at any location where a Member/Generator desires to operate generation in parallel with the Cooperative. The



**LOWER YELLOWSTONE
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Date Adopted: 10/28/08

Date Revised: 2/4/2020

Date Reviewed: 04/19/22

purpose of these devices is to promptly remove the interfeed from the Member's generation whenever a fault occurs, so as to protect the general public and the Cooperative's facilities and personnel from damage due to fault currents produced by the Member's generator(s).

4. The Member's generation facility and associated equipment shall meet all requirements of applicable state and federal regulations, local, state and national codes and all standards of Prudent Utility Practice.

5. Interconnection shall be made in such manner that if the voltage from the Cooperative is absent, the electrical interconnection is immediately broken.

6. The Cooperative will not assume any responsibility for protection of the generator (s), or of any portion of the Member's electrical equipment. The Member is fully responsible for protecting its equipment in such a manner that faults or other disturbances on the Cooperative's system do not cause damage to the Member's equipment, the general public, the Cooperative's equipment and personnel.

7. The Cooperative and the generator owner must comply with all applicable provisions of the State Electrical Code, the National Electrical Safety Code and the National Electrical Code. Evidence of a valid State Electrical Permit must be provided prior to interconnection.

8. To protect appliances and equipment on the premises of the Member and other Members, the power generated by the Member shall not induce excessive distortion to the system's voltage or current sine waves. The maximum allowable distortion must not exceed 5% measured at the Member's service box.

9. If the generating system interferes with the operation of the Cooperative's equipment or interferes with other Member's services, the Cooperative reserves the right to disconnect.

10. The Member/Generators load, in conjunction with the generating system, shall not have a power factor of less than .95 leading or lagging.

11. To protect the generating system, and to protect all parties from electric shock, the Member shall supply and install automatic devices to positively disconnect their generating equipment from the system in the event of a disturbance or supply outage on the cooperative's system. The Cooperative shall be allowed access to this device at all times to permit periodic safety tests.

12. The Member shall furnish and install a disconnecting switch to be connected between the Cooperative's electric system and the generating system. This switch must provide a visual opening in the line and shall be located and equipped so that Cooperative personnel

can have access to operate and lock the switch in case of an outage or for work on the Cooperative's system.

13. The Member shall furnish and install all additional wiring and equipment needed to connect the generating system metering at existing service location. The meter socket shall be installed as close as possible to the existing service meter.

14. The Member shall advise the Cooperative prior to making any revisions to the Member's generation facility, the control system, or the interface between the two power systems after the installation. Any such revision must be acceptable to the Cooperative.

15. Should the parallel operation of the Member's generation facility cause interference or adversely affect voltage, frequency, harmonic content or power factor in the Cooperative's system or other Member's services, the Cooperative may require disconnection of parallel operation until the condition has been corrected.

16. The Cooperative reserves the right to inspect on demand all protective equipment including relays and circuit breakers owned and installed by the Member at the point of interconnection.

B. Definitions

1. **Alternating Current (ac)** - an electric current that reverses direction at regular intervals, having a magnitude that varies continuously in a sinusoidal manner.

2. **Distribution System** - the Cooperative's facilities and equipment used to transmit electricity to ultimate usage points such as homes and industries directly from nearby generators or from interchanges with higher voltage transmission networks that transport bulk power over longer distances. The Cooperative's Distribution System generally operates at voltages of 25 kV or less.

3. **Interconnection** - the physical system of electrical transmission between the distribution system and the generator.

4. **Member/Generator** - any entity that proposes to interconnect its generation facility with the Cooperative's Distribution System.

5. **Nameplate Capacity** - the total nameplate capacity rating of all the generation included in the member's generation system. For this definition, the "standby" and/or maximum rated kW (ac) capacity on the nameplate shall be used.

6. **Net Metering** - the interconnection of member-owned generation from a renewable source to the Cooperative's distribution system, in which the generation output over and above that consumed at the service location is netted against the energy provided by the Cooperative.

7. **Point of Interconnection** - the point where the interconnection facilities connect with the Cooperative's Distribution System. The Point of Interconnection is usually the point of metering, unless otherwise specified.

C. Applicability

1. All Cooperative members.
2. Small power producers and co-generators less than 10 kW Nameplate Capacity seeking interconnection.

D. Emergency or Standby Generators

1. Members may wish to install emergency or standby generators for those times there is a prolonged outage on the Cooperative system. The output from these installations is not considered for the purposes of Net Metering.
2. Permanent or portable generators shall not be connected through wiring internal to the member's home, business or any other structure that the Cooperative provides electrical service to unless the connection is made through a permanently installed transfer switch. The transfer switch shall be designed and installed so that the generator cannot be connected to the Cooperative's system in any mode of operation. When the switch is in the position that disconnects the Cooperative's service, it must have a visible opening and be lockable in that position or be a UL listed transfer switch approved by the Cooperative. Compliance with these provisions is necessary to prevent serious or possibly fatal accidents to Cooperative personnel as well as the public.
3. All transfer switches and/or transfer operating schemes must meet applicable building and electrical codes and be inspected by the appropriate state electrical inspector.
4. The Cooperative will require that an inspection be made by Cooperative personnel prior to operation of the member's generator.

NET METERING PROGRAM: (Less than 10 kW Nameplate Capacity)

Interconnections less than 10 kW nameplate capacity will be Net Metered and subject to the following guidelines:

1. The Cooperative will not purchase energy produced by the Member/Generator.
2. The total Nameplate Capacity of all generation interconnected at the site shall be less than 10 kW.
3. Generation source must use renewable resources as its fuel; defined to be solar, wind, hydropower, biomass, geothermal, fuel cells or another alternative generation system pre-approved by the Cooperative.
4. Generation is located on the member's premises, connected at a single service location, and intended primarily to offset part or all of the Member/Generator's requirements for electricity at this location only.
5. Net Metering members will be subject to all other terms of the applicable rate schedules including payment of monthly basic charges even if no energy is billed. Charges for energy delivered by the Cooperative net of the energy produced by the member's generator shall be billed monthly at the appropriate retail rate.



**LOWER YELLOWSTONE
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Date Adopted: 10/28/08

Date Revised: 2/4/2020

Date Reviewed: 04/19/22

6. Member generation in excess of monthly usage will be allowed to accrue into future periods for the current member at the service location. Accumulated energy credits expire at termination of service, transfer of service to another member, or January 1st of each year, without any compensation. Credit for energy may only be taken as a per kWh credit against member's monthly billed energy usage.
7. Generator must operate in parallel with the Cooperative distribution system.
8. A standard non-detent meter may be allowed to measure power flows. Two detent meters may be required if needed for automated meter reading systems. All costs above standard metering for the applicable member rate class will be borne by the member including, but not limited to, modifications to an existing meter base and wires, including a second meter and meter base if required.
9. PURPA provides that the Cooperative members shall not subsidize the qualifying facility. Thus, electrical service will be provided to the qualifying facility according to the Cooperative's current policies for any similar electrical service. All costs of the Interconnection are to be paid by the Member/Generator.
10. The PURPA regulations also mandate that service to other Cooperative members shall not be degraded because of the presence or connection of the qualifying facility. The owner of the qualifying facility shall construct, operate and maintain its facilities or cause them to be constructed, operated and maintained, in a manner conforming to all existing State and Federal safety codes, regulations and best operating practices. Failure to comply shall be cause for disconnection of the qualifying facility.
11. The Cooperative and the other Cooperative members are to be held harmless from all acts or omissions on the part of the qualifying facility. The qualifying facility will be required to carry adequate insurance and will be required to reimburse the Cooperative for any additional insurance premiums which may be caused by the connection of the qualifying facility.
12. Member must complete the Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative Net Metering Interconnection Application (Appendix A).
13. A processing fee of \$250 is required by the Cooperative to process the application.
14. Members seeking non-standard power purchase agreements must submit a written proposal with the Small Generation Interconnection application.

RESPONSIBILITY:

The General Manager/CEO shall be responsible for carrying out the provisions of this policy and may delegate certain responsibilities to staff members or consultants of the cooperative.



**LOWER YELLOWSTONE
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Date Adopted: 10/28/08
Date Revised: 2/4/2020
Date Reviewed: 04/19/22

(Application Form)

This application and agreement shall be completed and returned to Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative along with a processing fee of \$250 in order to begin processing a request to interconnect member-owned generation with Nameplate Capacity of less than 10 kW.

LYREC
Attn:
3200 West Holly
PO Box 1047
Sidney, MT 59270
Office number: 406-488-1602

Member/Generator Information

Individual requesting interconnection or company
Member/Generator Name: _____
Contact Person: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Facility Location (if different from above): _____
Telephone (Day): _____ Telephone (Evening): _____
E-Mail Address: _____

Project Design/Engineering (Architect) (as applicable)

Company: _____
Representative: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone (Day): _____ Telephone (Evening): _____
E-Mail Address: _____

Electrical Contractor (as applicable)

Company: _____
Representative: _____



LOWER YELLOWSTONE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Date Adopted: 10/28/08
Date Revised: 2/4/2020
Date Reviewed: 04/19/22

Address:
City: State: Zip:
Telephone (Day): Telephone (Evening):
E-Mail Address:

Application is for: new small generating facility
capacity addition to existing small generating facility

If capacity addition to existing facility, please describe:

Will the small generation facility be used to supply power to the interconnection customer?
Yes No

Requested point of interconnection:

Interconnection customer's requested in-service date:

Small Generation Facility Information

Data applies only to the small generation facility, not the interconnection facilities.

Energy Source: Solar Wind Hydro Other (state type)

Prime mover: Fuel Cell Recip Engine Gas Turbine Steam Turbine
Microturbine PV Other

Type of generator: Synchronous Induction Inverter

Generator nameplate rating: kW (Typical)

Interconnection customer or customer-site load: kW (if none, so state)

Is the prime mover compatible with the certified protective relay package? Yes No

Generator (or solar collector)

Manufacturer, model name & number:

Version number:

Interconnection Facilities Information

Will a transformer be used between the generator and the point of common coupling? Yes No

Will the transformer be provided by the interconnection customer? Yes No

Transformer data (If applicable, for interconnection customer-owned transformer):

Size: kVA

Transformer impedance: % on kVA Base

General Information



**LOWER YELLOWSTONE
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Date Adopted: 10/28/08

Date Revised: 2/4/2020

Date Reviewed: 04/19/22

Enclose a copy of site electrical one-line diagram showing the configuration of all small generation facility equipment, current and potential circuits, and protection and control schemes. This one-line diagram must be signed and stamped by a licensed professional engineer. Is one-line diagram enclosed? Yes ___ No ___

Enclose copy of any site documentation that indicates the precise physical location of the proposed small generation facility (e.g. USGS topographic map or other diagram or documentation).

Proposed location of protective interface equipment on property (include address if different from the interconnection customer's address) _____

Enclose a copy of any site documentation that describes and details the operation of the protection and control schemes. Is available documentation enclosed? ___ Yes ___ No

Enclose copies of schematic drawings for all protection and control circuits, relay current circuits, relay potential circuits, and alarm/monitoring circuits (if applicable).
Are schematic drawings enclosed? ___ Yes ___ No

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS:

Note: 1) Inverter must have UL 1741 listing.

2) Separate disconnect required.

3) All applicable code requirements met.

4) Evidence of a valid Montana State Electrical Permit must be provided.



**LOWER YELLOWSTONE
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Date Adopted: 10/28/08

Date Revised: 2/4/2020

Date Reviewed: 04/19/22

This Interconnection Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into this _____ day of _____, 20____, by Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("Cooperative"), a Montana corporation, and _____ ("Member/Generator"), each hereinafter sometimes referred to individually as "Party" or both referred to collectively as the "Parties". In consideration of the mutual covenants set forth herein, the Parties agree as follows:

This agreement provides for the safe and orderly operation of the electrical facilities interconnecting the electrical distribution facility owned by the Cooperative and the Member/Generator's facility located at

This Agreement does not supersede any requirements of any by-laws, applicable tariffs, rates, rules and regulations in place between the Member/Generator and the Cooperative.

1. Intent of Parties:

- It is the intent of the Member/Generator to interconnect an electric power generator to the Cooperative's electrical distribution system.
- It is the intent of both parties to operate their facilities in a way that ensures the safety of the Cooperative's system, the Cooperative's employees, and the public.
- It is the intent of the Cooperative to operate the distribution system to maintain a high level of service to their Member/Generators and to maintain a high level of power quality.
- The Member/Generator is responsible for establishing operating procedures and standards within their organization and shall be competent in the operation of the electrical generation system.
- The Member/Generator is responsible for notifying the Cooperative in writing if the electrical generation system is modified or expanded increasing the nameplate rating of the system.

2. Suspension of Interconnection: The interconnection should not compromise the Cooperative's protection or operational requirements. The operation of the Member/Generator's System and the quality of electric energy supplied by the Member/Generator shall meet the standards as specified by the Cooperative. If the operation of the Member/Generator's system or quality of electric energy supplied (in the case of power export) does not meet the standards as specified, then the Cooperative will notify the Member/Generator to take reasonable and appropriate corrective action. The Cooperative shall have the right to disconnect the Member/Generator's System, until compliance is reasonably demonstrated. Notwithstanding, the Cooperative may in its sole discretion disconnect the Member/Generator's generating plant from the Distribution Facility without notice if the operation of the Generating Plant poses a threat, in the Cooperative's sole judgement, to life or property.

3. Maintenance Outages: Maintenance outages will occasionally be required on the Cooperative's system, and the Cooperative will provide as much notice and planning as practical to minimize downtime.



LOWER YELLOWSTONE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Date Adopted: 10/28/08
Date Revised: 2/4/2020
Date Reviewed: 04/19/22

- 4. Access: Access is required at all times by the Cooperative to the Member/Generator's site for maintenance, operating and meter reading. The Cooperative reserves the right, but not the obligation, to inspect the Member/Generator's facilities.
5. Liability and Indemnification: Member/Generator shall assume all liability for and shall indemnify the Cooperative for any claims, losses, costs, and expenses of any kind or character to the extent that they result from Member/Generator's negligence or other wrongful conduct in connection with the design, construction or operation of Member/Generator's facility. Proof of insurance that names the Cooperative as an additional insured is required.
6. Term: This Agreement becomes effective when executed by both Parties and shall continue in effect until terminated. This Agreement may be terminated as follows: (a) Member/Generator may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving the Cooperative at least sixty (60) days' written notice; (b) Cooperative may terminate upon failure by the Member/Generator to generate energy from the Facilities within six (6) months after completion of the interconnection; (c) either Party may terminate by giving the other Party at least thirty (30) days prior written notice that the other Party is in default of any of the terms and conditions of the Agreement or the Rules or any rate schedule, tariff, regulation, contract, or policy of the Cooperative, so long as the notice specifies the basis for termination and there is opportunity to cure the default; (d) Cooperative may terminate by giving Member/Generator at least sixty (60) days' notice in the event that there is a material change in an applicable law, or any requirement of the Cooperative's wholesale electric suppliers or of any transmission utility, independent system operator or regional transmission organization having responsibility for the operation of any part of the System.
7. Billing: At the end of each month, if the Member/Generator has generated more electricity than they used, the Cooperative credits (banks) the net kilowatt-hours produced at the retail power rate. If the Member/Generator uses more electricity than they generate, they pay the difference. Member generation in excess of monthly usage will be allowed to accrue into future periods for the current member at the service location. Accumulated energy credits expire at termination of service, transfer of service to another member, or January 1st of each year, without any compensation to the current member. Credit for energy may only be taken as a per kWh credit against member's monthly billed energy usage. Member/Generator generated kilowatt hour credits cannot be used to offset demand charges, reactive power charges, or the monthly basic charge.

8. AGREED TO BY:

Member/Generator - Name Title Date
LYREC - Name Title Date