

Operating Policy Number A9-24

Subject: Connection of Distributed Generation Systems

Policy: Customers are often unaware that connection of any type of Distributed Generation system, such as windmills, solar panels, etc., to the Customer's premises wiring constitutes a Grid Interconnection. Distributed Generation systems may interject electric power onto the electric grid by parallel operation and reverse flow through the revenue meter. Such parallel operation presents a safety hazard to WCMES employees and raise questions about payment for excess energy generated. This Operating Policy outlines the conditions under which Distributed Generation systems will be permitted to be inter-connected with the WCMES distribution system.

Procedure:

1. Any Distributed Generation system which is connected to a Customer's premises through a double-throw switch, which eliminates the possibility of parallel operation, will be permitted. Such systems are required to be approved by the State of Tennessee Deputy Electrical Inspector.
2. Due to the WCMES Power Contract with TVA, WCMES is not allowed to purchase any power generated by any Distributed Generation system. For this reason, most such systems participate in TVA's Green Power Providers Program. All such installations will be governed by Operating Policy A9-23.
3. Any Distributed Generation system not covered under 1. or 2. above shall comply with the following requirements:
 - a. All Distributed Generation applications shall be installed according to the latest revision of IEEE 1547 standard for interconnecting Distributed Resources with Electric Power including use of the IEEE 1547.1 testing protocols.
 - b. The Customer must provide evidence that the installation has been inspected and approved by the State of Tennessee Deputy Electrical Inspector, meeting standards of the current NEC.
 - c. An external manual disconnect must be provided and labeled "WCMES Disconnect". Such disconnect shall have an outside lever, lockable, and be accessible to WCMES at all times. WCMES and Customer shall mutually agree where such Disconnect shall be installed.

d. The Distributed Generation system shall not be able to interject electric power onto the WCMES distribution grid during power outage situations.

4. Any Distributed Generation system not in compliance with this Operating Policy constitutes an Unauthorized Grid Interconnection. Any Customer found to be operating with an Unauthorized Grid Interconnection will be notified, and given 60 days in which to bring the Distributed Generation system into compliance. If the Distributed Generation system is not brought into compliance, WCMES will disconnect service to the premises until corrections are made.
5. WCMES cannot compensate the Customer for any energy supplied to the electric distribution grid by reverse flow through the revenue meter, and cannot offer "net metering" to the Customer. The Customer should take these restrictions into consideration when sizing the system.

Date Adopted: 8-3-17

Signed


