

HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Consumer Guidelines for Electric Power Generator Installation and Interconnection

Your electric cooperative seeks to provide its members and patrons with the best electric service possible, and at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management. In some cases, cooperative members and patrons may become interested in installing their own electric power generation equipment. In these cases, your cooperative stands ready to work with you to ensure that your 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, you will also need to coordinate the installation and approval of your electric power generator with the local code inspection authority. Your cooperative engineers and customer service representatives can also help identify the appropriate contact for this purpose.

Small Generators Not Interconnected with the Cooperative Distribution System

Generators that are not interconnected with cooperatives lines do not require cooperative approval prior to installation. However, we would appreciate notification and will be happy to assist you in any way we can to ensure the system functions safely and effectively.

Small Generator Installation not interconnected with the Cooperative Distribution System (all generators)

If you are considering installation of a small emergency generator, typically running on gasoline or diesel fuel oil, you are probably not planning to interconnect your generator with the cooperative electric power distribution system. It is important that your installation is safe to you, safe to other customers and to our utility workers. It also should not interfere with your electric cooperative's reliable supply of electric power to your residence or other facility. To accomplish this, care must be taken to install your generator so that it will only start up to serve your entire load when you have disconnected from the electric power grid. This type of installation requires a Double-Pole, Double-Throw switch. This is a transfer switch that isolates the cooperative source from the generator source eliminating the possibility of the generator back-feeding into the cooperative power lines. **This back-feed situation is very dangerous for the linemen working on the power lines.**

Our cooperative engineers are available to help you review your installation plans to ensure that you will not endanger safety or reliability of the cooperative's electrical distribution system.

Generators Interconnected with the Cooperative Distribution System

When installing a generator and planning to interconnect with the distribution system, we must review your plans to ensure that personnel safety and system reliability will not be compromised. If you are interested in selling some or all of the power that you generate, 1) we have a program in place for the purchase of the energy from consumers and/or 2) we are willing to wheel excess power for you.

Generator Installation and Interconnection with the Cooperative Distribution System (all generators)

Customers may wish to install their new generator and interconnect it with the cooperative electric distribution system. In these cases, you need to complete the Operation of Customer Owned Generation Application Form and pay the application fee. If your proposed generator installation is to be interconnected you must complete Parts 1 and 2 of the application. A check made out to the cooperative in the amount of the proper fee must accompany the application. An application fee schedule is attached. Submit your application to your electric cooperative representative as indicated below.

Once we receive your application, we will review your proposed generator installation. Generally the size of the generator to be interconnected defines the level of study work and potential system upgrades required. If we approve your application, we will let you know if there are special steps you need to take during the generator installation process. We may request additional information regarding your planned installation. Prior to generator interconnection, we will also ask you to sign an Interconnection Agreement in which you agree to operate your generator safely, maintain the unit properly, and maintain insurance as needed. We will furnish you an advance copy of the Interconnection Agreement upon request.

You can give us a call at anytime during this review process to find out the status of your application. If your application is not approved for any reason, we will explain the reason and be available to discuss your plans.

As part of our application review process, we will examine the ability of the cooperative electric distribution system to accept your new power generation unit. On certain parts of our system, we may need to replace existing equipment or add some new equipment in order to accommodate customer generation. Your cooperative will then incur costs beyond what is normally required to operate and maintain the system to benefit all members. To be fair to all members, you will need to pay for any system upgrades that will be needed. If this is the case for your planned generator installation, we will advise you of the additional cost, and seek your agreement before approving your application. You will also be asked to sign a system upgrade contract that obligates you to reimburse us for the additional expense incurred on your behalf.

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Submit your application and fee to your electric cooperative representative as follows:

Cooperative contacts:

Contact: Jim Sands
Title: VP of Electric and Network
Address: 2121 Hwy 2 West
PO Box 2330
Havre, MT 59501
Phone: (406) 394-7804
Fax: (406) 394-7815
e-mail: jsands@itstriangle.net

Or

Contact: Craig Gates
Title: CEO/GM
Address: 2121 Hwy 2 West
PO Box 2330
Havre, MT 59501
Phone: (406) 394-7804
Fax: (406) 394-7801
e-mail: hilltrigm@itstriangle.net

Or

Contact: Warren Schmitt
Title: Operations Supervisor
Address: 2121 Hwy 2 West
PO Box 2330
Havre, MT 59501
Phone: (406) 394-7804
Fax: (406) 394-7815
e-mail: wschmitt@itstriangle.net

Application Fees Schedule and Submission Requirements

DG Size	Operating Characteristics	Application	Application Fee
All Small Generators	Isolated	Not Required	None
Up to 10 kW	Parallel operation, either power export or no power export	Parts 1 & 2	\$500
> 10kW to < 150kW	No power export, parallel operation	Parts 1 & 2	\$750
>10kW to < 150kW	Power export	Parts 1 & 2	\$1000
>150kW to < 10MW	See Small Generator	Interconnection	Policy
>10MW	See Large Generator	Interconnection	Policy