



Interconnection Process for Distributed Resources

Firelands Electric Cooperative is committed to providing safe and reliable electric service to our member-consumers at the lowest practical cost. This means that Firelands Electric will perform as efficiently as possible to assure the continued safety of its employees, and the public, while providing reliable electric service to the cooperative's more than 9,200 member-consumers.

Overview of General Interconnection Process

Improper connection and operation of any source of electrical power, such as a distributed resource (e.g. renewable generators and energy storage technologies) in conjunction with Firelands Electric Cooperative's distribution system could jeopardize the safety of the cooperative's employees, contractors, and the public. Improper connection can also degrade the reliability and quality of the electric power provided to the cooperative's member-consumers.

Therefore, no source of electrical power shall be operated parallel to Firelands Electric Cooperative's distribution system without the written approval of the electric utility. Members may apply for interconnection by completing the cooperative's Application for Distributed Resource and providing design specification sheets that meet the cooperative's interconnection requirements for proper installation guidelines.

Firelands Electric Cooperative wishes to minimize the time and expense involved with the interconnection process consistent with maintenance of system safety and reliability, in addition to compliance with the applicable regulatory requirements. For more in-depth information, please visit www.firelandsec.com/distribution-generation.

Step 1: Contact Firelands Electric Cooperative.

The member-consumer of Firelands Electric needs to contact the cooperative's office by telephone, e-mail, or U.S. mail. Based upon the member's request and preliminary plans, Firelands Electric will advise the member-consumer on the required interconnection application process.

Step 2: Member-Consumer submits a completed application.

Any homeowner or business proposing to operate any type of distributed resource in conjunction with Firelands Electric Cooperative's distribution system must first submit a completed application to request review and approval of the proposed renewable system interconnection. For the application to be considered complete, the request must be submitted on the proper application form and must include all information requested and payment of monies due at the time of application.

Step 3: Firelands Electric Cooperative reviews the application and system outline.

In order for the electric utility to process a member-consumer request for distributed resource interconnection, the submitted application form must be complete and proposed system must meet all safety requirements. Upon receipt of an application form, Firelands Electric Co-op will review the application for completeness.

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Step 3: continued

Firelands Electric Cooperative will first determine if the proposed distributed resource meets the technical guideline requirements for interconnection. If it is determined that the proposed distributed resource does not meet the technical requirements, Firelands Electric will notify the member-consumer and provide a list of specific changes necessary for the proposed renewable system to meet the cooperative's technical guidelines. If the member-consumer makes the necessary changes to comply with the cooperative's interconnection safety standards and technical requirements, Firelands will complete the internal system study.

Based upon an interconnection request's position in the cooperative's work queue and any applicable time limits, Firelands Electric will perform an internal system study to determine compliance with the cooperative's technical requirements and to evaluate system impact of the proposed distributed resource. In order to properly assess the system impact, additional information may be requested. The system study and scope of work can vary depending upon the type, size, and proposed use of the distributed resource.

Step 4: Firelands Electric Cooperative contacts the member-consumer.

If the cooperative determines the application form is incorrect and/or is incomplete, Firelands Electric will notify the member-consumer within twenty (20) business days and provide the correct form and/or a description of the information needed to determine compliance with the technical guideline requirements for interconnection and the potential system impact of the distributed resource.

Upon receipt of the customer's payment and completion of any necessary study, minor system modifications and system upgrades, and/or completion of customer facility changes necessary to accommodate the member-consumer's distributed resource, Firelands Electric Cooperative will contact the member-consumer to schedule installation of the bi-directional meter and signing of required agreement paperwork.

Step 5: Installation of Bi-Directional Meter & Delivery of Signed Interconnection Agreements

The member-consumer signs and returns the proposed interconnection agreement that is prepared by Firelands Electric Cooperative. The distributed resource is then inspected by the cooperative to ensure the utilities technical guideline requirements for interconnection have been met. Once system passes inspection, the electric utility authorizes operation of the proposed distributed resource in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system. Firelands Electric will then install a bi-directional meter and advise the member-consumer how to properly read the meter display and power-flow indicator. Following connection of the bi-directional meter, the utility will take photographs of the distributed resource and system disconnect for record purposes.

If the utility identifies problems during the system inspection, Firelands Electric Cooperative will notify and clearly identify the member-consumer of the deficiencies, and the utility may withhold authorization for parallel operation until such deficiencies have been properly corrected.

Step 6: Final Processes Completed by the Utility

Once Firelands Electric Cooperative authorizes operation of the proposed distributed resource in parallel with the utility's distribution system, final processes will be completed by the utility. The cooperative will update its Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and the member's account with the new equipment information that reflect the utility's distributed generation rate schedule.

If requested, Firelands Electric Cooperative will notify the distributed resource contractor/installer in writing of its authorization for the member-consumer to operate the generating facility in parallel with the utility's distribution system under the terms of its interconnection agreement.

