

I HAVE THE POWER TO *connect*

For net-metering customers who want to interconnect up to 2 megawatts of customer generation in Idaho

To protect the electric reliability and safety of our customers, we look at the big picture

Your project may affect the electrical reliability and safety of our other customers. Consequently you may be asked to purchase equipment outside the design scope of your project to eliminate those risks. Rocky Mountain Power considers the issues below for each interconnection, especially the larger ones.

- Power size and type of customer generation already connected (or planned to be connected) to the circuit.
- Locations of line reclosers and line regulators between the point of interconnection of your customer generation and the power system source substation.
- Minimum amount of power consumed by the existing customers on the circuit.
- The dead time between the interruption of fault current and the automatic reclosing of the fault interrupting devices on the circuit.
- Minimum power consumed by the customers connected to the substation transformer.
- Type of protection system used for the power transformer at the power system source substation.



Rocky Mountain Power welcomes your interest in customer generation. Our goal is to make the process for connecting to our system easy to understand so there are no unexpected and costly surprises after you begin your project. With that goal in mind, we have created this guide to get you started.

Every interconnection project is unique and we encourage you to contact us during the planning process and before you purchase any equipment. We can help you plan technical solutions for your project to ensure a high level of reliability and power quality – so our system and your interconnection will function properly.

This guide will introduce you to the general requirements and processes to connect to Rocky Mountain Power's system. Detailed technical requirements are contained in the following documents, which should be reviewed by you or the technical experts for your project:

- Interconnection requirements for customer generation available at rockymountainpower.net/customergeneration
- IEEE 1547
- UL 1741

Note that most generator installers should already be familiar with IEEE 1547 and UL 1741, or the documents are available online for a fee.

Also note, customer generation rules, credits and rates are subject to the oversight and changes made by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.

Rocky Mountain Power's general interconnection requirements

If you wish to connect generators to Rocky Mountain Power's energy grid you must ensure your projects do not compromise the safety, reliability and operability of the energy grid or place other customers' equipment at risk. This may increase project costs beyond your original scope.

A few of the technical requirements for interconnection of customer generation to the energy grid are:

- You will be required to provide an "anti-islanding" scheme. Islanding is a condition in which a portion of Rocky Mountain Power's system can stay energized and operate by itself even when our power is de-energized. If warranted, you will be required to pay for protection against islanding.
- Your generating facility must include a UL listed AC disconnect switch that provides a visible break, is lockable in the open position, and is located between the production meter and the sub-panel or other connection to the generating facility. Your disconnect switch must be accessible to Rocky Mountain Power personnel at any time of the day. Specific requirements may vary by state and system size.
- Your generation system shall not contribute to transient overvoltage conditions. This is accomplished either by using inverters that comply with the most recent version of IEEE 1547, or by effectively grounding your generation system.
- The protection system at your generation site must meet the latest IEEE 1547 standard and interconnection requirements for customer generation. If it doesn't, you will be responsible for purchasing and installing additional protection equipment.
- Please note, customer generation rules, credits and rates are subject to the oversight and changes made by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.

Inverter-based interconnection

Inverter-based generators include solar, fuel cell, small-scale wind systems and energy storage systems. Each interconnection project is assigned a 'Level' determined by the size and characteristics of the customer generation technology to be used:

| Level | Customer Generation system size | Customer Generation technology |
|---------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Level 1 | Less than 25 kilowatts | Inverter based |
| Level 2 | 25 kilowatts - 2 megawatts | Inverter based |
| Level 3 | 25 kilowatts - 2 megawatts | Inverter based Non-inverter based |

In addition to the general interconnection requirements listed above, each Level has additional interconnection requirements. Here are some of those:

Level 1

- The total combined customer generation power rating on the circuit with the addition of your system cannot exceed a reasonable portion of the total circuit annual peak load.
- The inverter to be connected is UL 1741 approved.

Level 2

- You must meet the requirements for Level 1 systems.
- The aggregate generation capacity connected to the circuit, including your system, may not contribute more than a safe portion of the circuit's maximum fault current.
- If you want to interconnect on a circuit having one or more non-inverter based systems, including rotating machines such as induction generators and synchronous generators, your project will be moved to Level 3.

Level 3 – Inverter-based or non-inverter based interconnection

Non-inverter based systems, irrespective of power capacity, will be evaluated in the Level 3 category. Inverter-based customer generation projects that do not meet the requirements for Level 2 will also be classified as Level 3. A few requirements are listed below:

- All non-inverter based interconnection requests will be processed per a state-mandated interconnection process. Learn more about the requirements at rockymountainpower.net/customergeneration.
- Level 3 interconnection requests may require one or more interconnection studies be performed by Rocky Mountain Power to determine feasibility, system impact, and cost of safely connecting your generation facilities to our system. You will be responsible for paying for the interconnection studies at our actual costs.
- Based on the interconnection studies, you may be responsible for purchasing and installing any necessary protection requirements such as fault detection schemes, reclose blocking, direct transfer trip or different breaker tripping schemes.

Rocky Mountain Power's general interconnection process

- Step 1.** Select a designer/installer who can build your project to conform to Rocky Mountain Power's interconnection requirements, IEEE 1547 and UL 1741. *Please protect your Rocky Mountain Power account information to prevent fraudulent applications being submitted on your behalf.*
- Step 2.** Complete a Customer Generation Application/Interconnection Agreement available at rockymountainpower.net/customergeneration. If you have questions, call us toll free at 1-800-625-6078.
- Step 3.** Submit your application. Rocky Mountain Power will review it, let you know if there are issues needing further study and notify you of the fees and taxes to be paid in order to complete your application. The review period typically takes 15 to 30 business days.
- Step 4.** After paying the fees and taxes, receive approval from Rocky Mountain Power via email.
- Step 5.** Install your project and have it inspected by the local authorities (city or county electrical inspector or other authority for your area).
- Step 6.** Submit your approved electrical inspection form from the local authority to Rocky Mountain Power.
- Step 7.** Rocky Mountain Power will install a meter within 10 days of receipt of your approved inspection.
- Step 8.** Start generating electricity!

Interconnection process timeline

