AMERICAN SAMOA ADMINSTRATIVE CODE
TITLE 12
Chapter 06

RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL GENERAL SERVICE INTERCONNECTION AND NET ENERGY METERING

Sections:

§ 12.0600. Definitions.

(a) "Eligible customer-generator," as used in this chapter, is defined as a metered residential (Class A) or small general service (Class B) customer of the utility that owns and operates a small solar and/or wind turbine energy generating facility, or a hybrid system consisting of two or more of these facilities, that is:

(1) Located on the customer's premises;

(2) Operated in parallel with the utility's transmission and distribution facilities;

(3) In conformance with these rules and the utility's interconnection requirements; and

(4) Intended primarily to offset all or a portion of the customer's own electrical requirements.

(b) "Interconnection facilities," as used in this chapter, is defined as the wiring, net energy meter or meters, and all other appurtenances thereto installed for the purpose of interconnecting the eligible customer-generator's renewable generating facilities to the utility's electric facilities.

(c) "NEC," as used in this chapter, is defined as the National Electric Code, as amended.

(d) "NESC," as used in this chapter, is defined as the National Electric Safety Code, as amended.

(e) "Net energy metering," as used in this chapter, is defined as the difference between the electricity supplied through the utility's electric grid and the electricity generated by an eligible customer-generator and fed back to the electric grid over a monthly billing period, provided that:

(1) Net energy metering shall be accomplished using a single meter capable of registering the flow of electricity in two directions;

(2) An additional meter or meters to monitor the flow of electricity in each direction may be installed with the consent of the eligible customer-generator, at the expense of the eligible customer-generator, and the additional metering shall be used only to provide the information necessary to accurately bill or credit the eligible customer-generator, or to collect solar or wind turbine energy generating system performance information for research or data collection purposes;

(3) If the existing electrical meter of an eligible customer-generator is not capable of measuring the flow of electricity in two directions, the eligible customer-generator shall be responsible for all expenses involved in purchasing and installing an additional meter or meters that is or are able to measure electricity flows in two directions;

(4) If an additional meter or meters are installed, the net energy metering calculation shall yield a result identical to that of a single meter; and

(5) Eligible customer-generators that already own renewable generating facilities shall be eligible to receive net energy metering service in accordance with these rules.

(f) "Net metering year," as used in this chapter, is defined as the annual period of time from June 1 to May 31.

(g) "Renewable generating facilities," as used in this chapter, is defined one or more small solar and/or wind turbine energy generating facilities, or a hybrid system consisting of two or more of these facilities, that serves or is intended to serve all or a portion of an eligible customer-generator's electrical load.

(g) "Renewable power," as used in this chapter, is defined as the electricity generated from renewable generating facilities.

(g) "Small," as used in this chapter, is defined as thirty (30) kilowatts or less.

§ 12.0601. Interconnection and net energy metering generally.

(a) This chapter shall govern the interconnection of renewable generating facilities between the utility and eligible customer-generators.

(b) The utility encourages the use of renewable energy technologies and renewable generating facilities, and has adopted these rules to make the process of interconnecting as simple and economical as possible, as well as to protect the utility's electrical facilities from harm or damage.

(c) The utility shall not design, engineer and/or install renewable generating facilities for its customers. The utility may recommend specific contractors and/or equipment suppliers to customers upon request.

(d) Customers are encouraged to educate themselves with regard to renewable generating facilities technology and equipment. The utility shall hold its customers fully responsible for the compliance with this chapter.

(e) The utility endeavors to furnish regular and uninterrupted electrical service, but cannot guarantee either uninterrupted service or invariable service characteristics to any customer. The utility therefore disclaims any liability to the customer for injuries, losses, or damages owing to an interruption of service or variation in service characteristics. The customer is responsible for protecting its renewable generating facilities, equipment inverters, protection devices, and other system components from the normal and abnormal conditions and operations that occur on the utility's electrical system in delivering and restoring system power.

(f) Wherever applicable, all rules codified in 12.02 ASAC shall apply to eligible customer-generators under this chapter.

§ 12.0602. Standard contract – Rate structure.

(a) The utility shall develop a standard contract, as amended from time to time by the utility, providing for net energy metering and shall make the contract available to eligible customer-generators upon request, on a first-come, first-served basis until such time as the combined total rated generating capacity of eligible customer-generators served by the utility equals five (5) percent of the utility system's peak demand. The utility is not obligated to provide net energy metering to additional eligible customer-generators when the combined total rated generating capacity of all eligible customer-generators served by the utility equals five (5) percent of the system peak demand of the utility.

(b) The utility may limit the number of eligible customer-generators and/or total capacity of renewable generating facilities that may be interconnected to any distribution feeder line, circuit or network if the utility determines it necessary to protect public safety and system reliability.

§ 12.0603. Design requirements.

The design of the eligible customer-generator's renewable generating facilities shall conform to all applicable solar or wind electrical generating system safety and performance standards established by the NEC, the NESC, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, accredited testing laboratories, such as the Underwriters Laboratories, and where applicable, American Samoa building codes. Customers whose renewable generating facilities meet the standards and rules set forth above shall not be required by the utility to install additional controls, perform or pay for additional tests, or

purchase liability insurance. Customers whose renewable generating facilities do not meet the standards and rules set forth above may be required by the utility to install additional controls, perform or pay for additional tests, or purchase liability insurance as required by the utility prior to interconnection of the renewable generating facilities with the utility's electrical facilities.

§ 12.0604. Interconnection requirements.

(a) Eligible customer-generators shall be authorized to interconnect renewable generating facilities with the utility's system provided that the following first occur:

(1) The customer submits to the utility an application form for interconnection of renewable generating facilities, and the utility approves the application form;

(2) Accompanying the application form, the customer submits an electrical one-line diagram showing the general arrangement and relationship of the various components that will be installed, which is signed by a licensed electrician, and the utility approves the one-line diagram;

(3) Accompanying the application form, the customer submits to the utility a pro-forma invoice of materials, including a detailed description of each item or material, and the manufacturer's specifications on all items or materials, and the utility approves the submitted documentation; and

(4) The customer and the utility fully execute an interconnection agreement for net energy metering.

(b) In addition to the above requirements, the following shall be required:

(1) In accordance with the NESC, the customer shall install and maintain a manual disconnect switch of the visible load break type to provide a separation point between the electrical output of the renewable generating facilities and the utility's electrical system. This requirement ensures the safety of the utility's employees. The disconnect switch's brand name and model number shall be provided in the application materials. The customer shall install the manual disconnect switch near the customer's service entrance and meter panel, and shall be readily accessible to the utility at all times, and shall be capable of being locked in the open position by the utility. The utility may open and lock the switch, isolating the renewable generating facilities from the utility's electrical system at any time without prior notice to the eligible customer-generator.

(2) The customer shall be required to install a placard on or around the manual disconnect switch. The placard shall identify the customer as having a secondary power source, and identifies the utility disconnect switch.

(3) The customer shall deliver the electricity generated from the renewable generating facilities to the utility at the utility's meter.

(4) If the customer refuses consent for dual metering, and if the customer refuses to purchase a single bi-directional meter, or if for any reason a single bi-directional meter cannot be installed, the utility has the exclusive right to refuse interconnection.

§ 12.0605. Net energy metering – Calculation.

The net energy metering calculation shall be made by measuring the difference between the electricity supplied to the eligible customer-generator and:

(a) The electricity generated by the eligible customer-generator and fed back to the utility's electric grid over a monthly billing period; and

(b) Any unused credits for excess electricity from the eligible customer-generator carried over from previous months (within the current net metering year).

§ 12.0606. Billing periods – Twelve-month reconciliation.

(a) The billing of eligible customer-generators shall be on a monthly basis, provided that the last monthly bill for the current net metering year shall reconcile for that net metering year the net electricity provided by the utility with:

(1) The electricity generated by the eligible customer-generator and fed back to the utility's electric grid over the monthly billing period; and

(2) Any unused credits for excess electricity the eligible customer-generator carried over from prior months within the current net metering year.

(b) Credits for excess electricity from the eligible customer-generator that remain unused after the current net metering year may not be carried over to the next net metering year.

§ 12.0607. Net electricity consumers.

(a) At the end of each monthly billing period, where the electricity supplied by the utility during the billing period exceeds the electricity generated by the eligible customer-generator during that same billing period, the eligible customer-generator is a net electricity consumer and the utility shall be owed compensation for the eligible customer-generator's net kilowatt-hour consumption over that same billing period. The compensation owed for the eligible customer-generator's net monthly kilowatt-hour consumption shall be calculated under the rate class the eligible customer-generator is normally assigned to.

§ 12.608. Net electricity producers.

At the end of each monthly billing period, where the electricity generated by the eligible customer-generator during the billing period exceeds the electricity supplied by the utility during the same period, the eligible customer-generator is a net electricity producer and the electric utility shall retain any excess kilowatt-hours generated during the billing period.

The excess electricity generated by the eligible customer-generator, if any, in each monthly billing period shall be carried over to the next month as kilowatt-hour value to credit the eligible customer-generator, which credit may accumulate and be used to offset the compensation owed to the utility for the eligible customer-generator's net kilowatt-hour consumption for succeeding months within each net metering year.

The utility shall reconcile the eligible customer-generator's electricity generation and consumption for each net metering year as set forth in section 12.0605 of this chapter. Under no circumstances shall the utility pay cash or provide any monetary compensation for the excess electricity generated by the eligible customer-generator's renewable generating facilities, unless the utility voluntarily elects to enter into a purchase agreement with the eligible customer-generator for those excess kilowatt-hours.

Therefore, any net balance of excess electricity that the eligible customer-generator generated during the course of the net metering year shall be relinquished at the end of each net metering year.

§ 12.0609. Net electricity consumption or production information.

The utility shall provide every eligible customer-generator with net electricity consumption or production information with each regular monthly bill, which shall include:

(a) The current monetary balance owed the electric utility for net electricity consumed;

(b) The net electricity produced since the end of the last monthly billing period; and

(c) An accounting of the credits for excess electricity produced by the eligible customer-generator since the beginning of the net metering year. The accounting shall show the credits applied to the monthly billing period and the balance of unused credits, if any.

§ 12.0610. Interruptions and/or reductions in delivery of renewable power.

(a) The utility shall not be obligated to accept, and may require the eligible customer-generator to interrupt, reduce and/or discontinue the delivery of renewable power, when:

(1) The utility determines it necessary in order to construct, install, maintain, repair, replace, remove, investigate, and/or inspect any of its equipment or part of its system; or

(2) The utility determines it necessary because of emergencies, forced outages, or compliance with prudent electrical practices.

(b) Whenever possible, the utility shall give the eligible customer-generator reasonable notice of the possibility that interruption, reduction or disconnection of renewable generating facilities may be required.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, if at any time the utility determines that either (i) the eligible customer-generator's renewable generating facilities, or their operation, may endanger utility personnel, or (2) the continued operation of the renewable generating facilities may endanger the integrity of the utility's electric system, the utility shall have the right to disconnect the eligible customer-generator's renewable generating facilities from the utility's system. The eligible customer-generator's renewable generating facilities shall thereafter remain disconnected until such time as the utility is satisfied that the condition(s) necessitating the disconnection have been corrected by the customer.

§ 12.0611. Disconnection – Termination.

(a) If an eligible customer-generator terminates the customer relationship with the electric utility, the electric utility shall reconcile the eligible customer-generator's consumption and production of electricity, including any unused credits for excess electricity from the eligible customer-generator carried over from prior months, within the current net metering year, to the date of termination of the relationship, according to the requirements set forth in this chapter.

(b) In the event of termination of service or facilities in accordance with this chapter or 12.02 ASAC, the utility shall open and padlock the manual disconnect switch. At the eligible customer-generator's expense, the eligible customer-generator shall permanently isolate the renewable generating facilities and interconnection facilities from the utility's electrical service. The customer shall notify the utility within five (5) working days that the procedure has been completed.

§ 12.0612. Renewable generating facilities operation and maintenance.

(a) Eligible customer-generators shall not commence parallel operation of the renewable generating facilities until written approval of said facilities has been provided by the utility. The utility shall have the right to have representatives present at the initial testing of a customer's renewable generating facilities. The customer shall provide to the utility at least five (5) working days prior notice of the date of initial testing.

(b) Eligible customer-generators shall:

(1) Maintain the renewable generating facilities and interconnection facilities in a safe and prudent manner and in conformance with all applicable laws and rules.

(2) Obtain all governmental authorizations and permits required for the construction and operation of the renewable generating facilities and interconnection facilities.

(3) Indemnify, hold harmless and defend the utility from and against any and all liability, proceedings, suits, costs or expenses for loss, damage and/or injury to persons or property, including the eligible customer-generator's renewable generating facilities, in any manner directly or indirectly connected with, or occurring as a result of operation of the eligible customer-generator's renewable generating facilities, except in those cases where loss occurs due to the gross negligence of the utility.

§ 12.0613. Access to premises.

The utility may enter eligible customer-generators' premises at any time during working hours to inspect eligible customer-generators' protective devices or to read or test meters. The utility may enter eligible customer-generators' premises at any time to disconnect the renewable generating facilities and/or interconnection facilities, if:

(a) In the utility's opinion, a hazardous condition exists and such immediate action is necessary to protect persons and/or the utility's electric facilities, or property of others from damage or interference caused by eligible customer-generators' renewable generating facilities; or

(b) The customer's bill is delinquent.

§ 12.0614. Electrical faults or disturbances.

Eligible customer-generators shall be responsible to the utility for damage to the utility's system or electric facilities resulting from electrical disturbances and/or faults arising from the eligible customer-generator's renewable generating facilities and/or interconnection facilities.

§ 12.0615. Maximum capacity of renewable generating facilities.

The eligible customer-generator's renewable generating facilities shall have a capacity of not more than thirty (30) kilowatts, provided that the utility may allow eligible customer-generators to have more than thirty (30) kilowatts of capacity on a case-by-case basis.

§ 12.0616. Processing and service fee.

The utility shall charge a reasonable one-time non-refundable interconnection and net metering processing and service fee of Forty-Five dollars ($45) at the time of the customer's submittal of the application and other materials.