

Distributed Energy Resources (DER) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & INTERCONNECTION CHECKLIST FOR CONTRACTORS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) require certain notes to be referenced in a one line diagram and/or site plan in order to be utility compliant?

RPU requires the site plan to show the location of the revenue meter, production meter, utility disconnect, inverters, point of interconnection, and main disconnect.

Are there any specific warning labels or placards RPU requires to be included in solar plan sets?

RPU requires all labeling that complies with the National Electric Codes (NEC) be shown on the solar plan sets. Signage also must be included identifying location of remote Generator Disconnect(s), if located other than within 10ft of main meter or within sight.

Does RPU allow line side taps in the customer's main service panel? How about on the load side of the utility meter enclosure, in the utility meter base?

The line side tap must meet NEC requirements. The load side taps in the meter socket are allowed if using a tap connector (e.g., Milbank K4977-EXT).

When does RPU require an AC disconnect?

RPU always requires a utility AC disconnect for all generation interconnections designed to operate in parallel to our system.

When does RPU require a solar photovoltaic (PV) production meter?

RPU requires a production meter at all generation interconnections of a qualifying facility. For all installations the customer must provide the meter socket and RPU will supply the meter. RPU will require a ringless, heavy-duty, lever-bypass meter socket on all generation output service, 240 volts or less and 320 continuous amps or less. If the generation output is greater than 240 volts or 320 continuous amps, instrument-rated metering is required. Please contact RPU for more information regarding instrument-rated metering installations.

If both an AC disconnect and a PV production meter are required, which should be placed closer to the electrical meter?

The PV production meter is electrically closer to the utility revenue meter than the PV AC disconnect. Systems that are 480 volts may require alternate configurations. Please contact RPU for more information.

Will RPU replace the customer's existing utility meter?

Yes. In most cases RPU replaces the existing revenue meter with a bi-directional meter. In addition, RPU requires a meter socket that meets the service requirements as part of this work. The bi-directional meter will be installed on the next periodic read date.

What if I have additional questions?

Please contact RPU at DER@rpu.org or 507-280-1500.

INTERCONNECTION CHECKLIST

- The application and payment have been submitted to Nova Power Portal. Customer's email must be used in interconnection customer's email block for routing of interconnection agreement.
- The project has been approved by Rochester Building Safety along with any applicable permits.
- Project approval notification has been received from RPU.
- The customer has signed the RPU interconnection agreement (routed by NOVA first and then a final copy emailed to customer from RPU via DocuSign).
- Installation of Distributed Energy Resources (DER) is completed.
- The contractor has uploaded the Certificate of Completion to customer's Nova Portal.
- Witness testing has been scheduled with RPU by calling 507-292-1232 or emailing newsvcvmail@rpu.org.
- The project has passed RPU witness testing and meters have been installed.
- RPU has authorized interconnection of DER system and approval to operate email has been received by customer.