

Solar PV Interconnection in the Lakeland Electric Service Territory

Topic: Meter Requirements and Conditions for Temporary Operation

Bi-directional meter

- After all inspections are final, the existing electric meter will be upgraded by the utility (at no cost) to a bi-directional meter.
- This meter will be equipped with multiple screens capable of displaying “Energy Delivered” on one screen and “Energy Received” on a second screen.

Required **additional** meter

- Lakeland Electric will provide, at no cost, an additional meter to record the gross output of a customer-owned solar PV system. A diagram is available upon request.
- A meter socket box, provided by the customer, is required on the outlet side of the inverter. Note: to meet this requirement on projects using micro-inverters or multiple string inverters, the AC conductors can be combined into a single pair of wires in order to accommodate a single meter.
- Exceptions to this requirement must be approved by the utility. It is advisable for anyone seeking an exception to contact the utility prior to any installation activities.

Schedule for meter upgrades

- Upon final approval, installation of PV meters will occur on the first day of the following billing cycle, i.e. – the day of the next scheduled meter reading for any given location.
- Three business days advance notice to the utility is required.
- It may be advisable to inquire and approximate the next meter reading date prior to installation of the PV system. This information can be obtained by contacting the solar inspector’s office at 863-834-6853.

Operation of a PV system prior to utility meter upgrades

Once all approvals have been acquired, the customer’s PV system is ready for parallel operation. However – the customer must understand that his PV system is available for “on site” consumption only for a short period. He will not begin to receive credit for any net energy (surplus that is sent back to the grid) until the bi-directional meter is installed at the beginning of the next billing period.

After receiving final approval from all inspection authorities, a customer-owned PV system can be operated with the existing meter subject to the following conditions:

- Temporary bypass links (meter jumpers) will be needed to energize the empty meter can.
- Note: only approved jumper products that are properly rated (e.g. - if residential, Milbanks K8180 or equivalent) can be used.
- The meter socket opening must be closed off with an approved meter socket blank-out cover.
- Contact Lakeland Electric & report that the PV has been put into operation. Phone # 863-834-6853.

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