



Title: Interconnection of Distributed Generation

Policy No: 6-3

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## 1. Objective:

To establish the rules and conditions under which member and non-member owned generation may be connected to the cooperative's distribution system. Policy 6-3 will work in conjunction with Policy 6-5 if member-owned renewable generation is behind the member's meter.

## 2. Provisions:

Electricity is supplied to Highline Electric Association (Highline) through an all-requirements contract with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (Tri-State) which requires that all energy sold to members of Highline be supplied by Tri-State or be generated by Highline. However, members may self-generate by separating themselves from the cooperative's distribution system or may generate in parallel with the Highline distribution system under the following conditions:

Stand Alone Generation: Highline's members shall be permitted to generate electricity by separating their electric system from the cooperative. This type of generation is normally used during a power outage on Highline's electrical system and is handled under terms of Board Policy 6-1.

Parallel Generation: A member of the cooperative shall only be permitted to generate electricity by connecting member-owned generation in parallel with the cooperative's electrical system under the following conditions:

- A. If the member-owned Distributed Generation is a Qualifying Facility (QF) under PURPA, Highline will follow the guidance of Tri-State Policy 101. Highline and/or Tri-State will make provisions for the output of the generator per Highline or Tri-State policy. Policy 6-5 shall apply if the Distributed Generation is net-metered.
- B. The member must submit to Highline plans of their proposed installation and must obtain approval for the installation. This approval process will include a review by Highline of the effect of the proposed generation on the cooperative's distribution system, including its protective scheme. Highline reserves the right to refuse to connect parallel generation to its distribution system based on this review. The member requesting interconnection shall pay a \$50 fee for this review. No installation will be permitted that reduces reliability to other members or causes voltage conditions on the system to be outside of the limits of ANSI C84.1 Range A. No installation will be permitted that is expected to produce objectionable harmonics on the system. Any mitigation required to resolve harmonic problems created by a member-owned generator would be completed and paid for by the member.

- C. The member will be responsible for the cost of any alterations to Highline's distribution system to interconnect the proposed generation to Highline's distribution system, including upgrade of conductor size, installation of transformers to accommodate the output of the unit, and upgrading or replacing voltage regulation and protective equipment.
- D. The member will pay for the cost of the metering, specified and installed by Highline or Tri-State, necessary to measure the output of the unit. At a minimum, the metering data shall be time differentiated and shall be capable of measuring energy flow in both directions. Upon installation of the net meter, the member will incur an interconnection fee of \$350.00 that will be applied to their bill unless other arrangements are made. Policy 6-5 shall apply if the Distributed Generation is net-metered.
- E. For any member choosing to self-generate, the member will be served under provisions of a rate schedule that recovers Highline's cost of service. Policy 6-5 shall apply if the Distributed Generation is net-metered.
- F. The installation shall meet the requirements of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 1547 "Standard for Interconnecting Distributed Resources with Electric Power Systems," requirements of the National Electrical Code (ANSI/NFPA 70) latest edition, requirements of the National Electrical Safety Code (IEEE C2) latest edition, requirements of the State, requirements of the local municipality and the requirements of Highline's engineering department. The member shall certify that these requirements have been met and shall provide an electrical inspection by an inspector from Highline's list of inspection agencies.
- G. The member making the installation shall indemnify and hold harmless Highline from the operation, non-operation or interconnection of member-owned generation equipment. In addition, the member shall carry liability insurance in an amount acceptable to Highline to cover potential claims and will provide Highline with a certificate of insurance for the policy.
- H. The member shall agree to periodic testing of the protective equipment installed with the generator as required by the cooperative's engineering department with the cost of testing borne by the member.
- I. If the cooperative is to supply standby service or synchronization service, the member shall pay to Highline monthly fees to cover the costs to reserve capacity or provide an AC signal.
- J. If nonmember-owned Distributed Generation is requested as a Qualifying Facility (QF) under PURPA, Highline will follow the guidance of Tri-State Policy 101. Highline and/or Tri-State will make provisions for the output of the generator per Highline or Tri-State policy. The basic tenants of this policy will also pertain to nonmember-owned Distributed Generation.

3. **Responsibility:** The General Manager is responsible for the administration and enforcement of this policy.

Approved by the Board of Directors

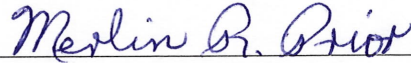


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President

Date Approved:

June 19, 2025



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Secretary

## **Appendix Interconnection Tariff**

Prior to submitting an interconnection request, the interconnection customer may ask Highline whether the proposed interconnection is subject to these procedures. Highline will respond within 15 business days of the request.

### **Pre-Application Report**

An interconnection customer (hereinafter referred to as “IC” or customer) may submit a formal written request for a pre-application report on a proposed interconnection at a specific site. Upon completion, each pre-application report shall be dated and publicly posted to Highline’s website with any customer identifying information redacted. Highline will provide the pre-application report to the customer within 20 business days of receipt of the completed request.

### **Level 1 Interconnection (<10 kW residential, < 25 kW commercial)**

#### **Initial contact and Interconnection Requests:**

Interconnection requests should be directed to our Holyoke office at 970-854-2236 or by email at [RenewableEnergy@hea.coop](mailto:RenewableEnergy@hea.coop). The interconnection request shall be date-stamped and time-stamped upon receipt. Receipt of the interconnection request will be confirmed to the member within three business days.

Level 1 Interconnection requests will be processed in compliance with applicable Colorado Public Utilities Commission interconnection procedures, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Upon payment of a \$50 application fee, a maximum system size, based on average historical usage as well as any potential circuit capacity constraint, will be provided to the member within 10 days of initial contact. This analysis will include a payback and billing analysis to help members understand a net metered account.

#### **Contact us to schedule a complimentary energy audit:**

Highline members can schedule an optional energy audit to help ensure your investment in a renewable energy project pays you back as quickly as possible. A Highline Member Services representative will visit the member’s residence and perform a basic energy audit resulting in potential recommendations for energy efficiency improvements. Please allow 10 days for appointment.

#### **Documents required for your project:**

Prior to purchasing equipment, HEA suggests you submit certain documents for our engineering department for review and approval to avoid purchasing non-conforming equipment. Please submit your [Renewable Energy Application](#) along with the following documents:

- Site plan
- Single line diagram
- Specifications for your generator(s), inverter(s), and manual AC disconnect switch\*

\* Interconnection Standard Section 2.5 requires the disconnect switch to be located at the interconnection point with HEA.

In addition to the system design documents the IC should submit:

- HEA's Interconnection Agreement
- Renewable Energy Credit (REC) contract (optional)

the IC shall have 30 business days to sign and return the interconnection agreement, or request that the utility file an unexecuted interconnection agreement with the Commission. If the IC does not sign the interconnection agreement or ask that it be filed unexecuted by the utility within 30 business days, the interconnection request shall be deemed withdrawn. The utility shall provide the IC a fully executed interconnection agreement within two business days after receiving a signed interconnection agreement from the IC. After the parties sign the interconnection agreement, the interconnection of the interconnection resource shall proceed under the provisions of the interconnection agreement.

#### **Interconnection and Net Meter installation:**

Once your system design and plans have been approved and we have received copies of your applicable permits, and your application and interconnection agreements have been signed, Highline will schedule a net meter installation at your point of interconnection. Upon receipt of all required paperwork an interconnection fee of \$350 will be billed to your account. Member does not need to be present for the meter install, please allow 10 days for installation.

#### **Final Commissioning:**

Member must schedule Final System Commissioning with HEA after the final state electrical inspection is complete and the documentation is conveyed to HEA. There must be no generation on the HEA system until final commissioning is complete. Please allow 10 days for this appointment.

#### **Level 2 and 3 Interconnection (> 25 kW)**

##### **Initial contact:**

Interconnection requests should be directed to our Holyoke office at 970-854-2236 or by email at [RenewableEnergy@hea.coop](mailto:RenewableEnergy@hea.coop) . Receipt of the interconnection request will be confirmed to the member within three business days. Highline personnel will respond within 10 business days with an initial feasibility study.

Level 2 interconnection requests and Level 3 interconnection requests require a \$350 application fee and will be processed in compliance with applicable Colorado Public Utilities Commission interconnection procedures, a copy of which is attached hereto. Additional costs incurred to process the interconnection application will be invoiced to the applicant on a pass-through basis. Highline may refer such requests to its Wholesale Power Supplier Tri-State Generation and Transmission pursuant to applicable law.