

Greetings Solar Installers,

I'm writing in response to news put out last week that the WSU Energy Program is no longer reviewing applications to the Renewable Energy System Incentive Program. We hope this provides clarity that the state production incentive should not be part of the sales pitch or cost/benefit analysis for PSE customers as they consider a solar installation. In light of that, we recognize that folks may be questioning whether or not to include production metering in system design, and how that impacts related standards and processes.

PSE Standards:

1. Production meters are optional. Customers may still want a production meter for the convenience of tracking system production and total home energy use on their PSE bills.
2. Our standards will get tighter soon, allowing fewer exceptions to the simplest production metering scenario. If customer opts for a production meter, it will need to be a single production meter,* co-located with net meter. This means no production meters for dc coupled battery backup systems or systems tied in to sub panels on remote parts of property.
3. Per the interconnection WAC, PSE does not require visible/lockable knife switch disconnects for systems < 25 kw on single phase service with self-contained meter.
4. Our standards for disconnect switch locations have historically assumed and referenced the production meter. This will be addressed soon, but when a PSE visible/lockable knife switch disconnect is required, it should be co-located with the service meter.
5. Customers may not back-feed to the grid prior to PSE authorization (net meter install and testing). Charges for power fed back to the grid prior to authorization will not be reversed.

Meter Installation/Testing options for systems with no production meter:

1. In some cases, a utility disconnect is required. When it is, it shall be located with the net meter. The system should be left ON at the breaker and OFF at that switch after electrical inspection and will be turned on by PSE when net meter is installed.
2. When a PSE knife switch is not required, you may still install one and label it on the schematic as utility point of disconnect (if co located) and we'll use it as above.
3. When a PSE knife switch is not required and you install an accessible/lockable switch that does NOT meet PSE location standards (such as for supply side tap) PSE will label and use the net meter as our official point of disconnect but can still use your other switch for system commissioning if you note this plan on the application. In that case, system would also be left ON at the breaker and OFF at the accessible disconnect switch.
4. Finally, if no accessible switch is required or installed, we'll ask that you leave system OFF at the breaker and note this so we can make an appointment with you or customer to be there for turning it on at commissioning.

Please note:

- If your norm is to include an accessible knife switch disconnect, it may make the interconnection process quicker/easier for your customers.
- Please remember to show point of interconnection (designated breaker or supply side tap) and label all equipment and its location on each schematic, whether that equipment is required by PSE or not.
- Our interconnection application process via psenetmetering.powerclerk.com has not changed. Remember to apply and obtain Approval to Construct prior to system installation and then submit the Certificate of Completion to get in the queue for a net meter.
- Expansions of systems with existing production meters are complicated. We'll address these on a case by case basis.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The PSE Customer Connected Solar Team
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