minnesota power

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Minnesota Power Interconnection Process
40 kW and under

Application Process

1. Verify that your system meets all of the requirements of Minnesota Power's SolarSense program (if applicable).
    - Customers seeking rebates through SolarSense must submit applications to Minnesota Power between January 1 and February 28 to be considered for the program. Applications sent via US mail must be postmarked by February 28 at the latest. Rebate applications will be randomly selected through a lottery process and applicants will be notified of rebate application status by March 31.
2. Applicants should submit a complete interconnection application to Minnesota Power's Renewable Programs.
    - Minnesota Power offers two interconnection applications: a simplified application for solar interconnections 20 kW and under and a generic application for solar systems larger than 20 kW and all other distributed generation interconnections.

Preliminary Review

3. Minnesota Power will conduct a Preliminary Review of complete interconnection applications within 15 business days of submission. This includes an engineering review of the application, one line drawing and site drawing and a preliminary site visit. If additional information is requested, the 15 business day review period will restart once Minnesota Power has received all requested information.
    - The Preliminary Review for SolarSense customers will begin once the lottery period is complete and the customer has been notified of their SolarSense application status.
4. During the preliminary site visit, equipment from the utility transformer to the customer's service equipment will be evaluated including but not limited to meter sockets, transformers, weather heads, and clearance issues.
    - If any safety hazards are identified at a customer's site, they will need to be addressed by either Minnesota Power or the customer, with details dependent on the specific hazard. If unsafe conditions exist, customers will be notified after the preliminary review and options will be discussed.
5. If a detailed engineering study is required, the customer will be notified at this time. The customer will need to give Minnesota Power confirmation to perform the study and agree to payment of any costs identified during the study, including the study itself.
6. Upon review completion and approval, Minnesota Power will send the customer an approval packet consisting of a formal approval letter, the Uniform Statewide Contract that must be signed and returned to Minnesota Power, and any applicable SolarSense documents including but not limited to a SolarSense Renewable Energy Credit (REC) Contract. All required documentation must be signed and returned to Minnesota Power prior to system installation.

System Installation

7. Once all required documentation has been received, the system installation may begin.
8. The applicant must notify Minnesota Power when the installation is complete and submit any final documentation including an invoice of the actual installed costs, electrical inspection form, M-RETs form and proof of liability insurance (if not already submitted).

Connecting the System

9. Upon receiving all applicable documents, Minnesota Power will schedule a commissioning test within 10 business days to verify that the system is installed as was approved in the application.
    - If the Minnesota Power representative identifies discrepancies between the installation and the application, updated information will be requested at this time. Any additional information or updates will need to be completed before the meter exchange can occur.
    - If the system is approved, the net meter and production meter installation will occur at this time. Minnesota Power requires that all DG customers install a production meter within 10' from the existing service meter to measure the solar system production (as stated in Minnesota Power construction manual, DCS 4800) unless otherwise agreed upon. Minnesota Power will supply the net meter, production meter and production meter socket at no direct cost to the customer.
10. Once the appropriate meters have been installed, Minnesota Power will adjust the Customer's current rate to the applicable distributed generation rate. The customer will be notified at this time that the system may be energized for use.
11. SolarSense customers will receive their rebate check within six (6) weeks of system completion.

All communication regarding the solar interconnection process or requirements and the SolarSense program should be directed to Minnesota Power Renewable Programs at (218) 355-3227 or solarprogram@mnpower.com.