

PSC NO: 220 ELECTRICITY
NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION
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GENERAL INFORMATION

53. STANDARDIZED INTERCONNECTION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCESS FOR NEW DISTRIBUTED GENERATORS 2 MW OR LESS CONNECTED IN PARALLEL TO UTILITY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS (Continued)

C. Dedicated Transformer

The utility reserves the right to require a power-producing facility to connect to the utility system through a dedicated transformer. The transformer shall either be provided by the connecting utility at the generator-owner's expense, purchased from the utility, or conform to the connecting utility's specifications. The transformer may be necessary to ensure conformance with utility safe work practices, to enhance service restoration operations or to prevent detrimental effects to other utility customers. The transformer that is part of the normal electrical service connection of a generator-owner's facility may meet this requirement if there are no other customers supplied from it. A dedicated transformer is not required if the installation is designed and coordinated with the utility to protect the utility system and its customers adequately from potential detrimental net effects caused by the operation of the generator.

If the utility determines a need for a dedicated transformer, it shall notify the generator-owner in writing of the requirements. The notice shall include a description of the specific aspects of the utility system that necessitate the addition, the conditions under which the dedicated transformer is expected to enhance safety or prevent detrimental effects, and the expected response of a normal, shared transformer installation to such conditions.

D. Disconnect Switch

Generating equipment with system size larger than 25 kW and non-inverter based systems of 25 kW or less shall be capable of being isolated from the utility system by means of an external, manual, visible, gang-operated, load break disconnecting switch. The disconnect switch shall be installed, owned, and maintained by the customer-generator, and located between the generating equipment and its interconnection point with the utility system.

The disconnect switch must be rated for the voltage and current requirements of the installation.

The basic insulation level (BIL) of the disconnect switch shall be such that it will coordinate with that of the utility's equipment. Disconnect devices shall meet applicable UL, ANSI, and IEEE standards, and shall be installed to meet all applicable local, state, and federal codes. (New York City Building Code may require additional certification.)

The disconnect switch shall be clearly marked, "Generator Disconnect Switch," with permanent 3/8 inch or larger letters or larger.

The disconnect switch shall be located within 10 feet of the utility's external electric service meter. If such location is not possible, the customer-generator will propose, and the utility will approve, an alternate location. The location and nature of the disconnect switch shall be indicated in the immediate proximity of the electric service entrance. The disconnect switch shall be readily accessible for operation and locking by utility personnel in accordance with Section II.B, Operating Requirements. The disconnect switch must be lockable in the open position with a 3/8" shank utility padlock.

For installations above 600V or with a full load output of greater than 960A, a draw-out type circuit breaker with the provision for padlocking at the draw-out position can be considered a disconnect switch for the purposes of this requirement.

Issued by Kenneth D. Daly, President, Syracuse, NY