

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)

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.

E. Power Quality

The maximum harmonic limits for electrical equipment shall be in accordance with IEEE 519 to limit the maximum individual frequency voltage harmonic to 3% of the fundamental frequency and the voltage Total Harmonic Distortion (THD) to 5% on the utility side of the PCC. In addition, any voltage fluctuation resulting from the connection of the customer's energy producing equipment to the utility system must not exceed the limits defined by the maximum permissible voltage fluctuations border line of visibility curve identified in IEEE Std 519. This requirement is necessary to minimize the adverse voltage effect upon other customers on the utility system.

F. Power Factor

If the average power factor, as measured at the PCC, is less than 0.9 (leading or lagging), the method of power factor correction necessitated by the installation of the generator will be negotiated with the utility as a commercial item.

Induction power generators may be provided VAR capacity from the utility system at the generator-owner's expense. The installation of VAR correction equipment by the generator-owner on the generator-owner's side of the PCC must be reviewed and approved by the utility prior to installation.

Issued by Thomas B. King, President, Syracuse, New York