

MEMORANDUM

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State of Alaska
Department of Law

TO: T.W. Patch, Chair
Regulatory Commission of Alaska

DATE: August 19, 2011

FILE NO.: JU2011200090

TELEPHONE NO.: 465-3600

FROM: Steven C. Weaver 
Assistant Attorney General
Legislation/Regulations Section--Juneau

SUBJECT: Regulations re: interconnection
standards for eligible consumer
generation systems (3 AAC
50.940; 3 AAC 50.949(26))

Under AS 44.62.060, we have reviewed the attached regulations changes by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, and approve the changes for filing by the lieutenant governor. I have reviewed this project under a specific delegation dated August 19, 2011 from the Regulations Attorney. A duplicate original of this memorandum is being furnished to the lieutenant governor, along with the three pages of regulations and the related documents.

You might wish to contact the lieutenant governor's office to confirm the filing date and effective date of the attached regulation changes.

The February 5 public notice and the August 15, 2011 certification order both state that this action is not expected to require an increased appropriation. Therefore, a fiscal note under AS 44.62.195 is not required.

SCW

cc w/enc: Crystal Koeneman, Regulations Contact
Department of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development

David A. Lawrence, Hearing Examiner
Regulatory Commission of Alaska

Rich Gazaway, Advisory Section Manager
Regulatory Commission of Alaska

Stuart W. Goering
Assistant Attorney General
Commercial & Fair Business Section--Anchorage

3 AAC 50.940 is repealed and readopted to read:

3 AAC 50.940. Interconnection of eligible consumer generation systems.

(a) No later than {180 days after effective date of regulations}, each electric utility required under 3 AAC 50.900 to provide net metering services shall submit a tariff revision to incorporate interconnection rules for eligible consumer generation systems.

The interconnection rules must

(1) address any requirements for liability insurance coverage, if that coverage is readily available at a reasonable cost to the consumer;

(2) address the installation of an external disconnect switch, unless the utility determines additional disconnection capability is not necessary; consumers must be offered the option to

(A) install an external disconnect switch in a location readily accessible by utility personnel, as designated by the utility; or

(B) agree to allow the utility to disconnect both the consumer's non-utility generation and the consumer's load from the utility electric system when disconnection is necessary, under circumstances described in the utility's tariff;

(3) set out rules regarding the allocation of costs for the installation of the external disconnection switch in accordance with the following requirements:

(A) the utility may require the consumer to pay for the installed cost of the external disconnect switch and necessary wiring if the location designated by the utility under (2)(A) of this subsection is

(i) within five feet of the consumer's meter base;

(ii) at the consumer's main structure; or

(iii) at a location otherwise agreed to between the utility and the consumer;

(B) the utility may require the consumer to pay for the installed cost of the external disconnect switch but the utility shall pay for necessary wiring if the installed location of the external disconnect switch is a location other than one described in (A) of this paragraph;

(4) include an application form for interconnection of eligible consumer generation systems that is no more than two pages;

(5) include criteria and requirements for interconnection of non-utility generation with electric power systems; in developing those criteria and requirements, the utility may use, as applicable, standards from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 1547 series of interconnection standards or other similar national standards; when determining the reasonableness of the tariff filing, the commission may refer to those standards and consider their applicability; and

(6) include requirements for inverters, converters, controllers, and interconnection system equipment for use by non-utility generation; in developing those requirements, the utility may use, as applicable, Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) standard 1741, *Standard for Inverters, Converters, Controllers and Interconnection System Equipment for Use With Distributed Energy Resources*, or other similar national standards; when determining the reasonableness of the tariff filing, the commission may

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refer to those standards and consider their applicability.

(b) Upon approval of an application for interconnection of an eligible consumer generation system by the utility,

(1) the provisions of 3 AAC 50.900 - 3 AAC 50.949 apply to the consumer and utility; and

(2) the provisions of 3 AAC 50.750 – 3 AAC 50.820 do not apply to the consumer and utility. (Eff. 6/16/2010, Register 194; am ___/___/___, Register ___)

Authority: AS 42.05.141 AS 42.05.291 AS 42.05.321
AS 42.05.151 AS 42.05.311 [AS 42.05.411]

3 AAC 50.949 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(26) "external disconnect switch" means a visible-break, lockable device used to isolate a consumer generation system from the utility electric system. (Eff. 6/16/2010, Register 194; am ___/___/___, Register ___)

Authority: AS 42.05.141 AS 42.05.151